



Call for papers

Issue 7

The Crisis of Representation

The „Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society“ is an academic, peer reviewed, open-access Journal, located at the research platform „Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society“ of the University of Vienna, Austria. The journal will devote its autumn issue 2018 to the topic of “The Crisis of Representation” and aims particularly at the question of links between neoliberalism, ethnonationalism, religious conservatism and the crisis of representation in politics, religion and culture.

Background: The year 2016 was one of what the noted economist and social theorist Nassim Taleb called “black swan” events in the realm of politics. As the British magazine *The Economist* noted on December 2, 2016, “a populist, nationalist wave is sweeping the West. It has to do with the economic crisis, globalization, automation, immigration, stagnant wages, social media and a less deferential culture; albeit in drastically varying proportions in different countries. Each instance of this shift spurs on the next.” This nationalist wave, however, runs deeper than mere politics and cannot be so easily dismissed, as many progressive pundits are wont to proclaim, simply as the dark fruition of entrenched “racism” or “xenophobia”, which prove to be rather symptoms than causes. Such trends are the consequence of the rapidly fragmenting global neoliberal order, stemming from what might be regarded (following the lead of Michel Foucault) a “crisis of representation.” The crisis is not only political and economic, but cultural, aesthetic and religious as well. Thus a serious inquiry into this complex and multidimensional phenomenon requires an interdisciplinary approach.

The issue will therefore address the following questions:

1. What are the forces driving the accelerating growth and spread of nationalism, especially what the magazine *The Economist* has recently termed “ethno-nationalism”, in the Western world?
2. Which forgotten or veiled religious dimensions become visible in this context? Are they institutional, symbolic, political?
3. In what respects is the crisis of representation also a crisis of neoliberalism?
4. What are the causal as well as operative relationships between these developments and the changing role of religion (and religious symbolic orders) and cultural values in these societies as well as attendant economic, political and religious tensions that provide the appropriate context for their analysis?
5. To what extent does religious conservatism interact with the above mentioned types of crisis?
6. To what degree is the expression “crisis of representation” in the postmodern world the controlling variable for a sustained, interdisciplinary investigation of the aforementioned trends and historical factors?

In addition to this main area, J-RaT accepts also **free contributions** provided that the focus on the core matter of the journal remains intact. The core matter would particularly refer to the growing complexity of the global context, the paradigmatic changes in the construction of social meanings, the juridical challenges and their connection with religious transformations.

Anyone interested should send a proposal for a title, an abstract (not more than 400 words) and a CV (1 page) to lisa.achathaler@univie.ac.at not later than **April 20th 2018**. Authors of proposals invited to submit an article will be notified early in May. The article (in English or German) will be due on June 30th 2018. The article should be no longer than 30.000 characters (footnotes, bibliography and spaces included).

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Please consider the following guidelines:

- The paper must be an initial publication which has not been published in any other medium.
- It must focus on the aim of J-RaT.
- Papers can be submitted in English or German.
- Please send your paper as MS Word (.DOC) oder Rich Text Format (.RTF);
- Tables, charts and graphs have to be submitted separately as TIFF, JPG or PDF.
- The authors have to observe the editorial guidelines of the publishing house V&R unipress:
http://www.religionandtransformation.at/fileadmin/user_upload/p_religions_transformation/RaT_DE/Publikationen/Editorial_Guidelines_for_Layout_Unipress.pdf

The authors should include a cover letter with their manuscript, which states explicitly that the manuscript has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal. The letter should contain the full name (submitted by), the full title of the article and a short title, the full list of authors with affiliations, e-mail, contact address, telephone/fax numbers of the corresponding author, number of attached files, if there is more than one.

Queries might be directed to lisa.achathaler@univie.ac.at.

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