



## DoHSS Academic Conference 2016



### GRAPPLING WITH THE SACRED

This conference aims to address the location of the sacred in contemporary social life. While paying tribute to traditional notions of the "sacred" as something set apart or forbidden in a Durkheimian sense, the term, in this context, denotes something unquestionable, transcending critical engagement or practice. It evokes a sense of something, which inspires devotion and fervor; it venerates, and consecrates. The core objective of the conference therefore is to deploy the notion of the sacred in a fashion that is generative and can inspire interdisciplinary conversations. How is sacrality brought into being and negotiated, and how does it get deployed to produce both categories of knowledge and ways of living in the world? How can we use the notion of the sacred as a generative lens to understanding forms of contestation, violence, and conflict in everyday life and modernity? How does one understand the sacred modern and how does one produce its genealogy?

Even as modernity has both severed and produced new relationships between the Self and Other, it has simultaneously generated new forms of boundary and meaning making that re-invent the notion of the sacred. These boundaries of the sacred produce new ontological realities, anxieties and insecurities even as they hold in place particular power structures. One is therefore compelled to reimagine the historical or cultural sacred in its re-territorialized modalities. **We welcome such re-imaginings through papers and posters that focus on (but are not limited to) the following:**

- Practice of the sacred
  - Divine ecology
  - Architecture, sacred spaces and structures of spirituality
  - Religious fundamentalism and the breeding of the sacrosanct in daily life
  - Consumption and transmission of sacredness through New Media
  - Acts, rituals and other paraphernalia- the performance of a religion
  
- Sacred Texts and Language
  - Mythohistories
  - The historical sacredness of Canonical Texts
  - Locating Spirituality in the Social Sciences
  - Language and Identity
  - Language of mind

- Sacred Institutions
  - Religion and legal pluralism
  - Religious and Spiritual Organization/s
  - Market, State and monetary authority
  
- The Sacred Economy and Economics of the Sacred
  - Economics of religious institutions
  - Sacred Approaches: Sustainable development, Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization
  - Sacrality as alternate ethics: Islamic Economics, Rogue Economics
  - Economics and Ethics
  
- Sacred Body
  - The maternal body
  - The inviolable body
  - Ideas of the beautiful body
  
- Discourses of the Sacred
  - Censorship
  - Broadcasting the sacred
  - Branding the Sacred
  - Contesting sacrality
  
- Philosophies of the Sacred
  - The Sacred and the Secular
  - The Sacred: The Ideal and the Social
  - The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
  - Mythical and Modern Ways of Understanding the World
  - Disenchantment and the Emergence of Modern Consciousness

#### Submission Procedure- General Information

Abstracts of no more than **500 words** should be submitted by **October 15, 2015**. All abstracts will be blind reviewed by a voluntary team, and authors will be notified of the decision of the reviewers within two weeks of submission. Those who submit near the October 15 deadline will receive confirmation of acceptance or rejection by **November 1, 2015**. Full text/final poster submission is due by **December 15, 2015**. **Selected participants will be provided free accommodation and transportation subject to submission of full paper/poster.**