

Dear colleagues,

For the upcoming EASR conference in Helsinki, we are curious to get in one more paper for our accepted panel on "Thinking Pluralism".

Please send an abstract before the 28<sup>th</sup> of December directly to my email (deadline of the organisers is the 31<sup>st</sup>). We would like to explore, map out and possibly publish together different approaches, concepts and debates.

"Thinking pluralism: models for relational histories of religion"

This panel aims at discussing models for understanding religion in a pluralist framework. In the debates about religion and modernisation scholars today agree that it is not the decline of religion that dominates recent developments, but the pluralisation of religious forms, practices and claims, and that pluralisation strengthens rather than weakens the vitality of religion. Moreover, it has been shown that it does not suffice to account for the sheer coexistence of diverse religious traditions in ever more mobile societies. Models and strategies are needed to conceptualise how, in a pluralist setting, religious traditions and practices influence each other, how change is taking place, and how the complexity of a 'double pluralism' between religious and other societal spheres can be tackled.

Topics being addressed are

- Distinctions: pluralism as analytical concept, empirical fact or normative ideal
- Models from history (entangled history, histoire croisée)
- Theories of (de-)differentiation, religious market, cybernetics, networks
- Constructive critique of concepts such as "multiple modernities", or the religious/ secular-divide
- Analytical concepts for interferences between religion, politics, art, science, technology

In accordance with the EASR theme, the panel takes Europe as a test case while laying emphasis on the question how knowledge about specific geographical and cultural areas can be linked to transnational and global perspectives.

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Speakers:

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