

Materiality & Technology

Call for Papers

In religious life, materials are things that are charged with something we call sacred or religious. These impact history, geography, language, and cultural spaces in and of religious life, sacred heritage, and beyond. Bodies, spaces, places, or landscapes become material as we interact with, archive, and analyse them. These inter-relationships have become 'entangled' and tie us together. Materiality is also manifested in the way objects or things are displayed-through media, archives, the internet, museums, and the environment, for example -and our understanding of them.

'Things' can be objects or the imagined or theoretical, which shape human life as well as relationships of power, gender, and identity. Technologies impact the way objects are studied or used and can provide new ways to discover or engage with religious life, communities, sacred places, and the objects associated with women religious.

Proposals are invited that address themes of materiality and technology in the lives and/or histories of women religious.

Themes may include:

- objects and materials as they shape religious experience
- intangible and tangible traces of women religious' work
- things or materials as sacred
- material culture and objects; museums and displays /artefacts
- information technology and library/archives; digitising archives; role in creating material archives
- impact of media such as newspapers, radio, television, personal computing, and internet on women's religious life and communities
- technologies and recreating places and spaces (e.g., 3d technologies, augmented reality)
- digital humanities, data mining, databases
- archaeology and technologies (GIS, labs, sampling, lidar, geophysics, science)
- textiles and artwork
- physical processes of engaging with materials and the effect on our body and the senses
- modern technologies and the links to the past, e.g., modern stained-glass windows
- use of objects to create other objects, e.g., experimental creation of past objects like manuscripts
- technology and pedagogy
- theoretical approaches to the question of materiality, religiosity, immaterial, material, and liminal
- "lived religion" and the internet and impact on religious identity, support networks, spiritual networks or worship space

Send abstracts of no more than 200 words to: hwrbi.conference@gmail.com.
Please include full name, affiliation (if applicable), and contact email address.

DEADLINE 1 MARCH 2024

Proposals from postgraduates & early career researchers are particularly welcome.

