

AAG 2016

Session:

****Creative Approaches to Researching Religion in the City****

Session Organisers: Laura Cuch, University College London, Natalie Hyacinth, Royal Holloway University of London, Justin K.H. Tse, University of Washington

The concept of religion is a complex term inextricably tied to similarly complex notions of identity, nationality and migration. Recent research has sought a deeper understanding of those urban settings where different faith and migrant communities cohabit. Thus, the study of religion in the city requires an open, creative and participatory approach in order to gain a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of faith in urban space.

In recent years, the social sciences have adopted new creative approaches to researching religion in the city. This includes socially engaged arts practices using a range of disciplines such as drawing, photography, film-making, music, performance, installation, etc.

This panel, therefore, seeks to address creative methodological approaches to researching religion in the modern, trans migratory, interfaith city.

Contributions are welcome (but not limited to) any of the following themes:

- Creative approaches to the study of religion
- Religion and ethnography in the city
- Innovative research methods and practices for inter faith research projects
- Photography and the study of religion
- Music and the study of religion
- New media and the study of religion
- Other arts, community based practices and the study of religion

We would also like to invite speakers to consider the following questions;

- What are effective approaches to creatively researching religion?
- How can creative approaches to researching religion help us better understand the multi faith city?
- In which ways can religion and creative practice be merged in order to form a better understanding of both?
- What are some of the ethical issues involved in the use of a creative approach?

We invite papers that are inspired by the above, or related topics broadly concerning religion in the city. We would also particularly like to open the call to artists and activists alike that have used creative, arts based practices to explore the dynamics of faith in urban space.

Submission process:

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words by Friday 6th November to both Natalie Hyacinth (Natalie.Hyacinth.2015@live.rhul.ac.uk) and Laura Cuch (laura.cuch.14@ucl.ac.uk).

We will confirm participation by November 11th, in time for the new AAG registration deadline of November 18th.

Registration details for the AAG can be found at:
<http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>

This panel session is sponsored by GORABS:
"Geography of Religions and Belief Systems"
Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers
<http://www.gorabs.org>

Further information about the associated "Making Suburban Faith" AHRC research project can be found at: <http://www.makingsuburbanfaith.org>