



Fourth Annual Graduate Conference

(DISPUTED) ORIGINS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

The polysemous notion of 'origin' is central to religious studies, whether it refers to the beginnings narrated in religious texts, the founding figures of religious traditions and philosophical schools, the formations of subfields or the tracing out of their respective academic boundaries. An origin is both a creative act of spontaneity and a determining frame with a special, even normative, claim on everything that follows from it. Therefore, origins are and have been unique sites of dispute and contestation. Origins are thus subject to claims, counter-narratives, reformulations, and endings followed in turn by new beginnings. We seek submissions that treat the theme of 'origin' in all senses and meanings relevant to the field of religious studies, as broadly conceived as possible.



May 16th to 17th



Montréal, McGill University, 3520 Rue
University Birks Building (Senior
Common Room)



srsgradconference@gmail.com

Conference Organizer: The Religious
Studies Graduate Society of the
School of Religious Studies, McGill

CALL FOR PAPERS**Fourth Annual Graduate Conference****McGill University's School of Religious Studies**

Paper proceedings from the conference will have the opportunity to be published, in collaboration with ARC: The Journal of the School of Religious Studies.

May 16th to 17th, 2025

McGill University

Tiohtià:ke (Montreal), Quebec

Deadline for submissions: February 1st, 2025

The Religious Studies Graduate Society of McGill University's School of Religious Studies invites you to submit your paper proposal to our 2025 bilingual conference:

(Disputed) Origins in the Study of Religions

... ..

From the beginnings narrated in religious texts, to the founding figures of religious traditions or philosophical schools, from the origins of subfields to the tracing out of their respective academic boundaries, to claims of grounds in philosophy of religion, there is no sense in which the polysemous notion of 'origin' is not central to the study of religion. An origin is both a creative act of spontaneity and a determining frame with a special, even normative, claim on everything that follows from it. Therefore, origins are and have been unique sites of dispute and contestation. Origins are thus subject to claims, counter-narratives, reformulations, and endings followed in turn by new beginnings. We seek submissions that treat the theme of 'origin' in all senses and meanings relevant to the field of religious studies, as broadly conceived as possible.

We invite participants to submit papers that reflect their research by situating their work within the context of origin, genesis, and disputed origins: When we consider how religion is understood, practiced, talked about, and studied, inside and outside of academia, what exactly are origins? How and by whom are they defined and narrated? How and why are they sites of ongoing disputes? Proposals that do not relate directly to these themes are also welcomed. We hope this bilingual conference will be a space where, together, graduate students from different universities gather in Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) and will find a place to share their expertise with each other and build a lasting sense of academic community.

Submission Guidelines:

Paper length: Participants will have a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes for their presentations, followed by a short period for questions.

Please submit, in one single .doc or .docx document:

- (1) your name, preferred pronouns, university, department, program, and contact information.
- (2) a tentative title for your presentation.
- (3) an abstract of your presentation (250-word limit).
- (4) Indication of whether you want your paper to be considered for publication.
- (5) Indication of whether you speak English, French, or both.
- (6) Indication of the primary language of your presentation.

Submissions should be sent to srsgradconference@gmail.com.

For those willing to submit their conference paper for publication, more details will be communicated to them at a later date.

We accept papers from graduate students from any discipline whose research is connected to the conference theme in religious studies and associated fields. As a general guideline but not exclusively, any of the following areas and fields of study are recommended:

Ancient, Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, Modern, and Contemporary Religions & Spiritualities

Western, Eastern, and Indigenous Religions & Spiritualities

Philosophy, Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Phenomenology of Religion, Ethics and Bioethics

Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology of Religion

Religion & Political theory, Religion in the Public Sphere, Secularization and Laïcité, Religion in Pop Culture and the Arts

Modernity, Industrialization, Globalization, Communication and Media Studies, New Technologies, AI and Religion

Ritual Studies, Material and Sensory studies, Semiotics of Religion

Gender, Race, Decolonial, Postcolonial, and Queer Critical Theories

Magic, Mysticism, Myth, Ritual, Theopoetics