



# Research Group **MEDIA AND RELIGION**

Report 2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

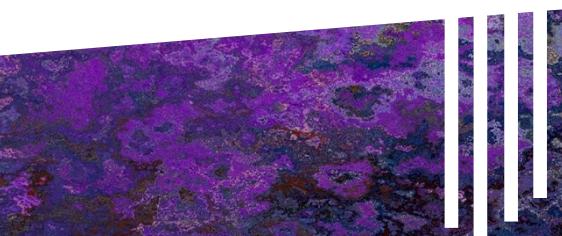
<b>Editorial</b>	1
<b>Portrait of the research group</b>	2
<b>Members</b>	3
<b>Meetings</b>	4
<b>Research Topics</b>	4
Religion, Media and Normativity	4
Visual and Material Religion	5
Film and Audiovisual Media	7
Religion and Music	9
Body and Gender	10
Religion and Space	12
Religious Representations in a Diverse Society	13
Politics of Display and Gaze	14
Hermeneutical Dimensions of Researching Media and Religion	15

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The research group Media and Religion is a network of researchers at the Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Villanova University, the University of Zurich, the University of Macerata, Bern University of Applied Sciences, and the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons.

## Contact

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## EDITORIAL

The question of "What is religion?" has been debated by generations of scholars of religion and triggered a huge amount of publications. Still, the matter of definitions of this complex phenomenon continues to be a controversial topic, as new research angles and questions are developed. Thus, the initially posed question has to be answered anew by every generation of researchers. Thus, during the summer term 2022, members of the research group and MA and PhD students of the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich discussed the topic of defining religion in light of their research projects. Which role do definitions of religion play in the discovery of a challenging research question? How can religion be conceptualised in political matters? How do we address concepts of religion in intercultural exchanges? – These were just a few questions among many that were discussed during our meetings, showing that a reflection on "religion" enables us to deepen the understanding of our projects.

Naturally, research topics and perspectives change over time, as new concepts are introduced or gain in popularity. Academic research interacts with the wider society; debates move between university, media and public space. One may think here of the introduction of questions of gender into the study of religion or the growing emphasis on matters of space. Besides defining religion, normativity has been a further topic in our work in 2022. Norms and values are omnipresent in

our environment, they are always in evolution, and they are deeply interconnected to religious traditions, narratives and worldviews. In our conference *Values in Motion. Religion, Media and Normativity* which took place in October 2022 in Munich, we engaged with questions concerning this research topic: How can "norms" and "values" be conceptualised for our studies? Which methods should we use to investigate normative dimensions of religion? How do normativity and religion interact in the case of weddings, movies, political performances, or art works? And finally, what are the normative dimensions of our research activity itself? Religion, media and normativity, thus the outcome of the conference, is a complex, multifaceted and highly relevant research that is worth investigating.

Finally, the concept of normativity was also the focus of another enterprise, that occupied many of our members during the last year: the book project *Religion in Representations of Europe. Shared and Contested Practices* which will be available soon. In several sections, the volume explores the role of religion in shaping the varied accounts of Europe, past and present, and through different media. Normativity in this work is linked to concepts of religion and space, involving both perspectives from the inside and the outside.

This report presents a variety of contributions to the general field of media and religion the members of the research group have made in 2022, covering subjects like visuality and film,

body and gender, music and space, politics and hermeneutical questions.

Hannah Giese and Verena Eberhardt

## PORTRAIT OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

The research group *Media and Religion* was founded in 2004 at the University of Zurich. Starting with the exploration of the interplay between image and text, the group has since then expanded its scope to include a broad range of media, from film, music, and clothing to children's media, ritual, and architecture. The common framework is approaching religion as a part of culture. The mediatisation of religion and related communication processes provide a theoretical basis for describing religion as a phenomenon and interpreting it in its specific cultural and historical contexts. Hermeneutical reflection on research methods, theories, and personal backgrounds is an integral part of the group's discussions.

The *Media and Religion* research group opens up a space for exchange and experimentation, collective thinking and research. In addition to regular meetings, both in person and online, the members work together in joint activities such as research projects, conferences, and publications.

The research group is international and interdisciplinary. It encompasses scholars in the study of religion, theology, ethnology, film studies, philosophy, linguistics, and art history. This interdisciplinary exchange is seen as a

fundamental basis for collective theory building and for the engagement with a wide range of topics and methods.

Collaboration with other researchers, such as those gathered in the [International Exchange of Media and Religion](#), as well as with other institutions, is a significant part of the group's activities. The group is committed to disseminating research results in various media.



## MEMBERS

**Dolores Zoé Bertschinger, MA**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Verena Marie Eberhardt, MA**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Dr. Natalie Fritz**, Catholic Media Center Zurich

**Hannah Griese, MA**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**PD Dr. Anna-Katharina Höpflinger**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Prof. Dr. Stefanie Knauss**, Villanova University

**PD Dr. Marie-Therese Mäder**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich/University of Macerata

**Jochen Mündlein, MA**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Prof. Dr. Daria Pezzoli-Olgati**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**Dr. Baldassare Scolari**, Bern University of Applied Sciences/University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons

**Dr. Franc Wagner**, Heidelberg

**Dr. Paola von Wyss-Giacosa**, University of Zurich

### WEBSITE

[www.media-religion.org](http://www.media-religion.org)

### JOURNAL FOR RELIGION, FILM AND MEDIA

[www.jrfm.eu](http://www.jrfm.eu)

### BOOK SERIES MEDIA AND RELIGION | MEDIEN UND RELIGION

Nomos Online

### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ON MEDIA AND RELIGION

[www.media-religion.net](http://www.media-religion.net)

# MEETINGS

31/03–01/04/2022

**University of Zurich**

Cultural Studies Meet Sociology of Religion I

Exchange with Prof. Dr. Carlo Nardella,  
Università degli Studi di Milano Statale,  
Department of Social and Political Sciences

09/06/2022

**Online meeting**

Cultural Studies Meet Sociology of Religion II

Follow-up discussion with Prof. Dr. Carlo Nardella

04/11/2022

**Online Meeting**

Religion, Media and Culture: Presentation of a new research project

# RESEARCH TOPICS

## Religion, Media and Normativity

Norms and values are central elements of religious traditions and worldviews. Alleged “secular” value systems, such as human rights discourses, are closely connected with religious traditions and discourses. Even today, religions contribute to legitimating – or contesting – values and norms. Norms and values undergo change, they arise, are negotiated, adapted and transformed. They are omnipresent in political debates, media representations and our everyday life. However, the broader concept of normativity plays only a marginal

role in the study of religion. Our group has been exploring the manifold dimensions of this concepts for a few years, focussing particularly on its relevance for the field of media and religion.

## Research Projects

Fritz, Natalie/Pezzoli-Olgiati, Daria Religion, Politics and Media in Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

Mäder, Marie-Therese, Promising Images of Love. The Mediatisation of Values and Norms in Religious and Secular Wedding Narratives.

## Journal Issue

Fritz, Natalie/Mäder, Marie-Therese/Scolari, Baldassare (eds.), The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Theoretical and Methodological Challenges in Media Ethics and Religion, Journal for Religion, Film, and Media 8/1 2022.

With contributions by Natalie Fritz, Stefanie Knauss, Marie Therese Mäder, and Baldassare Scolari.



Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé/Jacobs, Charlotte/Israel, Carlotta, Kritische Religionswissenschafts- und Theologie-Tage München II (KTM), online, 29.09.–01.10.2022.

Eberhardt, Verena Marie/Griese, Hannah/Pezzoli-Olgiati, Daria, Werte in Bewegung. Religion, Medien und Normativität, Carl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung München, 04.–06.10.2022.



## Science to Public

Eberhardt, Verena Marie, 20.01.2022, Von der Erkenntnis zur Weisheit. Wissensvermittlung in Sozialisierungsprozessen am Beispiel von religiöser Pluralität in Kindermedien, 49. Theologische Studienwoche „Kontakte“ 2022, Weisheit, Studienzentrum Josefstal, Schliersee.

Fritz, Natalie, 02.04.2022, War Adams erste Frau eine Vampirin?, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Fritz, Natalie, 08.10.2022, Wenn nur die „Gottesgärtner“ überleben – Margaret Atwoods MaddAddam-Trilogie, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

## Visual and Material Religion

A focused interest in visual media has characterised the research of our group from the very beginning. Images are considered as crucial sources for exploring and reconstructing religion in the past and present. Images are understood as a practice merging materiality and imagination; they open up a productive approach to religious communication and representation. Understanding the performance of images provides insight into a crucial aspect of transmission and diffusion processes of religion.

## Research Projects

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé: The Image as Religious Practice: Understanding the Transmission of Buddhism through

Tibetan Wall Paintings (project for a doctoral thesis).

Fritz, Natalie/Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola, Art and religion.

## Articles and Book Chapters

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, „Den stilten Gast geleiten wir zu Tal“. Der schwarze Umhang als maskuline Trauerbekundung im 18. und 19. Jh., in: Berlis, Angela/Frettlöh, Magdalene L./Noth, Isabelle/Schroer, Silvia (eds.), Die Geschlechter des Todes. Theologische Perspektiven auf Tod und Gender, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2022, 245–269.

Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola, *Une étrange idole: l'interprétation d'une marionnette javanaise et les débats sur l'idolâtrie à l'époque moderne*, in : Briegel, Françoise (ed.), *Actes du colloque «Matières à raisonner»*, Savoires 2022.

Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola, 'As Reflections in a Mirror'. Kircher's Pictorial Argument on Modern Paganism in the Light of Pignoria, in: Bickel, Suzanne/Paschoud, Adrien (eds.), *Le savoir égyptologique dans l'oeuvre de Kircher*, Revue de l'histoire des religions 239, 2/2022, 257–295.

## Conference Papers

Mäder, Marie-Therese, 18.05.2022, The Visuals of the Research "Promising Images of Love", Goldsmiths, University of London.

Mäder, Marie-Therese, 19.11.2022, Studying the Mediated Memories of Weddings, "Religion and Memory" Unit, Annual Meeting of the American

Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, 19.–22.11.2022.

Pezzoli-Olgiate, Daria, 08.04.2022, „Spiegel der Vernunft“. Schauen als religiöse Praxis, Praktiken und Semantiken der Aufmerksamkeit in der mittelalterlichen Literatur und Frömmigkeit, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, 07.–09.04.2022.

Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola, 01.–02.12.2022, Subject, Object, Emotionalising Staffage. The Visual Representation of Children in the Cérémonies et coutumes religieuses de tous les peuples du monde (Amsterdam, 1723–1737), Università degli Studi di Firenze, SAGAS, Seminar I colori dell'infanzia. Per una storia degli stereotipi visivi che alludano o parlino a bambini e bambini.

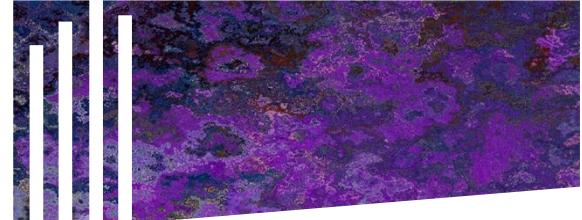
Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola, 27.01.2022, Asia illustrata. Die Religionen Asiens im Spiegel niederländischer Buchillustrationen der frühen Neuzeit, Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig.

Von Wyss-Giacosa, Paola/Isler, Andreas, 29.01.2022, Weite Welt in Winterthur. Herkunftsgeschichten ausgewählter indonesischer Gegenstände, Naturmuseum Winterthur.

## Science to Public

Fritz, Natalie, 09.07.2022, Familiäres jenseits fixer Rollen: Die Fotoausstellung "Wahlfamilie" in Winterthur, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Fritz, Natalie, 12.11.2022, Wenn Bilder lügen: Kleine Geschichte der Geisterfotografie, Katholisches Medienzentrum.



Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, Von Hallo-ween-Kürbissen und Sündenfall-Äpfeln, in: Zeitung der römisch-katholischen Pfarreien des Kantons Bern, 22/ 112, 3.

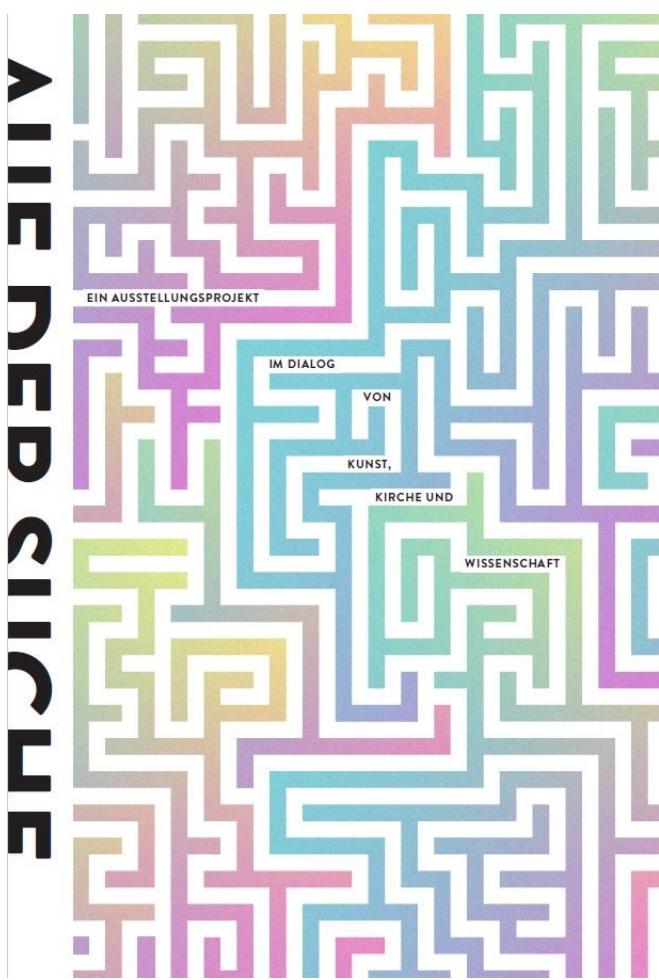
Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, Wenn der Schleppenteufel kichert – Gedanken zu Mode und Religion, in: Katholische Kirchgemeinde Arosa (ed.), Pfarrblatt, Mode, 02/2022, 9–10.

## Media

Fritz, Natalie: La famiglia sontga n'è nagut auter che ina famiglia da patch-work, Sendung zur Heiligen Familie in vita e creta von RTR (Radiotelevisione Svizra Rumantscha), 18.09.2022.

## Exhibitions

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, 12.05.–22.07.2022, Mitwirkung an der Ausstellung Auf der Suche... DG Kunstraum München



## Film and Audiovisual Media

Film and audiovisual media are core subject matters of the group. We have explored the significance of audio-visual media in a broad range of initiatives focusing, among others, on topics like migration or post-apocalypticism as well as on different genres and productions like series or short films. In 2022, group members have extensively worked on questions of media ethics. Through the combination of individual research projects and collaborative discussions of films, the research group has acquired extensive knowledge and a nuanced theoretical and methodological approach to audiovisual media.

## Research Projects

Mündlein, Jochen, Spaces of the Real. Science Fiction Films as a Place of Interpretation for Existential-Anthropological Questions of the Present (project for a doctoral thesis).

## Books

Fritz, Natalie/Mäder, Marie-Therese (eds.), Uncertain Destinies and Destinations. Audiovisual Perspectives on Migration and Religion, Marburg: Schüren 2022.

With contributions by Natalie Fritz, Marie-Therese Mäder, and Daria Pezzoli-Olgati.

# Uncertain Destinies and Destinations

Audiovisual Perspectives  
on Migration and Religion



## Journal Issue

Knauss, Stefanie/Mäder, Marie-Therese, Academic Teaching with Short Film in Religion and Ethics, Journal for Religion, Film, and Media 8/2 2022.

With contributions by Stefanie Knauss, Marie-Therese Mäder, and Daria Pezzoli-Olgati.

## Articles and Book Chapters

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, Religione, media e pandemia. Trasformazioni e continuità nei processi di mediatizzazione e diffusione della religione nella cultura, in: Nesti, Arnaldo/Anderle, Alessandro (eds.), *Narciso in frantumi. Effetti della pandemia sull'ordine del mondo*, San Giminiano: CISRECO Edizioni 2022, 85–94.

## Film Reviews

Fritz, Natalie, *Burning Days*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Captains of Zaatari*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Fedier*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Girl Gang*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Hit the Road*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *(Im)mortels*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Medusa*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Otar's Death*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Parallel Lives*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, *Utama*, Medientipp.

Fritz, Natalie, The Hill Where the Lionesses Roar, Medientipp.

## Conference Papers

Knauss, Stefanie/Mäder, Marie-Therese, 21.11.2022, Teaching Religion and Ethics with Short Films, "Teaching Religion" Unit, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, 19.–22.11.2022.

Mäder, Marie-Therese, 17.06.2022, Vom Ende zu einem Neuanfang. Semifiktionale Bildwelten in NOMADLAND, Jahrestagung der Forschungsgruppe Film und Theologie Abschied und Aufbrüche. Das Alter im Film, Katholische Akademie Schwerte, 15.–18.06.2022.

Mündlein, Jochen, 17.06.2022, „Wo nie ein Mensch zuvor gewesen ist“ Aufbruch und Abschied als religionswissenschaftliches Motiv im Science-Fiction-Film, Jahrestagung der Forschungsgruppe Film und Theologie Abschied und Aufbrüche. Das Alter im Film, Katholische Akademie Schwerte, 15.–18.06.2022.

Pezzoli-Olgiaiti, Daria, 07./11.06.2022, La Bibbia e il cinema, Fonti, storia e attualità della Bibbia dall'antichità al mondo contemporaneo. Bibbia e cultura, Associazione Biblica della Svizzera Italiana, online.

Scolari, Baldassare, 30.03.2022, Apokalypse im Film. Vortragsreihe zur Apokalyptik. Forum für Zeitfragen, Basel.

## Science to Public

Fritz, Natalie, 29.01.2022, Lacht die RTS-Serie „La vie de J.C.“ über oder mit Jesus?, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Fritz, Natalie, 05.04.2022, Filmgespräch mit Simon Peng-Keller, zur hybriden Vorabpremiere des Schweizer Dokumentarfilms (Im)mortels von Lila Ribi.

Mündlein, Jochen, 29.09.2022, Erlöser mit Smoking und Pistole – Religion und Ästhetik bei James Bond. Vortrag und Filmgespräch an der Münchner Volkshochschule in der Reihe „Kopfkino – filmische Reflexionen zwischen Theologie, Philosophie und Religionswissenschaft“, München.

Pezzoli-Olgiaiti, Daria, 26.09.2022, Jesus, der Filmstar. Oder: wie sich Film- und Religionsgeschichte gegenseitig bedingen, Studentag Interfilm Schweiz, Kulturzentrum Helferei Zürich.

## Film Jury

Pezzoli-Olgiaiti, Daria, Member of the Interfilm Jury at Mostra Cinematografica, Biennale di Venezia.

## Religion and Music

A hymn in a church service or a heavy metal performance, the latest music video on YouTube or a classical concert – religion is present in various ways and takes on multiple roles in relation to music. This omnipresent and multi-dimensional medium combines text and sound and is related to performances, dance, clothing, body and perception. Religious symbols and narratives can be included in the lyrics, in the performances and music videos or on the clothes worn by fans and musicians. Furthermore, religion can play a role in the institutional organisation of

music events or the personal experiences of performers and listeners. From the perspective the study of religion, approaching music performances as ritual practices – and thus to also focus on spatial, material or emotional dimensions – can open up new insights.

## Research Projects

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina/Heesch, Florian, Metal Studies. The Loudest Handbook.

## Conference Papers

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, 07.09.2022, "Do They Really Mean It?". Five Functions of the Reception of Religious Symbols in Black Metal, International Conference Metal and Religion, Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia, 07.–08.09.2022.

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, 24.02.2022, "Collect the Blood of Kingu". Mesopotamian Myths in Metal, International Conference Heavy Metal and Global Premodernity, Brandeis University, Waltham MA (USA), Department of Classical Studies, 24.–26.02.2022, online.

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, 22.09.2022, Ritual. Zur Performanz von Religion, Tagung Religion und Musik. (Sakrale) Musik in den monotheistischen Religionen. Studentage an der Universität und an der Hochschule Luzern Musik, 22.–25.09.2022.

Wagner, Franc, 23.09.2022, Wort und Ton im Spannungsfeld der Religionen. Tagung Religion und Musik. (Sakrale) Musik in den monotheistischen

Religionen. Studentage an der Universität und an der Hochschule Luzern Musik, 22.–25.09.2022.

## Science to Public

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, 04.03.2022, Interview über Religion und Heavy Metal, geführt von Silas Q. Bitterli und Samuel Hug, Heavy Mental, Metalchurch, Kirche Niederbipp.

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, Würde der Teufel Metal hören?, in: Zeitung der römisch-katholischen Pfarreien des Kantons Bern, 22/112 2022, 2.

## Body and Gender

The entanglement of religion, body and gender has been profound throughout history and is still a recurring and fundamental topic today. On the one hand, the body plays a central role in religious practice. On the other, bodily perception, imagination and materiality are closely intertwined and moulded also by religious worldviews and practices. Religious representations of the body influence our imaginations and (self-)perceptions. The media play an important part in the shaping of conceptions of bodies and genders. The question of gender is today discussed in an interdisciplinary setting and yet further research is needed in many areas. Contributing to the investigation of the role of religion in forming gender conceptions is a major emphasis in the research group's work.

## Articles and Book Chapters

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé, Das radikale feministische Imaginäre als Erinnerungspolitik. Ein Spaziergang über den Highgate Cemetery in London, in: Widerspruch. Beiträge zu sozialistischer Politik 79 2022, 21–29.

Ferrari Schiefer, Valeria/Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, Feministische Theologie im Tessin. Ein fragmentarische und biografische Spurensuche, in: Strahm, Doris/Strahm, Silvia (eds.), „Mächtig stolz!“ 40 Jahre Feministische Theologie und Frauen-Kirche in der Schweiz, Zürich: eFeF Verlag 2022, 235–238.

Knauss, Stefanie, Making Bodies and Worlds. Religious Affects in 120 BPM, Body and Religion 5/2 2022, 222–243.

Mäder, Marie-Therese: „Ich wollte Schwestern, nicht nur einen Mann“. Zum Verhältnis von Gender und Religion in Reality Shows, in: Schwaderer, Isabella/Waldner, Katharina (eds.), Religion und Gender. Konzepte – Erfahrungen – Medien, Münster: transcript Verlag 2022, 77–112.

## Conference Papers

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé, 08.07.2022, Obstacles and Opportunities for Female Painters in Traditional Tibetan Art, Panel “Professional Women and Women’s Professions in Tibetan Societies”, 16. Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS), Karls Universität Prag, 03.–09.07.2022.

Knauss, Stefanie, 21.07.2022, Images of Pain, Images of Hope: African Cinema as Narrative Theologies of Gender and Sexuality, II Pan-African Congress on

Theology Society and Pastoral Life, Pan-African Catholic Theology and Pastoral Network, Nairobi, Kenya, 19.–22.07.2022.



## Science to Public

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé, „Die Prioritäten waren relativ klar: Frauen und Frieden“. Zu Marga Bührigs friedopolitischem Engagement, in: feinschwarz.ch, 26.04.2022.

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé, 01.12.2022, Feministisch, religiös – und mächtig stolz! Moderation Buchvernissage und Diskussion mit Doris Strahm, Brigit Keller und Esther Gisler Fischer, bücherraum f, Zürich Oerlikon.

Fritz, Natalie, 02.07.2022, Mein Leib fühlt deinen Schmerz: Der Körper im Christentum, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina, 13.02.2022, „Warum sind Religionen sexfeindlich?“ Oder: Religion und Sex. Eine unheilige Allianz?, Unfrisiert Festival, Kleintheater Luzern.

## Media

Mäder, Marie-Therese, 07.11.2022, Sternstunde Religion „Streitfrage Gender und Religion“, Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen.

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, 14.01.2022, Geschlechterungleichheit durch Religion? – über Gender in der Religionswissenschaft, Neutron, Neues aus der Wissenschaft, ein Podcast von M94.5, Media-school Bayern.

## Religion and Space

Space is an existential dimension of human life: life takes place! Religion as a cultural phenomenon is closely intertwined with places and imaginative spaces; religious symbols and practices shape their spatial surroundings and in turn are affected by them – one may think of a service in an imposing cathedral or a funeral in a cemetery with all its rules and regulations. In plural societies, the matter of space and place proves to be especially relevant, since different religious traditions and worldviews aim to occupy shared spaces. Thus, the study of space can shed light on negotiation processes between traditions. Furthermore, particular spatial constellations can be linked to religious and transcendent dimensions. In a new project at the boundary of science and art, members of the research group investigate the connections of religion and mountainside, focusing on concrete places in the Alps.

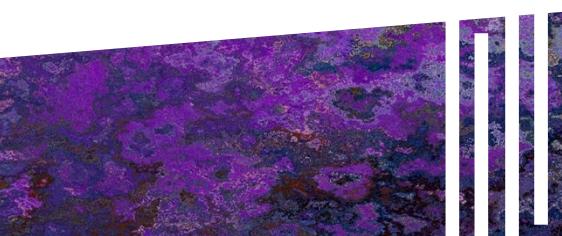
## Research Projects

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina/Olgati/Pezzoli-Previšić, Boris, Grenzgebiete. Alpen und Religion.

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, Shared Places. Introduction to Religion and Space.

## Science to Public

Eberhardt, Verena Marie, 11.07.2022, Dem Himmel ganz nah. Der Berg als Gegenwelt in religiösen Weltbildern, Theologisches Studienseminar der VELKD, Hoch und heilig. Mit





## Religious Representations in a Diverse Society

With a focus on representations of religion in a diverse society, in recent years the research group has intensified the exploration of concepts of religion and reflected on the relationship between emic, medial, and academic approaches: What concepts of religion help us to understand religion as a multi-layered, diverse phenomenon? How can diversity, plurality and pluralism be conceptualised theoretically? How can we study the diversity of religion in history and the present? With projects and publications, such as on religious diversity in children's media, religions and death, or religious diversity in Brazil, we have approached religious pluralism in its diverse historical and contemporary manifestations.

## Research Projects

Eberhardt, Verena Marie: Religious Diversity in Children's Media. Representations of a plural society (project for a doctoral thesis).

## Books

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina/Müller, Yves, Religionen und Tod. Studienbuch, Baden-Baden: Nomos: 2022.



Eberhardt, Verena Marie, 21.11.2022, Children as Bearers of Hope for a Future Society. Religious Diversity in Media for Children, "Childhood Studies and Religion" Unit, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, 19.–22.11.2022.

Eberhardt, Verena Marie, 23.08.2022, Knowledge, Self-concepts, and Interpersonal Perceptions. Studying Religious Diversity in Media for Children, LERU Theology and Religious Studies Thematic group, Lund University, Lund, 21.–24.08.2022.

## Science to Public

Fritz, Natalie, 10.09.2022, Wie lange will Gott noch Brasilianer sein? Religiöse Vielfalt und Intoleranz in Brasilien, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Fritz, Natalie, 10.12.2022, Global Mary bitt' für uns, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Fritz, Natalie, 15.01.2022, „Und sie dreht sich doch!“ – Kirche und Wissenschaft können nicht ohneeinander, Katholisches Medienzentrum.

Höpflinger, Anna-Katharina/Scheuermann Rolf, 13.09.2022, „Von Jenseitshoffnungen und reinen Ländern. Tod und Gedenken in Religionen“, Workshop Erinnern und Gedenken nach einem terroristischen oder extremistischen Anschlag, organisiert vom Bundesministerium für Justiz, Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für die Anliegen von Betroffenen von terroristischen und extremistischen Anschlägen im Inland, Bundesakademie für

Bevölkerungsschutz und Zivile Verteidigung, Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler.

Pezzoli-Olgati, Daria, 16.06.2022, Engelfiguren, Superwomen und ganz viele Herzen. Die Bedeutung religiöser Symbole in der heutigen Kultur, Museum Fram, Einsiedeln.

## Politics of Display and Gaze

Politics and religion are intertwined in a variety of ways. Politics are concerned with visibility, representation and the staging of events and messages on the one hand, but also always need and invite the gaze of an audience on the other hand. Therefore, analysing media and their role in transmitting and shaping political content is an important part of the group's research; our projects focus, for example, on the employment of religious rhetoric in narratives of the apocalypse or the ritual performance of national identities. In these cases, religion is especially linked to power and processes of legitimization, as it causes emotions and provides meaning and credibility.

## Research Projects

Griese, Hannah, National Identity as Media Ritual. An Analysis of the "Torch Lighting Ceremony" for Israel's 70th Independence Day (project for a doctoral thesis).

Scolari, Baldassare, Apocalyptic and Utopian Narratives of the Climate Crisis.

## Articles and Book Chapters

Scolari, Baldassare, Ökoapokalyptik. Kritische Bemerkungen zu einem rhetorischen Kampfbegriff, Widerspruch 78 2022, 53–62.

## Conference Papers

Griese, Hannah, 12.05.2022, Performing National Emotion. Aesthetic Dimensions of the "Torch Lighting Ceremony" for Israel's 70th Independence Day. Workshop "Aesthetics and Affects of Power in the Context of Religion", Universität Erfurt, 11.–13.05.2022.

Griese, Hannah, 23.08.2022, National Identity as Media Ritual. An Analysis of the "Torch Lighting Ceremony" Israel's 70th Independence Day, LERU Theology and Religious Studies Thematic group, Lund University, Lund, 21.–24.08.2022.

## Science to Public

Mündlein, Jochen, Kinderaugen – Betroffenheit im Angesicht des absoluten Schreckens. Focus online 06.05.2022.

## Hermeneutical Dimensions of Researching Media and Religion

The diverse topics, research questions, cultural and historical contexts in the research group's work lead to an ongoing reflection on theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of religion in culture. The continued reconsideration of our approaches, assumptions, interpretations, and

representations of results is a central component of our perspective on religious studies.



## Workshops

Eberhardt, Verena Marie/Griese, Hannah/Merkert, Luise, SoSe 2022, The Author's Voice. Positionierungen in wissenschaftlichen Texten, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

Pezzoli-Olgiaiti, Daria, SoSe 2022, Forschungsseminar Medien und Religion, Religion als wissenschaftliches Konzept, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

## Articles and Book Chapters

Bertschinger, Dolores Zoé, Die Gramsci-Hall-Linie. Beitrag zu einem geschichtsmaterialistischen Praxisbegriff für die Cultural Studies, in: Hawel, Marcus (ed.): Work in Progress. Work on Progress. Doktorand\_innen-

Jahrbuch 2022 der Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, 73–88.

## Conference Papers

Pezzoli-Olgiati, Daria, 18.10.2022,  
What's Religion? How to Approach a  
Controversial Concept in Researching  
(Digital) Media, Conference Dynamics  
and Impacts of Digitality in Religious  
Communication and Interaction Prac-  
tice, University of Zurich, Monte Verità,  
Ascona, 16.–21.10.2022.

