

# Mediating Religion: Modes of Communication in Religious Contexts

interdisciplinary graduate student conference

April 18 - 19, 2014  
CALL FOR PAPERS

**Keynote: Dr. Lerone Martin**

Research Fellow at Washington University's  
Danforth Center on Religion and Politics

**Text. Sound. Image. Gesture. Materials. Speech.** Countless are the ways in which ideas and information can be shared, particularly given recent innovations in mass media and digital communications technologies. Turning attention to modes of communication in religious contexts, this conference will address ways in which mass media have been utilized to market religious traditions, mobilize religious groups for social change, disseminate religious knowledge, and create new forms of religious community.

The conference is not, however, limited to contemporary contexts. It seeks to examine ways in which modes of communication—in any form—mediate religious thought, experience, and interaction in the world, based upon data from any time period, geographic region, or religious tradition. The conference thus encourages paper proposals that engage in diverse theoretical frameworks, employ interdisciplinary methodologies, and elucidate perspectives on contemporary as well as historical contexts.

## **Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:**

- Mass media, communications technologies, social media
- Visual and material culture in religious contexts
- Performance as communication
- Rhetoric and speech
- Pedagogy, oral tradition, impartation of religious knowledge
- Prayer, meditation, and human-sacred communications
- Prophecies, dreams, oracles, possessions, visions, glossolalia
- Proselytism, missions, and cross-cultural encounter
- Text, interpretation, hermeneutics
- Prescriptive guidelines for interpersonal interactions
- Language and translation

## **Submission deadline - January 3**

Papers must include: paper title, name, department and institutional affiliation, 250-300 word abstract, 1-2 page CV, and any potential A/V needs.

Submit to: [iugradconf@gmail.com](mailto:iugradconf@gmail.com)

## **Applicant notification - January 13**

Presentation time: 20 minute maximum

Presented by  
The Department of Religious Studies  
at Indiana University, Bloomington



Image courtesy Nexus Church