

THIRD ANNUAL  
LAMP SYMPOSIUM

# Asylum, Refuge, and Relocation

*Multifaith and Community  
Responses to Global Migration*

February 6, 2017



**Leadership and Multifaith Program**

Georgia Tech Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts • Candler School of Theology at Emory



**EMORY**  
UNIVERSITY

# Leadership and Multifaith Program (LAMP)

## History & Vision

With the far-reaching religious pluralization of the contemporary United States, people of many different faiths (or no faith commitment) spend more time together on a daily basis than at any previous period in American history. Schools, hospitals, businesses, recreational facilities, and shopping malls have all become multifaith spaces, yet we often do not understand our neighbors' personal or social identities, religious or spiritual sensibilities, or the communal and institutional practices we may individually embrace. Despite productive efforts in multifaith understanding and community building in Atlanta and the Southeast, considerable work remains to be done, particularly among those who hold positions of leadership and influence in government, business, the nonprofit sector, the health sector, educational arenas, and religious communities. There is no singular challenge more compelling than the charge of discerning how we can live, learn, and lead peacefully, productively, and well in the complex, multifaith world of the twenty-first century.

The Leadership and Multifaith Program (LAMP), a collaborative endeavor of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Institute of Technology, seeks to meet this unique challenge. Through the LAMP initiative, we aim to strengthen multifaith understanding and community leadership in order to enhance the capacity of our city and region to contribute to the common good. The Candler School of Theology brings to LAMP expertise in Christian encounters with diverse religious traditions. The Ivan Allen College brings expertise in robust cross-disciplinary and cross-arena engagement. Both institutions hold longstanding commitments to excellence in research, education, and community service with the shared goal of exploring the intersections of faith, leadership, and civic engagement.

LAMP launched in February of 2015 with its inaugural symposium, "Compassion and Leadership in a Multifaith World." The LAMP series of public events is designed to offer a regular forum for engaging the challenges and opportunities of leadership and multifaith relations. We invite you to join us in this ambitious quest.



**Jacqueline Jones Royster**  
Dean, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts  
Georgia Institute of Technology



**Jan Love**  
Dean, Candler School of Theology  
Emory University



# Asylum, Refuge, and Relocation: Multifaith and Community Responses to Global Migration

The 2017 LAMP symposium aims to raise public awareness and provide resources for students, faculty, religious congregations, and community leaders in Atlanta who work with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers or care about issues of global migration. The event will begin with a film screening and discussion with the directors of *After Spring*, a documentary on the Syrian refugee crisis executive produced by Jon Stewart and directed by Ellen Martinez and Stephanie Ching. In keeping with the LAMP vision to promote multifaith understanding in a religiously plural society, speakers and workshop leaders will address questions of migration from a variety of perspectives, including legal advocacy, spiritual care, education, interfaith action, and community organizing. By highlighting action steps and opportunities for partnership, this third annual LAMP symposium aims to work across religious and academic boundaries to promote strong communities, a vibrant nation, and a peaceful and prosperous world.

## FILM SYNOPSIS

With the Syrian conflict now in its sixth year, millions of people continue to be displaced. *After Spring* is the story of what happens next. By following two refugee families in transition and aid workers fighting to keep the camp running, viewers will experience what it is like to live in Zaatari camp in Jordan, the largest camp for Syrian refugees. With no end in sight for the conflict or this refugee crisis, everyone must decide if they can rebuild their lives in a place that was never meant to be permanent.

## GRATITUDE

We would like to extend a special word of thanks to our Georgia Tech volunteers and to the following individuals for assistance in organizing this third annual symposium: Anne Minty, Event Coordinator at the Historic Academy of Medicine; Joanna Jeskova, Executive Assistant to the Dean at Ivan Allen College; Tica Lin, Graduate Research Assistant at Ivan Allen College; Laura Bier, Associate Professor at Georgia Tech; Letitia Campbell, Director of Contextual Education at Candler School of Theology; Nefertiti Williams, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations at Candler School of Theology. LAMP is made possible through the generous support of H. Bruce McEver, The Foundation for Religious Literacy, and The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.



# Symposium Program

9:30 - 10:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION & COFFEE GATHERING

Rotunda

10:00 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

VIEWING & DISCUSSION OF *AFTER SPRING*

Theater

**Opening Remarks:**

Deanna Ferree Womack, LAMP Director, Candler School of Theology at Emory  
Jacqueline J. Royster, Dean, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech  
Jan Love, Dean, Candler School of Theology at Emory University

**Film Directors:**

Ellen Martinez & Stephanie Ching

**Respondent:**

Laura Bier, Georgia Tech

12:45 - 2:15 P.M.

LUNCH & WORKSHOP SESSION 1

**A • *After Spring*: Documenting the Syrian Crisis**

Theater

Ellen Martinez & Stephanie Ching, Directors of *After Spring*  
Juan Carlos Rodríguez, Georgia Tech

**B • Migration & the Middle East**

Dining Room

Heather J. Sharkey, University of Pennsylvania

**C • Spiritual Care with Migrants and Refugees**

Magnolia  
(Terrace Level)

Emmanuel Lartey, Candler School of Theology at Emory  
Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Alan Howard, Interfaith Bridge Project

**D • Know Your Rights**

Library

Azadeh Shahshahani, Project South



# Symposium Program

2:30 - 3:45 P.M.

WORKSHOP SESSION 2

E • Educating Immigrant and Refugee Students: Context and Best Practices

Magnolia  
(Terrace Level)

Rhina Fernandes Williams, Georgia State University  
Kristina Brezicha, Georgia State University

F • How to Welcome and Advocate for Inclusivity in Your Community

Dining Room

Michelle Maziar, Welcoming Atlanta  
Luisa Cardona, Welcoming Atlanta  
Satyam Barakoti, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum

G • Detention & Detained Asylum Seekers

Library

Marie F. Marquardt, Candler School of Theology at Emory  
Amilcar Valencia, El Refugio  
Melanie Johnson, Lutheran Services of Georgia & Friends in Hope

H • Compassion in Action: An Interfaith Response

Theater

Leanne Rubenstein, Compassionate Atlanta  
Louisa Merchant, Refugee Ministries at All Saints’ Episcopal Church  
Safia Jama, New American Pathways  
ilise benschushan cohen, Jewish Voice for Peace & Interfaith Peace-Builders

4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

How the Legal Power of Protecting Rights Expands the Marketplace

Theater

**Speaker:**

Derreck Kayongo, The National Center for Civil and Human Rights

**Respondent:**

Silas Allard, Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University

5:15 - 6:30 P.M.

POSTER PRESENTATION AND RESOURCES RECEPTION

Terrace Level



# Symposium Program

## POSTER PRESENTATION & RESOURCES RECEPTION

---

### PARTICIPANTS

---

#### **After Spring**

[www.afterspringfilm.com](http://www.afterspringfilm.com)

#### **Atlanta Interfaith Manifesto**

[atlantainterfaithmanifesto.org](http://atlantainterfaithmanifesto.org)

#### **Atlanta Organizations Serving Latino/a Communities**

#### **Candler School of Theology at Emory University**

[candler.emory.edu](http://candler.emory.edu)

#### **Christian Peacemaker Teams**

[www.cpt.org](http://www.cpt.org)

#### **Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies**

[refugeef.ejoinme.org/NAC2017](http://refugeef.ejoinme.org/NAC2017)

#### **Compassionate Atlanta**

[compassionateatl.org](http://compassionateatl.org)

#### **Emory University Master's in Development Practice**

[web.gs.emory.edu/mdp/about/index.html](http://web.gs.emory.edu/mdp/about/index.html)

#### **Interfaith Peace-Builders**

[www.ifpb.org](http://www.ifpb.org)

#### **International Rescue Committee**

[Rescue.org/atlanta](http://Rescue.org/atlanta)

#### **Jewish Voice for Peace-Atlanta Chapter**

[jewishvoiceforpeace.org](http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org)

[www.facebook.com/jvpatlanta](http://www.facebook.com/jvpatlanta)

#### **Justice in Motion**

[justiceinmotion.org](http://justiceinmotion.org)

#### **National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)**

[napawf.org](http://napawf.org)

#### **New American Pathways**

[newamericanpathways.org](http://newamericanpathways.org)

#### **No Place Like Home for Refugees, Inc.**

[www.noplacelikehome.org](http://www.noplacelikehome.org)

#### **Noor Family Services**

[www.noorfamilyservices.org](http://www.noorfamilyservices.org)

#### **Practical Matters Journal**

[practicalmattersjournal.org](http://practicalmattersjournal.org)

#### **The Georgia 3Rs Project of the Religious Freedom Center**

[www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/ga3rs](http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/ga3rs)

#### ***The Radius of Us***

[www.mariemarquardt.com](http://www.mariemarquardt.com)

#### **Through the Checkpoint**

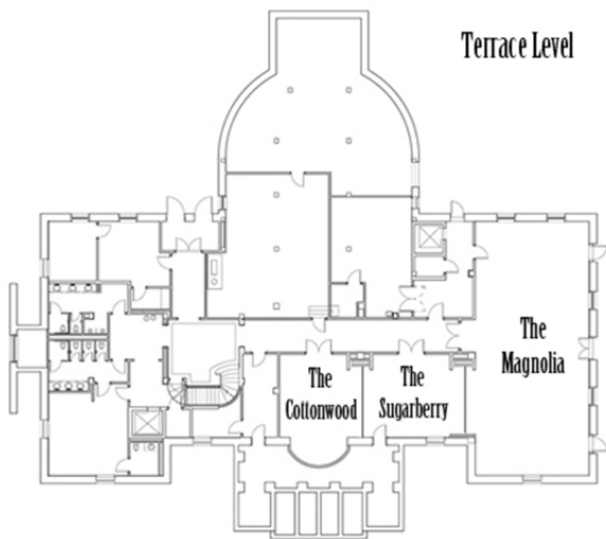
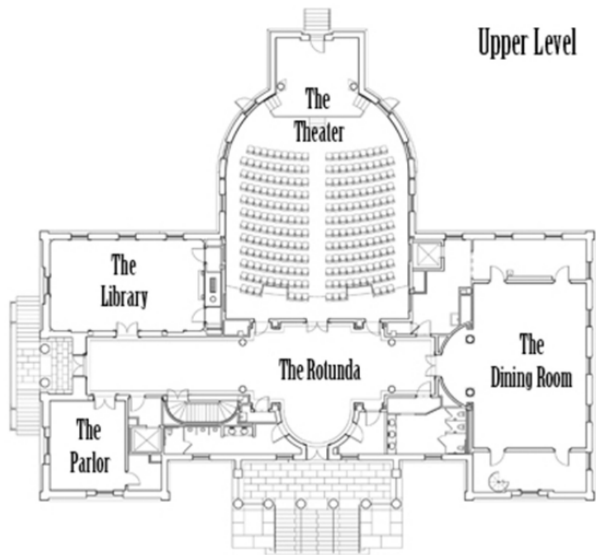
[www.lifeilluminated.com/through-the-checkpoint-project](http://www.lifeilluminated.com/through-the-checkpoint-project)

#### **Welcoming America**

[www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org)



# Floor Plan



# Symposium Biographies



**The Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel**, former moderator of the 214th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), was born in the village of Kuffer-Yassif in Galilee. He is the founder and past executive director of Atlanta Ministry with International Students, an organization that has helped connect international students and scholars with local friends and family since 1978. A member of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Abu-Akel served on the staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta for twenty-one years. He has held leadership positions in the Georgia Council for International Visitors, Friends of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, and the Association of Arab American University Graduates.



**Silas Allard** is Associate Director and Harold J. Berman Fellow in Law and Religion at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University. Allard's research focuses on the ethics of migration policy. Allard is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Georgia Immigration Working Group and the facilitator of the Detention Subgroup. He also serves on the Advisory Group for the El Refugio hospitality house in Lumpkin, Georgia. Allard earned his Juris Doctor and Master of Theological Studies from Emory University in 2011 and clerked for Chief Judge, Donald C. Pogue on the Court of International Trade following law school.



**Satyam Barakoti** is the Georgia Director of National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF). She has nearly two decades of experience working with women, immigrant and refugee communities, and underserved urban and rural communities through organizations including NAPAWF, Refugee Women's Network, Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Legal Momentum, Asian and Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVRP) in Washington D.C., Janakpur Women's Development Center (JWDC), and Women's Foundation of Nepal. Satyam has a M.A. in International Development from American University and is an immigrant to the United States from Nepal.



**Laura Bier** is an Associate Professor in the School of History, Technology, and Society at Georgia Tech. She is a social and cultural historian with a specialty in post-colonial Egyptian history. She has been the recipient of a number of grants, including a Fulbright and a Fulbright-Hays for her research on gender and state socialism in Egypt. Her work has appeared in the journals *Feminist Studies* and *Gender and History* and in edited collections on the family in the Middle East and on the Bandung Conference. Her book *Revolutionary Womanhood: Feminisms, Modernity and the State in Nasser's Egypt* was published by Stanford University Press in 2011.







**Kristina Brezicha** is an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Georgia State University. She holds a dual-title PhD from Pennsylvania State University in Educational Theory and Policy and Comparative International Education. Her research interests focus on how education supports individuals' abilities to equitably participate in the democratic processes at both the local and national level, domestically and internationally. Most recently, she has studied how immigrant students' experiences of in/exclusion have shaped their political identities.



**Luisa F. Cardona** is the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the office and ensures the fulfillment of all office priorities with a specific focus on citizenship and language access initiatives. Born in Colombia and raised in metro Atlanta, Cardona understands the needs of her community and has worked to empower, educate, and advocate for minority families. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, she served as an attorney in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., advocating on behalf of immigrant workers, tenants, and DREAMers. Cardona holds a law degree from the American University's Washington College of Law and a bachelor's degree from Georgia State University.



**Stephanie Ching** is a Brooklyn based filmmaker and the director of *After Spring*, a feature documentary on the Syrian refugee crisis that premiered at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival. Ching attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and was Associate Producer and Additional Editor of the Emmy Nominated documentary *Supermensch: The Legend of Shep Gordon*. She participated in relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina and made several trips to Sichuan, China, to film testimonials with survivors of the massive 2008 earthquake. Ching is a first generation Chinese-American from Massachusetts, and her grandmother was a refugee at the end of World War II before finally making her way to the US.



**ilise benschushan cohen** is a Sephardi/Mizrahi Jew born in Atlanta. She is a Middle East scholar-activist, teacher, and mom. She leads the Atlanta Jewish Voice for Peace chapter and co-coordinates the Jews of Color/Sephardi/Mizrahi caucus partnering with JVP. She is an Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation leader, board member, and former chair. ilise was formerly AFSC's Southeast Middle-East peace education program director and FOR National Council's co-vice chair. She confronts white supremacy and state violence, and works for justice for Palestinians. ilise mentors young Jewish people during their B'nai-Mitzvah process. She lives with her partner, daughter, and two cats in the Atlanta area.





**Alan Howard** is a Global Operations Manager with Cisco Systems. He is an IT engineer by trade. He has also been engaged in activism and interfaith dialogue for over 28 years, including giving educational talks about Islam for schools, churches and synagogues, and civic organizations such as police departments and universities. He works with the Islamic Speakers Bureau and is in the process of forming a new non-profit, the Interfaith Bridge Initiative. He lives with his wife and two children in Decatur, GA, and enjoys international travel, hiking and kayaking.



**Safia Jama** serves as the department manager for New American Pathways' Resettlement and Resource Navigation department. Jama began her career with the organization 17 years ago, always in direct service to help refugees rebuild their lives beginning with their arrival in the United States. She mentors new case managers and offers training on cultural competency, health concerns and accessing community resources. Jama has worked with refugees from over 20 countries and, as a widowed mother of nine and a refugee herself, she can relate to the challenges that refugees face. In 2014, she was recognized as a High Potential Diverse Leader by the Georgia Center for Nonprofits in partnership with American Express.



**Melanie Johnson** is the Program Manager for Volunteer, Congregation and Community Engagement for Lutheran Services of Georgia's (LSG) Refugee and Immigration Services where she works with LSG staff and over 900 volunteers in Atlanta and Savannah. She helped to found LSG's Friends in Hope Detention Visitation Ministry which offers support to immigrant detainees in the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, GA, and promotes advocacy for just, fair and humane laws and policies for immigrants impacted by detention. Johnson is also a Teaching Supervisor in the Contextual Education Program of the Candler School of Theology, a Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and member of the ELCA Southeastern Synod's Immigration Task Force and Advocacy-Policy Team.



**Derreck Kayongo** was born in Kampala, Uganda, just before General Idi Amin Dada seized power in a military coup. As violence spread through the country under the brutal regime and civil war erupted, Kayongo and his family became refugees in Kenya. He later immigrated to America, where he graduated from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and founded the Global Soap Project. Today, he is a successful entrepreneur and human rights innovator, serving as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.





**Emmanuel Y. Lartey** is L. Bevel Jones III Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care, and Counseling at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. His research examines pastoral and spiritual care theories and practices operating in African, European and American cultures. An internationally acclaimed scholar, Lartey is recognized as a pioneer in the development of an intercultural approach to pastoral care and counseling, which argues for and models respectful engagement across racial, gender, class, cultural and religious boundaries. Among his many publications, *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* (Jessica Kingsley, 2nd ed., 2003) is internationally used as a textbook in pastoral care.



**Marie Friedmann Marquardt** has been a Scholar in Residence at Emory University's Candler School of Theology since 2012. Her teaching and research interests include religion among Latin American immigrants, gender and migration, multi-ethnic and multicultural congregations, religious diversity in new immigrant destinations, and the role of religion in shaping civic engagement and public life. She is a co-author of *Living "Illegal": The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration* (The New Press, 2011) and *Globalizing the Sacred: Religion Across the Americas* (Rutgers Univ. Press, 2003). Marquardt is also the author of two young adult novels, *Dream Things True* (Macmillan, 2015) and *The Radius of Us* (St. Martin's Press, January 2017).



**Ellen Martinez**, a Brooklyn based filmmaker, is originally from Texas but grew up overseas and has lived in Dubai, Venezuela, and Syria. Her first feature film, *After Spring*, a documentary about the Syrian refugee crisis, was supported in part by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and was a Hollywood Reporter "Top 10 Critics Pick." Martinez attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has worked in the production department and as a director's assistant on various film and television shows in NYC. She was associate producer on *Tested*, a feature documentary about NYC standardized testing.



**Michelle L. Maziar** is the Director of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for the City of Atlanta and Director of Welcoming Atlanta, a public-private initiative focused on immigrant integration in metro Atlanta. At Welcoming Atlanta, she leads policy and program initiatives relating to public safety, civic engagement, and economic empowerment. Throughout her career, Maziar has focused on education equity and community engagement strategies for immigrant youth and families in addition to creating programs that enable immigrant and refugee families to fully engage in civic life. She is a graduate of Harvard Graduate School of Education where her research focused on education equity for undocumented youth.





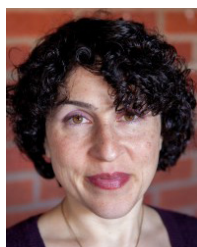
**Louisa Merchant** is the Director of Refugee Ministries at All Saints' Episcopal Church. Prior to this, she was the assistant principal at Dar-un-Noor School, an Atlanta Islamic elementary school. Merchant has Masters degrees in Spanish and Psychology and twenty-five years of experience teaching Spanish and English. Merchant's position with Refugee Ministries combines volunteer coordination, direct service for education, medical and social services as well as public advocacy.



**Juan Carlos Rodríguez**, Associate Professor of Spanish at Georgia Tech, is a Latin American film scholar whose research focuses on the representation of Latin American cities in documentary. His research areas include documentary studies, sustainability, critical theory, urban studies, and digital humanities. He is co-editor of the collection of essays *New Documentaries in Latin America* (Palgrave, 2014) and is co-editor of the book series, *Reframing Media, Technology, and Culture in Latin/o America* (University Press of Florida). His current book project, *Cinematic Ruinologies: Cuba, Documentary and the Ambiguous Rhetoric of Decay*, explores representations of space and place in documentaries made in Cuba.



**Leanne Rubenstein**, Executive Director of Compassionate Atlanta, is originally from South Africa. She grew up in Atlanta as part of a close knit immigrant family. Over the past 20 years, Rubenstein has dedicated her career to creating healthier, more vibrant and welcoming communities for all. Rubenstein served as the Associate Director of a refugee resettlement agency in Atlanta resettling over 500 refugees annually, as well as providing emergency response programming to individuals and families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and the massive earthquake in Haiti. Rubenstein is invested in uplifting the voices and experiences of marginalized communities locally, nationally and globally.



**Azadeh Shahshahani** is Legal & Advocacy Director for Project South, a Southern-based leadership development organization that creates space for movement building. She has worked in North Carolina and Georgia to protect the human rights of immigrants and Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities. She previously served as National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project Director with the ACLU of Georgia and as president of the National Lawyers Guild. Among other honors, she is the recipient of the 2016 Georgia WAND Peace and Justice Award and the American Immigration Lawyers Association 2012 Advocacy Award.





**Heather J. Sharkey** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania, where she teaches on Middle Eastern, North African, and Islamic history. She received her PhD from Princeton University. Sharkey previously taught at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Trinity College in Connecticut. She was a Visiting Professor at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris during the 2012-13 academic year and has received many fellowships, including the Marshall, Fulbright-Hays, and Carnegie. She has authored and edited several books, the most recent being *Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Modern Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, Spring 2017).



**Amilcar Valencia** is originally from El Salvador. He has been involved in the immigrant rights movement in the state of Georgia, working with the Latino community and those affected by immigration policies. In 2010, Valencia was a founding member of the coordinators group of El Refugio, a hospitality house and visitation program at the Stewart Detention Center. In 2015, he was named El Refugio's first Executive Director. He is a steering committee member of Georgia Detention Watch, a local affiliate of DWN. Valencia previously worked for the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR) as a community organizer. He graduated from the University of Central America, UCA, El Salvador.



**Rhina Fernandes Williams** is a faculty member in the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Georgia State University. Her work as an elementary school teacher, professor and community member has consistently revolved around the central belief in the power of critically conscious teachers. Her teaching and scholarship revolve around social justice, critical and multicultural education, and teacher education. She served on the board and works with teachers at the International Community School (ICS), a public, local charter school in DeKalb County, Georgia, whose commitment is to provide quality, social justice-oriented education to refugee, immigrant and U.S. born children.



**Deanna Ferree Womack** is Assistant Professor of History of Religions and Multifaith Relations at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and director of the Leadership and Multifaith Program (LAMP). She coordinates public programming for LAMP, acts as the faculty liaison between Candler and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech, and teaches on Islam in America, Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations, and global religions. Her scholarship explores the encounters between American missionaries and Arab residents of Ottoman Syria in the pre-World War I period.





## Leadership and Multifaith Program

Georgia Tech Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts • Candler School of Theology at Emory



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

<http://lamp.iac.gatech.edu>

 @LAMP Atlanta #LAMPAtlanta2017

 [www.facebook.com/lamp.atlanta](http://www.facebook.com/lamp.atlanta)