

# Denison Journal of Religion

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## Front Matter

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The content of the Journal shall be academic discourse which promotes and illuminates community dialogue. Appropriate topics of submissions include but are not limited to the secular critique of religion, inter religious dialogue, the interpretation of sacred texts, the interaction of religion and society, the validation of ethical discernment, and issues of race, gender, and class.

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*Seth Schoenhaus and Eva Rosenthal*

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And a special thanks to  
*Jodi Weibel, Academic Administrative Assistant*  
for all she has done to make this publication possible

## About the Contributors

**Chengyuan “Rene” Guo** born in Hunan, China, is a senior self-designed Political Theology major. He is interested in college chaplaincy and social justice ministry with a particular focus on systematic theology, black womanist thought, and liberation theology.

**Seth Schoenhaus** is a Religion major and Political Science minor from Albany, NY. He will graduate in May of 2018.

**Eva Rosenthal** is a junior religion major from Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Sarah Curtin** is a senior Religion and English Literature major from Chicago, IL.

**Tina Berardi** is a Creative Writing major who graduated in May of 2017. She is currently working part-time while finishing up a novel started for her senior writing project at Denison.

**Jayla Johnson** is a junior Women’s and Gender Studies and Anthropology/Sociology double major from Blacklick, Ohio. After she graduates, she plans to attend graduate school for public health with a concentration on maternal and reproductive health.

## Note from the Editors

The editorial team is proud to publish the 2018 Denison Journal of Religion, featuring creative and wide-ranging contributions from Denisonians of a multitude of majors and backgrounds. This issue includes essays that put a fresh new spin on classic theology, examine the seemingly disparate topics of environmental justice and reproductive rights, dreaming in a Hindu context, ancient Wisdom texts, and modern Jewish denominations. These papers each give this year's Journal a unique flavor, which makes us as Editors all the more disappointed that we couldn't include more. The exceptional range of courses offered by Denison's Religion Department, as well as other Denison departments, provides students with the resources and mentorship such innovative academic work. Indeed, we feel these submissions reflect only a fraction of the exciting work that students produce day in and day out. We'd like to thank Dr. Pae for her mentorship and leadership as we rushed to make our deadlines. Additionally, our sincerest gratitude goes to Jodi Weibel, without whom this edition would not have made it to the publisher. We hope you enjoy reading these submissions as much as we did.

Seth Schoenhaus '18 and Eva Rosenthal '19