

Fund raising

Most graduate programs in religion do not offer courses in fund raising, but it might be a good idea if they did. Learning to raise money is a skill worth having. Many jobs in the nonprofit sector require it. Even getting a fellowship or a post-doctoral grant is a form of fund raising.

The bottom line is ask, ask, ask. Beyond that, there are many specialized workshops in how to write proposals, how to conform your project to the granter's guidelines. There are capital campaigns and direct mail appeals, annual gifts and annuity options. Knowing the basics will help you get and give intelligently.

Globalization

The field of religious studies, like everything else in the world, is increasingly globalized. This means we can be in close communication with colleagues around the planet, but it also means that the United States plays its hegemonic role in our work as in other fields. Women colleagues report that while there are obvious advantages to international networking, cultural differences are often obscured, resulting in a skewed sense of what is important. Our challenge is to utilize those aspects of globalization that link us—the Internet, air travel, and the like—and to resist and reject the dynamics that allow fewer and fewer people to make more and more decisions for the rest of us. One example is the increasing pressure to do theological and religious studies work in English to guarantee a wide audience for publications. It is perhaps our biggest challenge in the decade ahead.

Graduate school

The road to a career in religious studies usually begins in graduate school, so your attention to it is well placed. It starts