



Home

Accepted Proposals

TECHNOLOGIES OF THE SACRED: INEQUALITIES, INNOVATIONS, AND INTERRELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES

Robinson M.R. (Contact) ^[1], Grung A.H. (Chair) ^[2]

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg ~ Lüneburg ~ Germany ^[1],
University of Oslo ~ Oslo ~ Norway ^[2]

Subject Area: Religious Studies, Theology, Cultural Studies

Number of Accepted papers: 8

Hours: 2

Panel description: The European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (ESITIS) invites paper proposals (15-20 min presentations) exploring "technologies of the sacred" in past, present, and future contexts. We are interested in questions concerning the ways technology and the social produce one another as well as contributions that examine how technologies are used and challenged in various religious traditions and contexts in the mediation of tradition, meaning, practice, and authority. Committed Papers: + "I am A and I": AI-induced mutations in religion and religion-induced perceptions of the future of technology" (Anne Kull; University of Tartu) + "Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on the Transformation of Teaching and Research in Theology and Religion" (Berg Traboulsi; Haigazian University) Proposals are invited on topics such as (among others): + Historical case studies, e.g., related to pedagogy and devotional practice + Ritual, spirituality and technologies + Digital innovation and the evolution of religious belief and practice + The implications of empirical and natural-scientific turns in the study of religions for the religious self-understandings of religious persons and communities + Spiritual practices



Home

Accepted Proposals

the presence and participation of religious communities in society, and in what ways might they exacerbate exclusion? This open panel aims to foster a rich interdisciplinary conversation about the evolving interplay between sacred traditions and technological innovation.

Papers:

"I AM A AND I": AI-INDUCED MUTATIONS IN RELIGION AND RELIGION-INDUCED PERCEPTIONS OF THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

Kull A. (Speaker)

University of Tartu ~ Tartu ~ Estonia

This paper will examine the reciprocal relationship between artificial intelligence and religious imagination, asking: How does AI reshape religious self-understanding, and how do religious traditions, in turn, shape moral and symbolic expectations of technological futures? Drawing on perspectives such as theological anthropology, philosophy of technology, and comparative religious perspectives, the paper will explore how AI challenges classical notions of agency, creativity, and relationality often grounded in religious thought. At the same time, religious narratives—creation, incarnation, wisdom, and eschatology—continue to inform public hopes and anxieties about AI, frequently framing it as either salvific or catastrophic. Situating these dynamics within broader debates on inequality and power, the paper aims to contribute to interreligious and intercultural discussions on responsibility, human dignity, and the future of the sacred in technologically mediated worlds.

IMPACTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



Home

Accepted Proposals

reflect on how artificial intelligence is reshaping teaching, learning, and research practices in theology and religious studies, with particular attention to pedagogy, epistemic authority, and ethical responsibility. How can AI be integrated into theological education in ways that enhance learning, equity, and scholarly rigor without undermining academic integrity, human agency, and interpretive responsibility? Drawing on emerging practices such as advanced prompting, content repurposing, multimodal learning, and AI-supported research workflows, the talk will analyze AI as a formative "technology of the sacred" that mediates knowledge, interpretation, and tradition. It explores concrete roles of AI in curriculum design, student support, critical reflection, creative exploration, and scholarly research, while critically addressing risks related to bias, over-reliance, data ethics, and inequality of access. It will be argued that responsible AI use in theology requires explicit pedagogical frameworks, ethical guidelines, and reflective AI literacy that foreground transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. By situating AI within the broader moral and spiritual aims of theological education, the paper contributes to interreligious and intercultural discussions on how digital innovation can serve human flourishing rather than merely technological efficiency.

