

***Dynamics of Religious Diversity. The Study of Different Religions and Religious Difference in Postcolonial Configurations***

Conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion NGG  
and Thematic Seminar of the Netherlands Advanced School for Studies in Theology and Religion NOSTER

Utrecht University, 19-20 October 2017

Hosted by the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Utrecht University

**Conference Venue:** Boothstraat 7, 3512 BT Utrecht, The Netherlands

**Program Scheme (changes are still possible):**

<b>Thursday, 19 October 2017</b>			
9.15-9.45h	Arrival, registration, coffee and tea.		
9.45-11.20h	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Plenary Panel on Key Figures in the Study of Religion from Postcolonial Perspectives</b></p> <p>Chair: Birgit Meyer; contributions by Johan Strijdom (G. v.d. Leeuw), Ernst van den Hemel (A. Kuyper), A. Ryad (C.S. Hurgronje), Arie Molendijk (Max Müller).</p> <p>Plenary Discussion.</p>		
11.30-13.00	<b>Parallel Sessions I.</b>		
	<p>Session I.a.: Can Religion Speak? Three Case Studies from Historians.</p> <p>Papers by Babette Hellemans, Clemens Six and Ya-pei Kuo.</p>	<p>Session I.b.: Social imaginaries between articulate and inarticulate religion: questioning the possibility of generalization across religious diversity</p> <p>Papers by Hans Alma, Christa Anbeek, Laurens ten Kate, Guido Vanheeswijk, Erin Wilson.</p>	<p>Session I.c.: Individual Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pieter Boersema: A pluralistic society needs an empiric non-normative cultural comparison model open to religions</li> <li>• Christoph Grüll: Exploring the religious/secular divide in European responses to displacement</li> <li>• Jelle Wiering: The curious case of the condom: Sexual enchantment in the Netherlands.</li> </ul>

13.00-13.45h	Lunch		
13.45-15.15h	<b>Parallel Sessions II.</b>		
	<p>Session II.a.: Ritual Cities: The Politics of Sacred Spectacle (continues after the break)</p> <p>Papers by Markus Balkenhol, Ernst van den Hemel, Duane Jethro, Irene Stengs, Markha Valenta, Tammy Wilks.</p>	<p>Session II.b.: Negotiations of Religious and Secular Gender Scripts in Women's Conversions in Contemporary Western Europe</p> <p>Papers by Mariecke van den Berg, Nella van den Brandt, Lieke Schrijvers</p>	<p>Session II.c.: Individual Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antonia Ruspolini: Being Religious Without Religion. Literature as a way of representing religious diversity in Mozambique.</li> <li>• Benedikt Pontzen: How one religion sees another. Muslims' Framings of 'African Traditional Religion' in Asante (Ghana)</li> <li>• Ahmad Moghri: Religious 'other' in text and context: Mapping the people of the scripture in Qur'anic approach and CID' conferences in contemporary Iran</li> </ul>
15.15-15.45h	Refreshments		
15.45-17.15	<b>Parallel Sessions III.</b>		
	<p>Session III.a.: Ritual Cities: The Politics of Sacred Spectacle (continuation of section before the break)</p> <p>Papers by Markus Balkenhol, Ernst van den Hemel, Duane Jethro, Irene Stengs, Markha Valenta, Tammy Wilks.</p>	<p>Sessions III.b.: Religious Diversity and Hegemonic 'High Modernism' in China</p> <p>Papers by Adam Chau, Mayfair Yang, Xiaoxuan Wang, Bram Colijn.</p> <p>Discussant: Peter van der Veer.</p>	<p>Sessions III.c.: Individual Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Arfman: On Borders: Reconsidering Liminality in Religious Studies</li> <li>• Arjen Buitelaar: Religious Empathy: A new Style phenomenological approach to the study of religion.</li> <li>• Rodrigo Toniol: Capturing spirituality and setting religion</li> <li>• Lieke Wijnia: Envision the Spiritual. Theorizing Mondrian's path to abstraction.</li> </ul>
17.30-19.00h	<p><b>Keynote Lectures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eva Spies (University of Bayreuth): <i>Being in relation. A perspective on multiplicity in the field of religion.</i></li> <li>• Kim Knibbe (University of Groningen): <i>Conceptualizing religious diversity in a post-colonial Europe.</i></li> </ul> <p>Response: Duane Jethro (t.b.c.)</p>		
19.30-	Conference Dinner		

	Venue: Academiegebouw, Senaatszaal, Domplein 29, 3512 JE Utrecht.		
<b>Friday, 20 October 2017</b>			
10.00-11.15h	<p><b>Keynote Lecture</b></p> <p>Peter van der Veer (Max Planck Institute Göttingen for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity): What is 'Comparison' in Comparative Religion?</p> <p>Response: Katja Rakow, Utrecht University.</p>		
11.30-13.00h	<b>Parallel Sessions IV.</b>		
	<p>Session IV.a.: Beyond critiquing the liberal-Protestant bias in religious studies; getting racialization, securitization, and coloniality into focus.</p> <p>Papers by Anna Blijdenstein, Yolande Jansen, Thijl Sunier, Matthea Westerduin.</p>	<p>Session IV.b.: Lusospheres: Global Trajectories of Brazilian Religion.</p> <p>Papers by Linda van de Kamp, Martijn Oosterbaan, Cristina Rocha, Joana Bahia, and Andrea Damacena Martins. Response by Katja Rakow.</p>	<p>Session IV.c: Individual Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fred van Lieburg: History of religion and/or religious history</li> <li>• Maryse Kruijthof: The historiographical legacy of the Christian mission and its impact on religious studies.</li> <li>• Ulrike Brunotte: The 'Beautiful Jewess' as frontier figure in Europe's internal colonialism. Some remarks on the intertwining of orientalism and anti-Semitism.</li> </ul>
13.00-14.00h	Lunch		
14.00-15.30h	<b>Parallel Sessions V.</b>		
	<p>Session V.a.</p> <p>Teaching Religious Diversity Beyond the World Religion Paradigm.</p> <p>Papers by Guido Versteegh, Markus Davidsen, Gerard Wiegers.</p>	<p>Session V.b.</p> <p>Common Pathways: Directions and challenges for the ethnographic comparison of Muslims and Christians</p> <p>Papers by Daan Beekers, Hansjörg Dilger and Daniel Nilsson DeHanas</p> <p>Discussant Peter van der Veer</p> <p>Chair: Birgit Meyer</p>	<p>Session V.c.: Individual Papers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter-Ben Smit: Generalization, comparison, evaluation? Van der Leeuw's phenomenology and cultural criticism reconsidered.</li> <li>• Nathal Dessing: No more boundaries: The study of language, religion, and diversity.</li> <li>• Ab de Jong: What Zoroastrianism lacks (and what that means, and why everyone should care).</li> </ul>

15.30-16.00h	Refreshments
16.00-17.00h	Panel and Plenary Discussion: 'Afterthoughts' – how to move on? Chair: Birgit Meyer; contributions by Johan Strijdom, Matthea Westerduin, Mayfair Yang, and Christoph Baumgartner.
17.00h	Close of Conference and Reception.