

The PHI BETA KAPPA Society

VISITING



SCHOLAR

PROGRAM

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PUBLIC LECTURE
OFFERINGS

**THE ECONOMICS OF FINANCING CONGREGATIONS & FAITH-BASED
CHARITIES**

Congregations and religious organizations play a large role in supporting their members and others in their communities in the US. But these organizations face many challenges in a post-Covid, increasingly secular world. This talk focuses on the role that congregations and faith based organizations play in communities today, the challenges they face, and what recent scholarship has shown about how these groups' religious finances can (or should) work. The talk concludes with several novel predictions concerning what comes next for religious groups in America: the future of the way religious communities in America behave could be very different from what we see today.

CITADELS: THE CHARITABLE GIVING OF THE RICH

Charitable giving has always been skewed towards larger donors, but there is a growing sense that giving has become more dominated by the ultra-rich than ever before. Given current trends in charitable giving in the United States, and recent events like the Covid pandemic, the giving decisions made by a small fraction of the population can have large consequences for everyone else. This talk will overview giving by the rich; the talk will touch on the ways that the rich give to charities, the types of charities they give to, the reasons they give, and the regulations they face.

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EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY: UNDERSTANDING THE LONG TERM IMPACTS OF APRIL 22, 1970

The world faces many environmental concerns today, as well as uncertainty as to whether individual actions to improve the environment can make a difference. This talk would focus on evidence for the power of regular people to change their environment, using Earth Day as an example. The talk would consider the history of Earth Day, and would focus on evidence showing how actions on the original Earth Day, April 22, 1970, led to transformed communities years and even decades later. The lesson is clear: regular people, acting in small and disorganized groups, can come together to make a real and lasting difference.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS



1. ANY OF THE ABOVE