

DESIRE AND INTIMACY IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

a graduate student conference presented by Northwestern
University's Department of Religious Studies



Photo Credit:
Naraphat Sakarthornsap
Gushing out my confession (2015)

11.03.2015

uncovering all of me.

OCTOBER 25-27, 2024
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EXTENDED DEADLINE: May 6, 2024

CALL FOR PAPERS

d e s i r e & i n t i m a c y

This conference is oriented around a set of questions:

bodily

How do **touch, glances, and words** create intimacies and desires between religious subjects? How do **religious institutions, texts, and families** foreclose certain forms of desire, especially that of marginalized people? And how do intimacy and desire exist as **sites of possibility and violence** in the study of religion?

political

How do religious subjects **navigate and fight** for their political desires? How are politico-religious desires forged within such locations as **poetry, literature, law, activism, and art**?

scholarly

How do desire and intimacy shape **our own experiences as scholars**? What happens when **scholarly desire** comes up against realities of fieldwork or the archive? What happens when we feel we have become **too close** to a text or group of people?

Seeking Interdisciplinary Submissions

Religious Studies • Anthropology • Cultural Studies • Gender | Women's | Sexuality Studies • Asian Languages and Cultures • Film Studies • Black Studies • Art History • Philosophy • Film Studies Indigenous Studies • Latinx Studies • Media Studies • Performance Studies • Comparative Literature • History • Sociology • & more...

SUBMISSIONS

due may 6, 2024

1

Presentations should not exceed **fifteen minutes** in length and may approach the topic from **any discipline or methodology**.

Presentations in **non-traditional formats are welcome**, including but not limited to: documentaries, performances, poetry readings with commentary, and other creative forms.

2

3

Send a **300-word abstract**, along with your name, institution, and year of study to **nugradstudentconference@gmail.com** by **May 6, 2024**.

Decisions will be rendered by the **beginning of June, 2024**

4

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Omar Kasmani

Guest Lecturer in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin and author of *Queer Companions: Religion, Public Intimacy, and Sainly Affects in Pakistan* (2022).



Dr. Mona Oraby

Assistant Professor of Political Science at Howard University and author of *Devotion to the Administrative State: Religion and Social Order in Egypt* (2024).

POTENTIAL TOPICS

include, but are not limited to...

- Philosophical intimacies in Tibetan Buddhist tantras
- Queer and trans Muslim desires in Indonesia
- Political and religious freedoms in Palestine
- State/religious violence and attacks on reproductive justice
- Desire and its foreclosures for Rohingya in Myanmar
- Black feminist thought, meditation, and the bodily intimacy of healing
- Desire and the body in Tibetan women's poetry
- Auto-ethnographic accounts of desire and intimacy in religion
- Desires and intimacies of ghosts and spirits in the study of religion
- Racial justice, Black religion, and desires for embodied freedom
- Land, sovereignty, and desire in Indigenous religions
- Objects, materiality, and the intimacy of religious paraphernalia
- Intimacies and desires of objects that orient religious worlds (new materialisms and ontologies)
- The violent desires of nation-states in the study of religion
- #MeToo and desires for justice in religious communities
- Film, art, and sound in forging and documenting intimate religious experiences

contact us with questions
nugradstudentconference@gmail.com



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