

Reassembling Democracy/Ritual as Resource

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



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

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. Some commonalities have emerged. Singular embodied experiences, distinctive emotional expressions and special relationships with others (including other-than-human beings) are recurrent features of these practices. Many of these ritual practices also entail an active exploration of alternative models of sociality in which gender issues and radical inclusiveness play an essential role. Finally, many practitioners are acutely sensitive to issues about the global impact of human activities on Earth’s ecosystem (the Anthropocene). 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?

This final REDO workshop style conference will explore the questions above by drawing on empirical material relating to the case studies included within the project and to other types of activities that involve linkages between ritual, democracy and the other-than-human. The goal of the conference is thus not only to substantiate the outcomes of the REDO project, but also to build a broader base of people, practices and ideas for future collaboration and research.

REGISTRATION and full PROGRAM from 12 December 2016, on REDO’s webpage. The conference is open to all academics. Full board conference participation (3 nights) with paper 2800 NOK, including single room and all meals. Full board conference participation (3 nights) without paper 5800 NOK. Travel not included. Day to day conference participation possible. Places are limited, advance registration required on REDO’s webpage, <http://www.tf.uio.no/english/research/projects/redo/>

On behalf of the REDO project,

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