



*social* science  
colloquium fall 2014

# Belief

or things we believe, and why we believe them.

From God to Allah to the Flying Spaghetti Monster, we humans have constantly demonstrated how much we want and need to believe. But what is the source of that desire? How does believing in something change our lives, or lives in the past? Why do we band together, in order to do our believing in groups? How do we differentiate between religious faith and rational choice? Do we choose to believe, or does belief choose us?

These and other questions will be addressed by our speakers, through objects, film, and personal journeys.



## JAMES AULT

October 27, 2014 • 7:00 pm • CAPA Symposium

**Belief in the Academy: An Atheist/Christian Sociologist/Filmmaker's Journey**

Documentary filmmaker and sociologist James Ault will show parts of his work on fundamentalist Baptists in New England, on Christianity's explosive growth in Africa, and on Latino Christianity in the US to discuss his experience with matters of faith in the academy and documentary film communities.



## BRENT PLATE

November 10, 2014 • 7:00 pm • CAPA Symposium

**Sensuality and Spirituality: Why Belief Needs Bodies and Objects**

Beginning with the desirous, incomplete human body, Brent Plate guides our focus to five ordinary types of objects—stones, incense, drums, crosses, and bread—with which we connect in our pursuit of religious meaning and fulfillment. Religion, it turns out, has as much to do with our bodies as our beliefs. Maybe more.



## FACULTY ROUNDTABLE

November 17, 2014 • 12:30–1:45 pm • CAPA Symposium

An exchange of ideas on the questions at the center of this colloquium. How do our disciplines engage with concepts that might fall under the heading of "belief"? What are the ways in which the issue of belief emerges in the classroom? And, how do we deal with it?