“The Berkley Center allows Georgetown to harness its academic strength and unique ability to foster interreligious dialogue in the pursuit of peace”

Georgetown University President
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Under the leadership of President John J. DeGioia, Georgetown University has emerged as a global leader in efforts to deepen our understanding of religion and world affairs and promote greater interreligious understanding.

The task is an urgent one in a world where religion is both a source of conflict and a basis for cooperation—a task that Georgetown is uniquely positioned to address. The University’s academic excellence, Catholic and Jesuit identity, Washington, DC location, and global reach create foundations for a lasting contribution in this crucial area.

The Berkley Center, created within the Office of the President in March 2006, is at the heart of a university-wide effort to build knowledge about religion’s role in world affairs and promote interreligious understanding in the service of peace. Through research, teaching, and outreach activities, the Center explores the intersection of religion with four global challenges: diplomacy and transnational relations, democracy and human rights, global development, and interreligious dialogue. Two foundational premises guide the Center’s work: that scholarship on religion and world affairs can promote interreligious understanding; and that the open engagement of religious traditions with one another and with the wider society can promote peace.

Under its Director Thomas Banchoff, the Center underwent rapid growth in 2006–07. Three staff members took up work in the new Center space on M Street, several blocks from the Main Campus. The Center welcomed its first visiting professor, Katherine Marshall, an expert on religion and global development, and two postdoctoral fellows, Elizabeth Bucar and Tulasi Srinivas. And it began a worldwide search for senior scholars to take up permanent positions. The first of these, the sociologist of religion José Casanova, will join the Center in January 2008.

Other milestones in 2006–07 included the publication of a book, Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism, the first Berkley Center Lectures with Tariq Ramadan, a conference on Religion and Human Rights, and three symposia in collaboration with the SFS/Luce Program on Religion and International Affairs—Evangelicals and Foreign Policy, Faith-Inspired Organizations and Global Development Policy and Religion, Migration and Foreign Policy. This past year also saw the inauguration of the Undergraduate Fellows Program and the Junior Year Abroad Network, a partnership with the Washingtonpost.NewswEEK Interactive’s On Faith website, and the first in a series of on-line databases on religion and world affairs.
KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES


THE POWER TO CONVENE

With its location in Washington, DC and its international networks, the Center is positioned to convene thought leaders, practitioners, faculty, and students around critical issues. With the end of the cold war, globalization, and attacks of September 11, 2001, religion, politics, and peace have moved up the global agenda. But the academy—and policymakers—have yet to catch up. The Center uses its convening power to build knowledge about the motivations and actions of religious communities, and how they interact with states, international organizations, and other non-governmental organizations around pressing global issues. The Center sponsored or cosponsored 56 events in 2006–07; descriptions are available on its website.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Tomorrow’s leaders will need a better grasp of how religion intersects with culture, society, and politics. Center programs engage the intellectual energy and enthusiasm of students inside and outside the classroom. The Berkley Center *Undergraduate Fellows Program* gives a select group of students each year the opportunity to work with faculty members on the creation and execution of a joint research project. The topic in 2006 was secular and religious approaches to global development. The *Junior Year Abroad Network* affords an opportunity for students studying around the world to share their experiences with one another, the wider university community, and beyond. Students also collaborate closely with faculty on the Center’s database projects.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Georgetown University is home to excellent faculty across departments working on issues of religion, politics, and peace. The Berkley Center is a nexus for interdisciplinary conversations designed to foster innovative research and teaching. Conferences, symposia, and seminars bring Georgetown faculty together with one another and with leading scholars across disciplines. During the 2006–07 academic year, the Center sponsored two faculty seminars, one on *Culture, Religion, and Globalization*, and the other on *Religion and Global Development*. 
The attacks of September 11, 2001 and their aftermath are the most dramatic reminder of the new shape of international relations in an era of globalization. Al Qaeda, a transnational organization with an extremist religious ideology, challenges the familiar state-centered view of world politics. Less visible but also significant, transnational religious communities have proven a force for peace—in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East, and beyond.

Berkley Center programs build knowledge about how religious communities interact with states, international organizations, and other non-governmental organizations in this new global constellation. They address two core questions in particular: Under what conditions can religion be a force for peace? How can the destructive effects of religion be contained?

**MILESTONES**

In March 2006, the Center brought together leading scholars from a range of disciplines to explore the effects of unprecedented religious pluralism on world politics. The conference examined diverse actors, including transnational Muslim NGOs and the Roman Catholic Church, and multiple issue areas including conflict resolution and transitional justice. The essays will be folded into a volume with Oxford University Press, *Religious Pluralism, Globalization, and World Politics*.

In September 2006, on the fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001, K. Anthony Appiah of Princeton University gave a major address on the question: “What’s Special About Religious Disputes?” The lecture and discussion centered on when, how, and why deeply held religious convictions can undermine efforts to reach compromise and resolve disputes peacefully. Appiah’s essay will be featured in the *Religious Pluralism* volume.

In March 2007, the Center organized a symposium on *Evangelicals and Foreign Policy*, the first in a series designed to explore the religious sources of foreign policy. The symposium, sponsored by the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs, featured Richard Land, a leader of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Richard Cizik, the president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

In collaboration with the Center for the Study of International Migration, and with the support of the Luce/SFS program, the Center organized a forum on *Religion, Migration, and Foreign Policy* in April 2007. The Forum brought together analysts, policymakers, and leaders of advocacy organizations to explore changing ethnic and religious demographics in Europe and the United States and their impact on foreign policy agendas. A second forum will be held during the 2007–08 academic year.
THE POWER TO CONVENE

Together with the Mortara Center for International Studies, the Berkley Center is implementing a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation’s Initiative on Religion and International Affairs to the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. The Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs convenes symposia and seminars that bring together scholars and policy experts around emergent issues. The program is organized around two main themes: the religious sources of foreign policy in the US and around the world, and the nexus between religion and global development. Topics covered in 2006–07 included the role of evangelicals in US foreign policy, and links between religion, migration, and foreign policy in the United States and Europe.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

The Internet is marked by an explosion of information about religion and world affairs, much of it unreliable or of uneven quality. The Berkley Center’s World Events Database is a growing collection of important scholarly and public affairs events relating to questions of religion, peace, politics, and society. Designed as a resource for faculty, students, policymakers, and the broader public, the database includes conferences, seminars, and other events worldwide that feature text, audio, and/or video. Users can search the events by keyword or filter by a particular topic, religious tradition, or geographical area.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

The term “globalization” is as conflicted today as the processes associated with its dominance. Globalization can be alternatively viewed as an enlightened force behind change or the negative shadow darkening the lives of the poor and oppressed. In 2006–07, the Center sponsored a faculty seminar on Culture, Religion, and Globalization to address these different dimensions of the phenomenon—through a common set of readings, the presentation of work in progress, and conversations with visiting scholars.
The world’s leading religious traditions all emphasize the importance of solidarity with the poor and suffering. Religious communities are among the most important players in the politics and policy of development in the US and around the world.

For all its importance, the religious factor in global development is poorly understood. Development professionals are overwhelmingly secular in outlook, and collaboration between governments, international organizations, and religious communities is not extensive.

Berkley Center programs examine the engagement of religious and secular organizations around challenges of development, including HIV/AIDS, education, and economic growth. Center events, research, and teaching serve to increase our knowledge about activities at the intersection of religion and development and to bring together stakeholders to explore best practices and foster collaboration.

**MILESTONES**

In September 2006, Katherine Marshall, a development expert with many years of leadership experience at the World Bank, joined the Berkley Center, where she is coordinating work on religion and development. Marshall directs the World Faiths Development Dialogue, which is now based at the Center.

In December 2006, the Undergraduate Fellows published the results of a research project that mapped the interaction of religious and secular interest groups around development issues, entitled Secular and Religious Approaches to Global Development: A Common Ground?

The Center and Habitat for Humanity International convened NGO leaders to discuss religion and housing issues in December 2006. The Faith and Shelter project aims to guide policy-making and improve communication between secular and religious organizations working to provide safe and affordable housing to the world’s poor.

In April 2007, a symposium was held on Faith-inspired Organizations and Global Development Policy: US and International Perspectives. Leaders of faith-based NGOs discussed their increasing role in mobilizing public support, collaborating with national governments and international institutions, and implementing policy on the ground.

During the spring and summer of 2007, the Center completed work on Faith Communities Engage the HIV/AIDS Crisis, the first of several reports that map the activity of faith-based organizations around key development topics. These reports explore the role of religious groups in addressing global challenges as a way to bridge the coordination gap between secular and religious organizations in the common effort of international development work.
THE POWER TO CONVENE

Many national and transnational faith-based organizations seek to overcome practical obstacles to the lack of decent housing. But we know very little about the unique impact of faith-based organizations in housing development. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, the Berkley Center convened NGO and government leaders in December 2006 to discuss links between religion, housing, and development, and to find ways to increase collaboration in practice.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

Religious communities play a key role in global development, but the extent and impact of their activities remain poorly understood. With the support of the Henry R. Luce Foundation, the Center has launched the Religion and Development Database, which tracks the activities of religious groups across a range of development issues, including poverty relief, health care, education, housing, and gender. It serves as a resource for scholars and policymakers in search of reliable information about the growing interaction of religion and global development.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Over the course of 2006–07, Katherine Marshall convened a Faculty Seminar on Religion and Development that brought together faculty and members of the DC policy and NGO community. Sessions explored the religion-development nexus at two levels: in the politics of policy making and in varying efforts to address economic and social problems in the developing world. Particular attention was given to the alternative ways in which development work is conceptualized across religious traditions.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

In collaboration with the Linz Ethics Project of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Berkley Center Undergraduate Fellows researched secular and religious approaches to development. A team of ten students conducted in-depth interviews with representatives of fifteen religious and secular NGOs around issues of health care, environmental protection, and humanitarian assistance. A quantitative survey gauged the potential for greater collaboration between faith-based and secular groups. Their report and recommendations, Secular and Religious Approaches to Global Development: A Common Ground?, was published in December 2006.
Religious pluralism challenges both established and emerging democracies. Immigration patterns in the Atlantic world have confronted Christian and secular majorities with growing religious minorities, and a growing Muslim population in particular.

In the developing world, religious and ethnic diversity complicates transitions to stable democratic rule in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

How do diverse religious traditions approach democracy and human rights? How can foreign and domestic policies best accommodate religious diversity and foster religious freedom in practice? What is the global impact of religion within the United States—a country that combines tremendous power with a political culture shaped by religious beliefs and practices? Center programs address these and related questions through student and faculty research, events, and publications.

**MILESTONES**

In December 2006, the Center sponsored a seminar on *The Mohammed Cartoon Affair: One Year Later* that featured Flemming Rose, the editor responsible for publishing the caricatures. The participants engaged many questions about the limits of free speech and the need for a culture of diversity in modern democracies.

In March 2007, the Berkley Center convened a major conference on Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights. Center Director Thomas Banchoff and Robert Wuthnow (Princeton) brought together leading anthropologists, sociologists, historians, and political scientists to explore how religion intersects with global human rights conversations. The project will culminate with a book from Oxford University Press.

In April 2007, the Center worked with Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive’s *On Faith* to organize What It Means To Be Muslim in America, a symposium featuring leading Muslim-Americans. The symposium, a collaboration with the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, explored different perspectives on Muslim identity in American society, including how Islam can be understood as a moral compass, a political agenda, and a spiritual journey.

In August 2007, Thomas Farr joined the Berkley Center and the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service for a one-year appointment as a Visiting Associate Professor within the Luce/SFS Program on Religion and International Affairs. Farr served as the first Director of the State Department’s Office of International Religious Freedom from 1999–2003.
THE POWER TO CONVENE

At the Center’s March 2007 conference on Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights, Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch, gave a keynote address on the question “Are Religion and Human Rights Complementary or Contradictory?” Roth argued that religious and secular human rights advocates, traditionally suspicious of one another, are looking for new ways to collaborate. His address and the ensuing discussion centered on both positive and negative examples of religious mobilization around human rights agendas, particularly in Latin America and Africa.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

Will faith play the role in the 2008 election that it did in 2004? How will candidates articulate their personal beliefs? How will they relate them to public policy issues ranging from education and social policy to terrorism and the war in Iraq? To help answer these questions, the Faith 2008 Database gathers references to religion in the speeches and statements of the major candidates of both parties. Users can filter results by party and topic, compare statements across candidates, and explore the evolution of controversies over time.

Thomas Banchoff speaking at the conference on Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

The Center’s first book, Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism (Oxford University Press, 2007) was released in May 2007. The volume, with essays by Peter Berger, José Casanova, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Wuthnow, among other leading scholars, was based on the international conference The New Religious Pluralism and Democracy, held in April 2005.

“A multiplicity of faith traditions presents not just challenges for social cohesion and governance but also opportunities for a vibrant civil society and political culture.”

Thomas Banchoff, Berkley Center Director
Interreligious understanding is more imperative today than ever before. With globalization, contact across religious traditions has accelerated, sparking tension and conflict but also enabling new forms of dialogue and collaboration. Relations between the West and the Islamic world are the most important example of this broader trend.

Berkley Center programs promote interreligious understanding by building knowledge of different traditions in their complexity and by furthering dialogue within and across communities, both religious and secular. The goal is to promote constructive interaction at Georgetown, in Washington, DC, and beyond, in a spirit of truth and mutual respect.

MILESTONES

The Center co-sponsored the first Nostrae Aetate lectures in October 2006. The lectures, organized within the President’s Office, commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Church’s turn to interreligious dialogue at the Second Vatican Council. 2006–07 speakers included Thomas F. Stransky, Susannah Heschel, and Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik.

In January 2007, the Berkley Center cosponsored a symposium to mark the publication of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Report, a document that outlines ways to improve cross-cultural relations between Muslim and Western nations and cultures.

In April 2006, Rabbi David Rosen gave a Nostrae Aetate lecture on the history of Jewish-Catholic dialogue since the 1960s. Rosen, a global leader in interfaith relations based in Jerusalem, gave an overview of progress since the Second Vatican Council and outstanding challenges at the start of the new century.

In July 2007, the Berkley Center helped to organize an unprecedented online conversation with Muslim leaders around the world on issues of violence, religious freedom, and women’s rights. “Muslims Speak Out,” hosted by the Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive’s On Faith website, gave Muslim leaders in the US and abroad a chance to explain their views and respond to questions from online panelists and the wider public.
THE POWER TO CONVENE

In January 2007, the Berkley Center cosponsored a symposium to mark the publication of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Report, an action plan to improve cross-cultural relations and counter the “Clash of Civilizations” thesis. John Esposito, Director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, was joined by Shamil Idriss of the UN Alliance Secretariat, and Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow in the Berkley Center.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

Interreligious dialogue can falter over ill will or irreconcilable differences. But a lack of basic knowledge about other different traditions can also undermine efforts at mutual comprehension and collaboration in the service of peace, justice, and development. With the Religious Perspectives Database users can compare and contrast the stances of multiple traditions on issues of basic ethical, social, and political questions.

THE POWER TO CONVENE

The 1965 Vatican Declaration Nostrae Aetate (“In Our Age”) marked a historic opening to Catholic dialogue with Judaism and other faith traditions. On the invitation of President DeGioia, Thomas F. Stransky, retired rector of Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies in Jerusalem and one of the original architects of the Declaration, gave three Nostrae Aetate lectures in October 2006 on its genesis and legacy. The lectures will be folded into a book, to be edited by Dr. John Borelli, the Georgetown President’s Special Assistant for Interreligious Dialogue.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Thirty Hoyas in 15 countries on 4 continents — the 2006–07 Berkley Center Junior Year Abroad Network linked up students immersed in a variety of different cultures in a global conversation on religion, politics, and culture. Students living in diverse religious settings, from Egypt to China, posted letters sharing their experiences and observations with one another, the Georgetown community, and beyond.
Tariq Ramadan on Islam and the West

Tariq Ramadan, a fellow at St Antony’s College, Oxford, is one of the world’s leading Muslim intellectuals.

A Swiss citizen of Egyptian descent, Ramadan advocates a self-confident Islam that both engages and critiques Western ideas and institutions. For *Time*, he is one of 100 “innovators” of the 21st century and “the leading Islamic thinker among Europe’s second- and third-generation Muslim immigrants.” To his critics, he is a dangerous fundamentalist.

Since 2004, Tariq Ramadan has been barred from entering the United States.

On April 10–12, 2007, the Berkley Center invited Ramadan to give three lectures by satellite—on Islam and Democracy, Muslim Minorities in Western Europe, and Catholic-Muslim Relations. The satellite link from Europe allowed for a conversation following each presentation with faculty, students, and members of the Washington, DC community.

THE VISA CONTROVERSY

In late 2003, Tariq Ramadan accepted a position as the Henry Luce Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame. His visa was revoked in late July 2004 under the “ideological exclusion” provisions of the Patriot Act, without further explanation. Ramadan’s critics often point to his pedigree — he is the maternal grandson of Hassan Al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is today closely linked with Hamas. Ramadan himself is not a member of the Brotherhood and is on record against suicide bombings and for Israel’s right to exist. Still, charges of links to extremists persist. In September 2006, a US consular official cited a donation of Ramadan’s to a charitable organization linked to Hamas as one of the reasons for the non-visa. The visa refusal is the subject of an ongoing legal challenge brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the American Academy of Religion, the American Association of University Professors, and PEN American Center.
THE BOOK PROJECT

Ramadan’s views on Islam and the West are controversial within the academy. The Berkley Center invited three leading American intellectuals to write essays in response to his lecture presentations — Sherman Jackson (University of Michigan), Martha Nussbaum (University of Chicago), and George Weigel (Ethics and Public Policy Center). The essays and Ramadan’s lectures will be folded into a book with Georgetown University Press.

Lecture 1:
ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY

“The true Islamic political project, inspired by our ethics as Muslims, is democratization and social justice.”

Lecture 2:
MUSLIM MINORITIES IN WESTERN EUROPE

“Protecting religion, protecting human dignity, protecting justice, protecting your intellect, protecting your goods — we find these principles much more protected in the great majority of the Western societies than in the Islamic majority societies.”

Lecture 3:
CATHOLIC-MUSLIM RELATIONS

“Many of the people who are connected in interfaith dialogue are often disconnected from their own communities.”
Thomas Banchoff, Director and Associate Professor of Government
A political scientist specializing in comparative politics and international relations, Tom is the editor of Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism (Oxford 2007) and Religious Pluralism, Globalization, and World Politics (forthcoming, Oxford). He received his B.A. from Yale, M.A. from the University of Bonn, and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton.

Michael Kessler, Assistant Director and Visiting Assistant Professor
A Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Government, Michael’s research centers on political theology, religious freedom, fundamental rights, and morals legislation. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has studied law at Georgetown.

Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor
Katherine joined the Center after a thirty-five year career at the World Bank where she worked in a variety of leadership positions, including the area of religion, ethics, and development. She has authored several books including, most recently, Development and Faith: Where Mind, Heart, and Soul Work Together (World Bank, 2007).

Melody Fox Ahmed, Program Coordinator
Melody joined the Berkley Center in June 2006. Previously she worked at the Corporate Executive Board and with the Buxton Initiative, a leading interfaith dialogue organization. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University and is currently a candidate for Georgetown’s M.A. in Global, International, and Comparative History.

Paul Beccio, Software Developer
Before beginning work at Georgetown and the Berkley Center, Paul developed web-based applications for the Federal Aviation Administration. He has studied art history at the Lorenzo De’ Medici Art Institute, history at the University of Maryland, and American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona.

Sara Rose Gorfinkel, Project and Events Coordinator
Sara has a Master’s in Liberal Studies (religious studies) from Georgetown and a B.A. in Classical Studies and Religion from Gettysburg College. Previously, she worked in the President’s Office organizing the 2006 International Prayer for Peace and held a Goldman Fellowship in Interreligious Affairs at the American Jewish Committee.
2006–07 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Elizabeth M. Bucar’s research and writing focuses on clerical rhetoric and women’s social movements within two religious traditions: Roman Catholicism and Shi’a Islam. She holds a B.A. in government from Harvard and a M.A. and Ph.D. in religious ethics from the University of Chicago. In fall 2007, Liz went on to a position as an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Tulasi Srinivas has taught at Wheaton College, Tufts, and Boston University, where she earned her Ph.D. in Sociology. Her work centers on cultural globalization and religious pluralism, and she is completing a book on the transnational Sathya Sai movement. In fall 2007, Tulasi went on to a position as an Assistant Professor at Emerson College.

2006–07 STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Emily Betson, Jenna Cossman, Rebecca Davis, Jonathan Deutsch, Nicholas Ingaciola, Kory Kantanga, Kyle Layman, Luis Felipe Mantilla, Kelly Mulvaney, Monica Munn, Megan O’Neill, Piya Radia, Nick Sementelli, Elizabeth Tenety, Amy Beth Vander Vliet, Todd Wintner
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Ahmad Dallal, Chair, Arabic and Islamic Studies
Patrick Deneen, Department of Government
Ariel Glucklich, Department of Theology
Katherine Marshall, Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor

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The Berkley Center is at the heart of a campus-wide effort to build knowledge about the role of religion in world affairs and to promote interreligious understanding in the service of peace. Key collaborative partners include:

- Catholic Studies Program
- Government Department
- Mortara Center for International Studies
- Office of Mission and Ministry
- Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding
- Program for Jewish Civilization
- Theology Department
- Woodstock Theological Center

“Through the Berkley Center, Georgetown reaches beyond the realm of academic discourse and touches the world’s decision centers, translating the best research into the most effective policy proposals.”

Jane Dammen McAuliffe, Dean of Georgetown College