



Call for Abstract

'Texts, Sounds, and Images from the Divine Sphere – Contemporary Religious Concepts of Knowledge in Competition'

Organizers:

Dr. Halkano Abdi Wario (St. Paul's University, Kenya); Dr. Britta Frede (FU Berlin, Germany)

'*Ilm* or religious knowledge is a central concept in Islam and therefore of fundamental importance for understanding contemporary developments and dynamics of religious transformations. However, not only Muslims emphasize the importance of knowledge. Other religions like Christianity or African religions highlight knowledge as necessity for future prosperity just like secular governmental and non-governmental institutions. This workshop seeks to reflect about religious concepts of knowledge as competing for defining what necessary knowledge consists of and how such kind of knowledge is presented, achieved and transmitted. A special focus lays on the way of how according to such concepts the divine sphere interacts with the profane by declaring truth for the everyday life of believers. Therefore, we ask about the interplay of text, sound and images in the display of religious knowledge and its competitive struggle for defining felicitous knowledge. The social production, the usage of the appropriate media for its transmission and the addressed audience are central elements of knowledge concepts.

Competition between knowledge concepts might produce encounters between religious and secular concepts and provoke certain strategies of marking boundaries between the religious and the secular sphere. Such processes of boundary marking become visible if reflecting about the bodily localization of knowledge production. Is it a more mind and ratio focused approach or are other parts of the body like the soul, the heart, the ears, or the eyes emphasized as more important and trustworthy if approving an achieved knowledge as "true knowledge"? The way how the body might be involved in the production of knowledge might have a consequence for choosing the appropriate media when it comes to processes of its transmission. Therefore, we want to invite contributors for reflecting on how a certain imaginary of bodily involvement is made visible in face-to-face communication, print or audio-visual presentations.

We invite papers from different disciplines to present case studies of contemporary religious concepts of knowledge from either Christianity, Islam or African religions that take these aspects into account and deal with knowledge concepts as socially produced and of a transforming kind that interact dynamically in competition with other concepts of knowledge. Submissions of abstracts via above stated email addresses should not exceed 300 words. The multidisciplinary workshop will be held end of **September 2015** in Limuru at St Paul's University (Kenya). The deadline for abstracts is **March 15, 2015**. A very limited number of travel allowance is available. Please indicate along with the abstract a brief CV and if you need financial assistance for your workshop participation. The accepted abstracts should be turned into full papers by **July 1, 2015**.

Contact: hwario@spu.ac.ke, hwario@egerton.ac.ke, Britta.Frede@zmo.de

Funded by Volkswagen Foundation in the Program "Knowledge for Tomorrow: Collaborative Researches in Humanities in Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa"