Annual NGG Conference
27 & 28 October 2016
University of Amsterdam
Religious Studies

Public Religions and Their Secrets,
Secret Religions and Their Publics

Programme
Funded by:

Amsterdam School of Historical Studies

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Brill
**Programme Overview**

### Day 1: Thursday 27 October 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>Arrival, lunch and registration</td>
<td>hall next to the VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>Welcome (Prof. dr. Gerard Wiegers)</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15</td>
<td>Keynote lecture prof. dr. Jan Assmann</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘The Secret and the Sacred in Ancient Egypt’</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30</td>
<td>Parallel session 1</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>Parallel sessions 3</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>Conference Dinner</td>
<td>Restaurant Hemelse Modder</td>
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### Day 2: Friday 28 October 2016

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00</td>
<td>AGM (NGG members-only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>Parallel session 5</td>
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<td>Parallel session 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>Parallel session 7</td>
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<td>Parallel session 8</td>
<td>F0.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>Keynote lecture dr. Gerdien Jonker</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<td>‘Handling Religious Sects in Modern Society. Ahmadiyya Mission in Interwar Europe’</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30</td>
<td>Closing of conference</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.35</td>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>VOC Hall</td>
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Sessions

Session 1 – Authority and power
1. Tim Rudbøg – University of Copenhagen
   The function of secrecy in antiquity: between power and didactics
2. Christian Lange – Utrecht University
   Secrecy destroyed? Territory, body and honour in Muslim legal conceptualizations of privacy
3. Michael Ebstein – Hebrew University of Jerusalem
   Hidden Saints, Manifest Lords: Secrecy and Authority in Classical Islamic Mysticism

Session 2 – Western Esotericism, New Religious Movements, and Secrecy (1)
1. Wouter Hanegraaff – University of Amsterdam
   The Secret of Secrets: entheogenic practice in 19th-century Occultism
2. Malgorzata Alicja Dulska – Jagiellonian University
   Secrets of the Prophet. Debates about Towianski and Circle or God’s Cause in the 19th and 20th Centuries in Poland
3. Georgia van Raalte
   Dion Fortune’s Correspondence Course and the Limits of Public Esotericism

Session 3 – Secrecy or hidden assumptions in a secular context
1. Ulrike Popp-Baier – University of Amsterdam
   Hidden assumptions religious and nonreligious people live by
2. Claire Wanless – PhD student, Open University (UK)
   Secularization and the transmission of individualized religion in Hebden Bridge
3. Dave Vliegenthart – PhD student, University of Groningen
   Modern Western Gurus and their Secular Religions
Session 4 – Public and private rituals in contemporary societies
1. William Arfman – Tilburg University
   Public Ritual and its Backstage Secrets
2. Rachael Shillitoe – University of Worcester (UK)
   Reimagining Prayer in Collective Worship
3. Holly Burgess – University of Amsterdam
   A Clandestine Account of the Native American Church: Privacy and Preservation of the Peyote Custom

Session 5 – Responding to challenges in contemporary society
1. Margreet van Es – Utrecht University
   Muslims Condemning Violent Extremism: The Multiple Challenges of Representing the “Silent Majority” (2001-2016)
2. Suzanne Roggeveen – PhD student, University of Amsterdam
   The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Tensions between Jews and Muslims in Amsterdam?
3. Christiane Koenigstedt – University of Leipzig
   The problem of “secrecy” of collective actors in contemporary secular societies: the French case and beyond
4. Caroline vanderStichele – University of Amsterdam
   “A Buddhist is coming here to convert people”: Catholic responses to Yoga in Flanders

Session 6 - Religious minorities
1. Ab de Jong - Leiden University
   Spiritual elite knowledge among modern Middle Eastern religious minorities
2. Jens Kreinath – Wichita State University
   Alawite politics of religious secrecy: in/visible dynamics of dissimulation and concealment among a religious minority in Hatay, Turkey
3. Genji Yasuhira – PhD student, Kyoto University (guest researcher at Utrecht University)
   Delimitations of the “Public” and the Limit of Toleration: Trials against Catholics in the Mid-17th Century Utrecht
4. Gerard Wiegers – University of Amsterdam
Forced Conversion and Religious Secrecy in the Medieval and Early Modern Muslim West

Session 7 – Western Esotericism, New Religious Movements and Secrecy (2)
1. Léon van Gulik – PhD student, Tilburg University
Mysteries, Oaths and Ritual Hygiene: on Challenges of Secrecy in a New Religious Movement
2. Joanna Malita – PhD student, Jagiellonian University in Krakow
Why so secret? The issue of initiation and oath of secrecy in British Traditional Wicca
3. Marco Pasi – University of Amsterdam
The problem of secrecy in Western esotericism

Session 8 - Secrecy and/in Scriptures
1. Avriel Bar-Levav – Open University of Israel
Printing the Zohar and the Canonization of Secrets in Jewish Culture
2. Mattias Brand – PhD student, Leiden University
Secrecy and Concealment as Strategy? Manichaean Communities and Texts in the later Roman Empire
3. Yves Mühlematter – PhD student, Freiburg University
The “occult wisdom” in the “sacred texts of the Hindus”: translation as unveiling the ‘Secret Doctrine’
Contacts and practical information

Venues

*Keynote lectures and sessions*
Bushuis
Kloveniersburgwal 48
Rooms: VOC-hall; F0.21

*Conference dinner (by invitation only)*
Restaurant Hemelse Modder
Oude Waal 11
020 624 3203

Organizing committee

Prof dr Gerard Wiegers
Dr Marco Pasi
Suzanne van Esdonk
Dorieke Molenaar

If you have any questions, please contact Dorieke Molenaar, mail: [D.Molenaar2@uva.nl](mailto:D.Molenaar2@uva.nl). Mobile phone: 06-81267121.
Map
Programme NGG conference 2016