

In this issue:

Faith & Citizenship Initiative Projects **2**

School Choice Policy and Private Education **3**

Challenges for the Next President Series **4**

Faithful Citizens Seminar **5**

Faith and Citizenship Lab **6**

Symposium on Religion and Public Life **7**

Pastors and Public Life **7**

Career Breakfasts **8**

Pruis Rule of Law Lecture **8**

Vincent Bacote Lecture **9**

Free to Serve **9**

The New Totalitarian Temptation **9**

Semester in Washington D.C. **10**

Senior Research Fellows **12**

Forthcoming Research **12**

www.henry.calvin.edu/
616.526.6870
email: henry@calvin.edu
1810 E. Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

facebook.com/HenryInstitute
 [Twitter: @henry_institute](https://twitter.com/@henry_institute)
 vimeo.com/channels/henryinstitute

Christian Citizens in a Changing World

If a body politic is only as good as its citizens, then what does it mean to say that a citizen is “good”? This is the key question behind the *Faith and Citizenship Initiative* at Calvin College, which is spearheaded by the Henry Institute with the support of the Provost’s Office, the Center for Christian Worship, and the Byker Chair.

The question of good citizenship is age-old, but never more urgent than today. In just the past three decades, new forces and movements have challenged the role of the citizen. Individuals are buffeted by globalization and rapid technological change, shifting international alliances and hardening transnational conflicts, and intergroup hostilities. But they also confront these new realities in their particular territories and cultures. In many postcolonial and post-communist systems, citizens have unprecedented freedom, yet they struggle with the privileges and responsibilities that accompany self-determined rule.

Others experience ambivalence in countries that are coping with unintended effects of hope-filled revolution, including the persistent threat of authoritarianism and the contested boundaries of freedom and order. Still others reside in the established democracies of Europe and North America, but feel an indifference and alienation that impedes participation and the formation of civic virtue.

These worrisome dynamics help explain the renewed attention to the question of what makes a good citizen, and a host of answers have been generated that focus on the varied dimensions of citizenship. They all tend to share the conviction that the role of the citizen is under profound threat across the globe, with evidence of a decline in social trust and tolerance, alarmingly low levels of political knowledge, and eroding civic engagement. One might plausibly argue that the citizen is in global crisis.

The *Faith and Citizenship Initiative* enters this vital conversation by encouraging Christians to provide clear and careful thinking about an area of responsibility—citizenship—that none of us can escape—indeed, that we are *called* to fulfill.

Calvin College’s theological traditions, with an emphasis on the importance of (rather than aversion to) public life and the focus on distinctive roles Christians play in the world, is a seedbed for ideas about citizen formation and education. There is a special need to reach young people in North America and abroad, and to engage the global church in a robust discussion about how Christians ought to fulfill their role as citizens, with special emphasis on the opportunities to learn and mobilize across national borders.

Further, within the contexts of considering appropriate roles as citizens, Christians are

One might plausibly argue that the citizen is in global crisis.

increasingly gravitating toward the concept of “pluralism” as a way to address many of the complicated questions at the intersection of faith, citizenship, civil society and government. While Reformed thinkers have been considering the concept for decades, today’s contemporary challenges test the boundaries and guidelines for Christian civic engagement in the face of claims of religious liberty, societal standards and the requirements of the law.

The *Faith and Citizenship Initiative* has been broadly structured to address views and issues surrounding civic engagement from a variety of perspectives. A number of projects have already been undertaken, with more planned for the future. These endeavors include:

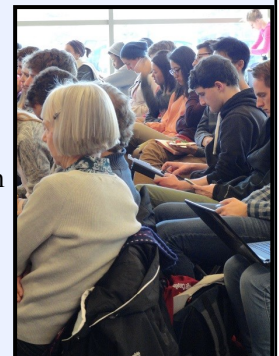
[more below and on page 2]

Challenges for the Next President

The *Initiative* is hosting a series of panel discussions about various prominent issues of the electoral season, with the intention of inviting Calvin students and the broader community into a serious conversation about the role of faith in democratic politics and an evaluation of important policy issues. Micah Watson is coordinating this project, with Kevin den Dulk and Ellen Hekman partnering.

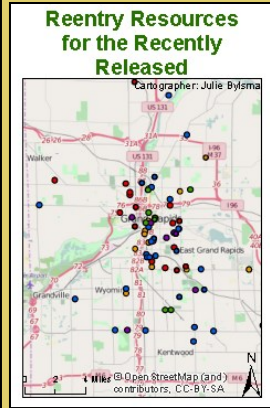


Henry Institute
Director Kevin den Dulk



Returning Citizens and Restorative Justice

The project has two goals. The first is to create a web-based, interactive map of all resources in Kent County, Michigan that are available to citizens on their return from prison.



Second is to produce a data source for studying inequities in resource allocation for these “returning citizens.” Both these outcomes can help to develop an intentional Christian response to the challenges to citizenship faced by ex-prisoners. Kevin den Dulk is heading up this project, with Jason Van Horn partnering.

Faith and Citizenship Lab

Kevin den Dulk and the leaders of other *Initiative* ventures have formed the Lab to bring together the student research assistants involved in the *Faith and Citizenship Initiative* projects—as well as additional students working on other endeavors related to religion and public life—in a setting that will develop a research community under the mentorship of Calvin faculty. Den Dulk notes that “the Lab has provided students opportunities not only to work on great individual projects, but also to get some exposure to numerous other ideas and social scientific approaches. The goal is to give students a taste of real research, including the benefits of collaboration.”

[related article on page 6]

Faithful Citizenship in a Pluralistic Society

Kevin den Dulk and Jamie Smith, partnering with John Witvliet and Kristen Verhulst of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, are leading this project, which included events at the Calvin Symposium on Worship in January 2016 as well as an intensive week-long seminar in mid-June. The summer workshop included scholars and practitioners who explored various challenges to their faith in public roles. The work of the seminar attendees will be incorporated into a published book that discusses the challenges of pluralism to ministry.

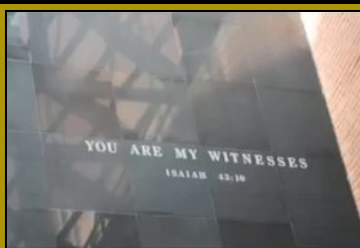
[related article on page 5]

Visualizing Faith and Citizenship

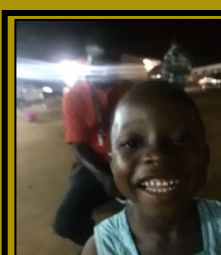
Calvin students studying off campus are documenting their experience of faith and public life through photography. Their photos will become a source of data for social scientific analysis as well as form the basis for a public exhibit at the 2017 Symposium on Religion and Public Life. The project is being led by Roman Williams and Kevin den Dulk, with Don DeGraaf and leaders of off campus programs partnering.

Additional projects planned for the future

- A research study that includes a full inventory of experiential learning opportunities at Calvin and a survey of recent alumni to assess development of citizenship through experiential learning.
- A workshop in civic education which would gather a small group of Christian school teachers with the intent of developing and subsequently disseminating a range of curricular materials for grade 7-12 civics education in Christian schools.
- A conference and potential subsequent book to refresh a Reformed framework of pluralism as a way to understand the role of citizens from cross-cultural perspectives and in diverse societies.
- A study to examine the role of Christianity, and particularly of the church, in citizen mobilization outside North America and Europe, and an exploration of means to support Christians in the global south and east who are already working in churches and other faith-based groups to foster good citizenship.
- Assisting Calvin College in the process of equipping students for cross cultural engagement by implementing a course option to reflect on faith and citizenship, and encouraging campus discussion about the concept of “global citizenship” from a Reformed perspective. ~



Main lobby of the Holocaust Museum—“Sometimes when tragic things happen, government isn’t enough to give hope and wisdom. Government shouldn’t be the only place to go for answers.”
Jordyn Stromback



Night Market in Ghana—
“At the night market, I see God taking on flesh. My ‘aunties’ there have reflected Him so clearly through their selfless love and genuine care.”
Krista Kolean

Street in Washington D.C.—“We also need to address the negative aspects of faith and politics.”
Elise Mathews



Rally in Washington D.C.—“What does it mean to be a citizen in D.C.? Advocating and working together to better the lives of those who have been pushed out of a place they have called home all of their lives.”
Jill Schmidt

Union Rescue Mission in Hollywood—
“At the Mission they have a clothing bank. It made me so aware of my own social class and how vastly it differed because I have an excess of these material things.”
Janelle Conti



In 2014, the Henry Institute received a grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation to explore U.S. education policy intended to expand school choice, and its impact on enrollment and viability of private schools. Through data collection and analysis across multiple states and time periods, grant researchers Kevin den Dulk, Mikael Pelz and Steve McMullen explored the effects of school choice policies on private school enrollment, the impact of religion on policies, and whether expanded school choice impacts viability of a robust educational market in the U.S.

“Private schools are vital to the structure of education during a child’s formative years, with about 10% of U.S. elementary and secondary students enrolled in private schools—and 80% of these have a religious identity,” noted Henry Institute Director and researcher Kevin den Dulk. “Private school enrollments save millions in public funding every year, and student learning outcomes at these schools are generally quite high. Our exploration considered whether religion is secondary to other explanations about demand for private education, and impacts of state school choice policies on enrollment.”

private school enrollment are explored in the study: the social identity theory asserts that the primary choice for private education is based on parental desire to transmit a religious social identity to children (with school selection based on their belief system). The secular goods theory proposes that parents from different religious and non-religious traditions choose religious private schools based on the provision of a superior education.

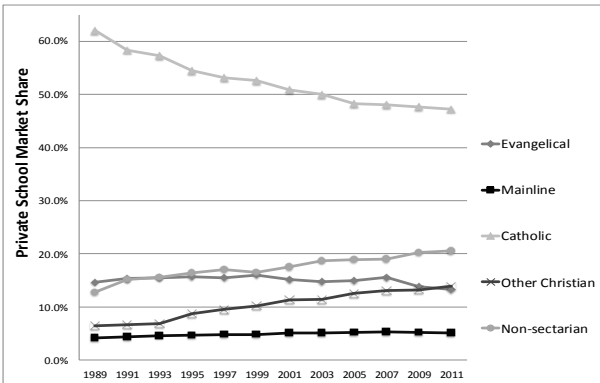
Gathering and managing a great deal of data was a challenge for the researchers. They drew together numerous resources, including the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Common Core of Data, NCES Private School University Survey, U.S. Census Community Population Survey, Friedman Foundation website, Alliance for School Choice website, quadrennial national surveys from the Pew Charitable Trust and Bliss Institute (University of Akron), and information on public school education quality and on economic characteristics from state-level data. The resulting massive dataset includes information on every school in nearly every year since 1990.

religious groups also rise with the presence of state voucher programs and state tax credits for private school tuition and scholarships, since financial costs are a significant factor in private school enrollment choices.”

The researchers found that the primary effects of religion on the decision to enroll children in a private school are largely consistent with the secular goods theory, with only limited evidence for the social identity model. Further, charter school enrollment does not appear to negatively impact private school enrollment, as some scholars have suggested, with these publicly funded schooling alternatives posing limited risk to the market shares of different types of private schools.

For additional information, statistical data and more complete reports, contact Mikael Pelz (mlp23@calvin.edu). ~

Change in Private Enrollment by School Type

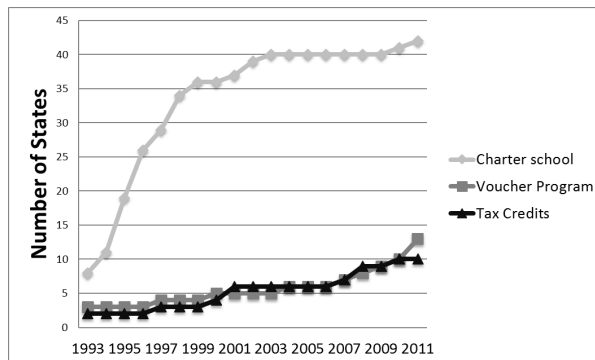


For the grant purposes, “school choice” included state policies enabling parents to select educational options other than direct assignment to public schools by the state, including public charter schools (authorized in 42 states and the District of Columbia), public tuition grants or vouchers (in 10 states and the District of Columbia), and tuition tax credits (an option in 11 states).

Two broad theories on the relationship between religion and

“To our knowledge, this is the first study to look at private school demand through the interactive lens of religion and broadly measured state policies,” according to researcher Mikael Pelz. “We found that in spite of a general decline in private school enrollment, the overall population of many religious traditions are related to increases in private school enrollment over time, indicating a broad and healthy market for religiously affiliated private schools. Enrollment rates among the

Rise in School Choice Policies



Additional reading related to religion and school choice:

Henry Institute Director Kevin R. den Dulk on *the unintended consequences of education policy* in **Capital Commentary** from the Center for Public Justice
http://www.cpjustice.org/public/capital_commentary/article/94

Henry Institute Senior Fellow Stephen V. Monsma on *pluralism and freedom for faith-based organizations* in **Free to Serve: Protecting the Religious Freedom of Faith-Based Organizations**
<https://henry.calvin.edu/about-the-institute/books/pluralism-and-freedom.html>

Henry Institute Senior Fellow Stephen V. Monsma and Stanley Carlson-Thies on *why pluralists should support religious freedom* in **Comment Magazine** from Cardus
<https://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/4504/free-to-serve-why-pluralists-should-support-religious-freedom/>

Calvin College Political Science Professor Mikael Pelz on *State Policy Regimes and Charter School Performance* in **Journal of School Choice: International Research and Reform** (vol. 9, issue 3, 2015)
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15582159.2015.1061382?tokenDo-main=eprints&tokenAccess=PhSVeaRGR8BMSXdMqKvW&forwardService=showFullText&doi=10.1080%2F15582159.2015.1061382&journalCode=wjsc20>

Challenges for Next President Series

The Challenges for the Next President Series, sponsored by the Henry Institute and the Calvin *Faith and Citizenship Initiative*, includes events through the spring and fall of 2016 leading to the November election. The programs are not intended to be debates, with a "right" and "left" focus, but instead to examine various points of view which encourage participants to become more educated and thoughtful voters.

Abbie Schutte and Ben Ridder worked extensively on the series, preparing background papers on the panel topics in their positions as Henry Institute Student Research Fellows. In introducing speakers at one of the panels, Abbie noted, "Christians can disagree in good faith about different problems and solutions, while recognizing the responsibility God

debated, identifying values and positions that they can reconcile with their own Christian faith."

Five events were scheduled during the spring, with 4 additional panels to be offered in the upcoming fall months.



Jason Ballor (left) and James Skillen

The Environment: The first panel in February featured James Skillen from Calvin's Environmental Studies program and Jason Ballor of the Acton Institute discussing environmental issues. The two considered why, as Christians, we should care about environmental policy, as well as their opinions about which issues the next

president will most need to address. Each speaker interwove environmental policy with the concept of Christian stewardship and the responsibility to carefully consider the difficult problems that can be associated with resource management, pollution prevention, and mitigation of climate change.



Doug Koopman (left) and Luis Avila

Immigration: With both sides of the spectrum willing to agree that there is brokenness in the current U.S. system of immigration, many conflicting opinions still exist. The March event included Luis Avila (Varnum Law immigration

attorney) and Doug Koopman (Calvin Political Science professor) considering numerous issues swirling around this divisive topic. The speakers talked about the basic tenets of a just and workable immigration policy, as well as whether we should consider "welcoming the stranger" and being created in the image of God as part of an appropriate consideration in immigration policies, whether immigration quotas should be restricted or expanded, and considerations of protecting national security in immigration considerations, along with other concerns and issues swirling around immigration policy.



Darren Walhof (left) and Bryan McGraw

Religious Freedom: In April, the third panel addressed religious liberty in an increasingly pluralistic society. With religious freedom issues continuing to thread through the news, Bryan McGraw (Wheaton College) and Darren Walhof (Grand Valley State University) discussed issues including faith-based organizations hiring employees based on whether an applicant holds certain beliefs, business owners who hold strong religious beliefs denying service to someone whose lifestyle is wrong in their eyes, whether private religious schools and organizations who accept government grants and aid should be required to endorse government policies and additional religious liberty issues.

Criminal Justice Reform: In a political season increasingly marked by incivility and polarized partisanship, criminal justice reform has been a remarkable exception, with Republicans and Democrats not only agreeing that something needs to be done, but actually working together on legislation to address the issue. The May panel considered criminal justice in the United States and included Chris deGroot (Calvin College Religion Department), Pastor James Jones (Oakdale Park Church in Grand Rapids), and Nathan Leamer (criminal justice policy analyst at R Street Institute in Washington D.C.). The

"The message of the Gospel transcends all political persuasions and ideologies. Our first obligation is simply to begin to think critically about the great social issues of the day and to relate them to the message of the Gospel. Only then can we begin to consider our response to these issues as Christians."

Paul B. Henry

gave us to care for his world... By grounding ourselves in scripture, learning about the issues and gracefully interacting with fellow believers and citizens, we can play our part in answering God's call."

Panel discussions on various "hot topics" during this election year include speakers representing various viewpoints, with each providing information and expertise about topics. They share their opinions about important issues which must be addressed by the candidates and the next President-elect, and then address questions from the audience to help clarify views and provide in-depth discussions.

"While pundits and partisans are quick to claim every presidential election is historic, this one actually seems to be uniquely significant," noted Calvin College Political Science professor Micah Watson, who is coordinating the program series. "Our Challenges for the Next President series is intended to support students and the community as we wade through the complex issues that are being

Exploring Conflicts of Pluralism and Civil Society

Christian worship ends with sending: the people of God gather together precisely in order to be sent into the earthly city. Heavenly citizenship comes with a call to be good neighbors, and faithful discipleship engenders good citizenship. The *Cultivating Faithful Citizens in a Pluralistic Society* seminar brought scholars and ministry practitioners together from June 12-17 at Calvin College to reflect on faithful citizenship in those areas of civil society where the combination of pluralism and conflict is experienced most intensely.

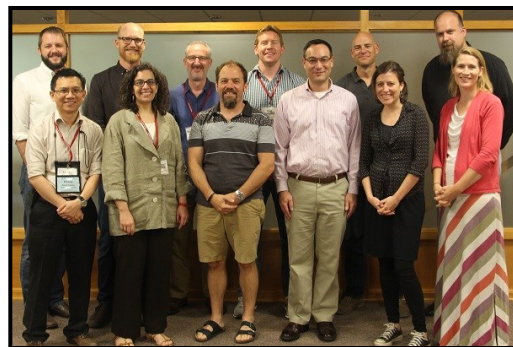
During the course of the week, the group considered questions that included whether Reformed, Catholic, or other Christian traditions provide satisfying intellectual responses to current challenges faced by chaplains, campus pastors, and similar leaders; whether various models of “principled pluralism” have anything

useful to say to these practitioners; how Christian worship can best equip and form people for citizenship in a secular age; and whether at a practical level, there may be better or worse models of preaching, public prayer, and ministry outreach that help address challenges of diversity and conflict.

While many Christians wonder about their place in a public square that seems to be more diverse and increasingly hostile toward faith-based perspectives, the seminar participants considered how faithful citizens of the city of God can inhabit the contested spaces of the earthly city.

The seminar was directed by Henry Institute Director Kevin R. den Dulk and Calvin College Philosophy Professor James K.A. Smith, with funding provided by both the Calvin College *Faith and*

Citizenship Initiative and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (through grant funding by the Lilly Endowment). ~



Seminar participants included (back, from left) Matthew Kaemingk, Kevin den Dulk, Jonathan Chaplin, Samuel Ferguson, Eric Dirksen, Micah Watson (front, from left) Shiao Chong, Stephanie Summers, Jamie Smith, John Inazu, Tish Harrison Warren, Kristen Deede Johnson (not pictured: Jessica Driesenga, Robert Joustra)

Challenges for Next President Series (continued from page 4)

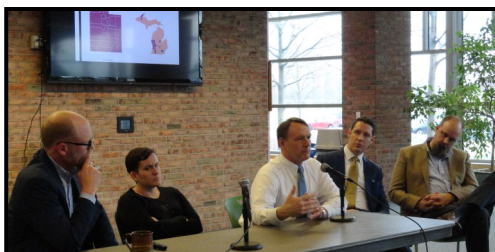


Nathan Leamer (left), James Jones, Chris deGroot

panelists considered many complicated questions, including whether previous attempts to “get tough on crime” have resulted in systemic problems with over-incarceration, how the pendulum might swing back without becoming “soft on crime”, the U.S. record for the highest incarceration rate in the world, the need for juvenile justice reform, and how the U.S. political system can respect the good work of many law enforcement officers while also actively addressing abuses and inequities that seem to occur far too commonly and disproportionately impact minorities and lower-income citizens.

Trumping America: With a very unconventional political landscape and a dizzying array of Presidential candidates and primaries playing out in the spring, a panel discussion featuring professors from the Political Science/International Relations Department at Calvin was added to the schedule in March. The speakers explained party, primary and election rules and procedures, considered

some positions expressed by the various candidates of both national parties, and talked about the role of a U.S. President and the separation of powers premise in the United States.



Kevin den Dulk (left), Becca McBride, Doug Koopman, Joel Westra, Micah Watson

The Series will pick up again in September. Watson noted, “We plan to continue the discussion this Fall. Now that we know who the two nominees are, we hope individuals at Calvin and members of the surrounding community will join us as we attempt to puzzle through an unprecedented political season.”

On September 23, two Calvin alumni who are actively working in the national media will discuss “Faithful Fact Checking.” John Muyskens (*Washington Post* Pulitzer prize winner) and Ryan Struyk (ABC News) will share their perspectives on the “Fact Checker” phenomena. As active media participants in the election process, they will consider responsible engagement in politics for Christian citizens.

On October 13, the foreign policy challenges facing the next president will take the stage with Becca McBride and Joel Westra (Calvin International Relations professors) and Todd Huizinga (Henry Institute Research Fellow and former U.S. State Department foreign ambassador) leading the conversation.

Plans are underway for an economic policy event and a post-election roundtable to complete the series. ~

Upcoming Events in the Challenges for the Next President series:

Challenges for the Next President: Faithful Fact Checking on Friday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. in the DeVos Communication Center Lobby

Challenges for the Next President: Foreign Policy on Thursday, October 13 at 12:00 p.m. in the Calvin Chapel

Challenges for the Next President: The Economy, TBA

Challenges for the Next President: Election “Post Mortem” in November (date and location TBA)

More information available at <https://henry.calvin.edu/civic-engagement/challenges-for-the-next-president>

One of the goals of the Henry Institute is to motivate and train current students in scholarly work related to religion and public life. The Faith and Citizenship Lab is designed to provide mentoring relationships for students as they work closely with Calvin College professors in this area, enhancing their research skills, awareness of important current topics, use of statistical and technological tools, and writing skills.

The student research assistants during the first year of the Lab worked on a variety of religion and public life projects, funded by the *Faith and Citizenship Initiative*, a grant from the Kunnen Foundation, the Nagel Institute for the Study of World Christianity, and a Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation grant. Each student is primarily engaged in one area of research, but the entire group meets together regularly with the leaders and mentors to discuss their work, develop community, share project insights, developments and progress, and divide labor when necessary.

According to Calvin Sociology professor Roman Williams, who heads the *Visualizing Faith and Citizenship Project*, “Meeting together with the cohort of students involved in the various projects is reminiscent of graduate school: the best and brightest students catching up with faculty about their projects, asking one another thoughtful questions, and floating ideas. But it is not all business. Our times together are filled with laughter and genuine interest in one another—not to mention great food.”

During the 2015-2016 academic year, seven Calvin students were part of the Faith and Citizenship Lab, working on six different projects with six professors. The summer months of 2016 found four students working with three Political Science professors on research projects, and for the upcoming academic year, seven student research fellows will be actively assisting Calvin professors on topics ranging from the upcoming election, archived records of former U.S. Congressman Vern Ehlers, Latino church congregations, prisoner re-entry services in Kent County, and more.

[more below and on page 7]

“... The goal is to give students a taste of real research, including the benefits of collaboration.”

Kevin den Dulk



Colleen Beunk was a junior during her 2015-16 academic year in the Faith and Citizenship Lab. She is a Political Science major and French minor from Burnaby, British

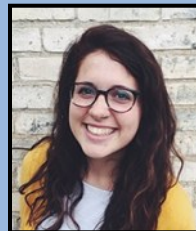
Columbia in Canada.

Colleen worked with Henry Institute Director/Political Science professor Kevin den Dulk and Calvin Philosophy professor Jamie Smith on a project researching *Citizenship and Worship in Pluralistic Societies*, which resulted in a January session at the Institute for Worship conference and a summer seminar. (see page 5)

According to Colleen, “This area deals with issues that have become progressively more prominent in our society today, especially with the upcoming election. As both a student of political science and a Christian citizen, I am very interested in researching the impact that worship has on citizenship. Relatively little data has been collected on this topic, and it is so exciting to be a participant in this project!”

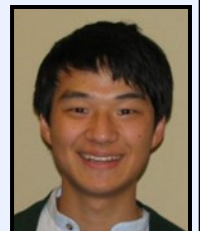
Kara Bilkert, a Sociology and Social Work major who will graduate in the spring of 2017 is from Cleveland, Ohio. Kara was a research assistant to Calvin College Sociology professor Roman Williams on the *Visualizing Faith and Citizenship* project, which collected images from students studying in a number of off-campus programs.

The photos convey a momentary, unique perspective about faith and public life for the student taking the photo. Each individual then adds a short spoken narrative to give insight into the picture and their concept and thoughts. (see page 2)



Kara notes, “Images have always been close to my heart—whether I’m behind the camera or looking through a collection of still/moving photographs. My love for sociology and visual images has collided in a beautiful way, allowing me to examine and interrogate images taken by others, and then think and look deeper into habits, thoughts, and beliefs held by humans.”

Sung Hun Choi, a graduating senior in 2015-16 with a major in International Relations and Philosophy (and minor in Economics), is from South Korea. Sung worked with Kevin den Dulk (Calvin Political Science professor/Director of the Henry Institute) doing ongoing research for a major project. *Religious Persecution and Denominational Response* explores how North American churches respond to religious liberty and persecution around the world. When asked why he was drawn to this area of research, Sung replied, “As a missionary kid, I have been exposed to Christian mission and evangelism, and I have a passion for missions—particularly to the Middle East, which is known for severe religious distinctions, as well as ethnic and cultural differences. As a Christian global citizen, I want to empathize personally with those who are suffering in the field, and also contribute to fostering peace on an international level.”



Jean-Luc Garside, from San Jose, California, graduated in the spring with an Economics major and Political Science minor. He worked with Mikael Pelz (Calvin College Political Science professor) doing research as part of a Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation *School Choice* grant to explore the relationship between state policies providing education assistance (such as vouchers, private school tuition tax credits, and charter schools) and faith-based educational opportunities. “I have always been interested in this topic from a personal experience comparing my time at religious schools with the experience of others in public school or home schooling situations. Additionally, the question of how money fits into this topic, on a larger scale, and how economic policy in the U.S. becomes involved is intriguing to me,” reported Jean-Luc.



John Gordon graduated in May, 2016 with a Sociology major. He is originally from Battle Creek, Michigan and worked with Henry Institute Director and Political Science professor Kevin den Dulk exploring issues related to the *Returning Citizens and Restorative Justice* project. When asked what interested him about this particular topic, John noted, “The incarceration and re-entry project consists of constructing an interactive map of resources available for re-entering citizens in Kent County. I became interested in research pertaining to incarceration and re-entry while conducting a qualitative research project with a wonderful local non-profit called the Criminal Justice Chaplaincy, in the spring of 2015, and was excited to continue work in this area as part of the Faith and Citizenship Lab.” Calvin student Julie Bylsma also worked on the project, with funding from Calvin’s Geology Department.



Benjamin Ridder, from Lake Odessa, Michigan, graduated in May with degrees in Political Science and History. Ben was active in a number of different projects, including doing issues research and writing position papers for the *Challenges for the Next President* series, working on general research issues, and also exploring the Paul Henry archives at the H. Henry Meeter Center at Calvin. He was also the “go-to/back-up” man when other Lab students needed assistance and resources for their research projects. Ben worked extensively with Calvin Political Science professor Micah Watson and Henry Institute Director Kevin den Dulk, as well as with co-student researcher Abbie Schutte. Ben notes, “My research assignments covered a vast array of topics, which reflected my role as a miscellaneous researcher. I came to Calvin first to study, but when I added my political science major, I was inevitably drawn to political history, which made this project assignment a great experience for me.”

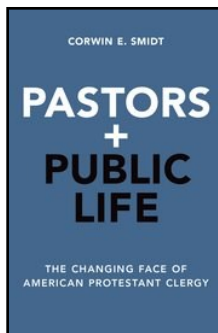


Abbie Schutte plans to graduate from Calvin in December, 2016 with majors in Political Science (with a Civic Leadership and Policy Studies concentrate) and minors in Sociology and Urban Studies. Her research assignments were primarily centered around *Civic Education*, and included the *Challenges for the Next President Series*, working with Calvin Political Science professor Micah Watson and co-student researcher Ben Ridder. Abbie says that her specific interest in civic education grew significantly “while in Professor den Dulk’s classes, as I became familiar with *We the People* competitions. I helped to judge some of the mock constitutional knowledge competitions for high schoolers during both my college freshman and sophomore years and then worked with the district competition in 2015. These activities introduced me to the Michigan Center for Civic Education and the work they are doing. I’m thrilled to be continuing my involvement in this area.”



The Changing Face of Clergy

Pastors and Public Life: The Changing Face of American Protestant Clergy is the most recently published book written by Henry Institute Senior Research Fellow Corwin E. Smidt. Published by Oxford University Press in the spring of 2016, the book asserts that the influence of America's clergy extends far beyond church doors. Houses of worship stand at the center of American civic life—one of the few spheres where relatively diverse individuals gather regularly. And the moral authority granted to pastors means that they are uniquely positioned to play a role in public debates.



Based on data gathered through national surveys of clergy across four mainline Protestant denominations (Disciples of Christ; Presbyterian Church, USA; Reformed Church in America; and United Methodist Church) and three evangelical Protestant denominations (Assemblies of God; Christian Reformed Church; and Southern Baptist Convention), *Pastors and Public Life* examines the changing sociological, theological, and political characteristics of American Protestant clergy over the past twenty-plus years. Smidt focuses on the relationship between clergy and politics—clergy positions on issues of American public policy, norms on what is appropriate for clergy to do politically, as well as the clergy's political cue-giving, their pronouncements on public policy, and political activism—and the impact these changes have on congregations and on American society as a whole. ~

Coming in the Spring of 2017 ...

**The Henry Institute
Symposium on
Religion and Public Life**
April 27-29, 2017
**Prince Conference Center
on the Calvin College campus**

The *Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life* is held biennially and is open to anyone interested in the intersection of religion and public life. The three-day event provides opportunities for scholars and the broader community to learn about and discuss key ideas, to foster personal and professional networks, and to facilitate joint research efforts. In addition to an array of interesting panel discussions with social scientists, theorists, and historians, the Symposium also includes lectures, roundtable conversations about recent public events, and forums to discuss current controversies where faith meets the public sphere.

The annual Paul B. Henry Lecture and the Center for Public Justice’s Kuyper Lecture will be held as part of the Symposium activities on Thursday and Friday evenings.

More information: <https://henry.calvin.edu/programs/symposium/>

Career Breakfasts Provide Opportunities for Students

As part of the Henry Institute emphasis on encouraging citizen interaction and active involvement in public life, a new program of Career Breakfasts was started during the 2016 spring academic semester. Four events brought students and professional individuals from different career paths to share breakfast and advice. The speakers, each working in a field related to political science or international relations, talked about their college choices, the routes taken to their current job, and their perspectives about their work and career field.

The first Career Breakfast on March 7 featured businessman Ralph Luimes, CEO of Hald-Nor Credit Union in Ontario, Canada. Luimes shared his path through federal, provincial and municipal government relations jobs in Canada. Colleen Beunk, a current Calvin student from Canada, noted that the breakfast was especially valuable for her since it can be difficult to find individuals at Calvin who are acquainted with the Canadian legal system. "He connected me with a law student in Vancouver, and we are going to meet this summer to talk about applying to law school in Canada," noted Beunk.

On March 23, Rebecca Samuel Shah led the next breakfast event. An Oxford-educated scholar who is originally from India, Shah has spent years working personally with untouchable/Dalit women in India. She provided great resources for students with interests in political science, economics, Asian politics, international relations and development, gender and international religious freedom issues. One student participant related, "I'm currently undecided about the exact direction I want to follow post-college, but Ms. Shah's experience as a researcher, an academic and a "feet-on-the-ground" worker gave me a lot to think about."

Greg Van Woerkom is the District Director for U.S. Congressman Bill Huizenga, from Michigan's 2nd District. Greg formerly served as Congressman Pete Hoekstra's campaign manager and was the Director of Public Policy for the U.S. House of Representatives for eight years. His extensive political experience and connections in federal and state politics made him a great resource for the attendees at the third Career Breakfast on April 20.

The final event on May 4 featured Nathan



Leamer. As a policy analyst and outreach manager for R Street Institute in Washington D.C., Leamer is working on policy issues related to criminal justice. Prior to his current job, he was employed by GenOpp, a Washington D.C.-based millennial advocacy organization where he regularly interacted with congressional leaders and staff on issues of particular importance to young Americans.

Leamer noted, "I really enjoyed the opportunity to engage with current students who are considering a vocation in politics and policy formation. The participants showed a real interest in my experience and seemed to really find the conversation helpful as they discern what is next for them. It's great being able to come back and share with students who are in the same spot you were ten years ago." ~

Portions of article contributed by Abbie Schutte

Pruis Rule of Law Lecture: Empowering Poor Women in India

The sixth annual Pruis Rule of Law Lecture featured Rebecca Samuel Shah, speaking on "*Christianity Among the Marginalized: Empowering Poor Women in India*." The March 23 event focused on female converts to Christianity in India who come from "untouchable" or "Dalit" backgrounds.

In her research and interactions, Shah has found that the new faith of these women often enhances their dignity, agency, and hope for the future. She also asserted that participation in small, face-to-face Christian communities gives them access to networks of support and accountability that yield significant

economic and social benefits. In her lecture, Shah demonstrated that women who participate in these faith-based networks are more likely to report cases of domestic abuse, are more able to involve community leaders in solving family problems (including domestic violence), and are more able to save money for the needs of their families, including their children's education. All of these civic and life skills serve to underscore how much full religious freedom—which Shah defines as full equality before the law and a full, realized equality of dignity and agency—contribute to the day-to-day well-being and flourishing of poor Dalit women in India today.

Rebecca Shah is a research fellow with both the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and with the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. She is an associate scholar with the Berkley Center's Religious Freedom Project, and is a recipient of the Historical

Society in Boston's grant for *Religion and Innovation in Human Affairs* related to her work on "Holy Avarice: Religion and the Re-enchantment of Modern Capitalism"



project. She is also the principal investigator for a research project being funded by the Templeton Foundation on the effects of tithing and thrift on the enterprising poor in Bangalore, India.

Born in India, Shah is an Oxford-educated scholar who is known

for her research on the relationship between religion and economics, and is an expert on the statistical assessment of development projects in the global South. Shah served as a Research Analyst with the World Bank's Human Development Network from 1998 to 2002 and as Chief Research Analyst for the Ethnic Health Unit of the British National Health Service at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, UK. ~



The Opportunities of Public Discipleship

In a Henry Institute-sponsored lecture on March 8, Dr. Vincent Bacote considered how the Christian call to discipleship includes a call to public life in “*A New Day? The Opportunities of Public Discipleship in Perplexing Times.*”

The lecture was a preview to Bacote’s recently released book entitled *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life* (released by Zondervan Publishing in early 2016) and explored whether Christians can live lives of faithfulness while also being involved in the political realm. Bacote asserts that Christians are, in fact, called to serve God by “remaining faithful to the task of public engagement.” As an ardent follower of Abraham Kuyper, he argues that since every square inch of creation belongs to God, we are called to serve him in the public sphere of



responsibility. According to Bacote, even in the face of unpredictable elections, challenges of race, remorse about Christian involvement in politics, and public polarization, Christians are still meant to serve God daily in culture and public

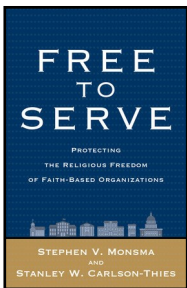
engagement, recognizing that our final kingdom is not this earthly one while also endeavoring to reclaim the entire world for Christ.

Bacote is an Associate Professor of Theology at Wheaton College, where he also serves as the Director for the Center for Applied Christian Ethics. He received his doctorate in Theological and Religious Studies from Drew University, a Masters in Philosophy from Drew University and Masters in Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and his undergraduate degree in Biology from The Citadel. ~

Listen to the lecture:

<https://henry.calvin.edu/news-events/images/160308%20Vincent%20Bacote%20Lecture01.mp3>

Protecting Religious Freedom



In *Free to Serve: Protecting the Religious Freedom of Faith-Based Organizations*, Henry Institute Senior Research Fellow Stephen V. Monsma, and Stanley W. Carlson-Thies consider issues of religious liberty in the United States. Asking what Hobby Lobby, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Wheaton College, World Vision, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the University of Notre Dame have in common, the authors begin by noting

that all the groups are faith-based organizations that have faced pressure to act in ways contrary to their religious beliefs.

In this book, the two policy experts show how faith-based groups—those active in the educational, healthcare, international aid and development, and social service fields—can defend their ability to follow their religiously based beliefs without having to jettison the very faith and faith-based practices that led them to provide services to those in need. They persuasively present a pluralist vision for religious freedom for faith-based organizations of all religious traditions.

The book includes case studies that document the challenges faith-based organizations face as they seek to freely follow the practices of their religious traditions, and analyzes these threats as originating in a common, yet erroneous, set of assumptions and attitudes prevalent in American society. The book also includes responses by diverse voices—an Orthodox Jew, a Roman Catholic, two evangelicals, two Islamic leaders, and an unbeliever who is a religious-freedom advocate—underscoring the importance of religious freedom for all faith-based organizations.

Published in 2015 by the Baker Publishing Group, the book was recognized by the editors of *Christianity Today* as one of the books most likely to shape evangelical life, thought and culture in their annual book awards. ~

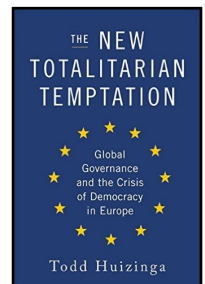
Exploring the European Union

Todd Huizinga’s *The New Totalitarian Temptation: Global Governance and the Crisis of Democracy in Europe* was released in 2016 by Encounter Books. The Henry Institute Senior Research Fellow explores issues surrounding the European Union: What caused the eurozone debacle and the chaos in Greece? Why has Europe’s migrant crisis spun out of control over the heads of national governments? Why did Great Britain call a vote to leave the European Union? Why are established political parties declining across the continent while protest parties rise? According to Huizinga, it is all part of the whirlwind being reaped by EU elites resulting from their efforts to create a unified Europe without maintaining meaningful accountability to average voters.

Huizinga believes the EU can yet be reformed, with commitment to democratic sovereignty renewed on both sides of the Atlantic, but the book first seeks to help the reader understand how the European Union got to this point and the fundamental base of the European project. The author identifies the essence of the EU in a utopian vision of a supranationally governed world, an aspiration to achieve universal peace through a global legal order.

With their unlimited ambitions, Huizinga says the global governancers seek to transform not just the world’s political order, but the social order as well—discarding basic truths about human nature and socially important traditions in favor of a human rights policy that is defined instead by radical autonomy and unfettered individual choice.

Because the global governancers aim to transfer core powers of all nations to supranational organizations, the EU is on a collision course with the United States. Huizinga believes some of the same utopian ideas are taking root in the U.S. too, even as the European project flames into rancor and turmoil. He concludes that America and Europe are still cultural cousins and stand or fall together. ~



Calvin Students in Washington D.C. for Spring Semester

In January of 2016, eighteen Calvin students gathered at a renovated old mansion in Washington D.C. to start their semester in the city. The students spent the next 13 weeks working at internships, visiting important sites in the city, hearing Supreme Court arguments, considering the interplay of religion and policy for various faith-based organizations they visited, and living in a community house together.

For 16 years, Calvin has sent a group of students to Washington as part of the Off-Campus Programs' Paul Henry Semester in Washington D.C. Students spend the previous fall semester in a professional development class on campus, formulating resumes and applying for positions which they select based on their chosen career path and field of study at Calvin. Each spring, a Calvin professor accompanies the group to the city, teaching a course on faith and public life and an additional class related to politics, policy, religious experience and the interplay between the three.

The experiences of the students vary widely, and each individual finds value in different aspects of the semester-long experience. Yet when the program ends in early spring, there is nearly always unanimous agreement that the program has been very valuable to launch them on to the next step of their career path. Some highlights of this year's semester for the students are featured in the following sections:

Matthias Struble

Matthias worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Congressman Tim Walberg (from Michigan's 7th District). He was featured in a question and answer session with House Speaker Paul Ryan on March 23, 2016.

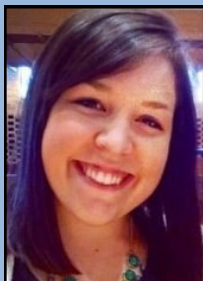


To see the entire clip:

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?407141-1/house-speaker-paul-ryan-remarks-state-american-politics>

Talor Musil

Talor served as the Advocacy and Community Engagement Intern at a non-profit organization, So Others May Eat. She testified at a formal House Committee Hearing regarding homelessness as part of her work during the spring semester, and also assisted several of the homeless clients of SOME as they offered Committee testimony on Capitol Hill.



Jordyn Stromback

For the first time in 2016, two Speech Pathology majors participated in the Semester, both at internships in school settings. Jordyn worked for an alternative school for homeless children called Bright Beginnings.

"I was able to observe numerous different therapists working with children in the classroom, learning a lot about how to engage children in what they are already doing and using that to integrate what the therapist wanted them to work on... These children are coming in from very stressful, not kid friendly environments, but it is still easy to see their innocence and joy in being at BBI... I learned valuable lessons about workplace etiquette and relationships."



Jisoo Kim

Jisoo's most memorable event during the Semester was visiting the Capitol for an evening with Congressman Bill Huizenga.

"Meeting him was very eye-opening because of the wealth of knowledge he has about history, politics, the life of a politician and as a representative for the state of Michigan in the House. It was also my first time to interact with an American politician for such a long period of time."



Anulika Mefor

Anuli reported "going to the Buddhist Temple was extremely insightful. It was the first time I was physically (and I guess in some ways spiritually/emotionally) confronted with a religion that is really completely different from mine. It made me question my Christian faith and its claims. The whole experience sharpened my beliefs and helped



me form a stronger defense for what I believe and base my life and faith on."

Mackenzie Demien

Mackenzie, a Calvin International Relations major, interned at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training and reported, "Never was anything that I was assigned 'grunt work.' The research was fascinating and informative. I learned more from history reading interviews prepared by ambassadors than I did in my high school, and the story format means I'll remember them far longer than some of my other classes. There were many opportunities to go beyond our responsibilities and ADST set up opportunities for us to meet with other government departments that dealt with foreign affairs."



Mea Zuiderveen

Mea noted that one of the highlights of her semester was visiting Mount Vernon. “My favorite event was taking a water cruise to Mount Vernon and seeing the estate of



George Washington. Even though the weather started out cold and raining, it was worth it to be able to walk on the same grounds that Washington and his slaves did. One place that I saw which touched me the most was the burial grounds of the slaves... As I stood there looking at that site, I felt so attached to what I was experiencing!”



Brittany Smith

According to Brittany, the whole semester was a “highpoint.” “This was



my favorite semester at Calvin.

I will not only remember the many different places that we went to, but more importantly, the great friendships that I made and the group home we lived in together in the city. I think being in a home with so many people is something that everyone should experience. You learn so much about yourself!”



2016 Semester Participants

Samuel Camp

Signature Theatre

Mackenzie Demien

Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training

Jisoo Kim

World Vision

Seung Yong Lee

Washington Office on Latin America

Krista Malbouef

U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops

Elise Mathews

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Anulika Mefor

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Talor Musil

So Others May Eat

Dan Nichols

Congressman Bill Posey

Deborah Ocquaye Nortey

International Justice Mission

Kjh-Lajhni Sanford

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Jill Schmidt

Sasha Bruce Youth Work

Brittany Smith

Collaborative Solutions for Communities

Claire Sterr

The Lab School

Jordyn Stromback

Bright Beginnings

Matthias Struble

Congressman Tim Walberg

Amy Van Zanen

Women’s Foreign Policy Group

Mea Zuiderveen

Thrive D.C.

Semester Director **Mikael Pelz** noted, “students found their semester in D.C. both eye opening and tremendously valuable to their professional personal development. The site visits and cultural events throughout the semester spurred both constructive discussions and meaningful personal reflections among the students. And the special topics course on political cynicism provided students with a broad theoretical perspective to understand this year’s unconventional presidential race.

“It was personally fulfilling for me to interact with this diverse group of students, who were eager to learn and thrive in this new professional environment.”



Scholarships Awarded for D.C. Semester

Two of the students who participated in the Semester in Washington D.C. in the spring of 2016 received scholarships funded by the Henry Institute. Amy Van Zanen and Anulika Mefor each were given \$2000 to help defray the expenses of the off campus semester.

The students submitted applications for the funding, including writing an essay responding to a quote from late U.S. Representative and namesake of the Henry



Anulika Mefor

Institute, Paul B. Henry who noted, “Politics is the organized struggle for the ascendancy of one’s own self-interest over that of another. Justice, on the other hand, is the giving to

every man his proper due.”

In her application, Amy responded to the quote:

“Paul Henry...urges Christians to involve themselves in the political process, not as individuals

acting on self-interest, but rather as agents of renewal, thereby turning politics from an ‘organized struggle for ascendancy’ to ‘building the good life together’... Because all political decisions are inherently moral decisions, shaping the direction of those moral decisions should be of paramount importance to anyone—and to Christians especially—who is concerned with what life should look like for themselves and all of society.” ~



Amy Van Zanen



Over the past year, four senior research fellows have been affiliated with the Henry Institute. Corwin Smidt, Steve Monsma, Mary Ma and Todd Huizinga have each been actively involved in scholarship, teaching, professional organizations and publishing their writing.

Corwin E. Smidt



- ◆ Publication of *Pastors and Public Life: The Changing Face of American Protestant Clergy*, Oxford University Press, 2016
- ◆ Receipt of a Louisville Institute grant to continue periodic collection of clergy surveys from ten Protestant denominations to assess sociological, theological, and political levels of change and continuity, augmenting earlier surveys of clergy conducted in 1989, 2001 and 2009
- ◆ President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- ◆ “Non-Religion in Comparative Perspective”—Paper presented at Conference for the International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe in Zadar, Croatia in April 2016
- ◆ Delivered series of ten lectures on religion and public life for graduate course at Renmin University in Beijing, China in July 2016
- ◆ Keynote Address at Conference on Social Transition and Religious Transformation in Beijing, China in July 2016

Stephen V. Monsma



- ◆ Publication of *Free to Serve: Protecting the Religious Freedom of Faith-Based Organizations*, Baker Publishing Group, 2015. The book was included on *Christianity Today* magazine’s short list of books “most likely to shape evangelical life, thought and culture in 2016.”

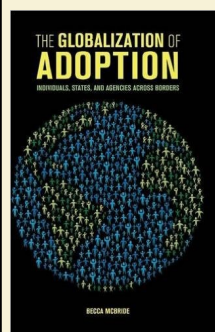
Todd Huizinga



- ◆ Publication of *The New Totalitarian Temptation: Global Governance and the Crisis of Democracy in Europe*, Encounter Books, 2016. A book review in *National Review* noted “This is the best book ever written about the European Union.”
- ◆ Book events and discussions at the Henry Institute and the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan; at the Hudson Institute and Heritage Foundation in Washington D.C., and at the Parliament Press Center in the Netherlands
- ◆ Articles published in *The European Conservative* and in the Dutch magazine *Zicht*
- ◆ Co-organizer of *Living the Faith in All Spheres of Life*—a seminar tailored to Chinese Christians with pastors, academics and business people from China at the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan in January 2016
- ◆ Spoke at conferences in the United States, Mexico, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy
- ◆ “Christian Faith and Politics in the Postmodern Era,” in *Christian Faith and Liberal Democracy*, published in Germany, 2016

Recently Released ...

Calvin College Political Science and International Relations professor Becca McBride’s book on *The Globalization of Adoption* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2016) was recently released. The book explores the flow of children across borders



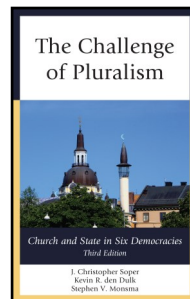
through intercountry adoption and the interconnected networks of states, individuals and adoption agencies. The Henry Institute helped support research costs for the volume, as well as providing assistance

to prepare the book for publication.

Forthcoming Institute Publications and Research

Henry Institute Director Kevin R. den Dulk, Senior Research Fellow Stephen Monsma, and J.

Christopher Soper will release their most recent book in late 2016. *The Challenge of Pluralism: Church and State in Six Democracies* will be published by Rowman and Littlefield.



Den Dulk will be on sabbatical during the 2016 summer and fall semester, when he will continue his exploration of issues surrounding the politics of water. Read more on the Henry Institute website *Projects* page.

<https://henry.calvin.edu/projects/the-politics-of-water>

Additional Reading on Water:

Kevin R. den Dulk explores **the Flint water crisis as an issue of public justice** in the February 2016 *Washington Post*
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2016/02/09/wake-up-christians-the-flint-water-crisis-is-an-issue-of-public-justice/>

In her writing, **Doing Justice to our Closest Neighbors**, Talia Strauss considers water poverty in the United States in *Shared Justice* from the Center for Public Justice

http://www.sharedjustice.org/doing_justice_to_our_closest_neighbors

Christiana Peppard presents a **robust theological argument for clean water** in her book, *Just Water: Theology, Ethics and the Global Water Crisis* Orbis Books, 2014