



RICE UNIVERSITY

Boniuk Institute

for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance

Call for Applications: Spring 2024
Boniuk Institute Reading Religion Salon

About the Boniuk Institute Graduate Salon

This is an interdisciplinary salon for graduate students at Rice University. The salon centers a scholarly understanding of religious pluralism, religious tolerance, religious conflict, and discrimination across geographies and disciplines. Over the course of the salon, students will collectively read and engage in robust discussion on books related to various facets of religious pluralism and religion in public life. Each student will be responsible for presenting at least one book to the group. The salon will also include professional development sessions like “translating research for non-academic audiences” and “applying for grants and fellowships.”

Books selected for the spring semester include:

- *When God Stops Fighting: How Religious Violence Ends*
- *Stealing My Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation*
- *The Faithful Scientists: Experiences of Anti-Religious Bias in Scientific Training*
- *White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America*
- *A Master Class on Being Human: A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice*
- *A Global History of Buddhism and Medicine*
- *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*
- *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History*

Each student will be expected to enroll in a 2-credit course (SOCI 609) and will receive a stipend of \$500 and electronic copies of each book to read. Lunch will be served during the salon.

Sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Rachel Schneider, Associate Director of Academic Programs at the Boniuk Institute, and Prof. Elaine Howard Ecklund, Director of the Boniuk Institute.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend the weekly salon in person on Thursdays from 12:00-1:30pm. Successful participation in the salon involves active participation in a robust discussion about each book, as well as producing:

- *Summary notes about the book(s) for which they are responsible for presenting*
- *15-minute presentation of book(s) assigned*
- *Leading a discussion session about the book(s) assigned*
- *Interview with the author of book(s) assigned*
- *Publishable book review*

How to Register

Registration is by permission of the instructor. Please send the following information to Hayley Hemstreet at hjh2@rice.edu by November 6, 2023:

- A paragraph describing your interest, including what you hope to learn from the salon and what you hope to contribute to the salon
- A copy of your CV
- The names and email addresses of two faculty references at Rice University

