CONFERENCE AGENDA
Thursday, November 16, 2017

Part 1: Current academic, political and cultural landscapes  1:00 - 2:30pm

Welcome and introductions
Erik Owens and Marie Griffith

The current ecosystem of centers: Results from the 2017 Survey
Erik Owens

Remarks on academic centers, public scholars, and the public understanding of religion
Laurie Patton
David Gushee

Open conversation

Part 2: Breakout sessions  2:45 - 4:45pm

Engaging diverse publics (40 minutes)
How does/should your center engage diverse publics?
How does this relate to your center’s mission (stated or unstated)?
What sort of advocacy work does/should your center do?

Making our work possible (40 minutes)
How does institutional setting affect your center’s work?
What are the funding opportunities/challenges we face?
How do we know when we are successful?

Avenues of collaboration (40 minutes)
What would it look like if our centers collaborated? What could we accomplish?

Part 3: Next steps  5:00 - 6:00pm

Reflections on breakout session proposals

Reporting out to the AAR Exploratory Session
"The Path Ahead for Academic Centers on Religion and Public Life" (A20-144; Monday 9-11am)

Future summits?
Adjourn
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Thursday, November 16, 2017

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Selected Academic Centers on Religion and Public Life

[ updated Nov. 2017 ]

Selection criteria: While being as inclusive as possible, this list focuses on university-based academic centers (not think-tanks or advocacy groups) that are active today (not in start-up or wind-down mode) and are focused on some aspect of religion and public life, broadly construed in scope. They should be oriented toward multiple publics, not just the academy or church, and they should have some sort of constructive mission, not simply one of description or scholarly understanding.

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