



Universität
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Conspiracy Theories and Religion

Examining the Intersection from a
Religious Studies Perspective

September 12-13, 2024 | University of Zurich

Hosts

Loic Bawidamann (University of Zurich)
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SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
RELIGIONSWISSENSCHAFT
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE SCIENCES DES
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Program

Thursday, 12.09.2024

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| 10:00–10:30 | Welcome Coffee |
| 10:30–11:00 | Introduction to the Workshop |
| 11:00–11:45 | Approaching Conspiracy Theories Asbjørn Dyrendal (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway) <i>Religious Studies, Conspiracy Theories and Social Problems Discourse</i> |
| 12:00–13:00 | Lunch |
| 13:15–14:00 | Jens Schlieter (University of Bern, Switzerland) <i>Esoteric 'Mythotheories' as Spiritual Protest against Science and Institutionalized Religion</i> |
| 14:00–14:45 | David Robertson (The Open University, UK) <i>Religion, Conspiracy Theories, and the Social Legitimation of Knowledge</i> |
| 14:45–15:15 | Coffee Break |
| 15:15–16:00 | Loïc Bawidamann (University of Zurich, Switzerland) <i>Ritualised Conspiracy Theories as Communal Practice</i> |

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| 17:00–18:30 | City Walk Zurich |
| 19:00 | Dinner |

Friday, 13.09.2024

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| 10:00–11:30 | (Western) Esotericism and Conspiracy Theories Julian Strube (University of Vienna, Austria) <i>"Conspiracy" Narratives and Esotericism in Far-Right Politics</i> | |
| | Daria Hartmann (University of Münster, Germany) <i>Down the Rabbit Hole: QAnon's Esoteric Practices of Truth Production</i> | 14:30–14:45 Coffee Break |
| | | 14:45–15:30 Robert Schäfer (University of Basel, Switzerland) <i>Conspirituality: Similarities and Differences of Esotericism and Conspiracy Theories</i> |
| 12:00–13:00 | Lunch | |
| 13:00–14:30 | Conspirituality, Medicine and Political Movements Stephanie Alice Baker (City, University of London, UK) <i>The Nexus between Wellness Culture, New Age Spirituality and Conspiracy Theories</i> | 15:30–16:00 Coffee Break |
| | | 16:00–16:30 Key Takeaways Rafael Walthert (University of Zurich, Switzerland) Astrid Reuter (University of Münster, Germany) |
| | Dorothea Lüddeckens (University of Zurich, Switzerland) <i>Satanic Panic: A Revival in Swiss Psychiatries</i> | 16:30–17:00 Concluding Discussion and Future Directions |