



Organized by Centre for Contemporary Religion: Jesper Østergaard and Jørn Borup

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Religion in Location: Spatial Approaches to Religion

8 February 2013 10.00-16.00

Building 1453 – 415 Jens Chr. Skous Vej 3

The relationship between space, place and location on the one side and religion on the other side has attracted new attention to the study of religion. This emerging “spatial approach” to religion offers new and interesting perspectives on religion, and the seminar will engage in the complex relationships among the various locations of religion, when approaching them from a multidisciplinary perspective. This seminar aims linking the study of religion with anthropological, psychological and sociological approaches to space in order to study the interactions among religion, geography, society, body and mind.

“Religion in Location” explores how a spatial approach to religion will shed new light on religion on (at least) three levels: 1. on an individual, bodily and mental level; 2. on a social, cultural and symbolic level and 3. on a geographical and material level.

Topics may include the way individuals, through negotiations with the surrounding society and geography embody religion; sacrality in various contexts, the way society and body regulate or differentiate between locations of sacrality and secularity and in separating the sacred from the secular; how social constructions of place, space and borders are imposed on the individual as well as modifying the landscape and, in return, how the materiality of space and landscape may contribute to the transmission of shared religious ideas.

We aim at bringing the various topics up for discussions among the participants and have scheduled time for this as well as for questions after each talk – and our hope is to broaden the scope of a spatial approach to religion.

Programme:

10.00-10.50: Kim Knott: Locating religion: the challenges

10.50-11.40: Jesper Østergaard: Religion and space: religion in a topographic turn

11.40-12.00: Discussion: Knott & Østergaard

12.00-13.00: Lunch (at own expense)

13.00-13.50: Veikko Anttonen: Perceptual strategies and environmental preferences in the making of religious terrains

13.50-14.40: Jesper Sørensen: Mind in space – Space in mind: cognitive aspects of the construction of ritualized space.

14.40-15.00: Discussion: Anttonen & Sørensen

15.00-16.00: General discussion

16.00-: Wine and snack reception in 1451 – 515

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