Religion and Media in East Asia

Theories and Concepts

This masterclass will explore forms and levels of interaction between religions, believers, expressions of religiosity on one hand and media (such as TV programs, websites, social networking sites, advertising, film and comics) on the other.

We will look at how the mediation of religion affects key concepts in the study of religion; notions such as authority, community, church, ethics, pilgrimage, ritual, text, practice will thus be addressed. On the other hand, we will discuss the impact of religious media and mediated religions on society. What are the relations between online and offline communities? What is the role of (religious) media in the relations between local and diaspora communities? These are only few of the questions we will explore.

The masterclass will be based on specific case studies from East Asia, however critical theories and concepts that we will debate are also applicable to the study of religion and media in other regions.

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PREPARATORY READINGS:

Dorman, Benjamin and Ian Reader. 2007. ‘Projections and Representations of Religion in Japanese Media’ Nova Religio 10:3, pp.5-12


