“Black Church Arson, Gentrification, and Reimaginations of the Neoliberal Commons”

Todne Thomas is Assistant Professor of African American Religions at Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University and coeditor of New Directions in Spiritual Kinship: Sacred Ties Across the Abrahamic Religions. In her forthcoming book *Kincraft: The Making of Black Evangelical Society (Duke University Press, 2021)*, Todne Thomas explores the internal dynamics of community life among black evangelicals, who are often overshadowed by white evangelicals and the common equation of the “black Church” with an Afro-Protestant mainline. Drawing on fieldwork in an Afro-Caribbean and African American church association in Atlanta, Thomas locates black evangelicals at the center of their own religious story, presenting their determined spiritual relatedness as a form of insurgency.


Hillary Kaell specializes in the history and practice of Christianity in North America, especially aspects of capitalism, consumption, and monetization. She also has an abiding interest in how U.S. Christians foster real and imagined connections with symbolically resonant sites faraway, such as ‘the Holy Land’ or the ‘Global Church.’ Her most recent monograph is *Christian Globalism at Home: Child Sponsorship in the United States (Princeton, 2020).* Aspects of the project also appear or are forthcoming in venues including American Anthropologist, American Historical Review, and American Quarterly. Hillary co-edits the Contemporary Anthropology of Religion book series with Palgrave Macmillan Press and serves as faculty fellow with the Material Economies of Religion in the Americas (MERA) project at Yale University and the Centre for Sensory Studies at Concordia University where she co-directs the Sensing Atmospheres working group. She is associate professor of Anthropology and Religion at McGill University.