

Call for Discussants

We are seeking participants to present in a roundtable discussion led by Helen Cornish, Katie Aston, Aimee Joyce (Goldsmiths) at the upcoming BASRconference (Sep 3-5):

Interrogating integrity? Insider and outsider social research with faith based groups

Fifteen years ago an outpouring of new academic material asserted the value of being an insider in religious research. Conventional assumptions that linked objectivity with outsider status were challenged. This valuable burst of scholarship worked hard to critique the kind of research that preceded it, where faith or identity was seen to compromise research values, and undermine integrity and rigour. We propose a 'lightning' discussion session to interrogate the legacy of the shift towards practitioner-research with religious-spiritual-magical-secular communities.

Do we now find ourselves in a position where integrity and rigour are questioned by either academics or practitioners unless the researcher takes an explicitly insider position (or at least demonstrates a faith, cf Edith Turner)? Such questions remain critical and salient. Further to this we ask how the insider/outsider debate plays out when research is not only examining the processes of faith and belief, but broader social, historical and political concerns.

We invite 5 minute papers with a maximum of 5 slides that stake a position. We want to generate a thorough discussion about the nubby problems of 'belonging' in religious research across disciplinary boundaries.

To apply or for more information about the panel please contact: Dr. Helen Cornish, h.cornish@gold.ac.uk; Dr. Aimee Joyce, an801aj@gold.ac.uk or Katie Aston, k.aston@gold.ac.uk

The deadline for applications is 29th July, and we will let participants know ASAP as the conference registration deadline is the 1st August.

The session is provisionally timetabled to take place on Wednesday 3rd Sep 2014
<http://basr.ac.uk/conference-2014/>