

The *Centre for Research in Communication and Culture, Loughborough University*, is organising a symposium: **Religion as Political Communication**, on 7th June 2018. The event is free of charge, but please book your place in advance (via the link below) for catering purpose: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/crcc/events/eventlist/religion-as-political-communication.html>

Religion as Political Communication: A Symposium

10:00 - 16:00, 7th June 2018

Religion is communicated politically in multiple ways: by religious institutions and individuals, by governments with different approaches to religion, via various artistic and cultural expressions, by secular news media, and via digital platforms and communities (Lundby 2017). The types and contents of politically communicated religion are diverse and complex, ranging from the Church of England's conservative stance on marriage as reserved for heterosexual couples, French lawmakers interpreting religious symbols such as the veil as 'too political', the West-End musical success 'The Book of Mormon', terrorist acts of violence committed in the name of religion, to representations of 'Muslims' as a non-diversified group. Religion can communicate political stances in both direct and indirect ways, such as when drawings of the Prophet Mohammad are considered as unacceptably irreverent expressions of free speech, or when specific positions on abortion, creationism, stem-cell research and euthanasia are inferred when someone declares their stance as 'religious'. In this symposium, internationally leading scholars on religion and politics are invited to address and debate religion as political communication.

Programme

10:00 Welcome and introductions

10:15 **Dr Elizabeth Poole** (Keele University): **Contesting #stopislam: Political frictions and appropriation in online spaces**

10:45 **Professor Jolyon Mitchell** (University of Edinburgh): **The Ambivalent Role of Religion and the Media Arts as Political Communication in Israel /Palestine**

11:15 Q & A session

11:45 Lunch and networking

13:00 **Dr Jasjit Singh** (University of Leeds): **The construction of 'Sikh radicalisation' in Britain**

13:30 **Professor Mia Løvheim** (Uppsala University, Sweden): **Religion, mediatization and a changing political landscape**

14:00 Q & A

14:30 Coffee break and networking

15:00 Roundtable discussion

15:45 End of programme

Symposium organisers: Dr Line Nyhagen (Social Sciences), Dr Alexandre Christoyannopoulos (Politics, History and International Relations), PhD student Xinan Li (Social Sciences), Loughborough University.

For speakers' abstracts, please see:

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/crcr/events/eventslist/religion-as-political-communication.html>