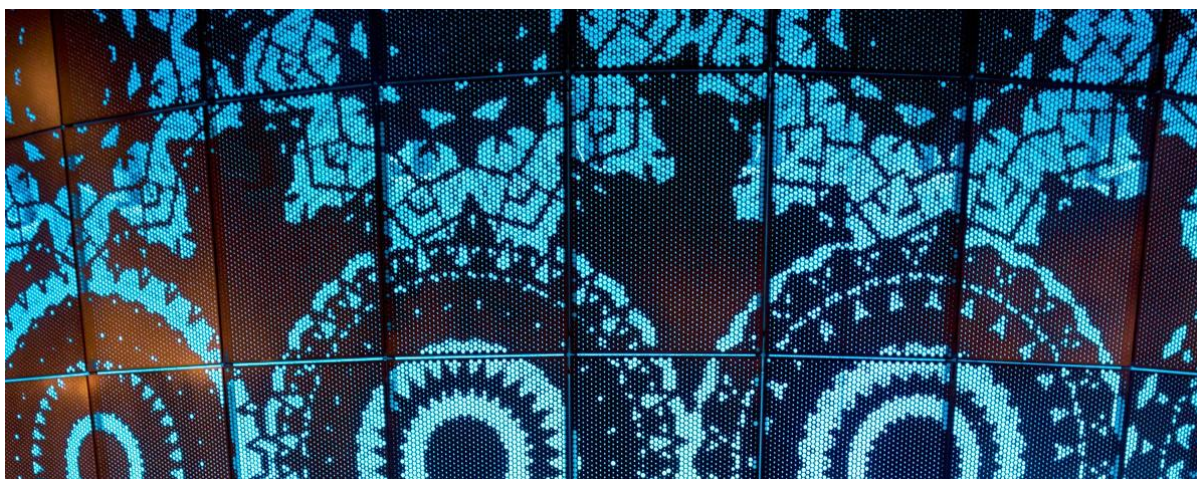




The Centre for Multidisciplinary Research on Religion and Society at Uppsala University invites contributions to the international conference

Religion in Turbulent Times: Challenges for Society, Democracy, and Human Dignity

Uppsala University, Sweden, 23-24 August 2027

The conference welcomes session proposals from those who wish to organize closed or open sessions.

The international conference offers an interdisciplinary forum for sharing recent research on the role of religion in both the public and the private sphere locally, nationally and internationally. It provides an opportunity to disseminate, share and discover a wide range of data and ideas within this expanding field. We expect contributions from legal scholars, human rights experts, social scientists, specialists in social policy, health and welfare, philosophers, historians and scientists, as well as those engaged directly in theology and religious studies.

Submission for session proposals open: 30 September 2026. Deadline: 30 October 2026.

Formats other than sessions including traditional paper presentations are welcomed. Comparative approaches are particularly welcome. Theoretical, methodological and substantive issues will be given equal consideration. The conference language is English.

Session proposals of max 300 words should be submitted via the form available on www.crs.uu.se and also [here](#):



Religion in Turbulent Times: Challenges for Society, Democracy, and Human Dignity

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In an uncertain and at times frightening world, existential issues appear due to feelings of insecurity arising from war, terror, the climate catastrophe, threats of pandemics and advancing technology. In such circumstances, religion appears in a positive as well as negative light. Religious faith can be a source of motivation for both humanitarian action and reactionary violence. Religious organisations can mobilize for democratic change and shore up oppressive structures.

In addition, the religious landscape of Europe is continually changing. Migrations, provoked by international conflicts, poverty and environmental disaster have brought new challenges to secular states regarding the handling of religious and cultural pluralism. Religious traditions and convictions raise issues for states, local governments, lawyers, healthcare workers, and teachers—in practice for all citizens. At the same time secularist counter-reactions oppose religious visibility in the public sphere and religious/ethnic pluralism is questioned by right wing groups. Increasing racism related to religion and religiously motivated terror, adds energy to growing polarizations.

These ongoing changes provoke questions regarding the role of religion in democracy, human rights, law, family life, healthcare, well-being, welfare and science and religion has become a crucial research area in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Thus, there is a need to reconsider the concept of religion and to rethink theoretical and methodological approaches.

Call for Session proposals

Abstracts for sessions are invited on the following themes:

- Religion and migration
- Religion in the public sphere, public discourse and social media
- Worldviews, religious diversity, non-religion and secularism
- Religious freedom versus other human rights
- Human dignity in the shadow of war
- Religion, gender and sexuality
- Religion and racism, discrimination, segregation
- Belonging and borderlands
- Religion, disaster and crisis
- Existence and Environment
- Advancing technology and the human condition
- Religion and violence, terror and the security state
- Family, Faith and Nation
- Academia in a polarized society
- Religious heritage and memory politics
- Faith based organisations as welfare providers, civil society, social capital
- Existential resilience, health and well-being
- and other related themes...

