

## Religion, Gender and Body Politics

### Post-secular, post-colonial and queer perspectives

International conference on behalf of the international research project “Interdisciplinary Innovations in the Study of Religion and Gender: Postcolonial, Post-secular and Queer Perspectives”, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 12-14 February 2015.

#### Day 1 Thursday 12 February (Opening Session)

- 19:00 – 19:45 Registration
- 19:45 – 20:00 Welcome and opening of the conference by the organizers: Prof. Anne-Marie Korte and Dr. Adriaan van Klinken.
- 20:00 – 20:45 ‘Sensorial Visuality and Material Cultures of Shia Islam’  
Keynote lecture 1 by Prof. Minoo Moallem, Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
- 20:45 – 21:30 ‘The ‘Hagaramic’ as a provocation for Euro-American, ‘Judeo-Christian’ Provisionalism: Surrogate, Rogue, Resident Alien, *Foreign Body*’  
Keynote lecture 2 by Prof. Yvonne Sherwood, Professor of Biblical Studies and Politics, University of Kent.
- 21:30 – 21:45 Response by Prof. Birgit Meyer, Professor of Religious Studies, Utrecht University.
- 21:45 – 22:15 Plenary Discussion

#### Day 2 Friday 13 February

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration
- 8:45 – 9:00 Kick-off day two by Prof. Jorunn Økland (Oslo).  
During the second plenary session of the conference, we aim to discuss the conference theme in the context of conceptual, international and institutional developments of feminist theology and the study of religion and gender in the recent past. We envision a genealogical, evaluative and critical discussion regarding the interest in ‘the body’ in these disciplinary fields.
- 9:00 – 9:45 ‘Confessions of the Flesh. The Performative and the Material Body in the Documentary *Fake Orgasm*’  
Keynote lecture 3 by Prof. Ulrike Auga, Professor of Theology and Gender Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin.
- 9:45 – 10:30 Keynote lecture 4 by Dr. Sarah Bracke, Associate Research Professor in Sociology, Ghent University, and Visiting Fellow, the Minda de Gunzberg Center for European Studies, Harvard University.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Response by Prof. Anne-Marie Korte, Professor of Religion, Gender and Modernity, Utrecht University.
- 10:45 – 11:15 Plenary discussion

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Panel sessions (first round)

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| <b>Panel 1</b> | <b>Queer sexualities, “other” bodies, and Islam in the Netherlands: from post-colonial to post-human perspectives.</b> | <b>Chair:</b> Kathrine van den Bogert | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                | Complex co-imbrications of religion and sexuality – Towards post-secular and de-colonizing approach                    | Suhraiya Jivraj                       | University of Kent, United Kingdom         |
|                | Parallels of oppression: The construction of queer and animal bodies as victims of Islam                               | Yvette Wijnandts                      | Utrecht University, the Netherlands        |
|                | Female converts to Islam as “ambassadors” of their religion  | Margreet van Es                       | University of Oslo, Norway                 |
| <b>Panel 2</b> | <b>Ethnographies of Queer Interpretations, Appropriations and Negotiations in Lebanon and Indonesia</b>                | <b>Chair:</b> Marco Derks             | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                | A queen on his throne: National concerns and the embodiment of ambiguity by drag queens                                | Elsien van Pinxteren                  | Harvard University, U.S.A.                 |
|                | Under the eyes of God. Gender, body and social impact of Islamic faith among waria.                                    | Néstor Nuño Martínez                  | Rovira i Virgili University, Spain         |
|                | Crossing margins of gender and space – Notions on the fluidity of (Butchi) gender expressions in Yogyakarta, Indonesia | Kristina Schneider                    | University of Göttingen, Germany           |
| <b>Panel 3</b> | <b>Gendering and Embodying the State, Law and Human Rights in secular/religious contexts.</b>                          | <b>Chair:</b> Peter Nynäs             | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                | “Your Daddy’s Rich and Your Mama’s Good-lookin’ ” – Thoughts on Bodies, Religion and Sovereignty.                      | Naomi Goldenberg                      | University of Ottawa, Canada               |
|                | Legal and Religious Decision-Making: Negotiating Boundaries and Challenging Binaries.                                  | Raadhika Gupta                        | Jindal Global University, India            |
|                | Body Politics and the Notion of “Harmful Cultural Practices:” A Post-colonial, Post-secular Analysis.                  | Chia Longman                          | Ghent University, Belgium                  |
| <b>Panel 4</b> | <b>Embodied Communication: Religion, Sounds and Gendered Voices.</b>   | <b>Chair:</b> t.b.a.                  | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                | The “Veil-System” in the Practices of Invisibility.  | Giuseppina Paola Viscardi             | Università degli Studi di Salerno, Italy   |
|                | The Voices in My Head: Silence, Semantics, and the Ethics of Embodied Dialogue in Religion and Gender.                 | Sîan Hawthorne                        | SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom |
|                | Islamic Body Politics and Fundamentalism.  | Nina Hoel                             | University of Oslo, Norway                 |

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Panel sessions (second round)

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| <b>Panel 5</b> | <b>Male Circumcision, a contested practice: Ancient Sources and Current Debates</b>  | <b>Chair: Lieve Teugels</b>       | <b>Location: t.b.a.</b>                    |
|                | Male Circumcision, a contested practice: Ancient Sources and Current Debates: Introduction.  | Lieve Teugels                     | Utrecht University, the Netherlands        |
|                | Circumcision in Post-Exilic Yehud: Uncontested Marker, Unrelated to Masculinity?   | Anne Mareike Wetter               | Leiden University, the Netherlands         |
|                | Circumcision: The Bodily Politics of Ritual Failure in Emergent Christianity   | Peter Ben Smit                    | Utrecht University, the Netherlands        |
|                | Male circumcision. The body in Christian/secular discourses on Judaism and Islam   | Matthea Westerduin                | VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands   |
|                | Response to the papers of Peter Ben Smit and Anne-Mareike Wetter and Matthea Westerduin  | Ruard Ganzevoort                  | VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands   |
| <b>Panel 6</b> | <b>Representations and Regulations of Gendered Bodies in/through Popular Religion and Media</b>  | <b>Chair: Marco Derks</b>         | <b>Location: t.b.a</b>                     |
|                | Body Orders – Political Representations of the Laestadian Religious Community  | Sandra Wallenius-Korkalo          | University of Lapland, Finland             |
|                | Proper Dress and proper sex: the ambiguity of Islam/Gender in American evangelical Christian imagination   | Alfons H Teipen                   | Furman University, U.S.A.                  |
|                | Representation of Gendered Body in Contemporary Islamic Children's Literature in English   | Kana Oyabu                        | Kanazawa University, Japan                 |
|                | Gendered Bodies at the Service of the Nation: A Discourse Analysis of the documentary 'The World Before her'   | Hussain, Saba and Nazia Hussain   | University of Warwick, United Kingdom      |
| <b>Panel 7</b> | <b>The Female Body Un/Veiled: Christian and Muslim performances and representations in Ireland, Yugoslavia, Kenya and Zimbabwe</b>                   | <b>Chair: Adriaan van Klinken</b> | <b>Location: t.b.a.</b>                    |
|                | Judith Butler's theory of gender performativity: Some theoretical reflections on the gendered identity of Pentecostal migrant women in South Africa. | Tinashe Chimbidzikai              | University of Witwatersrand, South Africa  |
|                | Unveiling Muslim Women in Socialist Yugoslavia: Untangling gender, socialism, secularism, and post-colonialism                                       | Tea Hadziristic                   | Independent researcher, Toronto            |
|                | Christian womanhood and the body at the Young Women's Christian Association in Kenya.  | Eleanor Tiplady Higgs             | SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom |

Claiming the female body in postcolonial Ireland      Jill O'Mahony      Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland

**Panel 8    Re/Claiming Bodies: Perspectives on Education, Disease, Disability, Diets, and Body Politics**      **Chair:** Mariecke van den Berg      **Location:** Huiskamer

Getting it Straight: When HIV-AIDS Meets Iran's Government Morality      Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi      Leiden University, the Netherlands

Ethicalizing Foods and Bodies: Gendered Ethnic Politics in the Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Post-Mao China      Yasmin Cho      Duke University, U.S.A.

Reinforcing Normalcy: Christian Othering of Disabled People      Naomi Lawson Jacobs      SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom

Polish Catholic women's mental-corporal strategies of constructing modern pious womanhood at the turn of the XIX and XX centuries      Dominika Gruziel      Central European University, Hungary

16:00 – 17:00    Poster session (with drinks and snacks)

Preserving the Heteronormative Status Quo: Public Morality, Evangelical Christians and the State in Singapore      Matthias Deininger      Heidelberg University, Germany

Women's configuration of sexuality in public space      Laura Mora      Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Body politics in between the public and the private. Two case studies from the Netherlands on care, sports and politics.      Kathrine van den Bogert and Nathashe Lemos Dekker      Utrecht University and University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Same- Sex Desires and Acts in Tolerance of Islamic Scriptures and Cultures      Mehrdad Ali Poor Kalaei      VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The Colonial Desires of the Turkish State: The Love Houses Project      Hazal Ilgaz Dolek      Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

"Flourishing Guinea Pigs:" Exploring Intersectionality and Interdisciplinarity in a Masters Programme on Gender, Religion and Health at two South African Universities.      Sarasvathie Reddy      University of KwaZulu-Natal, South-Africa

17:00 – 18:00    Body politics: disability in the field religion and gender

18:00 – 19:00    Political forum:

In this Forum we will explore and discuss current socio-political cases of conflict or controversy in which religion, gender and body politics are central. In an exciting

session two cases will be under investigation, on stage, with various speakers, presenters, and you! The innovative setting will force you to think anew about contemporary body politics and its religious and gendered aspects.

- 19:00 – 19:30 Drinks and ceremony for the official founding of the ‘International Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion and Gender’ (IARG). Festive speech by prof. Anne-Marie Korte, including prize-giving ceremony for the best poster presentation.
- 20:00 Buffet

### Day 3 **Saturday 14 February**

- 8:45 – 9:00 Kick-off day three by Prof. Chia Longman (Ghent)
- 9:00 – 9:45 ‘Islamic reflections about the body beyond heteronormativity’  
Keynote lecture 5 by Prof. Scott Kugle, Associate Professor of South Asian and Islamic Studies, Emory University, Atlanta.
- 9:45 – 10:30 ‘Negotiating the ‘F-words’ in Academia: ‘Faith’ and ‘Feminism’ within Contexts of Gender-Based Violence’  
Keynote lecture 6 by Prof. Sarojini Nadar, Professor of Gender and Religion, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- 10:30 – 10:45 Response by Dr. Adriaan van Klinken, Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Leeds.
- 10:45 – 11:15 Plenary discussion
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 Panel sessions (third round)

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| <b>Panel 9</b>  | <b>Queer Prophetic Performances: Theology, Capitalism and the Transgressive Nature of Bodies</b>                              | <b>Chair:</b> Marco Derks | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                 | Touching across time: performance as queer prophetic practice   | Linn Marie Tonstad        | Yale Divinity School, U.S.A                |
|                 | The Power of Poverty: How Medieval Beguines Can Inspire Queer Theology Today  | Kristien Justaert         | Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium    |
|                 | “You Dirty, Dirty Girl!”: Abjection and the Queer, Naked Bodies of Thecla and Eve   | Amy Clanfield             | University of Toronto, Canada              |
| <b>Panel 10</b> | <b>Goddesses and Saints in a post-secular world. Understanding the body and new spirituality from a feminist perspective.</b> | <b>Chair:</b> Peter Nynäs | <b>Location:</b> t.b.a.                    |
|                 | Female Religious Agents In Morocco: Old Practices and New Perspectives  | Aziza Ouguir              | The municipal council, Khemisset, Morocco  |
|                 | Engendering Difference: The (Post)colonial Politics of Goddess Spirituality   | Kavita Maya               | SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom |
|                 | Feminist Spirituality as Lived Religion: towards a  | Kristin Jane              | Coventry University, United                |

new understanding of feminists' religio-spiritual practices

Aune

Kingdom

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| <b>Panel 11</b>   | <b>Online/offline bodies: discourses and campaigns about Muslim and trans* women in every day public life.</b> | <b>Chair: t.b.a.</b>           | <b>Location: t.b.a.</b>                      |
| Religious Practices Online throughout Different Generations   |  | Eva Midden                     | Utrecht University, the Netherlands          |
| Negotiating online and offline discourses among Zanzibari women   |  | Marloes Hamelink               | Utrecht University, the Netherlands          |
| Challenging 'the Gatekeepers': A Critical Investigation of Western Liberal Feminist Ideals of Agency and Embodiment                               |  | Samantha Langsdale             | SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom   |
| <b>Panel 12</b>   | <b>Public pain and shared identities: discursive struggles over the suffering body.</b>                        | <b>Chair: Ruard Ganzevoort</b> | <b>Location: t.b.a.</b>                      |
| Acts of Clericalization and Cover-Up Strategies: Catholic Official Propaganda in Italy on Clergy Abuses and Its Representation of the Abused Body |  | Tommaso Dell'Era               | Tuscia University of Viterbo, Italy          |
| Mourning Abortions: Abortion Debates in Post-Colonial South Korea   |  | SeungGyeong Ji                 | University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, U.S.A. |
| "The Nation is Hurt": the role of the body in the construction of Dutch national identity in public responses to the crash of flight MH17         |  | Mariecke van den Berg          | VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands     |

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Conference closing session with evaluation reports by two observers; dr. Susannah Cornwall (Exeter) and Prof. Peter Nynäs (Turku).