

A “JUDEO-CHRISTIAN” AMERICA? COMPETING VISIONS OF A NATION IN TURMOIL

A CONVERSATION WITH
HEALAN GASTON

From the podiums and pulpits of politicians and pastors, “Judeo-Christian” is a term that is often used to invoke a vision of a broad, pluralistic and inclusive United States. But since its widespread adoption in the 1930s, the term also has been used to mask more exclusive visions of American identity and to send a message to the world about the relationship between Christianity and democracy.

In her talk, **Healan Gaston** (Harvard Divinity School) will draw from her new book *Imagining Judeo-Christian America* to challenge the myth of a monolithic Judeo-Christian America. By taking a deep dive into the origin and implementation of the term, Gaston will unpack how imagining America as a Judeo-Christian nation has influenced politics in the 20th and 21st centuries. Join us in exploring these and other questions:

- How has Judeo-Christian terminology shaped our understandings of American identity, as well as our religious and political culture?
- How can seemingly inclusive language be mobilized for inequalitarian purposes?
- How is the Judeo-Christian construct being used as a weapon to promote anti-Semitic agendas?
- What lessons can be learned by unpacking religious and political language as tools that promote inclusion or exclusion?

TUESDAY
JANUARY 28, 2020
1:30PM
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
ASU TEMPE CAMPUS

Reception & book signing to follow