Commitment

US – 2020 Implicit Religion Conference
Chicago, Illinois, 2-4 June 2020
Deadline: 31 March 2020

Implicit Religion is a set of analytical tools or axioms in relation to the study of religion, the definitions of concepts around religion, and its supposed corollary the secular. The first of these axioms is commitment, which we take as our theme for this year's conference. We understand Commitment(s) to be that to which the person, group or community is committed (passionate about) to the level of being willing to make sacrifices in some regards for it. Dr Kayla Wheeler will deliver the keynote. Dr. Kelly J. Baker and Dr. David Dault will conduct the conference workshop focused on the public communication of ideas and research.

Call for Papers

Implicit Religion does not attempt to assert that something is 'merely appearing' to be religious but was really 'secular', nor does it insist that something could be termed 'religious' by scholars regardless of what the participants thought. Instead it takes a particular interest in the ways in which people were expressing markers of faith, of belief, of ritual either towards or within parts of their everyday lives. What can we learn about categories of religion, the analytical study of religion or problems within the field of religious studies by focusing on commitment?

Commitment in regards to religious belief is assumed to be well known and understood, but actually what data are we gathering and what are we missing or disregarding when we focus on religious commitment? How could we better analyse and understand religion if we took seriously the level and types of commitment that manifest around categories such as race, gender, immigration, xenophobia, and climate change? What would we learn about the nature and praxis of commitment by focusing on how it interacts with and is influenced by popular culture, social media, economics, policy making, politics and nationalism.

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We are asking for papers that engage with commitment. These might include but are not limited to:

- How does a commitment to categories function as an artefact of power and social designation?
- The sustainability of categories within the study of religion
- Holistic approaches to the study of religion through a focus on commitment in praxis
- Commitment and and the non-Western perspective/canon
- Implicit and explicit acts of exogenous and endogenous appropriation, and the commitment that underpins them
- The role or appearance of commitment in relation to race / gender / immigration or climate change
- The (mis)use of religious practices, myths, and rituals in relation to gender and non-gender, race, class, disability etc.
- 'Religious' meaning in 'non-religious' action

This conference is open to all, but preference for presentation spaces will be given to students (undergraduate and postgraduate), early career academics, under-employed / precariously employed academics, independent scholars and scholars from under-represented groups within academia. It is not anticipated that these will be final papers, rather the purpose of the conference is to provide you with a secure and safe space to explore your ideas, gain guidance, suggestions and scaffolding to continue working on your paper from experienced Implicit Religion scholars.

Proposal Submission Instructions

The submission form is now available. You will be asked to indicate if you are submitting a paper or scratch session, and to provide an abstract as specified below, and what we need to know in order to accommodate your participation if your proposal is accepted.

Please note while you can edit and format your entries before you select the submit button, the form does not allow the submission to be saved and edited later. We suggest looking at the form for context and then composing the abstract and the notes regarding accommodating your participation in a word processing document and then cutting and pasting these elements of the proposal into the form.

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PAPERS

Please select the option "Paper" on the form. Those submitting papers are asked to submit an abstract of no more than 350 words.

SCRATCH SESSIONS

There will be a dedicated panel for undergraduates, MA and early stage PhD students to present at – called a scratch session. These will be shorter papers and rather than the usual practise of asking questions of the presenters, the audience will make suggestions for further reading, pathways for improvement, scholars to explore etc. If you wish to apply for the scratch session, please select that option on the submission form and submit an abstract of no more than 350 words.

WITH REGARD TO VISAS AND FUNDING

If you are impacted by the travel ban to the USA, or if you wish to avoid traveling to the US as a means of protesting it, we understand that attending an academic conference is not worth the risks of being denied entry or return, being detained or deported, or losing immigration status. We respect stances of conscience. You are valued, wanted, and welcome and so we will work with you to ensure you can present via digital means.

Please note that we are a small organisation and as such are unable to provide bursaries, travel grants or funds for visa applications. We can provide you with an official letter of invite and a subsequent letter of participation if your university or funding body requires it or if it is necessary for travel or visa requirements.

More Information

2020 U.S. Conference CFP

U.S Conferences

About Implicit Religion

Queries?

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