Online meet-up Mittelbau SGR-SSSR
How to Theorize:
Moving from your research towards "theory"
26 May 2021, 17:00 – 19:00 CET on Zoom. NB: Change in time!

The second online *Mittelbau* meet-up provides an opportunity to meet colleagues from other universities and think about an essential step in your career: tying your individual research interests and findings to theories on a higher level of abstraction, opening up doors to new projects and international cooperation beyond your specific topic. Specifically, we have invited Ivan Strenski to discuss with us questions regarding the disciplinary nature of the study of religion: *What keeps us together? Do we have a research program, sharing general research questions?* Please note that there are two recommended readings for the presentation, which have been attached to the e-mail.

Apart from this lecture and a plenary discussion, we will have ample time for more informal conversation and exchange about the PhD/Postdoc life during a pandemic.

Ivan Strenski is Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, after having worked at Birmingham, Yale, and various North American universities. He is the author of 15 books, most notably *Understanding Theories of Religion: An Introduction.* Much of his work can be found online. He has also invited anyone who wants to, to already get in contact with him on the topic through his e-mail address: Strenski@ucr.edu.

Program

17:00 – 17:10	Welcome and introductions	Mattias Brand, Bas van Rijn
17:10 – 17:40	Presentation on theorizing	Ivan Strenski
17:40 – 18:00	Discussion in plenum	Moderator: Bas
18:00 – 18:20	Panel 1 – 4; Online coffee break with networking and informal discussion	In groups of 3-5 individuals, depending on number of participants.
18:20 – 19:00	Exchange of experiences	Moderators: Mattias and Bas

The conference will be held in English. Some of the panels can be organized in linguistic units (de, fr) if necessary.

Registration
Via e-mail: bastiaan.vanrijn@relwi.unibe.ch

After registration, you will receive a link to the Zoom meeting (with password). It may be necessary to install the program if you are working with Linux. Please use your full name and university affiliation in your Zoom name.