

## Religion, Gender and Body Politics

### Postcolonial, Post-secular and Queer Perspectives

International conference on behalf of the international research project “Interdisciplinary Innovations in the Study of Religion and Gender: Postcolonial, Post-secular and Queer Perspectives”, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 12-14 February 2015.

#### Day 1 Thursday 12 February (Opening Session)

- 19:00 – 19:45 Registration
- 19:45 – 20:00 Welcome and opening of the conference by the organizers: Prof. Anne-Marie Korte and Dr. Adriaan van Klinken.
- 20:00 – 20:45 ‘Sensorial Visuality and Material Cultures of Shia Islam’  
Keynote lecture 1 by Prof. Minoo Moallem, Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- 20:45 – 21:30 ‘The “Hagaramic” as a provocation for Euro-American, “Judeo-Christian” Parochialism: Surrogate, Rogue, Resident Alien, *Foreign Body*’  
Keynote lecture 2 by Prof. Yvonne Sherwood, Professor of Biblical Studies and Politics, University of Kent.
- 21:30 – 21:45 Response by Prof. Birgit Meyer, Professor of Religious Studies, Utrecht University.
- 21:45 – 22:15 Plenary Discussion

#### Day 2 Friday 13 February

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration
- 8:45 – 9:00 Kick-off day two by Prof. Jorunn Økland (Oslo).  
During the second plenary session of the conference, we aim to discuss the conference theme in the context of conceptual, international and institutional developments of feminist theology and the study of religion and gender in the recent past. We envision a genealogical, evaluative and critical discussion regarding the interest in ‘the body’ in these disciplinary fields.
- 9:00 – 9:45 ‘Confessions of the Flesh: The Performative and the Material Body in the Documentary *Fake Orgasm*’  
Keynote lecture 3 by Prof. Ulrike Auga, Professor of Theology and Gender Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin.
- 9:45 – 10:30 ‘A Nonsovereign Subject and her Body: Thinking Piety, Gender, and Embodiment’  
Keynote lecture 4 by Prof. Sarah Bracke, Associate Professor of Sociology, Ghent University, Senior Researcher RHEA Gender and Diversity, VUB Brussels, and Visiting Fellow, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Response by Prof. Anne-Marie Korte, Professor of Religion, Gender and Modernity, Utrecht University.

10:45 – 11:15 Plenary discussion  
11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break  
11:30 – 13:00 Panel sessions (first round)

<b>Panel 1</b>	<b>Queer Sexualities, “Other” Bodies, and Islam in the Netherlands: From Post-colonial to Post-human Perspectives</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Kathrine van den Bogert	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Complex co-imbrications of religion and sexuality: Towards post-secular and de-colonizing approach	Suhraiya Jivraj	University of Kent, United Kingdom
	From a cultural vice to a self-fashioning device. Conceptual transformation of homosexuality in Iranian (Dutch) discourses of modernity	Rahil Roodsaz	Atria, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
	Female converts to Islam as “ambassadors” of their religion	Margreet van Es	University of Oslo, Norway
<b>Panel 2</b>	<b>Ethnographies of Queer Interpretations, Appropriations and Negotiations in Lebanon and Indonesia</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Marco Derks	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	A queen on his throne: National concerns and the embodiment of ambiguity by drag queens	Elsien van Pinxteren	Harvard University, U.S.A.
	“Under the eyes of God”: Gender, body and social impact of Islamic faith among waria	Néstor Nuño Martínez	Rovira i Virgili University, Spain
	Crossing margins of gender and space: Notions on the fluidity of (Butchi) gender expressions in Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Kristina Schneider	University of Göttingen, Germany
<b>Panel 3</b>	<b>Gendering and Embodying the State: Law and Human Rights in Secular/Religious Contexts</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Peter Nynäs	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	“Your Daddy’s Rich and Your Mama’s Good-lookin’”: Thoughts on Bodies, Religion and Sovereignty	Naomi Goldenberg	University of Ottawa, Canada
	Legal and Religious Decision-Making: Negotiating Boundaries and Challenging Binaries	Raadhika Gupta	Jindal Global University, India
	Body Politics and the Notion of “Harmful Cultural Practices”: A Post-colonial, Post-secular Analysis	Chia Longman	Ghent University, Belgium
<b>Panel 4</b>	<b>Embodied Expressions: Religion, Activism and Gendered Voices</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Sarah Bracke	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Religion, Gender and Body Politics. Lesbian and Queer Human Rights Activism in Costa Rica	Christina Schramm	Independent Researcher, San José, Costa Rica
	The Voices in My Head: Silence, Semantics, and the Ethics of Embodied Dialogue in Religion and Gender	Sân Hawthorne	SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom
	Islamic Body Politics and Fundamentalism	Nina Hoel	University of Oslo, Norway

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Panel sessions (second round)

<b>Panel 5</b>	<b>Male Circumcision, a Contested Practice: Ancient Sources and Current Debates</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Lieve Teugels	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Male Circumcision, a contested practice: Ancient Sources and Current Debates: Introduction	Lieve Teugels	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
	Circumcision in Post-Exilic Yehud: Uncontested Marker, Unrelated to Masculinity?	Anne Mareike Wetter	Leiden University, the Netherlands
	Circumcision: The Bodily Politics of Ritual Failure in Emergent Christianity	Peter Ben Smit	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
	Male circumcision: The body in Christian/secular discourses on Judaism and Islam	Matthea Westerduin	VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
	Response to the papers of Peter Ben Smit, Anne-Mareike Wetter and Matthea Westerduin	Ruard Ganzevoort	VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
<b>Panel 6</b>	<b>Representations and Regulations of Gendered Bodies in/through Popular Religion, Arts and Media</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Marco Derks	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a
	Body Orders: Political Representations of the Laestadian Religious Community	Sandra Wallenius-Korkalo	University of Lapland, Finland
	Proper Dress and proper sex: The ambiguity of Islam/Gender in American evangelical Christian imagination	Alfons H Teipen	Furman University, U.S.A.
	Representation of Gendered Body in Contemporary Islamic Children's Literature in English	Kana Oyabu	Kanazawa University, Japan
	"I Fainted Because my Corset was too Tight". Shaping the Gender of Intellectuals from Anna Maria Van Schurmann to Mary Wollstonecraft	Sonia Maria Melchiorre	University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy
<b>Panel 7</b>	<b>The Female Body Un/Veiled: Christian and Muslim Performances and Representations in Ireland, Yugoslavia and Kenya</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Adriaan van Klinken	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Unveiling Muslim Women in Socialist Yugoslavia: Untangling gender, socialism, secularism, and post-colonialism	Tea Hadziristic	Independent researcher, Toronto, Canada
	Christian womanhood and the body at the Young Women's Christian Association in Kenya.	Eleanor Tiplady Higgs	SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom
	Claiming the female body in postcolonial Ireland	Jill O'Mahony	Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland

<b>Panel 8</b>	<b>Re/Claiming Bodies: Perspectives on Education, Disease, Disability, Diets, and Body Politics</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Mariecke van den Berg	<b>Location:</b> Huiskamer
	Getting it Straight: When HIV-AIDS Meets Iran's Government Morality	Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi	Leiden University, the Netherlands
	Ethicalizing Foods and Bodies: Gendered Ethnic Politics in the Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Post-Mao China	Yasmin Cho	Duke University, U.S.A.
	Reinforcing Normalcy: Christian Othering of Disabled People	Naomi Lawson Jacobs	SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom
	Polish Catholic women's mental-corporal strategies of constructing modern pious womanhood at the turn of the XIX and XX centuries	Dominika Gruziel	Central European University, Hungary

16:00 – 17:00 Poster session (with drinks and snacks)

Preserving the Heteronormative Status Quo: Public Morality, Evangelical Christians and the State in Singapore	Matthias Deininger	Heidelberg University, Germany
Women's configuration of sexuality in public space	Laura Mora	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Body politics in between the public and the private: Two case studies from the Netherlands on care, sports and politics.	Kathrine van den Bogert and Nathashe Lemos Dekker	Utrecht University and University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Same-Sex Desires and Acts in Tolerance of Islamic Scriptures and Cultures	Mehrdad Ali Poor Kalaei	VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The Colonial Desires of the Turkish State: The Love Houses Project	Hazal Ilgaz Dolek	Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey
"Flourishing Guinea Pigs": Exploring Intersectionality and Interdisciplinarity in a Masters Programme on Gender, Religion and Health at two South African Universities	Sarasvathie Reddy	University of KwaZulu-Natal, South-Africa

17:00 – 18:00 Body politics: disabilities in the field of religion and gender

18:00 – 19:00 Political forum:

In this Forum we will explore and discuss current socio-political cases of conflict or controversy in which religion, gender and body politics are central. In an exciting session two cases will be under investigation, on stage, with various speakers,

presenters, and you! The innovative setting will force you to think anew about contemporary body politics and its religious and gendered aspects.

- 19:00 – 19:30 Drinks and ceremony for the official founding of the ‘International Association for the study of Religion and Gender’ (IARG). Festive speech by prof. Anne-Marie Korte, including prize-giving ceremony for the best poster presentation.
- 20:00 Buffet

### Day 3 Saturday 14 February

- 8:45 – 9:00 Kick-off day three by Dr. Sian Hawthorne (SOAS, London).
- 9:00 – 9:45 ‘Islamic reflections about the body beyond heteronormativity’  
Keynote lecture 5 by Prof. Scott Kugle, Associate Professor of South Asian and Islamic Studies, Emory University, Atlanta.
- 9:45 – 10:30 ‘Negotiating the “F-words” in Academia: “Faith” and “Feminism” within Contexts of Gender-Based Violence’  
Keynote lecture 6 by Prof. Sarojini Nadar, Professor of Gender and Religion, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Response by Dr. Adriaan van Klinken, Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Leeds.
- 10:45 – 11:15 Plenary discussion
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 Panel sessions (third round)

<b>Panel 9</b>	<b>Queer Prophetic Performances: Theology, Capitalism and the Transgressive Nature of Bodies</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Marco Derks	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Touching across time: Performance as queer prophetic practice	Linn Marie Tonstad	Yale Divinity School, U.S.A
	The Power of Poverty: How Medieval Beguines Can Inspire Queer Theology Today	Kristien Justaert	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
	“You Dirty, Dirty Girl!”: Abjection and the Queer, Naked Bodies of Thecla and Eve	Amy Clanfield	University of Toronto, Canada
<b>Panel 10</b>	<b>Goddesses and Saints in a post-secular world. Understanding the body and new spirituality from a feminist perspective.</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Peter Nynäs	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
	Female Religious Agents In Morocco: Old Practices and New Perspectives	Aziza Ouguir	The municipal council, Khemisset, Morocco
	Engendering Difference: The (Post)colonial Politics of Goddess Spirituality	Kavita Maya	SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom

Feminist Spirituality as Lived Religion: Towards a new understanding of feminists' religio-spiritual practices Kristin Jane Aune Coventry University, United Kingdom

<b>Panel 11</b>	<b>Online/offline Bodies: Discourses and Campaigns about Muslim and Queer Young Women in Every Day Public Life</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Kathrine van den Bogert	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
Religious Practices Online throughout Different Generations	Eva Midden	Utrecht University, the Netherlands	
Negotiating online and offline discourses among Zanzibari women	Marloes Hamelink	Utrecht University, the Netherlands	
Queer Youth, Facebook, and Faith: Facebook Methodologies and Online Identities	Yvette Taylor	London South Bank University, United Kingdom	
<b>Panel 12</b>	<b>Public Pain and Shared Identities: Discursive Struggles over the Suffering Body</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Ruard Ganzevoort	<b>Location:</b> t.b.a.
Acts of Clericalization and Cover-Up Strategies: Catholic Official Propaganda in Italy on Clergy Abuses and Its Representation of the Abused Body	Tommaso Dell'Era	Tuscia University of Viterbo, Italy	
Mourning Abortions: Abortion Debates in Post-Colonial South Korea	SeungGyeong Ji	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A.	
"The Nation is Hurt": The role of the body in the construction of Dutch national identity in public responses to the crash of flight MH17	Mariecke van den Berg	VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands	

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Conference closing session with evaluation reports by two observers: Dr. Susannah Cornwall (Exeter) and Prof. Peter Nynäs (Turku).