

## Paper proposal

**Title of proposal: Cracks and in-betweens: Religion, migration and transnational relations**

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How do migrants create meaning and bearing in globalized and pluralized societies like Norway? How are we to study the human effort in creating meaning in unstable situations, and how can religious institutions and networks relate constructively to this human effort, especially concerning individuals experiencing various forms of crisis? These are the two main questions in a new research project at the School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger. In this paper, we will elaborate on some of the theoretical and methodological approaches we will apply in the investigation and discussion of these questions.

The background for this project is the observation that people create meaning in their lives by relating to a variety of religious and secular views and practices that are not necessarily consistent or compatible (McGuire 2008, Day 2011, Day, Vincett and Cotter 2013). This situation is not new; it is probably a general, human response when facing variegated challenges in a complex reality. What is new - due to increased migration and globalization - is the wielding and displaying of a multitude of "universes", both secular and sacral, which are increasingly articulated through the voices of new groups of immigrants. Our project seeks to understand and further develop a vocabulary on the intermediaries between the sacral and the secular, the cultural and the social, the ideational and the material. The two analytical terms *Religion in motion* and *Global Encounters* will serve as the fundament for the development of new theory through the terms *Transnational Simultaneity* and *Social Cohesion*.

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