



WORKSHOP

'Committed to Religion's Other: The Anthropology of the Secular'

Date: 14–15 December 2020

Place: The workshop will be conducted on Zoom

This workshop brings together an international group of junior and senior scholars engaged in anthropological research on secularism and nonreligion. By focusing in particular on forms of “lived” nonreligion, the contributions shed light on a domain of socio-cultural and political life that has been neglected in anthropological theory; they also explore the unique and novel perspectives that ethnographic approaches contribute to a field that has been dominated by Eurocentric categories and the disciplinary frameworks of sociology, history, political science, and philosophy.

The workshop is based on the discussion of pre-circulated papers to be published subsequently as a special issue. All interested colleagues are cordially invited to participate. If you would like to join, **please register by Thursday, December 10** with the organisers for access to the circulated papers and a link to the Zoom meeting.

Organisers:

Stefan Binder (University of Zurich), stefan.binder@isek.uzh.ch

Mascha Schulz (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (Saale), mascha.schulz@uzh.ch)

Programme*:

Monday, 14 December

- 10.00 – 10.15: Digital Check-in
- 10.15 – 10.30: Welcome from the Department and the Organisers
- 10.30 – 11.30: Introduction to the Workshop and Special Issue
- 11.30 – 11.45: Coffee Break
- 11.45 – 13.00: **Pierre Hecker** (Philipps-Universität Marburg):
“Visibility and Resistance Through Non-performance: Lived Atheism in Turkey”
Discussants: Johannes Quack and Mascha Schulz
- 13.00 – 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.15: **Stefan Binder** (University of Zurich):
“The ‘Ideal’ Atheist: Moral Exemplarism and Lived Secularity”
Discussants: Pierre Hecker and Jennifer Cash
- 15.15 – 15.45: Coffee Break
- 15.45 – 17.00: **Laurel Zwissler** (Central Michigan University):
“Non-Theistic, but Religious: The Secular Activism of The Satanic Temple”
Discussants: John Hagström and Stefan Binder

Tuesday, 15 December

- 09.00 – 09.15: Digital Check-in
- 09.15 – 10.30: **Jennifer Cash** (Nanyang Technological University):
“Living Secularism in the Midst of the post-Socialist Orthodox Revival”
Discussants: Johannes Quack and Mascha Schulz
- 10.30 – 11.00: Coffee Break
- 11.00 – 12.15: **Johannes Quack** (University of Zurich) & **Mascha Schulz** (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology):
“What counts as a ‘Non’? Non-Believing, Non-Practising, and Non-Identifying Hindus, Muslims, and Atheists in Contemporary South Asia”
Discussants: Lena Richter and Amélie Blom
- 12.15 – 13.15: Lunch
- 13.15 – 14.30: **Lena Richter** (Radboud University Nijmegen):
“What you wear, what you eat, and who you love—An Argument for Lived Nonreligion”
Discussants: Jacob Copeman and Mascha Schulz
- 14.30 – 15.00: Coffee Break
- 14.45 – 16.00: **Jacob Copeman** (University of Edinburgh) & **John Hagström** (University of Edinburgh):
“Keeping-while-Disposing: Clarification and the Anthropology of Nonreligion”
Discussants: Laurel Zwissler and Stefan Binder
- 16.00 – 17.30: Wrap-Up: Plenary Discussion and Publication Plans

* There will be no paper presentation. Instead, we will kickstart the debate with two comments by discussants of max. 10 min. each and a short reply by the author of the paper before opening a general discussion among all workshop participants.