

Proposal for an open panel session:  
The World Religions Paradigm in Educational Contexts

Chairs:

Wanda Alberts (Hannover),  
Bengt-Ove Andreassen (Tromsø),  
Tim Jensen (Odense)

Recently in the academic Study of Religions the so-called world religions paradigm has been subject to serious criticism that questioned both its value as an analytical category as well as a framework for teaching about different religions in various educational contexts. The EASR Working Group on Religion in Public Education (<http://easr.org/index.php?id=1470>) has put the relevance of this criticism for school contexts on its agenda. Following a workshop on that topic at the University of Tromsø in December 2016, we would like to discuss the results in a larger context. We invite papers on a critical study of the function and challenges of the presence of the world religions paradigm in both university and school contexts. At the same time, we would like to discuss alternatives to the perpetuation of this paradigm.

Papers may, for example, relate to the following issues:

- Aspects and variations of criticisms of the world religions paradigm
- The educational relevance of criticisms of the world religions paradigm
- Critical studies of the function and consequences of the world religions paradigm in university- and school contexts
- Translations of the criticism of the world religions paradigm to school contexts
- Alternative representations of religion/s
- Non world-religions-paradigm based approaches to the Study of Religions in educational contexts
- Critically informed defences of the use of the world religions paradigm in educational contexts