

We are delighted to invite you to **the** BA Religion and Society International Annual Lecture. Please **save the date** and share widely.

**“I don’t want to speak in tongues – I speak human rights”  
- Some observations from a global study on heteronormativity and religion among young adults”**

March 12th 2019 at 6-8pm / Richard Hoggart Building (Main Building), RHB 256 / Goldsmiths, University of London: talk, Q&A and wine reception.

Prof. Peter Nynäs, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland.

Religion, sexuality and gender intertwine in a range of different ways. During **the** last decades, global movements have increasingly affected our perceptions of and attentiveness to this, and **the** contradictory signals emerging in a post-secular situation. Many young people today express well-articulated openness to variations in terms of gender and sexualities and also actively take part in making change, whereas neoconservative voices also seem to gain more and more public space and influence - and revitalize heteronormativity as an ideal.

In this talk I will initially look at some basic findings from a study on young adults and religion that I implemented in 13 countries worldwide. This project was primarily not about gender and sexuality, but **the** extensive data we have collected has allowed me to explore issues around forms of heteronormativity, and in particular in relation to religion and values. In addition, both **the** mixed method approach in this study and **the** global scope allow me to raise some methodological and conceptual questions. To what extent and how do young adults today express heteronormativity?

## **Biography**

Dr Peter Nynäs is Professor of Comparative Religion at Åbo Akademi University and director of **the** Åbo Akademi University Centre of Excellence in Research Young adults and religion in a global perspective (2015–2018), a cross-cultural, comparative, and mixed-method study of religious subjectivities and values in ten countries around **the** world. He previously led **the** Centre of Excellence in Research Post-Secular Culture and a Changing Religious Landscape in Finland (2010–2014). He has edited volumes such as *On **the** Outskirts of **the** Church”: Diversities, Fluidities and New Spaces of Religion in Finland* (with R. Illman & T. Martikainen, LIT-Verlag, 2015), *Religion, Gender and Sexuality in Everyday Life* (with A. Yip, Ashgate 2012), and *Transforming Otherness* (with J. Finch, Transaction

2011). The volume *Sensitizing 'religious' variety in a global perspective: between universalism and particularism*, is scheduled for 2019 (with R. Illman, N. Novis & R. Fernandez, Equinox)

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