

Religion and Cultural Change 7-9 June 2021

Online summer school and conference organized by the Centre for the Study of Christian Cultures, the Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture, and the Inez and Julius Polin Institute for Theological Research.

Zoom-links will be published during the week before the conference. Passwords will be sent by email to all enrolled participants.



Conference Program

Monday 7th June

9.45-10.00 Log in

10.00-10.15 Summer school opening & Welcome (Laura Wickström, Coordinator at the Polin Institute, Prof. Mikael Lindfelt, Vice-rector, Åbo Akademi University)

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-12.00 Workshop 1

1A Chair: **Prof. Anders Runesson** (University of Oslo) and **Prof. Antti Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)

Visa Helenius (University of Turku): *The Politico-Religio-Theological Framework and Explaining of the World in the 17th and 18th Centuries Rationalism*

Johannes Huhtinen (Åbo Akademi University): *Reformed Apocalypse: John Foxe and the End of Time*

Mikael Nouro (Åbo Akademi University): *Cultural Change – Religious Crisis? Is Ecclesiastes a Synthesis between Judaism and Hellenistic Thought?*

- 1B Chair: **Prof. Catharina Raudvere** (University of Copenhagen) and **Dr. Anni Maria Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)
- Isa Babur** (University of Münster / Sakarya University): *The Uninterrupted Culture of Belief in “the Oldest Temple” on the Earth: Göbeklitepe*
- Richard Croft** (University of Eastern Finland): *Non-Religious Religion the Paradox of Post-structural Social Constructivist ‘Religion’*
- Carolina Myrskog** (Åbo Akademi University): *The Finnish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*
- 1C Chair: **Prof. Pamela Slotte** (Åbo Akademi University / University of Helsinki) and **Dr. Tiina Mahlamäki** (University of Turku)
- Sofia Holopainen** (University of Helsinki): *Ethics: to Meet a Particular Other or to Define the Equal Value of Human Beings?*
- Elli Pellonperä** (Åbo Akademi University): *Beauty and Truth – An Analysis of the Aesthetical Character of Truth in Contemporary Theological Discussion*
- Johanna Tykkyläinen** (University of Eastern Finland): *Augustine and the Necessity of Change*
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-14.30 Workshop 2
- 2A Chair: **Dr. Heidi Jokinen** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. Minna Opas** (University of Turku)
- Laura Brännkärr-Väänänen** (Åbo Akademi University): *How Life-views Guide Vaccine Hesitancy in the Swedish-Speaking Coast of Finland*
- Sawsan Kheir** (Åbo Akademi University / University of Haifa): *Religion and Meaning-Making During a Global Crisis: Do Religious People Uniquely Attribute Religious Meanings to the COVID-19 Pandemic? A cross-cultural study.*
- Andy Turner** (Goldsmiths University of London): *Navigating Research Challenges: Confronting Whiteness in Research – and my Dependency on Video Conferencing Software as Part of Data Gathering in Lockdown*
- 2B Chair: **Dr. Patrik Hagman** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. Jaana Kouri** (Åbo Akademi University)
- Karoliina Dahl** (Åbo Akademi University): *Life-views of Finnish University Students – Remembering Continuity and Change*
- Pietari Hannikainen** (University of Helsinki): *Modernization and the Changing Legitimation of Religious Authority. The Case of Lutheran Church-renewal Network in Finland*
- Maria Sharapan** (University of Jyväskylä): *Adjusting the Dharma to Western Minds: Perspectives from Tibetan Lamas*

- 2C Chair: **Prof. Björn Vikström** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. Sofia Sjö** (Donner Institute)
- Jodie Salter** (University of Leeds): *Religion as a Strategic Response to Climate Change? Addressing the Changing Role of Faith-based Organisations at the United Nations and beyond.*
- Matthew Stemp** (Goldsmiths, University of London): *Cultural Trauma and Religious-Activist Identity in Extinction Rebellion UK*
- Laura Wickström** (Åbo Akademi University): *Combining a German Muslim Identity with Environmentalism*
- 14.30-14.45 Coffee Break
- 14.45-16.15 Workshop 3
- 3A Chair: **Prof. Anders Runesson** (University of Oslo) and **Dr. Anni Maria Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)
- Karolina Kouvola** (University of Helsinki): *Intertextual Discourses on Magical Healing in Ostrobothnian Newspapers and Vernacular Narratives in Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries*
- Mikko Pisilä** (University of Eastern Finland): *Cultural Evolution, Spiritual Violence, and the Gospel of Matthew*
- Topias Tanskanen** (Åbo Akademi University): *The Use and Interpretation of the Jacob Story in the Book of Jubilees: Three Case Studies*
- 3B Chair: **Prof. Mika Vähäkangas** (Lund University) and **Dr. Kim Groop** (Åbo Akademi University)
- Thomas Fearon** (University of London): *Rethinking Belonging: Born-again Identity and Social Change in Diaspora*
- Saara Kuoppala** (University of Helsinki): *Negotiating the Postcolonial Heritage in Namibia*
- Rafael Camarero Montesinos** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid): *Diaspora Policies and Identity. 'Moroccanness' Formation among Descendants of Moroccan Migrants in Spain*
- 16.15-16.30 Break
- 16.30-18.00 Workshop 4
- 4A Chair: **Prof. Rebecca Catto** (Kent State University) and **Dr. Minna Opas** (University of Turku)
- Katarina Johansson** (Åbo Akademi University): *Mystical Experiences and Meaning Making in Contemporary Society*
- Ella Poutiainen** (University of Turku): *Feminism, Feminine Spirituality and Social Change*

Polina Vrublevskaya (Åbo Akademi University / St. Tikhon's Orthodox University): *"I Try Not to Save my Soul, but to Understand it": Young Adults from Finland, Poland and Russia in a Spiritual Quest*

4B Chair: **Prof. Catharina Raudvere** (University of Copenhagen) and **Dr. Tuomas Martikainen** (University of Eastern Finland)

Saila Kujanpää (University of Helsinki): *Training Teachers for Islamic Religious Education in Europe: A Case Study from Finland*

Maximilian Lasa (University of Copenhagen): *Expanding Horizons of Higher Islamic Education*

Maria Lindebæk Lyngsøe (University of Copenhagen): *Danish Muslim Women's Engagement in Islamic Educational Activities*

19.00 Virtual excursion to the institutes (optional)

Tuesday 8th June

Summer school continues:

9.00–10.30 Workshop 5

5A Chair: **Dr. Sofia Sjö** (Donner Institute) and **MA (disp.) Johnny Långstedt** (Åbo Akademi University)

Miitta Järvinen (University of Turku): *Tracing Cultural/Religious in Finnish Education for Adult Immigrants*

Mikael Nilsson (Åbo Akademi University): *Forgiveness in Working Communities and 'the New Spirit of Capitalism' – A Theological Response*

5B Chair: **Dr. Ruth Illman** (Donner Institute) and **Dr. Linda Annunen** (Åbo Akademi University)

Per Göransson (Karlstad University): *Choirography. Place/Space and Culture in the 'Postsecular'*

Tero Heinonen (Åbo Akademi University): *Songs for Loving Spirits: Spiritual Singing Circles in Finland*

Helena Karhu (University of Eastern Finland): *The Relationship with the Drum: Transformation and Empowerment in Contemporary Finnish Shamanism*

Conference:

10.30-10.45 Log in

10.45-11.00 Welcome to the conference / Opening words **Dr. Ruth Illman**, Director of the Donner Institute

11.00-12.30 **Keynote 1**

Prof. Catharina Raudvere (University of Copenhagen)

Memory and Interpretation. The Study of Religion and the Analysis of the Past in the Present

Moderator: Dr. Ruth Illman (Donner Institute)

Zoom-link: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66176328976>

Meeting ID: 661 7632 8976

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 **Session 6**

6A The Book of Isaiah I

Chair: Prof. Antti Laato (Åbo Akademi University) and Dr. David Davage (Umeå University)

Dr. David Davage (Umeå University): *Isaiah ben Amoz as a Greek Author: Outlining How the Relation Between the Prophet and the Book Is Constructed in Early Jewish and Christian Reception*

Dr. Stefan Green (Åbo Akademi University): *Abraham in the Book of Isaiah*

6B Religious Transmission

Chair: Dr. Kim Groop (Åbo Akademi University) and Dr. Andreas Häger (Åbo Akademi University)

Prof. Terhi Utriainen (University of Turku) & **Dr. Tiina Mahlamäki** (University of Turku): *Profanizing Laughter in the Secular Media*

Dr. Laura Kallatsa (University of Eastern Finland): *The Transmission of Religion Across Generations in Finland*

Prof. Terhi Utriainen (University of Turku) & **Dr. Linda Annunen** (Åbo Akademi University): *Learning to Adopt New Spirituality to Everyday Life*

6C Music and Dance

Chair: Dr. Sofia Sjö (Donner Institute)

Dr. Laura Hellsten (Åbo Akademi University): *Dance as an Agency for Change*

Dr. Tuomas Järvenpää (University of Eastern Finland): *Cultural Innovation in Finnish Evangelical Rap Music – Ethnolifehistorical Account of Roni Samuel's Music Career*

Dr. Jaana Kouri (Åbo Akademi University) & **Dr. Elina Hytönen-Ng** (University of Eastern Finland): *From 'Going Native' to Autoethnography – the Change of the Position of the Researcher in the Study of Shamanism*

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 **Keynote 2**

Prof. Rebecca Catto (Kent State University)

Religion, Science, Belief, and Secularization

Moderator: **Dr. Minna Opas** (University of Turku)

Zoom-link: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66296320079>

Meeting ID: 662 9632 0079

18.00 Cooking Finnish with Laura (online cooking) (optional)

Wednesday 9th June

9.30-11.00 **Sessions 7**

7A The Book of Isaiah II

Chair: **Prof. Antti Laato** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. David Davage** (Umeå University)

MT Topias Tanskanen (Åbo Akademi University): *The Use of Isaiah in the Book of Jubilees*

Dr. Juho Sankamo (Åbo Akademi University): *The Temple of Jerusalem: The Fortress of Zion or the Loving Mother of All?*

Dr. Karl-Henrik Wallerstein (Åbo Akademi University): *Origen's Homilies on Isaiah 1-9, Analyzed through Jerome's Commentary on Isaiah*

7B Islam I

Chair: **Dr. Mulki Al-Sharmani** (University of Helsinki) and **Dr. Måns Broo** (Åbo Akademi University)

Dr. Didem Unal Abaday (University of Helsinki): *Muslim Feminists' Borderland Positions in an Authoritarian Populist Regime: The Case of Turkey*

Dr. Ahmad Karimi (Quran and Hadith University): *The Role of Applying the Maslaha (Islamic Expediency) Element in Salafi Islam to Invert Ethical and Religious Values*

Dr. Teemu Pauha (University of Helsinki): *Young Shia Muslims Using the Quran to Negotiate Religious Identity and Authority*

7C Perspectives on Religion and Change I

Chair: **Prof. Björn Vikström** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. Anni Maria Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)

Dr. Oskari Juurikkala (Åbo Akademi University): *Clement of Alexandria's Song of the Logos as an Interpretation of Cultural Change*

Dr. Helena Kupari (University of Helsinki): *What Does Conversion to Orthodox Christianity Tell Us about Cultural Change in Finland?*

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.45 **Session 8**

8A The Book of Isaiah III

Chair: **Prof. Antti Laato** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. David Davage** (Umeå University)

Zoom-link: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66478056020>

Meeting ID: 664 7805 6020

Dr. Lotta Valve (University of Eastern Finland): *The Servant Figure as 'Elijah-Elisha' in Reception*

Prof. Antti Laato (Åbo Akademi University): *Reading Isa 8:4 inside Isa 7:10-17 – An Attempt to Understand Justin Martyr's Isaiah Exegesis*

8B Islam II

Chair: **Dr. Mulki Al-Sharmani** (University of Helsinki) and **Dr. Måns Broo** (Åbo Akademi University)

Dr. Emine Enise Yakar (Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University): *The Approach of the Fiqh Council of North America towards Identity Problems of Contemporary Muslim Minorities*

Dr. Sümeysra Yakar (İğdır University): *Interpretation of Islamic Law from Past to Present in Saudi Arabia*

8C Perspectives on Religion and Change II

Chair: **Prof. Björn Vikström** (Åbo Akademi University) and **Dr. Anni Maria Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)

Dr. Gerd Snellman (Åbo Akademi University) & **Dr. Jakob Dahlbacka** (Åbo Akademi University): *Institutional Trust in the Ostrobothnian Bible Belt. Laestadian views on governing authorities and political activity*

Dr. Igor Mikeschin (University of Helsinki): *"Sex is like a brick wall": Gender Order and Family Values as Lived Christianity*

8D Faith, state, legal system chairs

Chair: **Prof. Pamela Slotte** (Åbo Akademi University / University of Helsinki)

Dr. Juho Sankamo (Åbo Akademi University): *Jesus and Feeding of the Multitudes*

Dr hab. Prof. Olga Sitarz (University of Silesia) & **Dr. Anna Jaworska-Wieloch** (University of Silesia) & **PhD Student Jakub Hanc** (University of Silesia): *Public Opinion about Religious Freedom (and its Limits) in Prisons in the Context of International Regulations*

Dr. Tuomas Äystö (University of Turku): *Data Science and the Study of Religion? Lessons from the Automated Study of Parliamentary Materials*

12.45-13.45 Lunch

13.45-15.15 **Keynote 3**

Prof. Anders Runesson (University of Oslo)

The Puzzle and Politics of Historical Reconstruction: The Case of the Rise and Development of Christianity and Judaism

Moderator: **Dr. Anni Maria Laato** (Åbo Akademi University)

Zoom-link: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/68669041196>

Meeting ID: 686 6904 1196

15.15-15.30 Closing words

15.30-16.00 Post Conference Discussion Sessions (Parallel sessions)

Dr. Minna Opas: Research Funding

Dr. Sofia Sjö: Open Science

Dr. Ruth Illman: Academic Publishing

Dr. Kim Groop and Dr. Jakob Dahlbacka: Religion and Cultural Memory