DESIRE AND INTIMACY IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

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

October 25-27, 2024
Northwestern University

Extended Deadline: May 6, 2024
CALL FOR PAPERS  

desire & intimacy

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...
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.

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**.

**Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Omar Kasmani**  

**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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