

THE CONVERSATION US

89 South Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02111 USA



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A Private Philanthropic Foundation

For Immediate Release

Contact: Arielle Densen/Tiller, LLC

adensen@tillerllc.com

Lilly Endowment Inc. Makes Grants of \$1.9 Million to The Conversation

Boston, November 5, 2019 – The Conversation US (TCUS), a leading nonprofit media organization delivering explanatory journalism and expert analysis written exclusively by university scholars, has been awarded two grants totaling \$1.9 million from Lilly Endowment Inc., a private foundation supporting the causes of community development, education and religion.

One three-year grant of \$1,269,000 will provide continued support for a senior editor for the religion and ethics section of TCUS and for an editor who focuses on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. The funding builds on a 2016 Lilly Endowment grant that helped TCUS launch its editorial desks focused on unlocking the expertise of scholars researching religion and ethics and philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

Content has been generated by TCUS' Ethics + Religion desk from more than 250 scholars reaching more than 12 million readers and by the Philanthropy & Nonprofits desk from more than 300 scholars reaching 6 million readers.

Another three-year grant of \$645,000 will fund a partnership between TCUS and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), a membership organization of more than 270 graduate schools of theology in the United States and Canada offering teaching and research in theological disciplines. This new grant will help TCUS tap into the distinctive work of theologians and scholars working in seminaries and divinity schools.

“Religion and faith are central to so many Americans’ lives – and also are a critical element of global geopolitics today – yet there is a shortage of high-quality journalism and expert analysis in the media exploring these powerful forces,” said Beth Daley, TCUS Editor and General Manager. “Similarly, the media are not extensively covering the growing impact of philanthropy and the nonprofit sector on societal change.

THE CONVERSATION US

89 South Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02111 USA

“With the continuing support of Lilly Endowment, we can even more effectively address this gap in the media coverage and public understanding of these issues, leveraging the extraordinarily insightful work now being done by leading scholars throughout the academic community,” she said.

“These grants to TCUS will further Lilly Endowment’s interest in supporting fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the United States and around the world,” said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for religion. “We are pleased that TCUS is making the important work and insights of religion scholars, as well as scholars of ethics and philanthropy, accessible to wide audiences.”

The Conversation’s staff of subject-expert editors works with top scholars nationwide to transform their research into accessible journalistic content, which is offered free to news media. Stories are distributed through the Associated Press and other means. TCUS has relationships with scholars at more than 625 colleges and universities and has published more than 9,000 articles. It is funded by support from many of the nation’s leading foundations and universities.

“Our continuing partnership with Lilly Endowment is helping us to dramatically advance our overall mission as well as our efforts specifically to become the go-to platform for scholars of religion, theology and ethics who seek to share their perspective and knowledge even more broadly with the public at large,” said Bruce Wilson, TCUS Chief Innovation and Development Officer.

About The Conversation US

The Conversation US (TCUS) is an organization of professional editors working at the nexus of academic research and news media to help build the quality of conversations in today’s public discourse. TCUS seeks to increase the public’s access to expert, research-focused scholars, with the goal of increasing the availability of evidence-based information that can help us have better conversations. Launched in 2014, The Conversation’s newsroom is based in Boston, with editors in New York, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. It is part of a global network that shares content, with editorial offices in Australia, Canada, the UK, France, Indonesia and Africa. www.theconversation.com/us

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. In addition to strengthening the leadership and vitality of Christian congregations throughout the United States, the Endowment’s grantmaking in religion aims to support fair and accurate portrayals of the role religion plays in the U.S. and across the globe. www.lillyendowment.org