

Simone Heidbrink, M.A. (Heidelberg)

Institute for Religious Studies
University of Heidelberg

Simone Heidbrink studied Japanology and Religious Studies. During this time she spent a year at the College of Education in Nara/Japan. Currently she is working on her dissertation in Religious Studies about ritual transfer and ritual innovation concerning the 'Emerging Church'-'Alternative Worship'- Movement. She is a scientific fellow at the Institute of Religious Studies, University of Heidelberg, where she also teaches methodological foundations of online research.

Main Research and Ongoing Projects

Simone Heidbrink's main focus is on religions in the new media, especially the emergence of religious groups on the internet. Further fields of her research interest are contemporary religiousness and its incorporation of present popular culture, ritual studies, formation of theory in the Study of Religions, new Japanese religions, Zen Buddhism and reception of Zen in Germany as well as Ariosophy. She is currently a member of the research project „Between Online-Religion and Religion-Online- Forms of Ritual Transfer on the Internet“, which belongs to the Collaborative Research Centre.

Curriculum Vitae

- since 2005 Scientific fellow and PhD student at the Institute for Religious Studies, University of Heidelberg
- 2005 Masters degree in Religious Studies on ‚Reception of Zen in Germany. The Spectrum of Zen Discourses on German Websites.’
- Assistant at the Collaborative Research Centre ‚Dynamic of Rituals’, support of websites of the Project „Between Online-Religion und Religion-Online“.

Major Publications

- 2007 “Exploring the Religious Framework of the Digital Realm. Offline-Online-Offline Transfers of Ritual Performance”, in: *Masaryk University Journal of Law and Technology*, Vol. 1, Nr. 2
- 2007 “Cyberspace - Ritual Space? Einblicke in die aktuelle religionswissenschaftliche Erforschung christlicher Rituale im Internet“, Nadja Miczek (co-au.), in: *Arbeitsstelle Gottesdienst* , Vol. 1, pp. 47-52.