

The 13th Biennial Conference on Media, Religion and Culture

Metaphor & Misinformation: Religion in Media-Driven Worlds

Center for Religious Studies (CERES)

Bochum, Germany

1 – 5 August 2023



[Click here for directions](#)

Program Overview

Tuesday, August 1

11:00 - 17:00

Doctoral Pre-Conference

CERES, Room 4.13, Universitätsstraße 90a, 44789 Bochum

18:30

Opening Reception for conference participants

Restaurant "Rote Bete", top floor of Convention Centre, Universitätsstraße 150, 44801

Bochum, RUB Campus

Sponsored by Brill Publishers and ISRMRC

+++ Early registration and check-in available +++

Wednesday, August 2

09:30 - 11:00

Session 1: Panels 1, 2, 3, 4

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00

Session 2: Panels 5, 6, 7, 8

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch Break

*All panels throughout the
conference will take place at
RUB Convention Center
("Veranstaltungszentrum"),
RUB Campus*

14:30 - 16:00	Session 3: Panels 9, 10, 11, 12
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 - 17:30	Keynote Lecture by Stephanie Baker
18:30	Conference Dinner at Restaurant "Q-West" (RUB Campus)

Thursday, August 3

+++ All-Day Field Experiences +++

Meeting Point: Bochum Main Station ("Hauptbahnhof")

Friday, August 4

09:30 - 11:00	Session 4: Panels 13, 14, 15
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 - 13:00	Session 5: Panels 16, 17
13:00 - 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 - 16:00	Session 6: Panels 18, 19, 20
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 - 17:30	Keynote Lecture by Katja Rakow
17:30 - 18:30	ISMRC Business Meeting + Hoover Mentoring Award Ceremony
18:30	<i>Free Evening</i>

Saturday, August 5

09:30 - 11:00	Session 7: Panels 21, 22, 23
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 - 13:00	Closing Panel: <i>The State of Media, Religion and Culture in Europe</i>
13:00	<i>Lunch Break as Take-Away Buffet</i>
15:00	Departure

Panel Details

Panel 1 (Saal 2a) – Stereotyping Religion

Chair: Giulia Evolvi (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

August 2, 09:30 – 11:00

- Anton Berg and Katja Valaskivi (Helsinki University, Finland): *Biases of Computer Vision in the Context of Religion: How Harmful Stereotypes and Metaphors Are Constructed and Perpetuated Through Popular Commercial Image Recognition Services*
 - Giulia Evolvi (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands): *Post-truth, digital media, and religion: political narratives of the European far-right.*
 - Jin Kyu Park (Seoul Women's University, South Korea): *“Imagination” as a Theoretical Construct to Explain the Social Role of Mediated Religion*
 - Houston Heflin (Abilene Christian University, USA): *Irreverent Iconography and Religion as Motivation for Censorship*
-
-

Panel 2 (Saal 2b) – Social Media Religious Impact

Chair: Sam Han (Brunel University, UK)

August 2, 09:30 – 11:00

- Damian Guzek (University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland): *Deconstructing the Roman Pontiff aka the “bridge-builder” in digital cartoons*
 - Emma St. Lawrence (University of Colorado Boulder, USA): *Tiktok, Technomancy, and the Rise of Algorithmic Divination*
 - Miriam Diez and Alba Sabaté (Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Spain): *Freedom of Religion and Belief and Social Media*
 - Heidi Ippolito (University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology, USA): *Who Controls “The Narrative”? The Danger of Meme’d Metaphors in an Era of Rising Religious Conspiracy*
-
-

Panel 3 (Saal 1) – When Religion Is Digitally Explained

Chair: Kristin Peterson (Boston College, USA)

August 2, 09:30 – 11:00

- Stewart Hoover (University Colorado Boulder, USA): *History and Metaphor in Mediated Religious Nationalisms*
 - Joyce Smith (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada): *Christians, Convoys and Conspiracies: Covering Canadian Civil Religion*
 - Verónica Israel (Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Spain): *Who did the Catholic institutions follow on Twitter? An exploratory social media data analysis*
-
-

Panel 4 (Saal 3) – Secular and Religious Metaphors

Chair: Mara Einstein (Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY), USA)

August 2, 09:30 – 11:00

- Adam Trey Shirley (Abilene Christian University, USA): *Innovation Iconoclashes in Restoration Christianity: A Case Study*
 - Sofia Sjö (The Donner Institute / Åbo Akademi University, Finland): *Death and dying in contemporary Nordic films: negotiating religious and secular metaphors*
 - Alvin Eng Hui Lim (National University of Singapore, Singapore): *Digits and Metaphors: Lemongrass, Lotteries, and Livestreams*
-
-

Panel 5 (Saal 2a) – Churches Facing Digitalization

Chair: Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham, UK)

August 2, 11:30 – 13:00

- Miguel López (University Huelva, Spain): *Media literacy: The case of the Catholic clergy in Portugal based on the COVID-19 experience*
- Alba Sabaté and Míriam Díez (Ramon Llull University, Spain): *Catholic Church Online Response in Spain during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

- Ilona Nord (University of Wuerzburg, Germany): *Churches Online in Times of Corona – An international Study on the Use of Digital Media in Protestant and Catholic Churches*
-
-

Panel 6 (Saal 2b) – Transformation of Religious Authority and Hierarchy in Changing Media Surroundings

Chair: Thomas Schlag (Faculty of Theology, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

August 2, 11:30 – 13:00

- Anna Neumaier (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Religious Influencers as religious authorities: A re-lecture of authority theory with regard to a recent case study*
 - Loïc Bawidamann (University of Zurich, Switzerland): *The pastor as conspiracy theorist: how going online changed an evangelical community*
 - Licia Di Giacinto (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *When Laozi met Confucius: Authority Issues in the Shift from Text to Image in Han China (206 BCE)*
 - Jessie Pons (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Pyxis and Pixels: The Remediation of Buddhist Relics and Changing Forms of Authority*
-
-

Panel 7 (Saal 1) – Religious Populism in the Nordic Media Sphere

Chair: Mia Lövheim (Uppsala University, Sweden)

August 2, 11:30 – 13:00

- Mona Abdel-Fadil (The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Norway): *Online Islamophobia as Self-Induced Trauma*
 - Mia Lövheim (Uppsala University, Sweden): *Banal Religion in Hybrid Media Spaces: An analysis of Politicization and Religious Metaphors in Sweden*
 - Katja Valaskivi and Johanna Sumiala (University of Helsinki, Finland): *Populism in/as/about religion. Exploring “religious populism” in the age of deep mediatization*
-
-

Panel 8 (Saal 3) – Sacred Metaphors

Chair: Joyce Smith (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada)

August 2, 11:30 – 13:00

- Manoj Kumar Das (Sikkim University, India): *Playing a priestly role: How journalists invoke religious metaphors in reporting violent events in India*
 - Sagar Ved Singh (Central University of Rajasthan, India): *Radiating emotion(s): Religion and metaphors in Indian journalistic discourses*
 - Eugene 'Genie' Staples (Claremont Graduate University, USA): *Religion, Science & Authority: John Gunn's "Medical Bible" of the Nineteenth Century*
 - Sana Patel (University of Ottawa, Canada) and Reyhab Patel (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada): *Memes, Metaphors and Digital Islamophobia: Examining anti-Muslim Hate Online*
-
-

Panel 9 (Saal 2a) – Naming Religion

Chair: Mona Abdel-Fadil (The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Norway)

August 2, 14:30 – 16:00

- Mona Abdel-Fadil (The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Norway): *"Putting the fun back into fundamentalism": The Real Housewives of ISIS vs. Daesh*
 - Yoel Cohen (Ariel University, Israel): *Israeli audience interest in miracles, legendary rabbinic tales, and Bible readings*
 - Michael Munnik (Cardiff University, UK): *Label as Metaphor: The Naming and Re-Naming of Islamic State in the UK Media*
-
-

Panel 10 (Saal 2b) – Metaphors, Narratives, Texts

Chair: Ruth Tsuria (Seton Hall, USA)

August 2, 14:30 – 16:00

- Ruth Tsuria (Seton Hall, USA): *Enlightened Media: The impact of "using social media for good" on religious creatives*

- Katona Csaba (National Archives of Hungary, Hungary): *The Shaman and the Holy Crown: The mixing of ancient Hungarian beliefs and Christianity in 21st century Hungary*
 - Johannes Fröh (Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany): *Digitization of traditional Metaphors – How Social Media Communication draws from sacred Texts' Authority*
 - Victor Khroul (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Humour on Religions in Secular Media: Metaphor or Misinformation?*
-
-

Panel 11 (Saal 1) – Otherness and Religion in Media

Chair: Katja Valaskivi (University of Helsinki, Finland)

August 2, 14:30 – 16:00

- Teemu Taira (University of Helsinki, Finland): *Representing Atheism in the Media: Theorizing Mediatization through Religion's Other*
 - Kyan Pur-Djandaghi (Universität Hamburg, Germany): *The Karbalization of London*
 - Djordje Stojanovi (Institute for Balkan Studies Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), Serbia): *But deliver us from evil – global news as apocalyptic signs in Serbian Orthodox digital space*
-
-

Panel 12 (Saal 3) – Historia Magistra Vitae – Historical Knowledge against Antisemitism

Chair: Nadeem Khan (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany)

August 2, 14:30 – 16:00

- Tim Reschop (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Reproduction of Antisemitic Stereotypes in German History School Books*
 - Nadeem Khan (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Haybar as a metaphor for...? Slogans and Songs at Demonstrations and Protests on the Arab-Israeli Conflict*
 - Jonna-Margarethe Mäder (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Representation of Jewish Life and Judaism in the Media*
-
-

Panel 13 (Saal 2b) – National identity and Media

Chair: Mona Abdel-Fadil (The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Norway)

August 4, 9:30 – 11:00

- Eik Dödtmann (Filmuniversität Babelsberg, Germany): *Humor and ultra-conservative Jewish religion: The case of the Israeli comedy.*
 - Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham, UK): *Formative Games and the Study of Media-Driven Religious Worldviews*
 - Shane Crombie and Michael Ray Smith (LCC International University, Lithuania): *In search of God's smile: Humor in the Christian tradition as an antidote to polarization*
 - Heather Winter (Melbourne University, Australia): *Reconfiguring the Past: Through the Eyes of Ngarinyin Protocols*
-
-

Panel 14 (Saal 2a) – Digi Religion

Chair: Alba Sabaté (Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Ramon Llull University, Spain)

August 4, 9:30 – 11:00

- Agana Nsiire (University of Edinburgh, UK): *Metaphors Old and New, and What (Not) to Do With Them*
 - Beth Singler (University of Zurich, Switzerland): *The Algorithmic Forms of the Religious Life: AI and the Idea of the 'Creation' of Religion*
 - Stephen Garner (Laidlaw College, New Zealand): *Framing Faith: Exploring Religion through Comics and Graphic Novels*
 - Nadeem Khan (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *"I only talked about Tawḥīd" – Religious Discourse as Cover for pro-Islamic State Communication on Social Media*
-
-

Panel 15 (Saal 3) – Market my Religion

Chair: Carlo Nardella

August 4, 9:30 – 11:00

- Mara Einstein (Queens College, City University of New York, CUNY, USA): *Cults as a metaphor for marketing*
 - Carlo Nardella (Università degli studi di Milano, Italy): *Religious Metaphors in Early Twentieth-Century Italian Advertisements*
-
-

Panel 16 (Saal 2a) – Digital Youth and Religion

Chair: Oren Golan (University of Haifa, Israel)

August 4, 11:30 – 13:00

- Oren Golan (University of Haifa, Israel): *Legitimizing New Media for Religious Youth: Rabbinical Approaches to Adolescent Engagement with Digital Worlds*
 - Farah Hasan (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany): *Faith and Youthfulness: Negotiating Muslim Symbolic Imagery on Instagram*
 - Alireza Taherifard (University of Kassel, Germany): *Building the Online Visual Culture of Religious Youth in Iran: Selfies, Shrines, Piety, and Cool Imagery on Instagram*
-
-

Panel 17 (Saal 2b) – Spiritual Metaphors

Chair: Jin Kyu Park (Seoul Women's University, South Korea)

August 4, 11:30 – 13:00

- Joyce Smith (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada): *Kuper Island: Doing journalism “the good way” using an Indigenous spiritual lens*
- Kristin Peterson (Boston College, USA): *Manifesting Success and Claiming Spiritual Authority on Social Media*
- Rachel Yoo (Gordon College, USA): *The power of magical fairy: The metaphors of Buddhism in “Tidying with Marie Kondo”*
- Hannah Dick (Carleton University, Canada): *Metaphors of Martyrdom: Contemporary Resonances of Christian Persecution Discourse*

Panel 18 (Saal 3) – Digital Religion(s). Communication, Interaction and Transformation: Insights and Interdisciplinary Perspectives of a Research Priority Program

Chair: Thomas Schlag (Faculty of Theology, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

August 4, 14:30 – 16:00

- Thomas Schlag (Faculty of Theology, University of Zurich, Switzerland): *Digital Religion(s) research and the (religious?) metaphor of “meaning”*
- Julia Müller (Department of Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland): *Christfluencers as sources of religious meaning for religious adolescents and young adults*
- Gerold Schneider (Department of Computational Linguistics, University of Zurich, Switzerland): *The analysis and detection of toxic metaphors*
- Fabian Winiger (Professorship for Spiritual Care, University of Zurich, Switzerland): *Chapel, Shepherd, Staff: No more? Rethinking Pastoral Care Metaphors in the Virtual Hospital*

Panel 19 (Saal 2a) – Translating Metaphors

Chair: Sophia Osteen (Texas A&M University)

August 4, 14:30 – 16:00

- Alfons Teipen (Furman University, USA): *Virtual reality media for Muslims: bridging the gap between the immanent and transcendent?*
 - Anne O’Connor (University of Galway, Ireland): *Translating metaphors on social media: from historical precedent to contemporary usage*
 - Yasmin Koppen (University of Leipzig, Germany): *Han and Yi Ideas About the Hailong Temple: How the Synergy of Reconfigured Religious Media and Modern Media Frames Endangers the Identity of Ethnic Minorities*
 - Nadia Zasanska (Flensburg Europe University, Germany): *Wash away all your sins: War and purity discourse in the Russian Orthodox Church*
-
-

Panel 20 (Saal 1) – Religion, Media, and Metaphor

Chair: Tim Karis (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany)

August 4, 14:30 – 16:00

- Lina Rodenhausen (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *We Are All Children of God, the Father (or Mother?!)* – Parent-Child Metaphors about God and Believers in Christian Subreddits
 - Rosel Pientka-Hinz (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *The Truth is out there!* – The Agent and the Extraterrestrial in Ancient Near Eastern Context
 - Gina Derhard-Lesieur (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *A Walk Through “an Exquisite Garden with Colorful Flowers” (distinctum variis ... floribus hortum): Religious Metaphors and their Communication Media in Latin Late Antiquity*
 - Volkhard Krech (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): *Media as Metaphors – Metaphors as Media: Some Semiotic Thoughts on their Relation*
-
-

Panel 21 (Saal 2b) – Preaching, Laughing and Engaging Religion on Internet

Chair: Larbi Megari (Unité de recherche PRIM, Université de Tours, France)

August 5, 09:30 – 11:00

- Sana Patel (University of Ottawa, Canada): *Nonreligion and Humour: Examining Anti-Religious Memes Online*
 - Larbi Megari (Unité de recherche PRIM, Université de Tours, France): *Plasticity and rigidity of Salafisme on the internet: Saudi preachers as a case study*
 - Caroline Hill (Uppsala University, Sweden): *Framing of Abortion and Church-State Relations in Russian Orthodox Online Portals*
-
-

Panel 22 (Saal 3) – Religious Communities in a Virtual Age

Chair: Henrik Reintoft Christensen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

August 5, 09:30 – 11:00

- Henrik Reintoft Christensen (Aarhus University, Denmark): *Analyzing existing surveys on digital solutions in religious communities during lockdown*

- Anne Lundahl Mauritsen (Aarhus University, Denmark): *Virtual Religiosity in Contemporary Denmark: Pushing the Theorizing of Digitalization and Methods of Netnography in the Study of Religion*
 - Viera Pirker and Gero Menzel (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany): *Religious communities' metaphors and practices in engaging with the digital*
 - Sean Durbin (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK): *Expanding the field site with big data*
 - Linda Annunen (Åbo Academy University, Finland): *Ritual challenges and digital solutions: Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic among three religious communities in Finland*
-
-

Panel 23 (Saal 2a) – Ethnography and Representation

Chair: Fabbri Junior Duilio Unisal (Centro Universitário Salesiano, Brazil)

August 5, 9:30 – 11:00

- Nidhi Shendurnikar, Ramesh Rao, and Avinash Brahmbhat (Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat and Columbus State University, Georgia, USA): *Representation of Religion in Popular Culture: Hindus and Hinduism in Indian Stand-Up Comedy*
 - Amir Yazdian (Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran): *Shiite Communities and New Media: An Ethnographic Approach to Clergy's Life in relation to New Media*
 - Fabbri Junior Duilio Unisal (Centro Universitário Salesiano, Brazil): *Is Christmas inclusive in Jornal Nacional? Between the neoliberal discourse and the (supposed) Brazilian religious diversity*
 - Mohsen Karami (IRIB University, Iran): *How Does the Qur'an Persuade the Audiences through Metaphors*
-
-

Closing Panel (Saal 2a) – The State of Media and Religion in Europe

August 5, 11:00 – 13:00

Roundtable Discussion with Heidi Campbell

- Katja Valaskivi (Helsinki University, Finland)
- Johanna Sumiala (Helsinki University, Finland)
- Giulia Evolvi (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

- Alba Sabaté (Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture, Spain)
-

For more information (including directions) visit the conference website at <https://ismrc.ceres.rub.de/en/>

For program requests and information, please contact: miriamdb@blanquerna.url.edu

For small changes to the program (typos etc.) and logistics information, please contact: ceres-event@rub.de