

## Call for Chapters

**Title:** *Religion and Senses of Humour* (ed. Stephen E. Gregg)

**Series:** *Religion and the Senses*, Equinox (series editor - Graham Harvey)

The study of humour / comedy / laughter is established within sociological study, but has often been overlooked in the academic study of religion. Where studies do engage with 'religion' they are often dominated by textual scholarship and historical examples within world religions paradigm categories.

The proposed volume is to be written within a Study of Religions multi-methodology, focusing upon embodied, performative and lived approaches to everyday religious acts, beliefs and communities. It will explore how comedy, humour and their performative and material manifestations are enacted by both religious 'insiders' and by 'outsiders' or opponents of religion. Senses of humour within, about and because of religion will be explored. Narratives of humour as a religious or anti-religious act will be foregrounded.

The volume will explore how 'senses of humour' in religious acts, or acts about religion, co-exist and interact with other senses; auditory comedic performances with call and response relationships between performer/priest and audience/congregation; visual gags and material artworks; absurdity and mockery of senses of place, decorum and religious entitlement or rank; auditory-only radio performances; spoken-word satire and word-play; 'belly-laughing', 'shaking with laughter' and crossing the boundaries of 'good taste' and 'tastelessness'.

### Possible Themes for Chapters

Humour and the defence of religious identity; Humour and anti-theism; Humour and mission / dialogue; Comedy and purposeful religious offence; Comedy and accidental religious offence; Stand-up religious identities; Graphic / artistic humour and religion; Humour and subversive religious identity; Humour in teaching within religions; Humour, religion and the law – blasphemy, infamy and religious/anti-religious freedom.

**Proposals are welcomed for chapters of 8,000 words. A proposed title, 300 word abstract and 100 word bio should be sent, in Word or PDF format, to the editor [s.gregg@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:s.gregg@wlv.ac.uk) no later than 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Potential authors may find it helpful to read the 'Series Forward' to familiarise themselves with the approach of this project: <https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/view-fulltext/?id=2607-766-2>**

**Editor Biography** - Stephen E. Gregg is President-Elect of the British Association for the Study of Religions, and Subject Lead in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at the University of Wolverhampton. His previous book projects include *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Studying Christians* (Bloomsbury, 2020), *Swami Vivekananda and Non-Hindu Traditions* (Routledge, 2019), *The Insider-Outsider Debate: New Perspectives in the Study of Religion* (Equinox: 2019), *Engaging with Living Religion* (Routledge, 2015) and *Jesus Beyond Christianity* (OUP, 2010).