

Is Nothing Sacred? New Ways of Studying the Relationship Between Religion and Popular Culture in America

Join in the exciting conversation between four distinguished scholars (an anthropologist, a historian, and professors of media studies and religious studies), as they discuss their brand new publications and compare methodologies of studying religion and popular culture in America.

Gary Laderman is Professor and Chair of Religion at Emory University, where he works on American Religious History and Cultures. He is the editor and director of *Religion Dispatches* (religiondispatches.org), a daily online magazine that analyzes contemporary religion. He is the author of many books, including the recently published *Sacred Matters: Celebrity Worship, Sexual Ecstasies, the Living Dead, and Other Signs of Religious Life in the United States* (New Press, 2009).

Scott Poole is Associate Professor of History at the College of Charleston, whose work plays with the intersection of religious belief and popular culture. His latest book is *Satan in America: The Devil We Know* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009).

S. Elizabeth Bird, Professor of Anthropology at University of South Florida, researches the role of news and journalism in framing cultural issues, and the relationship of media texts and audience practices. She is the author of *For Enquiring Minds: A Cultural Study of Supermarket Tabloids*, and *The Audience in Everyday Life: Living in a Media World*.

Heather Hendershot is Associate Professor of Media Studies at Queens College, New York. Her research centers on censorship, conservative evangelical media, and children's television—from *Sesame Street* to *SpongeBob SquarePants*.

The moderator will be **Elijah Siegler**, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at College of Charleston. He writes about new religious movements, popular Daoism, and religion on TV.

Drs. Bird, Hendershot and Siegler have all contributed essays to the groundbreaking new anthology *Small Screen, Big Picture: Television and Lived Religion*, edited by Diane Winston (Baylor, 2009).

Thursday November 12, 2009, 4- 6 PM
Education Center 116, College of Charleston

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Books will be for sale before and after the event.
Contact Elijah Siegler @ 953-3910 or sieglere@cofc.edu for more info.