SPRING 2004
CONFESSION/TESTIMONY/WITNESSING
CONFESSION/TESTIMONY/WITNESSING
The Center for Religion and Media seeks to develop interdisciplinary, cross-cultural knowledge of how religious ideas and practices are shaped and spread through a variety of media. The Center, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, is a collaborative project of the Religious Studies Program; the Center for Media, Culture and History; and the Department of Journalism, providing a space for scholarly endeavor, a stage for public educational events, and an electronic interface with media specialists and the public through its innovative web journal.

WORKING GROUP CONVENERS
Michael Gilsenan, *Islamic Public Spheres*
Margaret McLagan, *Media, Religion, and Human Rights*
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, *Jews, Media, and Religion*
Jeffrey Shandler, *Jews, Media, and Religion*

ADVISORY BOARD
Faye Ginsburg, *Anthropology, Co-Director*
Angela Zito, *Religious Studies, Co-Director*
Jay Rosen, *Journalist, Website Publisher*
Lila Abu-Lughod, *Columbia University*
Arjun Appadurai, *Yale University*
Orlando Bagwell, *Roja Productions*
Stewart M. Hoover, *University of Colorado/Boulder*
Janet R. Jakobsen, *Barnard College*
Purnima Mankekar, *Stanford University*
Birgit Meyer, *University of Amsterdam*
Daniel Miller, *University College, London*
Michael Renov, *University of Southern California*
Vincent L. Wimbush, *Union Theological Seminary*
Robert Wuthnow, *Princeton University*

The Center for Media, Culture and History addresses issues of representation, social change and identity construction embedded in the development of film, television, video, and new media worldwide. It focuses on the role these media play in shaping our perceptions of history and culture; in forging individual, collective, national and transnational identities; and in mediating the direction and character of social change.

ADVISORY BOARD
Faye Ginsburg, *Anthropology, Director*
Barbara Abrash, *History, Associate Director*
Toby Miller, *Cinema Studies/American Studies*
Arvind Rajagopal, *Culture and Communication*
Robert Stam, *Cinema Studies*
CONFESSION/TESTIMONY/WITNESSING

screenings

FRIDAY/JANUARY 30/3-5 PM
KEVORKIAN CENTER/SCREENING ROOM
50 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH

HUMAN WEAPON
Ilan Ziv, 55 minutes, 2002
This film explores the 20th century roots of suicide bombing, from kamikaze pilots in World War II to the present-day practices of Al-Qaeda and other militant groups.
A discussion will follow the screening.
CO-SPONSOR: KEVORKIAN CENTER

FRIDAY/FEBRUARY 27/4-6PM
KEVORKIAN CENTER/SCREENING ROOM
50 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH

FORGET BAGHDAD
Samir, 2002, 110 minutes
This documentary considers stereotypes of “the Jew” and “the Arab” through 100 years of film, linked with the biographies of five Iraqi Jews.
A discussion between the filmmaker and scholar Ella Shohat (NYU) will follow the screening.
CO-SPONSOR: KEVORKIAN CENTER
**screenings/roundtables**

**THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 1-2**
**LIGHTS! REVERENCE! ACTION!**
Picturing Faith in the Pursuit of Justice

**THURSDAY/FRIDAY, APRIL 1/6:30-9PM**
BRONFMAN CENTER/7 EAST 10TH STREET
Trembling Before G-d: How A Movie Became A Movement
Filmmaker Sandi Simcha DuBowsk, Rabbi Steve Greenberg, psychotherapist Naomi Mark, Susan Korda (NYU).

**FRIDAY/APRIL 2**
KIMMEL CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE/SHORIN PERFORMANCE STUDIO/ROOM 802/60 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH
10 AM-12 NOON
What Would Jesus Drive? & Blue Vinyl: Faith in the Greening of the Planet
Filmmaker Judith Helfand (NYU), Reverend Jim Ball (What Would Jesus Drive?), Bill Walsh (Healthy Building Network), Macky Alston (Auburn Theological Seminary)

1:30-3:30 PM
Freedom Machines: Bodies, Technologies and the Spirit of Interdependent Living
Jamie Stobie and Janet Cole, 2003, 55 minutes
This screening will be followed by discussion with the filmmakers, Simi Linton (Disability/Arts), LisaRose Hall (Christian Council on Persons with Disabilities), and others.
CO-SPONSORS: BRONFMAN CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE; WORKING FILMS

---

**distinguished lecture**

THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 12/6:30-8:00 PM
DEAN’S CONFERENCE ROOM/721 BROADWAY/12TH FLOOR

**SECULAR CHILDHOOD**
(and other religious subjects)

Ann Pellegrini (Performance Studies/Religious Studies)

How do Christian understandings of sin, salvation, and selfhood continue to shape “secular” childhood in the United States?

CO-SPONSOR: PERFORMANCE STUDIES; TUESDAY NIGHT FORUM SERIES

---

**roundtable discussions**

FRIDAY/MARCH 12/1-5 PM
KIMMEL CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE
SHORIN PERFORMANCE STUDIO/ROOM 802
60 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH

**WHO OWNS THE PASSION?**
The debates sparked by Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ raise important questions about the ownership and popular circulation of sacred stories in secular public spaces.

1-2:45 PM
Mediating The Life of Jesus
Elizabeth Castelli (Center for Religion and Media), Heather Hendershot (Queens College), James Shapiro (Columbia), Adam Becker (Religious Studies)

3:15-5 PM
Debating The Passion of the Christ

CO-SPONSOR: THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK
THURSDAY/MARCH 25/6:30-8 PM
DEAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM/721 BROADWAY, 12TH FLOOR

OF MIRACLES AND
SPECIAL EFFECTS

Hent deVries (Johns Hopkins University)
“Special effects” evokes a cinematic sense of the technological future, yet also resonates with an older religious language of miraculous explanation.

MARCH 20 - MAY 15, 2004
EXIT ART/475 TENTH AVENUE

TERRORVISION

Images of terror dominate the national and global collective imaginary... This exhibition represents the work of artists whose “visions of terror” are based on iconic images and the many mirrors in which society’s greatest fears are reflected—news media, film, literature, etc. A series of film and video screenings and panel discussions will further explore the issues raised.

For information: 212.966.7745 or www.exitart.org

conference

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 6-8
KIMMEL STUDENT CENTER/ROOM 405/406
60 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH

RELIGIOUS WITNESS:
The Intimate, the Everyday, the World

For information call 212.998.3759

MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE CENTER FOR RELIGION AND MEDIA IS PROVIDED BY THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS.