

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Julia Kent

(202) 223-3791 / jkent@cgs.nche.edu

Stephen S. Bush Wins 2015 Arlt Award in the Humanities

Washington, DC – The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) has awarded the 2015 Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities to Dr. Stephen S. Bush, Manning Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University. The awards ceremony was held during the CGS 55th Annual Meeting.

The Arlt Award is given annually to a young scholar-teacher who has written a book deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the humanities. Dr. Bush becomes the award's 45th recipient for his book, *Visions of Religion: Experience, Meaning and Power* (Oxford University Press, 2014). He received his PhD in Religion from Princeton University in 2008.

Dr. Bush's book "examines influential proponents of the three visions of the nature of religion – religion as experience, symbolic meaning, and power – and argues that each approach offers substantial and lasting contributions to the study of religion, although each requires revision. Bush rehabilitates the concepts of experience and meaning, two categories much maligned in present day culture, and demonstrates the extent to which these categories are implicated in matters of social power. This book articulates a social practical theory of religion that can account for all three aspects, even as it incorporates them into a single theoretical framework: religion as a social practice."

Created in 1971, the Arlt Award honors the first president of CGS. The winner must have earned a doctorate within the past seven years from, and currently be teaching at, a North American university. Nominations are made by CGS member institutions and are reviewed by a panel of scholars in the field of competition, which rotates annually among seven disciplines within the humanities. This year's field was Religious Studies. The winner receives a \$1,000 honorarium, a certificate, and travel to the awards ceremony.

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The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

** Based on data from the 2013 CGS/GRE Survey of Graduate Enrollment and Degrees*