Religion and sexuality are two spheres of the social world which are highly gendered. Gendered narratives can strongly influence both religious and sexual identities, particularly in adolescence when interpersonal scripts are becoming crystallized. When exploring adolescence, previous research has found religion to have a protective effect decreasing their risk behaviors, particularly sexual risk behaviors. Religion is also positively associated with self-esteem and self-efficacy. However, if the domain of self-efficacy is sexual practices, does religion, an institution traditionally prohibitive of adolescent sexual activity, still have an empowering effect? Does the impact of religion differ based on gender? Using a nationally representative sample of American adolescents, this paper explores the questions.

Tuesday, November 14
3-4pm
339 O’Shaughnessy

Presenter:
Brianna McCaslin

Brianna McCaslin is a third-year PhD student in the department of Sociology, a Gender Studies minor, an affiliate of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, and a Notebaert Fellow at the University of Notre Dame. Her research interests are at the intersections of gender, religion, sexuality and culture at both individual and organizational levels.