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“The stakes could not be higher, nor the urgency greater, for rethinking the relations of religion and the secular in both national and international contexts.

There's a lot of confusion over what we mean by 'the secular,' and people have certain assumptions, such as religion is moral and secularism is immoral, or religion is always - whether Christian or Muslim - dangerous and extreme. How do we move beyond these divides?”

## Areas of expertise

- Religion and public life in the United States
- Religion and conflict
- Religious studies, theology, and the university

## Topics in the News

- Faith and the presidential candidates
- Religious resonances in the global “war on terrorism”
- Religion and American national identity

## Biography

Linell Cady is the Franca G. Oreffice Dean's Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, and the Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University. She is professor of modern western religious thought, and her work has primarily focused on the relationship between religion and the public/private boundary, with primary attention to the American context. Topics of particular interest include the construction of the modern category of religion and its interface with understandings of the secular and the public; the contested role of religion in public life; and method and theory in the study of religion and theology. She is currently directing two projects funded by the Ford Foundation. The first "Religion, Secularism, and Democracy: A Crossdisciplinary, International Project" is a comparative study of secularisms and the public role of religion in four democracies: France, India, Turkey, and the United States. The second "Teaching and Talking About Religion in Public" is part of Ford's "Difficult Dialogues" initiative, and will lead to the development of an undergraduate certificate program in religion and conflict at Arizona State University.

## Resources by this expert

- *Religion and Conflict in South and Southeast Asia: Disrupting Violence*, co-edited with Sheldon Simon (London: Routledge, 2007).
- "Secularism, Secularizing, and Secularization: Reflections on Stout's Democracy and Tradition," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 27:3 (2005): 871-885).
- "Categories, Conflicts, and Conundrums: Reflections on the Religion/Secular Divide," in *War and Border Crossings: Ethics When Cultures Clash*, ed. Peter French and Jason Short (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005).
- *Religious Studies, Theology, and the University: Conflicting Maps, Changing Terrain*, co-edited with Delwin Brown (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002).
- Pragmatism and the Category of Religion: Reflections on William James and Stanley Fish, *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* 22:1 (2001): 47-65 Religion, Theology and American Public Life. (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1993.) Japanese edition, Tamagawa University Press, 1997.

## Recent Interviews & Articles

- *East Valley Tribune*, April 1, 2007, "Relevance tops tradition at ASU: New center studies religion, conflict instead of conventional disciplines"
- *The Gazette*, October 22, 2006, "Speakers at CC symposium blast 'bad religion' in politics"
- *The Daily Tar Heel*, January 13, 2004 "Bush plan gets mixed response"

## Organizational links for this expert

[Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict](#)

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