Description

Migration has profoundly influenced secular civilisation in Europe. As debates about the veil or the recent terror attacks show, religion has become a point of negotiation again. Refugees from Muslim countries, as well as the strong emphasis on Catholicism and Orthodoxy of certain former communist countries as they separate themselves from their previous ideologies, witness that for many people, religion still is much more than just a private matter. Immigration has turned Europe not only to a multicultural but also to a religiously pluralistic society, where a wide range of different religions and beliefs exist next to each other. After Nietzsche's widely quoted statement “God is dead” and the deconstruction of metaphysics, the relation between modern European civilisation and its religious inheritance is debated again. Richard Rorty, Gianni Vattimo, and Santiago Zabala noticed that secularisation has become a religious norm of its own in our post-religious society. Literature has always been a reflector of shifts in society. The conference focuses on expressions of religiosity in contemporary European literature dealing with migration, and analyses how religion is represented in these works.

Language of the conference: English

Scientific Committee:

Antje Bussgen (UCL)
César Domínguez (University of Santiago de Compostela)
Anke Gilleir (KUL)
Philippe Humblé (VUB)
Ilse Logie (Ghent University)
Xavier Luffin (ULB)
Rita De Maeseneer (University of Antwerp)
Liesbeth Minnaard (Leiden University)
Fridrun Rinner (Université Aix-Marseille)
Monique Weis (ULB)

Convenors:

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- Faculté de Lettres, Traduction et Communication à l'Université libre de Bruxelles
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel R&D
- Doctoral School of Human Sciences (DSH), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC), Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Centre de recherche Philixte (ULB)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017

1.30–2.45 pm Opening of the Conference
Helga MITTERBAUER, ULB/Arvi SEPP, VUB & University of Antwerp

Keynote (Chair: Arvi SEPP):
Claire CHAMBERS (University of York): Literary Representations of Muslims in Britain: Race, Ethnicity and Religion

2.45–3.15 pm Coffee Break

3.15–5.30 pm Chair: Fridrun RINNER, Université Aix-Marseille
Liesbeth MINNAARD (Leiden University): Hafid Bouazza’s Crusade Against Islam in the Netherlands. Between Public Provocations and Literary Irony

Sandra VLASTA (University of Mainz): Migration without Religion? The (non-)Representation of Religion in Recent Austrian Novels on Migration

Xavier LUFFIN (ULB): Religious Minorities and Forced Migration: Arabic Fiction as a Testimony

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

9–10 am Keynote (Chair: Helga MITTERBAUER)
Vivian LISKA (University of Antwerp): The Jew, the Migrant: Experience - Metaphor - Poetry

10–11.15 am Chair: Jeanne GLESENÉR, University of Luxembourg
Lily CLIMENHAGA (University of Alberta/LMU Munich): Where are we? Memory of Migration and Religion in Milo Rau’s Theatre of Self

Piet DEFRAEYE (University of Alberta): Who are we? Migration and Religion in Elfriede Jelinek’s Parasitic Theatre

11.15–11.45: Coffee Break

11.45am–1.15 pm: Chair: Liesbeth MINNAARD
Milan HEROLD (University of Bönn): Wandering about - Religion. Houellebecq’s Soumission and Sansal’s 2084. The End of the World

Nguyen THI NHU TRANG (USSH, VNU, Hanoi): The Interaction of Religions and the Expression of National Identity of Immigrants in Works by Vietnamese Immigrant Writers in France

1.15–2.30 pm: Lunch

2.30–4.45 pm Chair: Isabelle MEURET, ULB
Neha JAIN (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): The Female Body as Conflict Zone – unshrouding Woman through Frames and Interstices in Nina Bouraoui’s Garçon Manqué and Marjané Satrapi’s Persepolis

Christian PALM (Université de Namur): Subversive Criticism on Religion-as-Politics: Remarks on SAID’s Sequel Texts Selbstbildnis für eine ferne Mutter and Landschaften einer fernen Mutter

Warda EL-KADDOURI (Ghent University): Loss and Religiousness in the Refugee Narratives of Abbas Khider and Sherko Falat

6 pm Reading by Abdelaziz BARAKA SAKIN and Xavier LUFFIN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017

9–10.30 am Chair: Anke GILLEIR, KULeuven:
Philippe HUMBLÉ (VUB): Twice a Rebel: Kader Abdolah’s Conflictive Relationship towards Iran and Islam

Myriam GEISER (Université Grenoble Alpes): Open Questions: Zafer Senocak’s Conjectures on his Father’s Religion

10.30–11 Coffee Break

11 am–12.30 pm Chair: Désirée SCHYNs, Ghent University:

Helga MITTERBAUER (ULB): Ghosts from the Past: Crossing of Mysticism and Memory in Dzevad Kuračans’s Novels

12.30–1 pm Final Discussion and Closing of the conference