

University of Bern
presents

January 16-17, 2025

FUN WITH RELIGION

The Workshop

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.

Directed by
Bastiaan van Rijn

Starring
Rafaela Eulberg
Hanna Gebraad
Ernst van den Hemel
Oliver Krüger
Sarah Perez

Bastiaan van Rijn
Jane Skjoldli
Rana (Petra) Tillessen
Ingela Visuri

Creative Director
Sarah Perez
Bastiaan van Rijn

Production
University of Bern
Study of Religion
January 16-17, 2025
Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36,
Room S113
Bastiaan.vanrijn@unibe.ch

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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

SR
SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
RELIGIONSWISSENSCHAFT
SOCIÉTÉ SUISSE DE SCIENCES DES
RELIGIONS

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Thursday, January 16:

- 08.30 – 09.00 Reception and coffee
- 09.00 – 09.30 Opening of the workshop, introductions
- 09.30 – 10.20 **Jane Skjoldli:** What *fun* can help us see: Some empirical examples
- 10.20 – 11.10 **Hanna Gebraad:** “Chaos! But good chaos.” Discordianism, polyvalent play, and serious parody
- 11.10 – 12.00 **Ingela Visuri:** Playing with spirits: on horror and cravings for enchantment
- 12.00 – 13.00 Lunch
- 13.00 – 13.50 **Ernst van den Hemel:** TBD
- 13.50 – 14.40 **Rana (Petra) Tillessen & Rafaela Eulberg:** Didactics of the study of religion within a playful university - Experiments, Developments, and Reflections
- 14.40 – 15.30 Coffee Break
- 15.30 – 16.30 General discussion: the importance of play in religion

Friday, January 17:

- 09.00 – 10.00 **Oliver Krüger:** The Playful Materiality of Bible Stories brought to Life: Children’s Play, Social Media and Mission with Playmobil
- 10.00 – 10.50 **Bastiaan van Rijn:** Spiritual Leisure: A Case Study of Tarot Divination
- 10.50 – 11.40 **Sarah Perez:** Magic & Mulled Wine: From Play to Practice with Cozy Witch Aesthetics
- 11.40 – 12.40 Lunch
- 12.40 – 13.30 General discussion: Cooperation and interdisciplinary venues
- Closing of the workshop

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