

Call For Papers

Paper abstracts to be included as part of panel proposal titled, 'materialities of religious engagement', for the 2014 British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR) conference from 3-5th September, 2014 at The Open University in Milton Keynes, UK.

Material religion encompasses multiple meanings. It refers to religious objects, images, and sites, but it can also refer to the performative dimensions of particular modes of religious engagement, such as visual and digital. This latter description refers to the ways in which religious engagement is actualized and made 'real' through spatial, corporeal, and subjective positioning. While the scholarly study of material religion has traditionally focused on studying liturgical objects, religious art, and sacred sites, scholars have also begun integrating the latter sense of the term into their analysis by tracing how different forms of religion possess unique material logics that actively configure the terrain in which they exist.

This panel invites papers that examine the materialities of religious engagement, and can include analyses of visual, digital, or other modalities of religion. Papers can be general methodological inquiries or case studies of particular religious traditions. Questions of interest may include:

- What senses and capacities do visual religions activate?
- Does sacredness inhere in the visualized object or in the viewer's gaze?
- Is digital religion the extension of 'offline' religion into a digital sphere, or does it represent a new form of religious practice altogether?
- How does digital religion reconstitute the body?
- What does digital religion look, act, and feel like?

Scholars interested in presenting in this panel at this year's BASR conference are invited to please send their abstracts to jaspreet.kaur@wolfson.ox.ac.uk. The questions and themes suggested above are provided as a guideline only. Other inquiries related to this general topic are very welcome. **Abstracts should be no more than 250 words. Please send by 16 June, 2014.** Feel free to contact the organizer with any questions.