



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Digital Religion(s)



Dear friends and colleagues

We are pleased to share our summer newsletter, bringing you the latest news, activities, and highlights from the URPP Digital Religion(s).

In this edition, you can explore our latest news, research activities, media contributions, and blog articles.

We also invite you to meet the people behind our research in our "Meet the Team" section, where we introduce one team member in each newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading and wish you a wonderful summer.

Warm regards,
The Digital Religion(s) Team

Fellowships

The Digital Religion(s) Fellowship Program



The URPP Digital Religion(s) has launched its new **academic guest fellowship programme**.

The programme offers senior and junior researchers the opportunity to pursue projects related to the URPP's core research themes during a residential stay of one to three months in Zurich, while fostering new collaborations and strengthening existing ties with URPP members.

We warmly invite established scholars to apply for our academic guest fellowships. Further information is available on our website.

Info and Application →

Project Presentation

Digital Spiritual Care



Healthcare is becoming increasingly digital, with electronic health records, telemedicine, remote monitoring, and digital care platforms playing a growing role in clinical practice. Chaplaincy services are now facing the challenge of integrating their work into these digital and hybrid healthcare environments.

Launched in late 2025, the third-party funded project **Digital Spiritual Care: Towards a Vision for Compassionate Care in Digital Health** explores how chaplains can effectively engage in digital healthcare settings. The project is developing a competency framework for digital chaplaincy, training materials for educators, a strategic roadmap and research agenda, and an international community of practice.

For more information, visit www.digitalspiritualcare.org or our website.

Project Info→

Meet the Team

Four Questions for... David Schmidt



PhD Student in Communication and Media Research in the project
"Strengthening Resilience and Well-Being in Adolescents through Religion-Related AI and Digital Resources".

Interview →

Blog

Recent Posts from Digital Religion(s)



In recent months, our early career researchers have published numerous contributions on topics such as Christian influencers, data protection in the online religious public sphere, online communication in neomonastic communities, among many other topics. Have a look!

New Blog Posts →

NEWS

Congratulations

Digital Religion Research Award - We congratulate Kathrin Trattner on being awarded the Digital Religion Research Award 2025 by the NNMDC for her article examining the experiences of Catholic feminist activists on social media.

More →

Summer School

Registration open for Summer School "Religion:Extrem" - The summer school (29/06-5/07), organized by the Department of Religious Studies, invites students, researchers, and practitioners to explore religious extremism from a perspective grounded in the academic study of religion and informed by interdisciplinary approaches.

Register Here until 8 June →

Interview

Will Pope Leo's critique of AI cut through to Silicon Valley? – In a recent episode of *The Religion and Ethics Report*, Beth Singler discusses Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnificent Humanity* and its warning against concentrating power over artificial intelligence in the hands of a few tech titans.

Listen Here →

Call for Videos

Digital encounters - The [MEEET Lab](#) has launched an open call inviting students to reflect on their digital encounters through short video essays. More information and submission guidelines via the link below.

More Info →

Paper

Mapping Digital Youth Faith Formation in a Postdigital Age - In this paper, [Sabrina Müller](#) and [Tobias Adam](#) present insights from the Digital Youth Formation Initiative (DYFI), which experiments with new forms of youth-oriented faith communication.

Read Here →

Podcast

"Wenn der Algorithmus zum Seelsorger wird" - In this podcast, [Thomas Schlag](#) and [Sina Horner](#) offer exclusive insights into a recent study on the use of artificial intelligence for personal life questions. The study surveyed around 500 young adults in Switzerland.

Listen Here (in German) →

Article

Between Alarm and Evidence: Misinformation in the Age of AI - In this article, [Mark Eisenegger](#) argues that the greatest challenge to democracy may not be misinformation, but the growing decline in the consumption of reliable news.

Read Here →

Article and Podcast

Christian Influencers - In two media contributions, [Sabrina Müller](#) and [Aline Knapp](#) discuss findings from their [project](#), focusing on the phenomenon of Christian influencers.

Read and Listen Here (in German) →

Publication

Compendium Computational Theology - Vol. 2 *Introducing Theology to Digital Humanities*, provides an orientation to the growing field at the

intersection of Theology and Digital Humanities. With contributions from Thomas Schlag, Ramazan Özgü and Andreas Thier.

Info and Download →

Article

Andrew Tate in Salafism - Mira Menzfeld explores how debates surrounding Andrew Tate's conversion to Islam reveal internal salafist discussions about masculinity, religious authenticity, and digital culture.

Read Here (in German) →

Course

Truth and Lies - In October, Beth Singler will deliver a lecture as part of the University of Zurich's lecture series "Truth and Lies."

UZH Course Catalogue →

Publication

Doing Theology Digitally - Ramazan Özgü contributed to this practice-oriented guide to the digital transformation of church, theology, and religious policy, which brings together theological foundations and concrete examples from social media, artificial intelligence, scriptural studies, and religious education.

Order or Download here →

Interview

AI and Everyday Church Life – In this interview, Thomas Schlag discusses how artificial intelligence is transforming everyday church life and explores the opportunities and risks associated with using AI in a context shaped by human relationships.

Read Here (in German) →

EVENTS



Conference and Workshop

Monday 15.06.2026 - Thursday 18.06.2026

GoNeDiGiTal: Digital Theology to Date and Beyond & Workshop: Church & AI

From 15 to 18 June 2026, we invite you to a combined event: the *GoNeDiGiTal* conference "*Theology to Date and Beyond*" joins forces with the workshop format "*Church and AI*." The event will take place both online and on site.

Event →



Summer School

Monday 29.06.2026 - Sunday 05.07.2026

Summer School "Religion:Extrem"

From 29 June to 5 July 2026, the international summer school on the topic "*Religion:Extrem*" will take place to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Department for the Study of Religion at UZH.

Event →



Conference

Tuesday 03.08.2027 - Friday 06.08.2027

ISMRC Conference 2027

The 15th Biennial Conference on Media, Religion, and Culture will take place from 3–6 August 2027 at the University of Zurich. Hosted by the URPP Digital Religion(s) in association with the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC), the conference will bring together international keynote speakers, discussion panels, and opportunities for exchange across disciplines.

Event →

University of Zurich
URPP Digital Religion(s)
Stampfenbachstrasse 106
8006 Zurich

mail@digrel.uzh.ch
www.digitalreligions.uzh.ch



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