

Audio-Visual Methods in Ritual Studies

Lectures and Symposium
with
Prof. Ronald L. Grimes
(Yale University)



Friday November 4, 2011
University of Berne, Hauptgebäude HS 304
9am-6pm

further contributors:

**Prof. Christoph Morgenthaler (Bern), Rima Nasrallah (Utrecht),
Rafael Walthert (Zurich), Christian Walti (Bern)**

The conference is supported by the SWISS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.

At its inception in the 1970s, ritual studies had to break the hold of primary-source textualism, the assumption that religions are best studied by analyzing the sacred texts of "world" religions. Currently, ritual studies is in the process of challenging secondary-source textualism, the assumption that the main reason for studying rituals is to write about them. Using a film about a ritual, Ronald Grimes poses the question: How does ritual studies change when one studies a ritual with a video camera in-hand?

Program:

09.15 Greetings by Prof. David Plüss, Kompetenzzentrum Liturgik (Bern)

Part I: Lectures by Professor Ronald L. Grimes (Yale University)

09.30-10.45 **Audio-Visual Methods in Ritual Studies**

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.30 **Ritualization, Improvisation, and the Performing Arts**

12.30-14.00 Lunch

Part II: Symposium on research projects across disciplines

14.00-15.45 **Ritualizations in Liturgy and Religious Groups**

- Christian Walti (Bern): Liturgical criticism. Video-based ethnographic liturgics in Reformed parishes in Switzerland
- Rafael Walthert, PhD (Zurich): Emotion and plausibility. Celebrating the focus of attention in the International Christian Fellowship (ICF)

15.45-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-18.00 **Ritualizations in Families and Crosscultural Contexts**

- Rima Nasrallah (PU Utrecht): The non-group in the multi-place, patching together a story. Women in inter-confessional marriages in a Mid-Eastern context
- Prof. Christoph Morgenthaler (Bern): Childrens bed-time rituals. Insights from a sub-study of National Research Fund project 52

Location:

The conference will be held in the main building of the university, located right above Berns main railway station at the „Grosse Schanze“ park. You can reach „Grosse Schanze“ through an elevator from the underpassage of the railway station.

Our conference room is on the 3rd floor of the building (room 304).

Registration:

Participation is free. Travel costs and meals are at the participants expenses.

Please register to christian.walti@theol.unibe.ch (due October 17, 2011).