

Religion and Popular Culture: Call for Papers

for a major, inter-disciplinary conference on Fandom and Religion

University of Leicester Conference Centre, College Court, Leicester, UK: 28th-30th July 2015

Offers of short papers (15-20 mins when delivered) and panel sessions (3 or 4 contributors, 1.5 hours) are invited either directly **on the conference theme (Fandom and Religion) or on any aspect of study relating to popular culture and religion.**

'Popular culture' is to be understood widely (e.g. TV, film, radio, media, music, sport, videogames) and 'religion' may mean organized religion, religiosity, spirituality. The conference is inter-disciplinary (especially sociology, mass communications, cultural studies, religious studies and theology) and welcomes researchers working in academic and practitioner (media, culture, faith community) settings. Papers which draw together and reflect on the results of empirical studies are especially welcome.

We welcome proposals of papers and panels on such topics as:

- Case-studies of fan culture (TV, sport, film, music etc.)
- Celebrity worship/ The impact of celebrity culture on religious practice
- Sport and/as religion
- Religious beliefs and practices within popular culture
- Media practices and/as religion
- Uses of popular culture by religious groups
- Theoretical debates about 'fan culture and/as religious practice'
- Theories of religion as applied to popular culture use

Short Paper proposals: *Please send a Word file containing:*

- The title of your paper
- A 250-word abstract of what you would deliver
- Details of AV requirements (other than data projection for Powerpoint presentations)

Do not include your name or institution in the file. Include your name and institutional affiliation (where appropriate) and the title of your paper in the e-mail you send to accompany your abstract. This will enable anonymous consideration of the paper proposals.

For Panel proposals: *Please send a Word file containing:*

- The title of your panel session
- The name of the chair/convenor of your session
- Names and details (50-word biogs of each) of three or four panel participants who would be members of the panel and introduce the discussion
- Two or three key questions/issues which your panel session would address.

Note: it will be assumed, in our receiving details of the proposed panel session, that all named participants will have consented to their names being put forward and that they will be committed to attending should the panel be accepted.

Deadline for receipt of all short paper and panel proposals: Monday January 12th, 2015 (noon, UK time)

All proposals should be sent to: ijw3@le.ac.uk

Conference details at: www2.le.ac.uk/departments/lifelong-learning/events/fandomconference/fandom

