

For all the deconstructive efforts that the study of religion has engaged with over the last few decades, 'religion' often still carries with it the association of seriousness and solemnity. While this is no doubt true in many cases, it is a disservice to the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon to overlook the many playful, creative, and mundane elements that are present in religion as well. The goal of this workshop is to celebrate the 'fun' aspect of religion, to find it in various unexpected places, and to discuss the importance of the concepts of playfulness and play in our discipline. The empirical focus will be on the contemporary West, to limit problems of comparison across time or cultures.



