



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Covenants and Public Life in Puritan New England

William Van Arragon

A Ronning Centre Seminar

*Co-sponsored with the Atlantic Studies Seminar,
King's University College*



John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, famously said that early New England was to be “as a city upon a hill,” a covenanted society that would be a “model of Christian charity” for all the world to emulate. Covenantalism was more than an abstraction; it was a principle of action through which the Puritan colonists established covenants among themselves for the ordering of their public life together. This presentation will examine the first half-century of Puritan settlement in the New England colonies (1620s-1670s) and consider how covenanting regulated church membership, political life, economics, and relations with religious and racial outsiders.

William Van Arragon is assistant professor of history at King’s University College. His research interests include the colonial history of North America, especially the religious history and culture of the New England Puritans. He is working on a book titled “Cotton Mather in American Cultural Memory,” to be published by Indiana University Press.

Thursday, 17 November, 2:00 p.m.
N101, King’s University College
Edmonton

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