



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}

Digital Religion(s)



Dear friends and colleagues

We are pleased to share our late summer newsletter with you, bringing together the latest news and developments from the URPP Digital Religion(s).

In this edition, you will find updates on our recent activities, media contributions and new articles on our blog. Our regular **"Meet the Team"** feature also returns, offering a closer look at one of the people behind the URPP and their work.

We wish you an inspiring read.

Warm regards,
The Digital Religion(s) Team

Godbots and AI-Generated Religious Imagery



This summer, the URPP Digital Religion(s) had the pleasure of welcoming its first Junior Fellow, [Feeza Vasudeva](#), from the University of Helsinki.

During her time at the URPP, she explored questions of religious authority in godbots and conducted a comparative analysis of AI-generated images in Hindu and Christian spheres. Through this project, Feeza Vasudeva gained deeper insights into the production and circulation strategies of AI-generated images.

Find out more about her work at the URPP in her [new blog.post](#)!

Videointerview →

Podcast Series

Podcast *Erleuchtung Garantiert* - Special Edition Digital Religion(s)



In the podcast *Erleuchtung Garantiert*, Dorothea Lüddeckens talks to colleagues and guests once a month about their research and their perspectives on spirituality, religion, and the world. Over the summer, the podcast featured a special *Digital Religion(s) edition*, in which she spoke with members of our research programme about their current research and the questions driving their work.

In conversations with Roland Meyer, Karina Frick, Ramazan Özgü, and Kathrin Trattner, the series explores topics ranging from ["slopaganda"](#) and [apocalyptic AI imagery](#) to [conspiracy theories](#), [data protection in digital spiritual care](#), and [tradwives on social media](#).

Tune in and discover the Special Edition Digital Religion(s)! Please note that all episodes are in German.

***Erleuchtung Garantiert* podcast series →**

Meet the Team

Four Questions for... Accursio Graffeo



Cultural anthropologist and PhD student in the URPP project "[Post-AI Religion: The Reciprocal Disruption of Digital Religions and AI](#)"

Interview →

Blog

Recent Posts from Digital Religion(s)



Our early career researchers continue to share insights from their research on our blog. Recent contributions explore topics including Generative AI and

Hindu Visual Culture, Self-Optimization as a Religious Practice, Hinduism on Instagram, and many more. Read more below.

New Blog Posts →

NEWS

Call for Participation

Digital Encounters – Extended Deadline! The MEEET Lab is looking for **student video contributions** on the theme of "Digital Encounters." Selected videos will be screened at the ZHdK cinema on 10 December and receive a CHF 100 prize. New deadline: 1 October 2026. Submit your video and share your perspective on digital encounters!

More Info and Submission →

Workshops and Lecture

Scientifica 2026 – From 22 to 30 August, UZH and ETH host their major science festival, featuring a wide range of lectures and hands-on workshops at various locations. The URPP contributes workshops and talks on religious robots, artificial intelligence, and data collection on social media. Come by and join us – everyone is welcome and all events are free!

Scientifica Programme →

Conference

AI+X Summit 2026 – On 1 October, the AI+X Summit will take place in Zurich, a one-day conference on AI and deep tech bringing together academia, industry, and policy. Beth Singler will join the Main Stage panel "What is AI Doing to Us?", exploring the cultural, societal and ethical dimensions of the AI age.

Summit Programme →

Podcast

Episode on "Digital Religion" – How are apps, faith influencers, and social media enabling and transforming new forms of religious experience? In the podcast *Reflex*, [Sabrina Müller](#) and [Aline Knapp](#) discuss how digital tools are shaping mystical experiences, prayer and religious communities.

Listen Here →

Publication

The Development of Catholic Teaching on Communication, Technology, and Human Dignity - How has Catholic thinking on media and technology evolved over the past two centuries? This new article by [Ramazan Özgü](#) traces developments from nineteenth-century debates on press freedom to contemporary discussions of artificial intelligence.

Open Access Publication →

Publication

Churches Online in Times of and after Corona – This new volume presents empirical findings from the CONTOC2 study on changing church communication practices during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Focusing on Germany and Switzerland, it examines the impact of digital media on worship, pastoral care and education.

Book Information →

Open Access

Transformative Homiletics: Beyond the Pulpit - [Sabrina Müller](#) and [Jasmine Suhner](#)'s *Transformative Homiletics: Beyond the Pulpit* is now available **open access**. The book rethinks traditional, pulpit-centred preaching through feminist and postcolonial perspectives, foregrounding participation and transformation.

Open Access →

EVENTS



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 →

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