

CfP: Religious Theories of Religion

Theories of religion are conceptual and metaphorical narratives that seek to account for or/and explain religion. In particular, theories of religion account for the specificity, origin, function, and structure of “religion” (what it is, how it comes about, what it does, and how it works). Academic theories of religion need to satisfy the criteria accepted by the respective scholarly community; different disciplines may vary in their criteria. In addition, theories of religion can emerge in other discursive contexts. In this panel, we wish to explore the formation of theories of religion that may have emerged within different religious traditions, even though they obviously will not have used our term ‘religion’ (or an apparent cognate term that might address problems which are only part of or more embracing than the range of cultural practices defined as coherent by the term “religion”). Are there such theories? How are they structured? How do they argue? When have they emerged and how have they changed?

Please send an abstract of 150-200 words (deadline September 9, 2014) to
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