





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



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 ISRMC

+++ 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
14:30 - 16:00	Session 3: Panels 9, 10, 11, 12

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







16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Bre

16:30 - 17:30 Keynote Lecture by Stephanie Baker

18:30 - 20:00 Conference Dinner Reception at Restaurant #

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, 16
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00	Session 5: Panels 17, 18, 19, 20
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 - 16:00	Session 6: Panels 21, 22, 23, 24
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 - 17:30	Keynote Lecture by Katja Rakow
17:30 - 18:30	ISMRC Business Meeting
18:30	Free Evening

Saturday, August 5

09:30 - 11:00	Session 7: Panels 25, 26, 27, 28
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	Closing Panel: The State of Media, Religion and Culture in Europe
13:00	Lunch Break as Take-Away Buffet
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
- 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 of Boulder Colorado, USA): History and Metaphor in Mediated Religious Nationalisms
- Jakub Jahal (Charles University, Czech Republic): *Q arrives on a white horse*
- Ariane Kovac (Leipzig University, Germany): The Holy Spirit be like..." Memes and the construction of evangelical authenticity
- Joyce Smith (Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada): *Christians, Convoys and Conspiracies: Covering Canadian Civil Religion*

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

- Carlo Nardella (Università degli studi di Milano, Italy): Religious Metaphors in Early Twentieth-Century Italian Advertisements.
- 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
- 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 5 (Saal 2a) - Covid versus Religion







Chair: Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham, UK)

August 2, 11:30 – 13:00

- Miguel Lópes (University Huelva, Spain): *Media literacy: the case of the Catholic clergy in Portugal based on the COVID-19 experience*
- Rafaella Schmitz Daudt, Vanessa Amália Dalpizol Valiati, and Daniel Conte (Feevale University, Brazil): Associations between religion and acceptability of disinformation about COVID-19 in Brazil"
- Alba Sabaté, Miriam Díez and Jorge Albala (Ramon Llull University, Spain): Catholic Church Online Response in Spain during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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.*
- 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 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) and Linnea Jensdotter (Lund University, Sweden): Banal Religion in Hybrid Media Spaces: an analysis of Politicization and Religious Metaphors in Sweden
- Katja Valaskivi, Johanna Sumiala and Niko Pyrhönen (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) and Barun Roy (North Bengal 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 Deez Staples (Claremont Graduate University, USA): Religion, Science & Authority, John Gunn's "Medical Bible" of the Nineteenth Century
- Omotayo Idowu Owoeye (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria): Unpacking Shared Sacred Spaces: A Space for Indigenous Knowledge Production in Nigeria

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
- Marta Kołodziejska (University of Warsaw, Poland): Religious media settlers: using Church media to fight misinformation.

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
- Ojo Joseph Rapheal (Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria): *Re-Imaging Religious Spaces and Infrastructures in a Borderless Society in Nigeria*
- 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

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
- Rudolf Metz and Veronika Koesvi (University of Budapest, Hungary): "Whoever is not against us is for us": Sectarianization of politics in Hungary.
- Ewa Stachowsk (University of Warsaw, Poland): Non-religiousness and religious minorities in the mainstream of the ultra-Catholic discourse in Poland
- Kyan Pur-Djandaghi (Universität Hamburg, Germany): The Karbalization of London

Panel 12 (Saal 3) - Empathia³ Project

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

August 2, 14:30 - 16:00

- Marc Grimm (Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany) and Jakob Baier (Universität Bielefeld, Germany): Antisemitic Metaphors in German Rap Music
- 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 M\u00e4der (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): Representation of Jewish life and Judaism in the Media

Panel 13 (Saal 2a) -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*
- Lorena Mochel (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil): A Ministry on WhatsApp: an analysis on transnational collectivities among Brazilian Evangelical women







- Tim Hutchings (University of Nottingham, UK): Formative Games and the Study of Media-Driven Religious Worldviews
- Meisam Moghimizadeh (Encyclopedia of the World of Islam, Iran): A Look at Metaphors in the Political Press in Iran
- 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

Panel 14 (Saal 2b) – Ethnography and Representation

Chair: N.N.

August 4, 9:30 - 11:00

- Nidhi Shendurnikar, Ramesh Rao, Rutvi Dattani, 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
- Venerable Shimo Srama (Wat Mai Amatarot Buddhist Monastery, Thailand), Samar Barua (Mahamakut Buddhist University, Thailand) and Avijit Barua (Mahamakut Buddhist University, Thailand): Buddhist Thoughts on Violent Conflict in Society: The role of Leadership in Peace
- Fabbri Junior Duilio Unisal (Centro Universitário Salesiano, Brazil): *Is Christmas inclusive in Jornal Nacional? Between the neoliberal discourse and the (supposed) Brazilian religious diversity*
- Sára Muste-Láncos (KU Leuven, Belgium): Applying Spiritual Role Model as a Catalyst of Renewing Vocation Applying Spiritual Role Model as a Catalyst of Renewing Vocation: Joan of Arc in Thérèse of Lisieux's Religious Plays







Panel 15 (Saal 1) - Past and Future in Religion and Media

Chair: Sophia Osteen (TAMU University, USA)

August 4, 9:30 - 11:00

- Heather Winter (Melbourne University, Australia): Reconfiguring the Past: Through the Eyes of Ngarinyin Protocols
- Hannah Dick (Carleton University, Canada): *Metaphors of Martyrdom: Contemporary*Resonances of Christian Persecution Discourse

Panel 16 (Saal 4) – Market my Religion

Chair: N.N.

August 4, 9:30 - 11:00

- Mara Einstein (Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY), USA): Cults as a metaphor for marketing
- Stacey Wood and Yvonne Eadon (UNC Center for Information, Technology and Public Life, USA): Metaphor and Conspiratorial Thinking in the Religious and Spiritual App Market
- Deborah Whitehead (University of Colorado Boulder, USA): #BecauseofLLR: Marketing
 Transcendence in MLMs

Panel 17 (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 Hassan (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 18 (Saal 2b) - The Screen meets Religion

Chair: Victor Khroul (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany)

August 4, 11:30 - 13:00

- Arkaprava Chattopadhyay (SRM University Sikkim, India): Paganism and the Internet: The Digital Initiatives of 'Yoginis' in Bengal, India, Dismantling Negative Stereotype
- Sana Patel (University of Ottawa, Canada) and Rehab Patel (Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada): *Memes, Metaphors and Digital Islamophobia: Examining anti-Muslim Hate Online*
- Victor Khroul (CERES, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany): Humour on Religions in Secular
 Media: Metaphor or Misinformation?

Panel 19 (Saal 1) - 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"

Panel 20 (Saal 3) – Bridging the Gap Between the Faith and Media Sectors (Special Discussion Panel)

Chair: Aaron Sherinia (Deseret Management Corporation, USA)

August 4, 11:30 - 13:00

Brooke Zaugg (Vice President, Faith and Media Initiative, USA)







- Simran Jeet Singh (Executive Director, Aspen Institute's Religion & Society Program, USA)
- Julie Moos (Editorial Director, Chicago Council on Global Affairs and former Executive Director, National Press Club Journalism Institute, USA)

Panel 21 (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"
- Thomas Friemel and 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 and Janis Goldzycher (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 22 (Saal 2a) -Translating Metaphors

Chair: Marta Kołodziejska (University of Warsaw, Poland)

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 and Anna Beatriz Dimas Furtado (University of Galway, Ireland): Translating metaphors on social media: from historical precedent to contemporary usage
- Anirban Mukhopadhya (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, USA): *Metaphors and WhatsApp: Religion, mediated Publics, and Nationalism in India.*







Panel 23 (Saal 2b) -Metaphors in Context

Chair: t.b.a.

August 4, 14:30 - 16:00

- Nadia Zasanska (Flensburg Europe University, Germany): Wash away all your sins: War and purity discourse in the Russian Orthodox Church
- 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 24 (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 25 (Saal 2a) – 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 and Lauren Strumos (University of Ottawa, Canada): *Nonreligion and Humour:* Examining Anti-Religious Memes Online
- Krishna Kusuma (Jamia Millia Islamia University, India): Engaging religious metaphors in metaverse: A study of Hindu religious interactive Augmented and Virtual Reality content
- 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 26 (Saal 2b) - Digi Religion

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

August 5, 09:30 - 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: Al and the Idea of the 'Creation' of Religion
- Stephen Garne (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 27 (Saal 1) - National Symbols and Religions

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

August 5, 09:30 - 11:00

• Mehak Dua and Twinkle Siwac (University of Delhi, India): Religious Nationalism in the Digital







Age: Rebroadcast of Ramayana and the making of a 'new' audience

- Jose Valikaa (St Joseph's Catholic Mission, India): *Metaphors of Sacredness. Political use* and abuse of the sacred in Kerala religious cape
- Yasmin Koppe (University of Leipzig, Germany): Han and Yi Ideas About the Hailong Temple:
 How the Synergy of Reconfigured Religious Media and Modern Media Frames Endangers
 theldentity of Ethnic Minorities
- Kamal Abkar (University of Qom, Iran): The Criteria of Producing and Broadcasting News in the Post-truth World from Islamic View.

Panel 28 (Saal 3) - Religious Communities in a Virtual Age

Chair: Henrik Reintoft Christense (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 (Abö Academy University, Finland): Ritual challenges and digital solutions: Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic among three religious communities in Finland

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

August 5, 11:00 – 13:00

Roundtable Discussion with

- Henrik Reintoft Christensen (Aarhus University, Denmark)
- Katja Valaskivi (Helsinki University, Finland)
- Johanna Sumiala (Helsinki University, Finland)







• Giulia Evolvi (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands)

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