

You are cordially invited to submit a paper abstract for our panel proposal, "Differentiating Nonreligion," for the thematic area, "Methodology: Representations and Interpretations," at the XXI IAHR World Congress, "Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present," in Erfurt, Germany (August 23 to 29, 2015).

There is an apparent growth of research on people who explicitly or implicitly distance(d) themselves in diverse ways from specific religious traditions and ways of life or from religion as such. These studies of "nonreligion" or "nonreligiosity" complement research on secularism and secularity. In our panel, we differentiate specific modes of nonreligion by approaching nonreligious phenomena relationally, i.e. we propose focusing on their various (often co-constitutive) relations towards respective local religious fields in order to contextualize historical transformations and ongoing changes in these religious fields as well as struggles of religious and nonreligious actors about issues of secularism. By interrelating individual biographical factors and the wider socio-cultural, religious, and political contexts shaping distinct understandings and expressions of nonreligiosity, we move ahead of obvious contrasts such as the opposition between indifference to religion on the one hand and various forms of atheism on the other. Focusing on methodologies and concepts of representations and interpretations of such different types / kinds / modes of nonreligion, our panel aims to bring together scholars engaging empirically and theoretically with these questions.

Papers are limited to 20 minutes. Deadline for submission of abstracts (max. 150 words) is September 8, 2014. Please submit your abstract to: Blechsmidt@em.uni-frankfurt.de or johannes.quack@uzh.ch