

Religion, Community, Borders (II)

Social Imaginaries and the Crisis of Neoliberal Democracy

**A workshop organized by
The International Consortium SIMAGINE
in collaboration with
The Research Centre 'Religion & Transformation in Contemporary Society'
(RaT)**

Vienna, May 23 2018

Venue: Research Centre RaT, Schenkenstrasse 8-10, 2nd floor, Room 053

The international consortium SIMAGINE (*Social Imaginaries between Secularity and Religion in a Globalizing World*) runs over a period of three years from July 2017 to July 2020 and is hosted by the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, The Netherlands. It is funded by the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research NWO. SIMAGINE is a platform for research exchange that has launched a research program combining theoretical and empirical methods. It aims to explore the role of social imaginaries within a globalizing world, characterized by what has been called in recent scholarship super-diversity (Steven Vertovec). SIMAGINE consists of 10 European and American partner universities.

This workshop is the second in a series of open workshops that are organized by Simagine on 'Religion, Community, Borders: Social Imaginaries and the Crisis of Neoliberal Democracy'. This is one of the key research lines of the consortium. The exchanges in the workshops will lead to a publication in the form of a special issue of the open access *Journal for Religion & Transformation in Contemporary Society* (forthcoming 2019).

The exchanges in the workshop will be based on dialogue and improvization; the titles of the papers are provisional.

Program

- 10.00 Welcome; opening by SIMAGINE coordinators Hans Alma & Laurens ten Kate
- 10.10 *'Media and Religion in the Construction of the North-Atlantic "Center"'*
Session opening paper by SIMAGINE-member prof. Stewart Hoover (Center for Media, Religion and Culture and Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado Boulder)
- 10.40 *'Borders Imagined: Insulation, Isolation, and Identity in Fundamentalist Religious Communities'*
Responding paper by guest speaker prof. Crina Gschwandtner (Department of Philosophy, Fordham University, New York)
- 11.10 *'Modernity as a Process of Permanent Border Crossing: A Historical Sketch of the Genesis of Modernity'*
Responding paper by guest speaker prof. Hans Schelkshorn (Department for Christian Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Vienna)
- 11.30 Discussion
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 *'Borders Without Walls: Politics of Mobility and Poetics of the Frontier'*
Session opening paper by SIMAGINE-member prof. Nabil Echchaibi (Center for Media, Religion and Culture and Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado Boulder)
- 14.30 *'On Differences that Don't Make a Difference: The Porosity of Borders and the Exclusion of Otherness'*
Responding paper by guest speaker prof. Michael Staudigl (Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna)
- 15.00 *'Changing the Imaginary: Trees, Shrubs and Beyond'*
Responding paper by guest speaker prof. Rüdiger Lohlker (Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Vienna)
- 15.30 Discussion
- 17.00 End of the workshop