

**Annual NGG Conference
27 & 28 October 2016**

**University of Amsterdam
Religious Studies**

Public Religions and Their Secrets, Secret Religions and Their Publics

Programme

Funded by:

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Programme Overview

Day 1: Thursday 27 October 2016	
12.00 -13.00	Arrival, lunch and registration hall next to the VOC Hall
13.00-13.15	Welcome (Prof. dr. Gerard Wiegers) VOC Hall
13.15-14.15	Keynote lecture prof. dr. Jan Assmann VOC Hall 'The Secret and the Sacred in Ancient Egypt'
14.30-16.00	Parallel session 1 VOC Hall Parallel session 2 F0.21
16.00-16.30	Refreshments VOC Hall
16.30-18.00	Parallel sessions 3 VOC Hall Parallel session 4 F0.21
18.00-18.45	Drinks VOC Hall
19.00	Conference Dinner Restaurant Hemelse Modder

Day 2: Friday 28 October 2016	
09.00-10.15	AGM (NGG members-only) F0.21
10.00-10.30	Registration VOC Hall
10.30-12.30	Parallel session 5 VOC Hall Parallel session 6 F0.21
12.30-13.30	Lunch VOC Hall
13.30-15.00	Parallel session 7 VOC Hall Parallel session 8 F0.21
15.00-15.30	Refreshments VOC Hall
15.30-16.30	Keynote lecture dr. Gerdien Jonker VOC Hall 'Handling Religious Sects in Modern Society. Ahmadiyya Mission in Interwar Europe'
16.30-16.35	Closing of conference VOC Hall
16.35-17.30	Drinks VOC Hall

Sessions

Session 1 – Authority and power

1. Tim Rudbøgg – University of Copenhagen
The function of secrecy in antiquity: between power and didactics
2. Christian Lange – Utrecht University
Secrecy destroyed? Territory, body and honour in Muslim legal conceptualizations of privacy
3. Michael Ebstein – Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hidden Saints, Manifest Lords: Secrecy and Authority in Classical Islamic Mysticism

Session 2 – Western Esotericism, New Religious Movements, and Secrecy (1)

1. Wouter Hanegraaff – University of Amsterdam
The Secret of Secrets: entheogenic practice in 19th-century Occultism
2. Malgorzata Alicja Dulcka – Jagiellonian University
Secrets of the Prophet. Debates about Towianski and Circle or God's Cause in the 19th and 20th Centuries in Poland
3. Georgia van Raalte
Dion Fortune's Correspondence Course and the Limits of Public Esotericism

Session 3 – Secrecy or hidden assumptions in a secular context

1. Ulrike Popp-Baier – University of Amsterdam
Hidden assumptions religious and nonreligious people live by
2. Claire Wanless – PhD student, Open University (UK)
Secularization and the transmission of individualized religion in Hebden Bridge
3. Dave Vliegthart – PhD student, University of Groningen
Modern Western Gurus and their Secular Religions

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Session 4 – Public and private rituals in contemporary societies

1. William Arfman – Tilburg University
Public Ritual and its Backstage Secrets
2. Rachael Shillitoe – University of Worcester (UK)
Reimagining Prayer in Collective Worship
3. Holly Burgess – University of Amsterdam
A Clandestine Account of the Native American Church: Privacy and Preservation of the Peyote Custom

Session 5 – Responding to challenges in contemporary society

1. Margreet van Es – Utrecht University
Muslims Condemning Violent Extremism: The Multiple Challenges of Representing the “Silent Majority” (2001-2016)
2. Suzanne Roggeveen – PhD student, University of Amsterdam
The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tensions between Jews and Muslims in Amsterdam?
3. Christiane Koenigstedt – University of Leipzig
The problem of “secrecy” of collective actors in contemporary secular societies: the French case and beyond
4. Caroline vanderStichele – University of Amsterdam
“A Buddhist is coming here to convert people”: Catholic responses to Yoga in Flanders

Session 6 - Religious minorities

1. Ab de Jong - Leiden University
Spiritual elite knowledge among modern Middle Eastern religious minorities
2. Jens Kreinath – Wichita State University
Alawite politics of religious secrecy: in/visible dynamics of dissimulation and concealment among a religious minority in Hatay, Turkey
3. Genji Yasuhira – PhD student, Kyoto University (guest researcher at Utrecht University)
Delimitations of the “Public” and the Limit of Toleration: Trials against Catholics in the Mid-17th Century Utrecht

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4. Gerard Wiegers – University of Amsterdam
Forced Conversion and Religious Secrecy in the Medieval and Early Modern Muslim West

Session 7 – Western Esotericism, New Religious Movements and Secrecy (2)

1. Léon van Gulik – PhD student, Tilburg University
Mysteries, Oaths and Ritual Hygiene: on Challenges of Secrecy in a New Religious Movement
2. Joanna Malita – PhD student, Jagiellonian University in Krakow
Why so secret? The issue of initiation and oath of secrecy in British Traditional Wicca
3. Marco Pasi – University of Amsterdam
The problem of secrecy in Western esotericism

Session 8 - Secrecy and/in Scriptures

1. Avriel Bar-Levav – Open University of Israel
Printing the Zohar and the Canonization of Secrets in Jewish Culture
2. Mattias Brand – PhD student, Leiden University
Secrecy and Concealment as Strategy? Manichaean Communities and Texts in the later Roman Empire
3. Yves Mühlematter – PhD student, Freiburg University
The “occult wisdom” in the “sacred texts of the Hindus”: translation as unveiling the ‘Secret Doctrine’

Contacts and practical information

Venues

Keynote lectures and sessions

Bushuis

Kloveniersburgwal 48

Rooms: VOC-hall; F0.21

Conference dinner (by invitation only)

Restaurant Hemelse Modder

Oude Waal 11

020 624 3203

Organizing committee

Prof dr Gerard Wiegers

Dr Marco Pasi

Suzanne van Esdonk

Dorieke Molenaar

If you have any questions, please contact Dorieke Molenaar, mail:

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Map



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