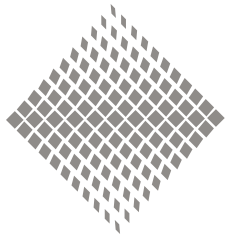


THE FAITH ANGLE FORUM

CONVERSATIONS AMONG
JOURNALISTS AND SCHOLARS
ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE



“The theory of the free press is not that the truth will be presented completely or perfectly in any one instance, but that the truth will emerge from free discussion.”

WALTER LIPPMANN | American journalist, 1889–1974



OUR PURPOSE

IN AN ERA DEFINED BY SOUND BITES AND MEGABYTES,

never has a moment for reflection been more important. Some of the most critical issues in our national dialogue rest at the cross section of religion and public policy: whether it is the rise of the Christian Right in politics, debates about prayer in public schools, same-sex marriage, bio-ethical concerns, what Mormons believe, faith-based initiatives, the growth of mega-churches, the global revival of Pentecostalism, or the site-selection for a new mosque.

Everywhere we turn, the issue of “the faith angle” keeps coming up. Many members of the mainstream media recognize this as well. They embrace their role as responsible stewards of a national conversation, and realize that a deficit in knowledge about their fellow citizens’ religious convictions can hamper their coverage. **The Faith Angle Forum** aspires to correct this imbalance and lack of perspective.

For more than ten years, the Faith Angle Forum has brought together a select group of nationally respected journalists and distinguished scholars for in-depth discussions of some of the most crucial issues facing Americans today. The invitation-only group is encouraged to escape the rigors of their daily beats and the rancor of partisanship to engage in thoughtful conversation and reflection.

Those who have attended have repeatedly said that these forums were one of the few places where they found the fairness, open-mindedness, and intellectual rigor that we have insisted upon and have consistently delivered. Discussions and dialogues only among true believers is not our style—we consciously make sure our participants are diverse, religiously and politically. We believe that real education and insight occur when all sides are represented by the best minds available.

Twice yearly, in South Beach, Miami, the Forum holds a two-day conference to discuss these important dimensions of our public life in a serious fashion, miles removed from Washington’s ideological battlefields. The relaxed setting and intimate group size provide an atmosphere conducive to deeper contemplation not always possible in today’s fast-paced world of breaking news.

The following pages highlight the caliber of the conversations, and the lasting imprint on both the attendees and their work.





“RELIGION INFORMS JUST ABOUT EVERY ISSUE IN PUBLIC LIFE, and there is no other forum where journalists can go to get sophisticated and balanced background knowledge.”

DAVID BROOKS | Columnist, *The New York Times* |

PAST PARTICIPANTS (Partial List)

MIKE ALLEN | *Politico* |

FRED BARNES | *The Weekly Standard* |

MICHAEL BARONE | *Washington Examiner* |

PETER BOYER | *The New Yorker* |

◆ DAVID BROOKS | *The New York Times* |

ELISABETH BUMILLER | *The New York Times* |

◆ CARL CANNON | *RealClearPolitics.com* |

JOHN DICKERSON | *Slate* |

◆ E.J. DIONNE | *The Washington Post* |

◆ ROSS DOUTHAT | *The New York Times* |

CLARE DUFFY | *NBC Nightly News* |

NINA EASTON | *Fortune* |

◆ FRANKLIN FOER | *The New Republic* |

JOHN FUND | *The Wall Street Journal* |

◆ MICHAEL GERSON | *The Washington Post* |

NANCY GIBBS | *Time* |

MALCOLM GLADWELL | *The New Yorker* |

◆ JEFFREY GOLDBERG | *The Atlantic* |

CATHY GROSSMAN | *USA Today* |

◆ BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY | *NPR* |

DAN HARRIS | *ABC News* |

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS | *Vanity Fair* |

DAVID KIRKPATRICK | *The New York Times* |

MARK LEIBOVICH | *The New York Times* |

LISA MILLER | *Newsweek* |

KATHLEEN PARKER | *The Washington Post* |

NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY | *The Wall Street Journal* |

WILL SALETAN | *Slate* |

DAVID VAN BIEMA | *Time* |

JUAN WILLIAMS | *NPR and Fox* |

ELSA WALSH | *The New Yorker* |

ADRIAN WOOLDRIDGE | *The Economist* |

◆ With appreciation to our Advisory Council Members.

THE DIALOGUE

EACH FAITH ANGLE FORUM is anchored by several carefully-curated discussions. At the center, a variety of subject experts, respondents, and provocateurs allow all participants around the table to deepen their knowledge and broaden their perspective on the topic at hand. A sampling of speakers and topics is presented below.

PAST SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

PETER BERGER

| Boston University |

Religion in a Globalizing World

RICHARD BUSHMAN

| Columbia University |

Mormonism and Politics: Are They Compatible?

FRANCIS COLLINS

| National Institutes of Health |

*Religion and Science:
Conflict or Harmony?*

MICHAEL COOK

| Princeton University |

How and Why Muhammad Made a Difference

JEAN BETHKE ELSHTAIN

| University of Chicago |

*How Should We Talk?
Religion and Public Discourse*

WILLIAM A. GALSTON

| Brookings Institution |

Morality and the Democratic Party

EDDIE S. GLAUDE

| Princeton University |

*Religion and Race: A Historical and
Contemporary Perspective*

JAMES DAVISON HUNTER

| University of Virginia |

*To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and
Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*

PHILIP JENKINS

| Penn State University |

Religion and Sexuality in the Global South

GILLES KEPEL

| Institute of Political Studies, Paris |

Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam

EDWARD LARSON

| Pepperdine University Law School |

*Biology Wars: Religion, Science,
and American Education*

D. MICHAEL LINDSAY

| Rice University |

*American Evangelicalism:
New Leaders, New Issues*

WILFRED M. MCCLAY

| University of Tennessee at Chattanooga |

*Obama's Favorite Theologian?
A Short Course on Reinhold Niebuhr*

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD

| Council on Foreign Relations |

Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy

GILBERT MEILAENDER

| Valparaiso University |

*Bioethics and Human Nature:
Exploring Some Background Issues*

MARK NOLL

| Wheaton College |

Understanding American Evangelicals

RICK WARREN

| Saddleback Church |

Myths of the Modern Megachurch

ALAN WOLFE

| Boston College |

The Transformation of American Religion



“THERE IS NO NEWS
IN THE NEWS TODAY
THAT IS NOT SOME-
HOW RELATED TO
RELIGION NEWS.”

MARTIN E. MARTY | University of Chicago |



IN THEIR WORDS

“These seminars have played a **SUBTLE BUT DECISIVE ROLE** in the intellectual history of our time—and, by extension, on the politics of our time as well.”

JAY TOLSON | Senior Writer, *U.S. News & World Report* |

“In my 40 years of journalism, I have not seen a **BETTER, MORE STIMULATING SET OF SEMINARS** aimed at enhancing the mental maps of practitioners.”

SHELBY COFFEY | Trustee, Newseum |



Left to right: E.J. Dionne; Michael Cromartie; John Green; Michael Barone.

“NO ONE ELSE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY for working reporters to gather and listen to the experts. The talks were informative and the debates were lively; all in all, an invaluable experience.”

JEFFREY GOLDBERG | National Correspondent, *The Atlantic* |



“The test of one’s own conviction comes when subjected to superior firepower. During the **IMPRESSIVE, HIGH-POWERED DISCUSSIONS** at your conference, I had to worry about pinpoint accuracy as well.”

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS | Columnist, *Vanity Fair* |

“One of the **MOST PLEASANT** as well as one of the **MOST INSTRUCTIVE** experiences in journalism.”

ADRIAN WOOLDRIDGE | Washington Bureau Chief, *The Economist* |

“The Faith Angle program was topical, substantive, and thought provoking; **A FIRST-RATE OUTREACH EFFORT** on a subject that will only grow in importance.”

JOHN FUND | Columnist, *The Wall Street Journal* |

“There was a shared feeling of intellectual fervor. We came away from the retreat having **ADVANCED OUR UNDERSTANDING** of these monumentally important issues.”

FRANKLIN FOER | Editor, *The New Republic* |



Vali Nasr



Adrian Wooldridge



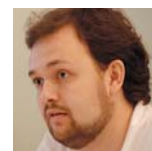
Jay Tolson



Lauren Green



Eddie Glaude



Ross Douthat



Christopher Hitchens



Karen Tumulty

ILLUSTRATION OF IMPACT



“These conferences are consistently the most **PROVOCATIVE, RELEVANT** and **INTELLECTUALLY INSTRUCTIVE** events I’ve attended in my quarter century as a journalist.”

BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY | Religion Correspondent, NPR |

PARTICIPANTS in the Faith Angle Forum sessions do more than just hone their own thinking on the issues. They return to their work as journalists—refreshed and inspired—and share these sharpened insights with their readers and listeners. In this way, the mission of the Forums is carried deep into the main current of national conversation.

Barbara Bradley Hagerty, Religion correspondent for NPR, recounts how two specific Forum experiences influenced her work, below.

DECEMBER 2002 THE RISE OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Dr. Philip Jenkins, Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University, hosted a session exploring the expansion of Christianity in Africa and the potential impact on the Episcopal Church.

This rich conversation predated the convocation of Bishop Gene Robinson, and what we all know now as a massive schism within Episcopalian ranks.

Presciently, six months before the major unraveling in the church, Hagerty reported on this phenomenon in a long, 8-minute piece for NPR, and continued to follow the story in 40+ subsequent reports.

npr has over 32 million listeners.*

*ACT 1 based on Arbitron Nationwide, Fall 2002, Adults 12+.

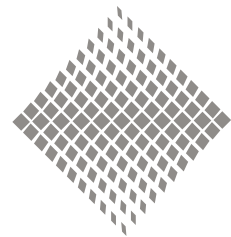
MAY 2008 HOW OUR BRAINS ARE WIRED FOR BELIEF

Dr. Andrew Newberg, a medical doctor, professor, and neuroscientist at the University of Pennsylvania, gave a presentation on neurotheology, the link between brain function and expression of faith.

After attending the session, Barbara Bradley Hagerty visited Newberg’s lab to learn more, and observed an experiment analyzing a subject’s brain wave outputs during prayer.

In 2009, Hagerty’s book, *Fingerprints of God: The Search for the Science of Spirituality* was released and included half of a chapter on this topic.

The book was a **The New York Times** Best seller.



INVOLVEMENT

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, THE FAITH ANGLE FORUM program has provided an enduring occasion for journalists to engage in rigorous conversation at the intersection of religion and society.

In so doing, we have had the privilege of witnessing the best thinking among the best thinkers on religion and society, and an even greater privilege in knowing that our participants deliver their insights into the national dialogue.

Our aspiration is to continue this work for decades to come. Many participants become advisors, many speakers become supporters. There is a "spirit of the collective" that flows through the Forum.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IN OUR WORK

CONTACT

MICHAEL CROMARTIE
VICE PRESIDENT

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