In this seminar we will consider the impact of the late twentieth-century spatial turn on the study of religion. This new direction has been particularly fruitful for research on religion, bringing together scholars from a variety of disciplines, and connecting not only to traditional areas such as sacred space and pilgrimage, but to new ones such as embodiment, locality, globalization, and religious-secular engagements.

Below you will find the lectures and required readings, a list of possible topics for seminar presentations (with readings), information about workshops and Wednesday’s walking tour, and a selected bibliography.

**Lecture Themes and Required Readings** [For full programme, see separate Plan]

**Monday 5 November** (lecture 10.00-11.30): The spatial turn in the study of religion

**Tuesday 6 November** (lecture 10.00-11.30): Spatial theory and methods for the study of religion

**Wednesday 7 November** (lecture 10.00-11.30): Territories, boundaries and the sacred

**Thursday 8 November** (lecture 10.00-11.30): Thinking spatially: religion and secular spaces
Knott, Kim, in press. ‘The Secular Sacred: In-between or Both/And?’ in A. Day, C. Cotter and G. Vinset (eds), *Social Identities Between the Sacred and the Secular*, Farnham, Ashgate.

**Presentation Topics and Readings**

Please let Kim know if you wish to give a presentation, and confirm your choice of subject from the list below by 27 October (these may have to be renegotiated depending on numbers and availability). If the readings I’ve suggested are not available, then choose other readings from the
list (or contact Kim to suggest alternatives). If you are making a presentation, please identify a question or topic for the class to discuss at the end.

Monday 5 November (11.45-1.15):

1.1 Theorizing sacred space

Readings:

Not required, but relevant:


1.2 New spiritual landscapes

Reading: Two of the following articles:
Bowman, Marion, 2005. ‘Ancient Avalon, New Jerusalem, Heart Chakra of Planet Earth: Localisation and Globalisation in Glastonbury’ Numen, 52:2: pp. 157-190

Not required, but relevant:
Tuesday 6 November (11.45-1.15):

2.1 New geographies of religion

Readings: Two from the following list:


OR recent papers by Reinhard Henkel or other German geographers of religion.

Not required, but relevant:


2.2 Religion and locality

Reading: Two articles or chapters from the following list:


Other articles from the same special issue of the journal *Religion* 39(2) on ‘Perspectives of Religion in Western Europe’ (2009).


Not required, but relevant:


**Wednesday 7 November (11.45-1.15):**

3.1 The case of the left hand

*Reading:* Two chapters/articles from the following:


Not required, but relevant:


3.2 Making Muslim space

*Reading:* Two chapters or articles from the following list:


Or articles on the making of Muslim space in Germany.

**Thursday 8 November (11.45-1.15):**

4.1 Changing urban religious landscapes

*Reading:* Two chapters or articles by different authors from the following list:

Eade, John, 2011. ‘Sacralising Space in a Western, Secular City’, *Journal of Town and City Management*, 2 (1).


*Or* articles on changing German urban religious landscapes.

4.2 New developments in pilgrimage and tourism research

*Reading*: Select two chapters or articles by different authors from the following list:


**Workshops and Walking Tour**

**Workshop 1** (Monday 5 November): In small groups and whole class discussion, we will consider the utility and application of Thomas Tweed’s definition of religion. The only preparation you need to do is the class reading (Chapter 4 from his book).
Workshop 2 (Tuesday 6 November): Working on our own and in small groups, we will apply Kim Knott’s spatial methodology to a religious or secular object, place, landscape, group or organization (small and focused is best). In advance you should identify such an object, place etc – it may be one that you are already working on in another research or study context, or one you know well from your neighbourhood or home life.

Walking tour (Wednesday 7 November): We will meet in the town centre and take a walk around selected religious and secular locations. We will be thinking spatially, and applying ideas introduced in the previous day’s lecture (on religious mapping etc). Everyone will have something to add from their own knowledge of Münster, German history, changing patterns of migration, understanding of religious/secular relations etc. No special preparation required – just comfortable shoes and a coat!

Workshop 3 (Thursday 8 November): In small groups and whole class discussion, we will use spatial thinking to consider the location of religion/spirituality in healthcare settings (hospitals, medical centres, sites of alternative healing etc). The only preparation you need to do is the class reading, plus your own thinking about contemporary secular healthcare and the place of religion within it.

General reading

[A] Kim Knott on religion, place and space (full list)


Knott, Kim, in press. ‘The Secular Sacred: In-between or Both/And?’, in A. Day, C. Cotter and G. Vinsett (eds), Social Identities Between the Sacred and the Secular, Farnham, Ashgate.


Knott, Kim, 2010. ‘Theoretical and methodological resources for breaking open the secular and exploring the boundary between religion and non-religion’, Historia Religionum, 2, pp. 115-133.


[B] Selected English language reading on religion, geography and space


Bowman, Marion, 2005. ‘Ancient Avalon, New Jerusalem, Heart Chakra of Planet Earth: Localisation and Globalisation in Glastonbury’ Numen, 52:2: pp. 157-190


