PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 1

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Welcome
Plenary: “Online Training in Digital Culture Ministry: Preparing for Community Building Through Media,”
Thomas E. Boomershine, Lumicon Digital Productions
James E. Coyle, Jr., Franciscan University of Steubenville

8:30 – 10:00 Reception

Thursday, September 2

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

International Contexts

“The Serbian Orthodox Church and the Media in Serbia,” Milja Radovic, Theological Faculty of Serbian Orthodox Church


“How Buddhism is Depicted on Television in Japan,” Nanako Tamaki, Center for Information on Religion

Panel: “New Scenarios and Subjects in Religion in Latin America,” Dennis Smith, Guatemala; Rolando Pérez, Peru; German Rey, Colombia; Renee de la Torre, Mexico

9:30-10:45 a.m.

Film

“Duck Amuck and Job: A case study in the potentiality of animated film as a bearer of religious meaning,” Joanne Mercer, Queen’s College

“From Inside Out and Outside In: Myth Representation of Spirituality in Hollywood,” Tom Cooper, Emerson College

“Political Strategies of Christian Fundamentalist Film Reviews,” James Trammell, The University of Iowa

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Perspectives

“Material biographies of S-E European icons,” Gabriel Hanganu, Exeter College

“Constructing Religion as a Social Problem: The Role of the Media,” Titus Hjelm, University of Helsinki

“Media and Metanoia: Documentary ‘Impact’ Through the Lens of Conversion,” Pamela Calvert, Oakland, California

Panel: “The Television-Radio Audience and Religion Revisited (49 years later),” Stewart Hoover, University of Colorado; Peter Horsfield, RMIT University; Michele Rosenthal, Haifa University

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Brazil

“The Cinema and the Brazilian Issue: The Catholic Church Faces Brazilian Productions,” Maria de Lourdes Beldi de Alcantara, University of Sao Paulo

“The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God: Media Strategies of a Brazilian Church in Search for Global Expansion,” Alexandre Brasil Fonseca, University of Estadual de Londrina

“Theoretical Explorations on Evangelical Media in Brazil,” Karina Kosicki Belotti, University of Campinas

Panel: “Markets, media and meaning: Representations of the religious across national and media borders,” Hillary Warren, Otterbein College; Mara Einstein, Queens College, CUNY; Eric Gormly, University of North Texas; Joyce Smith, Ryerson University
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

A Sense of Place

“Globalization and Religion,” Maria Way, University of Westminster

“Medium Religion or Religious Media: A study of Cultural and Theological Principles of Proximity of the Media and Religions,” Seyyed Hassan Hosseini, Sharif University of Technology

“Mainline Religion and global Media Culture: Curtain Line or Kairos? Some theological reflections,” Ineke de Feijter, Free University of Amsterdam

Panel: “Negotiating Narratives of Self and Society: Fieldwork from the Religion, Meaning, and the New Media@Home Projects,” Stewart Hoover, Lynn Schofield Clark, Denice Walker, Monica Emerich, Jin Kyu Park, University of Colorado

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Journalism

“Foreign Correspondents, Religion, & the Holy Land,” Yoel Cohen, Netanya Academic College


Panel: “Televised Redemption: Race, Religion and Media,” Marla Frederick, Harvard University; John Jackson, Duke University; Carolyn Rouse, Princeton University
Friday, September 3

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Cyberspace

“The Internet in Kenya: Religious and Social Implications of a New Technology,” Mary Kizito, Daystar University; Mark Fackler, Calvin College; Ann Miller, University of Georgia and Daystar University; Faith Nguru, Daystar University

“Seekers in Cyberspace: Youth Maintaining and Challenging Religion Online,” Mia Lovheim and Anders Sjoborg, Uppsala University

“Interactivity Among Online Christian Communities: An analysis of local ethnic and non-ethnic church websites,” Deborah Soun Chung, Indiana University

Panel: “Religion, Media and Culture: Recovering the Social in Audience Research,” Daniel Stout, Brigham Young University; Judith Buddenbaum, Colorado State University; Thomas Lindlof, University of Kentucky

9:30-10:45 a.m.

Cyberspace


“Getting a Life Online: Metaverses, Ritual, and Sacred Space,” Jason Shim, Wilfrid Laurier University

“Ghosts, and Relatives: A Look at Popular Occult and Religious Culture in Iceland,” Irma Sjofn Oskarsdottir and Steinunn Arnthrudur Bjornsdottir, Reykjavik, Iceland

“The Role of the Internet and Other Communication Forums in Church Sexual Abuse Scandals: A New Challenge for Churches,” Frances Forde Plude, Notre Dame College

Panel: “Icons as Visual and Material Media,” Gabriel Hanganu, University of Oxford; Neal Sobania, Hope College
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Ethics

“War in the Public Sphere: The Use of Ethical of Ethical Frameworks in Newspaper Coverage of the Iraq Wars,” Valeria Ona Funk, University of Chicago

“‘Wicked Truth’: The Dilemmas of Culturally Sensitive Media Coverage of a Drug Bust in the Amish Community,” Diane Zimmerman Umble, Millersville University


“Toward a Peaceable Kingdom: Public Relations and Religious Diversity in the U.S.,” Donn James Tilson, University of Miami; Anuradha Venkateswaran, Wilberforce University

Panel: “Reseaching Religion Online: Current Questions, Approaches and Where do we go from here?” Heidi Campbell, University of Edinburgh; Lynn Schofield Clark, University of Colorado at Boulder; Chris Helland, University of Toronto; Stewart Hoover, University of Colorado at Boulder; Mia Lövheim, University of Uppsala; Peter Horsfield, RMIT University

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Religious Experience

“‘Worship is a Lifestyle’: Current Christian Worship Practice and the Commodification of Contemporary Worship Music, Anna Nekola, University of Wisconsin-Madison”


Panel: Content Analysis of Religion Coverage: An Idea Whose Time has Passed? Mark Silk, Trinity College
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Islam

“A (cyber)imam on the net: woman and family by www.islamworld.net,” Marilena De Santis Bruno and Maria Giovanna Stasolla, II University of Roma “Tor Vergata”

“Toward an Ethic of Non-Christian Principles of Lobbying: Muslim and Buddhist Responses to Construction of Their Collective Identity, framed by principles of Christian Justice, as reported in Western Media,” Claire Badaracco, Marquette University

“The Construction of Islamic Authority in Diaspora: Media Muftis and Telephone Fatwas in France,” Alexandre Caeiro, Paris & International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World

Panel: “Producing Protestantism: Mediating Religion and Politics at Home and Abroad,” Diane Winston, University of Southern California; David Morgan, Valparaiso University; Stephen O’Leary, University of Southern California; Tanya Erzen, Barnard College; Bradford Verter, Bennington College

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Audiences

“‘Almost Like Having to Come Out All Over Again’: The Tension Between Religious Beliefs and Gay Rights in Media Audiences,” Diane Alters, University of Colorado at Boulder

“The Use of Religious Media among a Community of African American Baptists: An Ethnographic Study,” Eric Jones, Claflin University

“Media experiences, worldviews, religion: The significance of media experiences for individual religiosity,” Jorg Hermann, Humboldt-Universitat zu Berlin

Panel: “The Visual Cultures of Pentecostalism,” David Morgan, Valparaiso University; J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, Trinity Theological Seminary, Ghana; Elizabeth McAlister, Wesleyan University; Martijn Oosterbaan, University of Amsterdam; Marleen de Witte, University of Amsterdam

6:00 p.m. Board busses for Churchill Downs Museum  
Dinner  
Plenary: “Reframing Violent News,” Jolyon Mitchell, University of Edinburgh
Saturday, September 4

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Approaches to the Study of Media, Religion, and Culture

“The Religions of ‘the Book’ and Social Justice in Literate and Digital Culture,” Thomas Boomershine, The Lumicon Institute

“Studying Popular Religion in the Context of American Studies,” Mark Hulsether, University of Tennessee

“Locating the Study of Media, Religion and Culture: Within the Debate between Culturalism and Structuralism,” Jin Kyu Park, University of Colorado at Boulder

Panel: “Posthuman Discourses in an Age of Digital Media,” Heidi Campbell, University of Edinburgh; Mike Hübler, University of Alabama at Huntsville; Elaine Graham, University of Manchester

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Humor

“Amusing Grace: Skeptical Humor from Franklin to Free Inquiry,” Jeffery Smith, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“Black Comedians’ Social Construction of Religion in the Black Church on Television,” Lorraine Fuller, Southern University

“The Pedophile Crisis as Viewed through Political Cartoons,” Christopher Lynch, Kean University

Panel: “Lights! Camera! Reverence!: Picturing Faith in the Pursuit of Justice,” Barbara Abrash, New York University; Judith Helfand, New York University; Robert West, Working Films; Macky Alston, Auburn Media

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon

Plenary: “Communio Sanctorum: Sacred Visual Communities in the Media Age,” Johanna Sumiala-Seppänen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Theory

“What Does the Digital Age Want from the Apostle Paul? Apocalyptic Materiality as Media Analysis in the Writings of Slavoj Zizek,” Ward Blanton, Yale University

“Problems with Communication and Theology: Why so Little has Developed,” Paul Soukup, Santa Clara University

“Exploring romantic discourses of selfhood in contemporary media,” Gordon Lynch, University of Birmingham

Panel: “International Lives of Images: The Migration of Religious Imagery and the Transmutation of Meaning.” David Morgan, Valparaiso University; Heikki Hanka, University of Jyväskylä; Sandy Brewer, University of East London; Erika Doss, University of Colorado

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Panel: “‘Do you get my meaning?’ The interaction of production and reception.” Ann Hardy, Waikato University; Ailsa Hollinshead, Edinburgh, Scotland

Panel: “Teaching in and about media, religion and culture.” Mary Hess, Luther Seminary; Rebekah Bane and Scott Cormode, Claremont School of Theology; Lynn Schofield Clark, University of Colorado; Fabio Pasqualetti, Pontifical Salesian University