

RELIGION: GOING PUBLIC - INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Introduction and aims

This blog discusses various aspects of contemporary religion in the public sphere. *Religion: Going Public* aims to disseminate on-going research findings to wider audiences and engage with and inform public debates on religion. The blog develops out of a collaboration between researchers in three research projects funded by [Norwegian Research Council's SAMKUL](#) program. The blog brings together reader-friendly scholarly perspectives on contemporary religion in society. More specifically, the blog is bounded by SAMKUL's overarching focus on cultural conditions underlying social change. Our emphasis is on the multiple ways that contemporary religion plays into societies and social change. Geographically, our primary focus is on Norway, Scandinavia and Europe. Our goal is to provide socially relevant and stimulating research-based blog posts that speak to public debates about religion.

The blog is a collaboration across three SAMKUL research projects:

[Good Protestant, Bad Religion? Formatting Religion in Modern Society](#) (GOBA) is a research project hosted by the [Faculty of Theology](#) at the University of Oslo, and funded by the [Norwegian Research Council](#). As Norway experiences increasing religious diversity, the assertive role of Protestantism in the public sphere have become contentious political issues that are increasingly viewed within the framework of a simplified good/bad narrative, in which other religious traditions are measured according to their similarity to the specific format of Protestant religion in Norway. GOBA sets out to examine how major societal actors respond to these issues.

[Engaging with Conflicts in Mediatized Religious Environments](#) (CoMRel) is a research project coordinated by Professor Knut Lundby, at the Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo. CoMRel draws on researchers in Norway, Sweden and Denmark and focuses on the intertwined role of media and religion in conflicts and tensions in contemporary Scandinavian societies (2015-2017).

[Muslim Politics and Governance of Islam: Interactions of Structure and Culture in Multi-religious Europe](#) (2014-2019) is a research project hosted by FAFO, in collaboration with researchers from Norway, the Netherlands and the US.

The blog is set up and run by Helge Årsheim (GOBA), Mona Abdel-Fadil (CoMRel), Ragna Lillevik (Muslim Publics) and Audun Toft (CoMRel) who contribute regularly. *Religion: Going Public* draws mainly on a pool of researchers affiliated to the three SAMKUL projects. In addition, guest bloggers will be invited to contribute.

The blog intends to provide scholarly communities, public administrators, decision makers and the general public with insights founded on on-going research about religion in contemporary societies. *Religion: Going Public* aims to be relevant to, and contribute to and engage with, on-going debates about religion in society.

Style guide

Religion: Going Public blog posts are aimed at the general public (in addition to academics and stakeholders), and must therefore be reader-friendly and easy on the eye. This requires that authors exemplify their arguments, use simple language, short sentences, and stick to the set maximum length. Our goal is to provide socially relevant and fetching research-based blog posts that speak to public debates about religion. Please visit [our blog](#) for inspiration.

We sincerely ask that all contributions comply with the following requirements:

- Blog posts should range between 1000 and 1500 words.
- All authors are required to index their blog posts with a minimum of three *keywords*.
- *Titles and subtitles* must be provided in all submissions. In addition, the submission should contain a *lead paragraph* of no more than 200 characters (with spaces).
- *Pictures* should be included, if possible. Note that submitted pictures must comply with applicable copyright regulations. At a minimum, this includes appropriate credit to the creator and a link to the applicable Creative Commons licence. Please consult creativecommons.org for more information on correct licensing practices. If you have taken the photo yourself, these regulations do not apply.
- **If the submitted text does not include all these elements, we reserve the right to provide them for you.**
- **Please note that the editorial board may suggest a few improvements to your text. Any editorial changes will be sent to contributors prior to publishing.**

In addition to these formal guidelines, we kindly ask all contributors to meet the following requirements:

- *Referencing* should be kept at a minimum, and only in running text. No footnotes, bibliographies or author-date quotes will be published.
- *Web links* are allowed, as long as they are included as hyperlinks in the submitted text.
- *Complex academic terminology* should generally be avoided. If applied, such terminology should be clearly explained. (e.g. "Epistemology")
- *Document files* should generally be formatted in Word (.doc or .docx) or OpenOffice (.odt)
- **The Religion: Going Public blog has very limited funds for copyediting. Contributors are advised to pay close attention to editorial details such as language, formatting and style before submitting.**

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