



At the instance of the 2023 Conference of the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC)

**Call for Papers**  
**“Metaphor & Misinformation: Religion in Media-Driven Worlds”**

For a special issue of the  
**Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture**

Deadline for abstracts: Jan 31, 2024  
Deadline for full papers: Jun 30, 2024

*This Call for Papers invites scholars in the field of Religion, Media, and Culture, especially participants of the 2023 Conference of the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture (ISMRC), to publish in a special issue of the Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture (RMDC), dedicated to the conference’s theme. The Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture is a peer-reviewed academic journal, releasing three issues annually. RMDC is published by Brill in cooperation with ISMRC.*

We welcome submissions that explore religion in media-driven worlds and its implications, with a specific focus on metaphorical language and/or the spread of misinformation. The focus on misinformation allows to examine a vast field of relevant contemporary topics, e. g., related to conspiracy theories, fake news or religious and spiritual influencing, hate speech, and filter bubbles. Metaphors, on the other hand, are a reoccurring characteristic of religious language per se. Deities are depicted as animals or objects that exhibit human traits; believers are imagined as a flock or crew of a ship, and the religious lives of individuals are explained as a journey, an apprenticeship, a battle or path. Such metaphors are frequently interwoven into myths which assist in making the intangible accessible and constructing personal worldviews. Beyond these issues, structural implications of the metaphors we employ in our scholarly work to describe the relationship between religion and technology can also be investigated.

We invite papers that explore the use of metaphors and/or the dissemination of misinformation from a comparative or systematic perspective and in diachronic or synchronic ways. Metaphors and misinformation can be found in the history of religion as well as in current debates, conveying complex concepts and being shaped by conflicting claims on truth and falseness. In light of this, we encourage papers exploring metaphors and misinformation in media cultures throughout history.

The special issue will be published in early summer 2025 by guest editors Anna Neumaier and Tim Karis (Center for Religious Studies, Ruhr University Bochum). Full papers (length of 6000-8000w.) need to be submitted until June 30, 2024.

Please send your abstracts (ca. 500w) and/or any further queries to Prof. Anna Neumaier, [anna.neumaier@rub.de](mailto:anna.neumaier@rub.de) and Dr. Tim Karis, [tim.karis@rub.de](mailto:tim.karis@rub.de).