

Reassembling Democracy /Ritual as Resource

Conference 22-25 February 2017, University of Oslo / Soria Moria Conference Center, Oslo



Keynote speakers: Ronald L. Grimes, Siobhan Garrigan, Catherine Keller, Adrian Ivakhiv

The research project “Reassembling Democracy: Ritual as Cultural Resource” (REDO) has approached increasingly widespread collective activities such as memorial gatherings, festivals, protest marches, pilgrimages and other modes of public assembly and mobility as ritualized practices. Expanded meanings of participatory democracy, environmental concerns and responses to violence and uncertainty have been given pride of place. Various case studies have been undertaken to show how forms, meanings and concerns are articulated or expressed, circulated and contested. In this final REDO conference, papers will explore the systematic linkages between three dimensions of cases investigated: ritual, democracy and the other-than-human. Some of the questions we will address include:

- In what ways do novel modes of public assembly and mobility provide the grounds for a distinctive ethos in which ritual, democracy aspirations and environmental awareness (or responses to climate change) converge?
- What are the factors that encourage or hinder the translation of this ethos into daily practice and/or its application in the political area?
- What other effective forms of collective celebration and/or intervention might be envisaged, notably within the context of rising political extremism?

Program

Wednesday 22 February, University of Oslo Campus (TBA)

15:15 – 17:00 **Keynote address: Ronald L. Grimes, *Improvising Ritual*** (Respondent TBA)

Thursday 23 February, Soria Moria Conference Center (Voksenkollveien 60, 0790 Oslo)

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:45 Jone Salomonsen, Words of welcome & short opening talk

Can ritual save us?

Are improvised, hospitable and elusive forms of rituality in public squares generative of non-violent social change movements and more participatory democracies?

Round table analytics: **The limits of ritual efficacy.**

Michael Houseman, Jens Kreinath, Donna Seamone. Discussion

10:45-11:00 Tea/coffee break

11:00-13:00 Parallel thematic sessions

1. Performing hybrid indigenous identities (Discussant TBA)

- Graham Harvey, *Indigenous festivals and the increase of sovereignty*
- Ken Derry, *Hybrid Rituals of Resistance and Community in Recent Indigenous Films*
- Gregory Delaplace, *What shamanic rituals may conjure up. Spirits, nationhood and the invisible in Mongolia*
- Jens Kreinath, *The Antakya Choir of Civilizations and the Contested Nature of Democracy in Turkey: Representations of Religious Pluralism, Public Unrest, and the Politics of Ritual Identity*

2. Ritualizing feeling in human and other-than-human landscapes (Discussant TBA)

- Sarah Pike, *Mourning Nature: Environmental Protests as Rites of Grief*
- Yohana Junker, *Facing the Earth Ethically, Decolonizing the Landscape: On Contemporary Arts, Ecoreligious Imagination, and Sacred Mobility*
- Devin Zuber, *The Ruins of the Future: Cultural Memory in the Anthropocene*
- Michael Houseman, *Distanted intimacy in collective dances of self-discovery*
- Donna Seamone, *Farmers and Pilgrims: Ritualizing New Relationships, Negotiating Cultural and Natural Pluralism*

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 **Keynote address: Siobhan Garrigan, *Queueing in the Streets for Shelter: How Western Democracies Rely on Homelessness*** (Respondent TBA)

16:00-16:30 Tea/coffee break

16:30-18:30 Parallel thematic sessions

3. Collective mourning and ritual creativity (Discussant TBA)

- Alexa Døving, *Homeland Ritualized: An Analysis of Written Messages Placed at Temporal Memorials after the Terrorist Attacks on 22 July 2011 in Norway*
- Birte Nordahl, *Songs of Democracy? Responses to 22 July 2011*
- Ida Marie Høeg, *Flowers at funerals. The case of Muslim victims of 22 July*
- Marika Moisseeff, *Dealing with Death in Contemporary Western Culture: A View from Afar*

4. Theological and philosophical responses to social violence and environmental crisis (Discussant TBA)

- Morny Joy, *Back to Religious Basics and Beyond? Bruno Latour's Quest*
- Kjetil Hafstad, *Contesting Evil*
- Elisabeth Tveito Johnsen & Sivert Angel, *Modes of public preaching as response to violence and uncertainty*

19:00-20:30 Dinner

21:00 **Drinks & Film screening of 3 short documentaries referred to in the Friday sessions:**
"The Day the Clock stopped" (2015), Ronald L. Grimes
"July 22 Examined" (2015), Audun S. Bratlie/director and Jone Salomonsen/producer
"The clash of festive performances – Polish Woodstock festival", Grzegorz Brzozowski, (2017)

Friday 24 February, Soria Moria Conference Center (Voksenkollveien 60, 0790 Oslo)

9:00-10:30 **Keynote address: Catherine Keller, *Political Theology of the Earth***
(Respondent TBA)

10:30-11:00 Tea/coffee break

11:00-12:30 Single thematic session

Can we report how certain forms are generative of certain experiences and enable certain (ethical) modes of conversing and relating to 'the other'? Facts, analysis and critique from methodological experiments with Post-22 July Charrettes at DogA and Skiringssal. (Discussant TBA)

Ida Marie Høeg, Cora Alexa Døving and Jone Salomonsen

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Round table analytics: **The limits of democratic reassemblies.**
Paul-François Tremlett, Morny Joy, Marion Grau. Discussion

15:30-16:00 Tea/coffee break

16:00-18:00 Parallel thematic sessions

5. Pilgrimage, festivals and (gender)politics. (Discussant TBA)

- Marion Grau, *Reforming the St. Olav's Ways: On the Revival of Pilgrimage and the Reconstruction of Identity in Contemporary Norway*

- Anna Fedele & David Soares, *Pilgrimages to Fatima as Ways to Reassert Forms of Democracy and Solidarity*

- Samuel Etikpah, *Ritual Critique of Power and Behavior: Kundum Avudwene Ceremony in Ghana*

- Grzegorz Brzozowski, *Pluralisation or polarization? The clash of festive performances within the public sphere of the Polish Woodstock festival*

- Chia Longman, *Sacred Pampering and Cultivating the Divine Feminine: Women's Circles and Well-Being Festivals as Sites of Sisterhood and Dissent*

6. Democracy, protest, memory, ritual (Discussant TBA)

- Paul-François Tremlett, *Materializing politics: savage thoughts and objects*

- Agnes Czajka, *Rituals of resistance and the struggle over democracy in Turkey*

- Zaki Nahaboo, *Effigies, democracy and iconoclastic citizens*

- Jone Salomonsen, *A Clearing in the Forest of Democracy*

19:00-20:30 Dinner

21:00 **Drinks & Dice game á la Charette: What remains unspoken and unsung among us?**

Saturday 25 February, Soria Moria Conference Center (Voksenkollveien 60, 0790 Oslo)

- 9:00-10:30 **Keynote address. Adrian Ivakhiv: *Reassembling a Broken World. Toward Practices of Anthropocenic Mindfulness*** (Respondent TBA)
- 10:30-11:00 Tea/coffee break
- 11:00-13:00 Round table analytics: **The limits of inter-religious and inter-species assemblies.**
Graham Harvey, Sarah Pike, Jone Salomonsen. Discussion
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-15:00 **Fishbowl: key findings, key misfits, key issues.**
- 15:00-16:00 **Where do we go from here? Critical discussion, pointing to future work**