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“Radical Religion, Republican Politics, and the Experience of Defeat: John Owen’s Restoration

Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 3pm

Bundy Reading Room, Avery Hall, Washington State University

England became a republic in 1649. After eleven years of civil war, victorious Parliamentarians put the king on trial and executed him on the charge of treason. Throughout the period of the republic, John Owen, a close associate of Oliver Cromwell, led the program for religious change, as a leading theologian, churchman and vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford. But his fortunes changed in 1660, when the revolution ended, and the returning Royalists began a systematic campaign of revenge, in which those most closely identified with the republican regime were brutally and publicly tortured to death. Owen responded to “the experience of defeat” in strategies of evasion, misdirection, concealment and deception. This presentation will argue that strategies for the survival of radical religion and republican politics contributed to the development of a culture of wit in Restoration England.

“Moscow and Other Utopias: Religion, Politics and Community in the Pacific Northwest”

Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 7pm

TLC 040, University of Idaho

Over the last 30 years, a small number of conservative evangelicals have been moving to the Pacific Northwest, establishing one of their strongest communities in northern Idaho. Since 2007, this migration has taken on new impetus, as prominent blogger and best-selling Penguin author James Wesley Rawles has promoted a new “northwest imperative,” in which God-fearing Americans are to establish networks of self-reliance to resist and survive an impending period of social and political ferment, in order to establish a new society based on libertarian economics and the principles of the ten commandments. This presentation will survey the communities and networks that have been established within the region, arguing that the most established of these groups are moving towards the social and political mainstream, even as they protest against it, while newer groups are moving further towards the political right.

For more information, contact Prof. Adam M. Sowards, asowards@uidaho.edu