

## Call for Chapter Proposals to an Edited Volume

### Visual Lived Religion: Towards a *camera-based* Approach to the Empirical Study of Religion

The Amsterdam Centre for the Study of Lived Religion (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) invites chapter-proposals for a volume on camera-based approaches to lived religion.

The field of the empirical study of religions has witnessed a number of turns in recent years: the material turn (Meyer 2011, Morgan, 2021), the visual turn (Meyer, 2011; Mitchell, 2005), the spatial turn (Tweed, 2011), and the affective turn (Schaefer, 2015) that ask for new methods which are suitable to study the lived, often messy, slippery and vague material and aesthetic dimensions of religious subjectivities and practices. While other fields have made progress in visual methods (especially the field of visual anthropology), the empirical study of religions has still a long way to go before a fully fledged visual *camera-based* approach to research is developed. It is important to develop these methods, for several reasons. Namely, in the *first* place, visual methods enable the researcher to represent non-discursive aspects of religion. *Second*, visual methods expand text-based methods and enable the researcher – especially when applied in a mixed-methods approach - to create a more in-depth and detailed understanding of religious phenomena. *Third*, visual world-making epistemologies enable the researcher to create ‘products’ that (in addition to scientific articles) appeal to different – more sensorial - ways of knowing and being in and beyond the academia. *Fourth*, visual methods can be an attractive and engaging alternative for students doing research in our field of study – especially relevant for students who identify as ‘visual thinkers’ rather than ‘conceptual thinkers’. *Fifth*, in terms of valorization, visual methods enable the researcher to create products that are attractive and accessible to a wider audience. *Sixth*, visual methods critically investigate the epistemological underpinnings of the empirical study of religions (in terms of the valuation of the senses, the imagining, the ‘politics of representation’, the reduction of visual and aesthetic experience in merely text-based approaches of the logocentric episteme, and so forth and so on). In this way, visual methods can help us to better articulate lived religious imaginaries and epistemological production based on assemblages of sensory perceptions (e.g., words, sounds and images).

In the field of religious studies, we are only at the beginning of developing and applying *camera-based* research methods both on the level of research and the level of education: in many religion and theology faculties visual methods are absent in the study program.

Areas of interest for this volume include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Theories of visual (camera-based) methods and lived religion.
- Methodological issues at the intersection of visual methods and lived religion.
- Epistemological issues regarding camera-based methods in the study of lived religion.
- The pros and cons, possibilities and impossibilities of camera-based methods in contrast to other methods in the field of theology and religion.
- Disciplinary perspectives: anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, social work, theology, and arts, etc.

Abstract to be submitted - at the latest – by **May, 20, 2023**. The addresses to be used are: [s.sremac@vu.nl](mailto:s.sremac@vu.nl); [j.h.roeland@vu.nl](mailto:j.h.roeland@vu.nl)

All abstracts will be (double blind) peer reviewed. Please use plain text and abstain from using any special formatting, characters or emphasis (such as bold, italics or underline). We will acknowledge receipt and answer to all proposals submitted.

Researchers from the social sciences, humanities, religious studies, and (practical) theology are invited to contribute to this volume. Ideally the volume will cover cases and perspectives from a variety of geographical, political, and religious contexts.

Abstracts should be in Word format with the following information and in this order:

- author(s)
- affiliation
- email address
- title of proposal
- body of proposal (200-300 words)

We will acknowledge the receipt of your proposal and inform you about the acceptance or rejection before **June 1, 2023**. Deadline for the first draft of your chapter will be on **December 10, 2023**. All chapters will be given feedback by the editors and will be double blind peer reviewed before publication. For further information, please contact Srdjan Sremac [s.sremac@vu.nl](mailto:s.sremac@vu.nl) and Johan Roeland [j.h.roeland@vu.nl](mailto:j.h.roeland@vu.nl).