



GoNeDiGiTal
Global Network for Digital Theology



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Joint Program

GoNeDiGiTal: Digital Theology to Date and Beyond

Workshop: Church & AI

June 15-18, Zurich and online

Monday, June 15

13.45 | Welcome

GoNeDiGiTal

14.00 | Paper session 1

Miriam Fisher & Stephen Garner, Imagination, Arts and Theology
Frank G. Bosman, Gaming

Florian Höhne & Frederike van Oorschot, Public Theology
Susanne Wigorts Yngvesson, Theologies of Surveillance

15.00 | Panel: The story of Digital Theology

Chair: Jonas Kurlberg
Panelists: Pete Phillips, Heidi Campbell, and Alex Chow

16.00 | Paper session 2

John Dyer, Biblical Hermeneutics
Sabrina Müller & Aline Knapp, Practical Theology
Calida Chu, Decolonality
Kate Ott, Gender
Jonas Kurlberg & Nina Kurlberg, Disability, Theology and Digitality

Tuesday, June 16

Imaginations of AI

Church&AI

10.00 | Welcome

11.00 | Keynote: Imagination of the Human

Prof. Dr. Antonio Lucci (Turin)

12.00 | Keynote: Imaginations of Church

PD Dr. Frederike van Oorschot (Heidelberg/Zurich)

14.00 | Joint Keynote: Imaginations of God? Philosophical Reflections on AI and Religion

PD Dr. Claudia Paganini (Innsbruck)

15.00 | Panel: The Task of Digital Theology

GoNeDiGiTal

Chair: Kate Ott

Panelists: Stephen Garner, Katleho Mokoena, Katherine Schmidt

16.00 | Paper session 3

Hanna Reichel, Doctrine of God
Susanne Wigorts Yngvesson, Theologies of Surveillance

Alexander Chow, Creation
Jeremy Kidwell, Ecology

17.00 | Paper session 4

Steve Taylor, Mission in Digital Culture
Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, Pneumatology
Agana-Nsiire Agana, Theological Anthropology
J. Jennifer Thweatt, Transhumanism and Critical Posthumanism
Ximian Xu (Simeon), Eschatology
Erin Green, Theologies of Artificial Intelligence
Erkki Sutinen, Theology and Computer Science

20.00 | Book launch



Wednesday, 17th June

AI as Tool in Church: Communication Practices

Church&AI

9.00 | Presentations

Presentations A: AI in preaching

Müller, Sabrina (Bonn): Preaching with and without AI: Homiletic Experiments in an Algorithmic Age

Rymatzi, Clara-Marie (Bonn): Algorithmic Altar — Perceptions and Attitudes of Church Workers towards AI Applications in German Protestant Congregations

Presentations B: AI in leadership

Schlag, Thomas/Yadav, Katharina (Zurich): Church leadership and AI in transformative times - Insights into current perceptions and negotiations

Ahn, Timothy (Berkeley): Religious AI and Institutional Change: How the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence is Reshaping Church Life and Christian Practice

10.00 | Presentations

Presentations A: AI in Counseling

Manisali, Bora (Ankara): Indirect Missionary Counseling AI: Care-First Design, Ethics, and Evidence on Religious Engagement

Brand, Lucas/Haikimana, Dorcy (Kaiserslautern): Bringing computer-based spiritual assistants to practice

Presentations B: AI in Discipleship

Lo, Hermas (Ontario): Digital Discipleship in Three Layers: A Practical Ecclesiology for AI in Congregational Life

Mutiti, Waithanji (Nairobi): From Pulpit to Platform. African Churches, artificial intelligence, and the digital faithscape

11.30 | Presentations

Presentations A: AI in Institutions

Reimann, Ralf Peter/Sievers, Holger (Düsseldorf/Stuttgart): Church and AI

Presentations B: AI in Rituals

Palumbo, Emanuele (Turin): Dismantled Sacred Temporalities.

in Germany 2026. Empirical Insights and Practical Implications from a Dual Research Perspective

Sobiech-Buzala, Marta (Warsaw): Between innovation and control: How the Catholic Church shapes the role of AI in religious practice

Özgu, Ramazan (Zurich): The Ecclesiological Challenge of Artificial Intelligence: Ecclesiastical Law Perspectives on AI in Preaching Practice

Levels of modification of ritual time between ontology and AI

Thirlaway, Geo: Church, Community, Tele-Chaplaincy, Outreach, Mission, Business, and AI: Ethical Horizons of Digital Ministry

Tretter, Max /Schlote, Yannik (Erlangen): Art – Memes – Manipulation: Three Perspectives on AI-Generated Religious Short Video Content

14.00 | Joint Keynote: Zones of Encounter? Where and How Digital Theologies relate to the Tech World – Prof. Dr. Thilo Stadelmann (Zurich)

15.00 | Paper session 5

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Pak Wah Lai, Digital Pedagogics in Theological Education
Anna Frida Mannerfelt, Online Preaching

Mary Hess, Online Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Online Pastoral Care

16.00 | Paper session 6

Moises Shardelotto & Tim Hutchings, Online Christian Communities
Kyle K. Schielfelbein-Guerrero, Online Liturgies

M. Robinson; H. Jeong: Christian Faith and Practice in the Metaverse
Ilona Nord & Thomas Schlag, Using Robotics in Christian Ministry

17.00 | Informal discussion: The (AI) future of DT



Thursday, 18th June

Church and AI - Ethics of AI

Church&AI

9.00 | Keynote: The Ends of Technology (in Church)

Dr. Clifford Anderson (Yale)

10.00 | Keynote: Ethics of AI/Possible Futures

Prof. Dr. Kate Ott (Evanston)

11.30 | Impulse for the Panel

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schlag (Zurich)

11.45 | Closing Panel

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schlag (Zurich), Dr. Clifford Anderson (Yale), Prof. Dr. Kate Ott (Evanston), Dr. Jonas Kurlberg (London), PD Dr. Frederike van Oorschot (Zurich)

12.30 | End of the Conference

Conference Information

Church & AI

The *Church & AI* Conference will take place at the Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion in Zurich. Within the Church & AI Conference all panels of the GoNeDiGiTal conference will be streamed, including the joint keynote sessions.

Participation in the *Church & AI* conference is free of charge. Please note that participants are responsible for organizing and covering their own travel, accommodation, and meal expenses.

Please register via the following link:

<https://www.ema.uzh.ch/de/register/church-ai.html>

Conference Venue:

Faculty of Theology and the Study of Religion
Kirchgasse 9
8001 Zurich

GoNeDiGiTal Conference:

The GoNeDiGiTal conference will take place online. Registration is available via the following link: <https://www.gonedigital.media/store>