

# Commitment

US – 2021 Implicit Religion Conference

2-4 June 2021

Call for Papers Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

## Call for Papers

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 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 to the level of being willing to make sacrifices in some regards for it.

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 related religious belief is assumed to be well known and understood, but what data are we actually 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, homophobia, ableism 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?

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?
- Holistic approaches to the study of religion through a focus on commitment in praxis
- 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
- Commitment and embodiment/embodied commitment
- 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 online 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 your work.

The long term purpose of this conference approach is that some of the presenters will then travel to the UK (when health measures permit) to present at the annual international conference the following year and some will submit for peer review in the annual Implicit Religion special edition. Support can also be provided for individuals who wish to work their presentation up into an article ready for peer review in a different journal.

Please submit your abstract by the 31 March 2021, [via this form](#). You can submit the abstract in any style you want, up to 300 words or its equivalent, but please indicate if you are an undergraduate student as there is a dedicated panel for you. If you are an under-



graduate who wants to participate but is not ready to present a paper, then in the comments box let us know and we will support you to chair panels and discussion.

## Keynote

The keynote will be delivered by [Dr Hadiza Abdulrahman](#).

## Proposal Submission

We invite submissions for proposals for either a paper or a scratch session on these themes, elaborated above, by the 31st March 2021 for the online Implicit Religion US, 2nd-4th June.

**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.

### PAPERS

Please select the option “Paper” on the form. Those submitting papers are asked to submit an abstract of no more than 300 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 250 words.

*Please note we are a small organisation and as such are not in a position to provide bursaries for participation. We can provide you with an official letter of invite and a subsequent letter of participation if your university or funding body requires it.*

## **MORE INFORMATION**

[2021 US Implicit Religion Call for Papers](#)

[US Implicit Religion Conference](#)

[About Implicit Religion](#)

## **QUERIES?**

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