President's Author Series: Rusty Hawkins

Christians and the Color Line: Race and Religion after Divided by Faith

Saturday, October 5, 2013
Globe Theatre, 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Rusty Hawkins, the guest author for IWU's fall semester President's Author Series, will discuss his edited volume, *Christians and the Color Line: Race and Religion after Divided by Faith,* in an interview moderated by John Wilson, editor of *Books & Culture*. **All are welcome to attend the conversation, which will commence at 4:00 p.m.**

Dr. Hawkins earned his Ph.D. in American history from Rice University in 2009. He is an Associate Professor of Humanities and History in the John Wesley Honors College, where he has taught multiple research tutorials on race relations within the Church.

Christians and the Color Line (Oxford University Press, 2013) is a multidisciplinary volume that analyzes the complex entanglement of race and religion in American society. Taking into account historical context and change over time, this collection questions the existence of today's supposed "post-racial" moment as it pertains to religious congregations and spiritual interests. While the pervasive overt discrimination and segregation of yesterday's Jim Crow era has passed, its residual presence lives on in subtler inflections of racial preference and economic privilege that continue to divide American churches along racial lines.

To make sense of these persistent divisions—while also accounting for key changes and new approaches to a shared multiracial existence—the essays in *Christians and the Color Line* address the historical dimensions of racial division in religious communities and chronicle several contemporary examples of congregational attempts at racial and ethnic unity. As a whole, *Christians and the Color Line* acknowledges important historical causations for racialized divisions in religious communities, but points to a collaborative, constructive, and cohesive way forward that, while not easily accomplished, represents the best principled commitments to racial equality and mutuality that Christianity has to offer.

For more information concerning the event, please contact
honors.office@indwes.edu.

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