

Religion & New Religious Movements and Contemporary Crises Resources from Panelists

Overview

This episode of Religion & delves into how contemporary religious movements address urgent political, cultural, and environmental crises, from technological transformation to ecological collapse. Looking across a wide array of new religious movements, participants will investigate how these movements reimagine ancient practices for modern concerns while creating new frameworks for living. Join us for a lively discussion at the intersection of modern-day crises and the ways religion shapes and is shaped by these shifts in religious tradition.

Host: Kelly E. Hayes, Professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University Indianapolis

Books/Articles

[*Spirits of the Space Age: The Imagined World of Brazil's Valley of the Dawn.*](#) Oxford University Press, 2024.

[*Holy Harlots: Femininity, Sexuality, and Black Magic in Brazil*](#)

["I am a Psychic Antenna: The Art of Joaquim Vilela,"](#) *Black Mirror*, Vol 2.

["Wicked Women and Femmes Fatales: Gender, Power, and Pomba Gira Spirits in Brazil,"](#) *History of Religions*, August 2008

["Black Magic and the Academy: Macumba and Afro-Brazilian Orthodoxies,"](#) *History of Religions*, May 2007

Panelist: Knut Graw, Friedrich Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg

Books/Articles

"The Global Horizon: Migratory Expectations in Africa and the Middle East" (Leuven University Press).

[‘Locating Nganiyo: Divination as Intentional Space’](#), *Journal of Religion in Africa* 36 (1): 78-119. 2006.

[‘Beyond Expertise: Specialist Agency and the Autonomy of the Divinatory Ritual Process’](#), *Africa* 79 (1): 92-109. 2009

[‘Divination as Hermeneutic Encounter. Reflections on Understanding, Dialogue, and the Intersubjective Foundation of Divinatory Consultation’](#). In: William A. Christian Jr. and Gábor Klaniczay, eds., 2009.

[*The Vision Thing. Studying Divine Intervention.*](#) Budapest: Collegium Budapest (Collegium Budapest Workshop Series No 18), pp. 459 – 477.

Migration, anthropology, and voice. Notes on a West African memory. *Commoning Ethnography* 5 (1): 67-83. 2023

Shells that Speak: Divination and its Author. *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* 19 (2-3): 199-211. 2024

Panelist: Daria Hartman, PhD candidate at the University of Münster

Books/Articles

Hartmann, Daria. Religious Violence and the Ambiguous Role of the Media . In: Werkner, Ines-Jacqueline (ed.): *Handbook of Religion in Conflicts and Peace Processes*. 1st ed. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.2024. ISBN 978-3-658-44928-5. pp. 859–871. doi : https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-44929-2_63 .

Hartmann, Daria. Buddhism: Narratives of Violence in the Canonical Scriptures . In: Werkner, Ines-Jacqueline (ed.): *Handbook of Religion in Conflicts and Peace Processes*. 1st ed. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.2024. ISBN 978-3-658-44928-5. pp. 773–785. doi : https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-44929-2_57 .

Panelist: Benjamin Zeller, Professor of Religion at Lake Forest College (Chicago, USA)

Books/Articles

Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America, edited with Marie W. Dallam (Columbia University Press, 2023).

Handbook of UFO Religions, ed. (Brill, 2021).

Heaven's Gate: America's UFO Religion (New York University Press, 2014).

"The Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light: An Islamic Millennial New Religious Movement," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* vol. 29, no. 1, August 2025.

"'Cookies to Serve God's Glory': The St Roger Abbey Organic French Patisserie as Religious and Secular Site," *Journal of Contemporary Religion* vol. 38, no. 3, Fall 2023.

"Inverted Orientalism, Vedic Science, and the Modern World: Bhaktivedanta and the International Society for Krishna Consciousness," in *Handbook of Religion and the Authority of Science*, edited by James R. Lewis. Leiden: Brill, 2010.

"Apocalyptic Thought in UFO Religions," in *End of Days: Understanding the Apocalypse from Antiquity to Modernity*, edited by Karolyn Kinane and Michael A. Ryan. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland Press, 2009.

“American Wise Men Discover the Secret of Religion’: Religious Content in the Civilization Computer Game Series,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* vol. 34 no. 1, Spring 2022.

“New Religious Movement Responses to COVID: Frame Alignment Strategies and Social Context,” *Approaching Religion* vol 11, no. 2, November 2021.

Podcasts

Heaven’s Gate