

Maha Marouan and Jacob Olupona invite you to propose papers for the following two panels:

#### Panel 1. Religion and Innovation in Contemporary Africa

This panel will address the dynamics of religious change and transformation in Africa. The current political changes and social movements across the continent have drastically changed the African religious map and challenge us to view African Traditional Religions, Christianity and Islam in Africa with new theoretical lenses that consider the following: 1) the tension between orthodoxy and innovation, 2) the relationship between fundamentalism, social identities and nation-state, 3) the effects of religious change on sexuality and gendered identities, 4) the role of globalization and inter-religious contact in religious innovation. The panel will address the following questions: What are the mechanisms of religious innovation? How do new new religious traditions become canonized? And how can we conceptualize religious change and innovation through the lens of cultural studies, postcolonial theory and transnationalism?

#### Panel 2. Religion and Innovation in the African Diaspora

This panel is concerned with the religious transformations and innovations in the African diaspora both within and outside Africa. We are interested in the way mobility generates religious change in diasporic communities and the way these communities, old and contemporary, redefine and reinvent their religious identities and loyalties in relation to their “new” surroundings. The panel aims to explore new methodologies to capture the mechanisms of religious change and transformation of those in the diaspora who continue to construct new religious realities for themselves contesting notions of borders, belonging and citizenship and forming new frontiers in Europe and beyond.

To participate in the panels, please contact:  
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