DESIREAND **INTIMACY IN THE** STUDY OF RELIGION

a graduate student conference presented by Northwestern University's Department of Religious Studies



11.03.2015

uncovering all of me.

0 C T O B E R 2 5 - 2 7 , 2 0 2 4 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Deadline for Submissions: May 1, 2024

CALLFOR PAPERS desire & intimacy

This conference is oriented around a set of questions:



How do **touch, glances, and words** create intimacies and desires between religious subjects? How do **religious institutions, texts, and families** foreclose certain forms of desire, especially that of marginalized people? And how do intimacy and desire exist as **sites of possibility and violence** in the study of religion?



How do religious subjects **navigate and fight** for their political desires? How are politico-religious desires forged within such locations as **poetry**, **literature**, **law**, **activism**, and **art**?

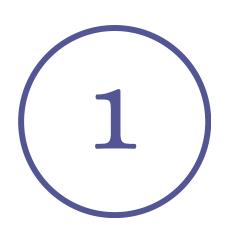


How do desire and intimacy shape **our own experiences as scholars**? What happens when **scholarly desire** comes up against realities of fieldwork or the archive? What happens when we feel we have become **too close** to a text or group of people?

Seeking Interdisciplinary Submissions

Religious Studies · Anthropology · Cultural Studies · Gender | Women's | Sexuality Studies · Asian Languages and Cultures · Film Studies · Black Studies · Art History · Philosophy · Film Studies Indigenous Studies · Latinx Studies · Media Studies · Performance Studies · Comparative Literature · History · Sociology · & more...

SUBNISSIONS due may 1, 2024



Presentations should not exceed **fifteen minutes** in length and may approach the topic from **any discipline or methodology**.

Presentations in **non-traditional formats are welcome**, including but not limited to: documentaries, performances, poetry readings with commentary, and other creative forms.





Send a **300-word abstract**, along with your name, institution, and year of study to **nugradstudentconference@gmail.com** by **May 1, 2024**.

Decisions will be rendered by the **beginning of June, 2024**



Keynote Speakers



Dr. Omar Kasmani

Guest Lecturer in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin and author of *Queer Companions: Religion, Public Intimacy, and Saintly Affects in Pakistan* (2022).



Dr. Mona Oraby

Assistant Professor of Political Science at Howard University and author of *Devotion to the Administrative State: Religion and Social Order in Egypt* (2024).

POTENTIAL TOPICS include, but are not limited to...

- Philosophical intimacies in Tibetan Buddhist tantras
- Queer and trans Muslim desires in Indonesia
- Political and religious freedoms in Palestine
- State/religious violence and attacks on reproductive justice
- Desire and its foreclosures for Rohingya in Myanmar
- Black feminist thought, meditation, and the bodily intimacy of healing
- Desire and the body in Tibetan women's poetry
- Auto-ethnographic accounts of desire and intimacy in religion
- Desires and intimacies of ghosts and spirits in the study of
- religion
- Racial justice, Black religion, and desires for embodied freedom
- Land, sovereignty, and desire in Indigenous religions
- Objects, materiality, and the intimacy of religious paraphernalia
- Intimacies and desires of objects that orient religious worlds (new materialisms and ontologies)
- The violent desires of nation-states in the study of religion
- #MeToo and desires for justice in religious communities
- Film, art, and sound in forging and documenting intimate religious experiences

contact us with questions nugradstudentconference@gmail.com



Photo Credit: Surachai Saengsuwan

CO-SPONSORS thank you for your support

Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities • Asian American Studies Program • Buffett Institute for Global Affairs • Department of Anthropology • Department of Asian Languages and Cultures • Department of Black Studies · Department of Philosophy · Department of Political Science · Department of Religious Studies · Gender & Sexuality Studies Program • Global Politics and Religion Research Group • Middle East and North African Studies Program (MENA) · South Asia Research Forum • The Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) • The Weinberg Center for International and Area Studies