



SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
RELIGIONSWISSENSCHAFT
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE SCIENCES DES
RELIGIONS

Online meet-up Mittelbau SGR-SSSR
Postmodernism & Perspectives on academic career pathways
April 8th, 10:00 – 12.00 CET on ZOOM

This bi-annual initiative is organized to facilitate national networking and collaboration between the early career scholars of the study of religion. The aim of this years' first online meeting is twofold: first, we engage in a critical discussion about an epistemological question that we all have encountered: the postmodern critique of the concept 'religion'. Second, we would like to reflect on academic career paths and spend some time getting to know each other.

Does "religion" exist outside our discourse on it, anyways? Can we export Eurocentristic concept(s) to other contexts and periods, and if not – how could we talk about the phenomena we regard as "religion"? Dr. Isabel Laack will share some of her insights and reflect on her award-winning *Aztec Religion and Art of Writing: Investigating Embodied Meaning, Indigenous Semiotics, and the Nahuatl Sense of Reality* (Brill, 2019) and talk with us about steps in her career. In this first timeslot we also discuss the formal setting of the study of religion in the academic ecosystem. What would the ideal department look like? What are common practical problems and possible solutions (e.g. how to stay engaged with other departments while also keep our discipline's identity)? How can we target job opportunities and prepare a solid career pathway?

After a short break, we enjoy some informal exchange about our projects or discuss more deeply the institutionalized problems of our working conditions (see link down below).

Program:

10.00 – 10.10	Welcome and introduction	Mattias Brand, Andrea Suter
10.10 – 11.00	Conversation with Prof. Dr. Isabel Laack <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ creating an institute, defining the study of religion▪ opportunities and career trajectories▪ Postmodern approaches	Prof. Dr. Isabel Laack
11.00 – 11.05	break	
11.05 – 11.55	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Networking / informal discussions• thoughts on academic employment practice and searching for alternatives	In groups of 3-5 individuals or in plenum, depending on number of participants.
12.00	Conclusion and end	Mattias Brand, Andrea Suter

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: andrea.suter@rws.uzh.ch

Preparation:

In order to have a fruitful discussion, it would be necessary to read the paper from our German colleagues "Beschäftigungssituation", accessible at: <https://pad.gwdg.de/U33kCPE-SimBJeJuvjSEjw?>