From Vodou to Pentecost: Haitian Christianities

For more than 200 years, Vodou has been sensationalized and exoticized by American popular culture. In fact, Haitian Vodou is a richly Catholic tradition with indelible marks from the violent history of plantation slavery on the island. This presentation explores Vodou and its relationship to traditional Catholicism and Vodou’s relationship to the recent growth of Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism in Haiti.

*Available as a 1-part presentation or 3-part series.

The Blood of a Pig: Vodou and Pentecostal Memories of the Haitian Revolution

In the wake of the 2010 earthquake, Pat Robertson recounted a version of Haitian Revolutionary history that involved the sacrifice of a pig and a “blood pact with Satan.” While his remarks offended many in the international community, a surprising number of Haitian Evangelicals often tell the same story. This presentation examines the historical accounts of Haiti’s revolutionary beginnings and the political impact today.

*Available as a 1-part presentation.

Evangelicalism Then and Now: The Transformations of America’s Folk Religion

Randall Balmer has called Evangelicalism America’s “Folk Religion.” Since the late 1970s, Evangelicalism has been a powerful force within American politics as well, almost always associated with social conservatism. This presentation explores the history of Evangelicalism as a movement in America in order to highlight dramatic shifts along the way and to suggest possible futures for America’s “folk religion.”

*Available as a 3-part series.

Lenny J. Lowe, Ph.D., is an ethnographer and scholar of religion with specialties in global Christianity and religions in the Afro-Caribbean. From 2004 until 2011, Lenny lived in the coastal town of Port-de-Paix, Haiti where he taught full time at a small college. He holds a Master’s degree from Duke University (2004) and completed his Ph.D. at UNC in Chapel Hill (2017).

Contact Dr. Nancy Muller to register your group or community.

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