

Vincent F. Biondo III [vbiondo@csufresno.edu] is assistant professor of Western religious traditions at California State University, Fresno. He is currently co-editing a three-volume work on *Religion in Daily Life*, writing on religion and economics, and helping to design programs in religious studies and Middle East studies. Last year, he presented research papers at Yale, Princeton, and Fuller Seminary on Islam in the US and religion and ecology. His most recent article “Between Tribalism and Pluralism” will be published in Hartford Seminary’s *The Muslim World*. Dr. Biondo has been named a Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom to compare interfaith efforts in California and Wales. His affiliation will be with Cardiff University’s School of Religious and Theological Studies. Director Sophie Gilliat-Ray and the graduate students in the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK will help Prof. Biondo to interview community members about their interfaith efforts in an attempt to define best practices for the US and EU. Growing up within the post-1965 pluralism of Southern California inspired Biondo to travel widely to better understand the world’s cultures. He studied Buddhism at the University of London and Arabic at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. He earned his Ph.D in 2005 from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the history of religions and Islamic studies. In response to the Los Angeles riots of 1992, he helped to coordinate a four year grant from the Ford Foundation to research religious pluralism in Southern California. Between the Bradford riots of 1995 and 2001, he earned a grant to interview Muslim leaders in Northern England. His dissertation compared the participation of immigrant Muslims in politics, outreach, and mosque and school building in the US and Britain during the 1990s. He taught classes in religious studies at Florida State University and three University of California campuses. Prof. Biondo is committed to cultivating mutual respect among Jews, Catholics, Protestants, and Muslims through an enriched understanding of diversity and difference.