



Jens Kreinath is associate professor at Wichita State University, U.S.A. After completing his academic education with degrees in philosophy (BA), religious studies (BA), theology (BA and MA) and social and cultural anthropology (PhD), he teaches in his fields of expertise with a focus on the linguistic anthropology and anthropology of religion.

Over the last years, Dr. Kreinath conducted fieldwork in Istanbul and Hatay studying ritual practices among religious minorities, including Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions. His most recent research is dedicated to the culture of saint veneration at local interreligious pilgrimage sites in Hatay. He published in the fields of ritual theory and practice, the history of anthropology, visual anthropology, and contemporary Muslim culture. He is editor of *The Anthropology of Islam Reader* (New York: Routledge – Taylor & Francis Group, 2012) and co-editor of *Theorizing Rituals. 2 Vols.* (with Jan Snoek and Michael Stausberg; Leiden: Brill, 2006-2007) and *The Dynamics of Changing Rituals: Religious Rituals within their Social and Cultural Context* (with Constance Hartung and Annette Deschner; Toronto Studies in Religion 29), New York: Peter Lang, 2004).

Most recent journal articles focused on the concept formation in ritual theory including “Naven, Moebius Strip, and Random Fractal Dynamics: Reframing Bateson’s Play Frame and the Use of Mathematical Models for the Study of Ritual,” in: *Journal of Ritual Studies*: 26 (2012) and “Discursive Formation, Ethnographic Encounter, Photographic Evidence: The Centenary of Durkheim’s Basic Forms of Religious Life and the Anthropological Study of Australian Aboriginal Religion in His Time,” in: *Visual Anthropology* 25 (2012). He also contributed book chapters in *Religion – Ritual – Theatre*, edited Bent Holm, Bent Flemming Nielsen, and Karen Vedel (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang 2009), *Im Rausch des Rituals: Gestaltung und Transformation der Wirklichkeit in körperlicher Performanz*, edited by Klaus-Peter Köpping and Ursula Rao (2nd ed., Hamburg: LIT, 2008), *Zoroastrian Rituals in Context*, edited by Michael Stausberg (Leiden: Brill, 2004). Forthcoming essays are accepted for publication in *Astray: The Seductions of Pilgrimage*, edited by Michael A. Di Giovine and David Picard (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and *Religion – Imagination – Ästhetik*, edited by Annette Wilke und Lucia Traut (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013).

He also contributed encyclopedia entries to *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, edited by Hans Dieter Betz, Don S. Browning, Bernd Janowski, and Eberhard Jüngel (4th rev. ed.; Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 2005), *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*, edited by Kocku von Stuckrad and Robert Segal (eds): (Leiden: Brill, 2013), *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*, edited by R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms (Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2013), and *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*, edited by Robert Segal (2nd ed.; Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, forthcoming).

Dr. Kreinath presented papers at various professional conferences in anthropology and religious studies and gave invited lectures at the University of Heidelberg, University of Leiden, University of Tübingen, University of Copenhagen, University of Munich, University of Münster, University of Oslo, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Gaziantep University. He has been actively involved in organizing conferences and serves at professional organizations. Currently he is board member of *Society for Visual Anthropology* (SVA) at the American Anthropological Association (AAA), steering committee member of the “Critical Theory and Discourses on Religion Group” and co-chair of the “Ritual Studies Group” at the American Academy of Religion (AAR).

Website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=anthro&p=/kreinath/>

Project for REDO: *Occupying Soundscapes: The Choir of Civilization and the Impact of Musical Performances on Interreligious Dynamics in Hatay, Turkey*

The objective of the research is to study to what extent interreligious musical performances shape the cultural landscape of Hatay as a mosaic of different religions and beliefs unique to Turkey. Although Turkey is a secular, Muslim-majority country, the population in Hatay consists of a number of different religious and ethnic groups such as Sunni Muslims of Turkish and Arabic decent, Armenian, Greek Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Christians, as well as Jews, Baha'i and various divergent interpretations of Islam, such as Arab Alawis. One of the main aims of this research will be to study the dynamics of the Choir of Civilizations, based in Hatay, and how its nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize 2012 impacts and transforms the interaction of the local religious communities as well as the democratization process in that region. The material collected through participant observation and qualitative interviews will provide the basis for a new theoretical approach to the study of the cultures of inter-religiosity and its importance for developing strategies of conflict resolution, as witnessed in neighboring Syria. This research will also enhance anthropological approaches to the study of diverse religious and ritual traditions in Turkey and the Middle East.