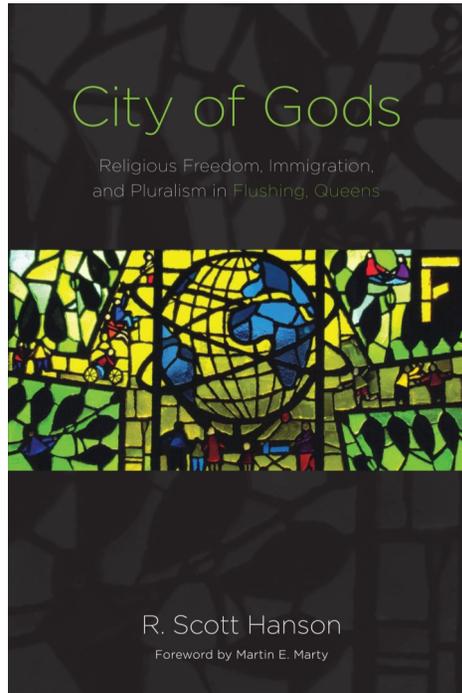


Mid-Manhattan Library
welcomes

R. Scott Hanson

presenting an illustrated talk on his book

City of Gods



Religious Freedom, Immigration,
and Pluralism in Flushing, Queens

"[A] minutely detailed... 'case study' of the promises and drawbacks of pluralism"—*The New York Times*

Tuesday, December 27, 2016
6:30 PM on the Sixth Floor

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Known locally as the birthplace of American religious freedom, Flushing, Queens, in New York City is now so diverse and densely populated that it has become a microcosm of world religions. This illustrated lecture explores the history of Flushing from the colonial period to the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

Using Flushing as the backdrop to examine America's contemporary religious diversity and what it means for the future of the United States, **R. Scott Hanson** explores both the possibilities and limits of pluralism. He argues that the absence of widespread religious violence in a neighborhood with such densely concentrated religious diversity suggests that there is no limit to how much pluralism a pluralist society can stand. Seeking to gauge interaction and different responses to religious and ethnic diversity, the talk is set against two interrelated questions: how and where have the different religious and ethnic groups in Flushing associated with others across boundaries over time; and when has conflict or cooperation arisen? By exploring pluralism from a historical and ethnographic context, the author takes a micro approach to help bring an understanding of pluralism from a sometimes abstract realm into the real world of everyday lives in which people and groups are dynamic and integrating agents in a complex and constantly changing world of local, national, and transnational dimensions.

Perhaps the most extreme example of religious and ethnic pluralism in the world, Flushing is an ideal place to explore how America's long experiment with religious freedom and religious pluralism began and continues. This presentation reaches far beyond Flushing to all communities coming to terms with immigration, religion, and ethnic relations, raising the question as to whether Flushing will come together in new and lasting ways to build bridges of dialogue or will it further fragment into a Tower of Babel.

About the presenter:

R. Scott Hanson, Ph.D. is a Lecturer in History at the University of Pennsylvania and an Affiliate of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University.

Website: <http://rscotthanson.com>



Elevators access the Sixth Floor after 6 PM.

All programs are FREE and subject to last minute change or cancellation.