

**Religion and Innovation Series**

**New Spaces  
and Architectures  
of the Sacred**

**Trento | 5 April, 2018**



# PROGRAMME

- 11.00 - 11.30 **Religion & Innovation. Our mission and the workshop series**  
*Valeria Fabretti, FBK-ISR*  
*Boris Raehme, FBK-ISR*
- 11.30 - 12.30 **Multi Faith Spaces. Agents of Social Change**  
*Andrew Crompton, University of Liverpool*
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.00 **Spaces of Difference: The Iconicity of Multi-Faith Sites**  
*Marian Burchardt, University of Leipzig*
- 15.00 - 15.30 **Response to Andrew Crompton and Marian Burchardt**  
*Stefano Allievi, University of Padua*
- 15:30 - 16.15 Discussion
- 16:15 - 17:00 Coffee Break
- 17.00 - 19.00 *Tavola Rotonda*  
**Nuovi spazi per la spiritualità e la pratica religiosa. Le sale 'di meditazione' e 'multi-fede' negli ospedali e campus universitari italiani**  
  
*Coordina*  
*Valeria Fabretti, FBK-ISR*  
  
**Le sale di preghiera presso gli ospedali Santo Spirito e San Camillo Forlanini di Roma**  
*Paola Gabbrielli, Tavolo Interreligioso di Roma*

**La stanza del silenzio presso l'Ospedale San Giovanni Battista – Molinette di Torino**

*Maria Chiara Giorda, Fondazione Benvenuti in Italia*

**La prospettiva UAAR nella partecipazione al progetto per la stanza del silenzio e dei culti presso l'Ospedale Sant'Anna di Ferrara**

*Marina Pirazzi, Unione degli Atei e degli Agnostici Razionalisti - Bologna*

**Una stanza del silenzio presso il campus dell'Università di Trento**

*Barbara Poggio, Università di Trento*

**Un tentativo di raccordo: il Gruppo di Lavoro Nazionale per la Stanza del Silenzio e/o dei Culti**

*Alessandro Bonardi, Gruppo di Lavoro Nazionale per la Stanza del Silenzio e/o dei Culti*

# ABSTRACTS

## **The Architecture of Multifaith Spaces**

*Andrew Crompton, University of Liverpool*

The third millennium has introduced a new kind of worship space to public buildings such as airports, hospitals, and universities. They now contain multi-faith spaces, many of which are entirely interior with no outside walls to speak of and located in out of the way corners, often near the lavatories. The most extreme examples are strongly negative places that resemble conceptual art. These prayer closets developed from spaces whose secular purpose was to isolate religious practices and make them unproblematic. Architecturally, these iconoclastic places can be seen as non-modern quasi-objects that allow different worlds; secular, commercial, and religious, to coexist without having to resolve their differences. The talk is illustrated with examples from an ongoing survey of multi-faith in the UK, EU and US.

## **Spaces of Difference: The Iconicity of Multi-Faith Sites**

*Marian Burchardt, University of Leipzig*

Space is a crucial category for understanding religious dynamics in contemporary European societies. My presentation explores the social relationships and practices through which religious and secular spaces are constituted and defined. In particular, my aim is to show how urban administrative practices turn the governance of religious diversity into a spatial politics whereby legal regulations are enacted and reworked through local constellations of material circumstances, infrastructural norms and power relations. In this context, while more abstract legal concepts such as religious freedom and equality play a role in guiding regulatory practices, administrative procedures such as planning and zoning law (authorization, approvals, permissions) have a much more direct impact on how religion is governed and located in urban space. In my presentation, I apply these ideas in order to analyze recent contestations around the Mosque-Cathedral in the Spanish city of Cordoba, one of Europe's most iconic buildings with a multi-faith history.

# BIOGRAPHIES

**MARIAN BURCHARD** is professor of sociology at Leipzig University. As a cultural sociologist, he is interested in how power and institutions shape social life in culturally diverse societies. In particular, his research explores from a transregional and comparative perspective how nation-states and urban actors regulate cultural differences and public space and how these regulations affect the practices, socialities, and subjectivities of ordinary citizens. He earned his PhD in sociology from Leipzig University and in 2015 he received the Heinz Maier Leibnitz Award from the German Research Foundation (DFG), the most prestigious German award for junior researchers.

**ANDREW CROMPTON** is a Reader in Architecture at Liverpool University who has studied multifaith spaces since 2010 as part of the AHRC Religion and Society research programme. He has visited over 300 of them, has written and lectured about them, and advised on their construction. He is interested in the material culture of interfaces and how they develop historically.





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