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Academia: <http://leidenuniv.academia.edu/MarkusDavidsen> (18,756 views | 610 followers)
ORCID: [0000-0001-7089-5143](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7089-5143) | **h-index:** 7 (excluding self-citations) | **citations:** 178

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University Lecturer (Universitair Docent), Sociology of Religion, Leiden University, 2015–present

(2017–2020 part-time paternity leave, equivalent of 8 months).

My duties are to research contemporary religion in the West and method and theory in the study of religion generally; to develop, teach, and assess courses in the Religious Studies and International Studies programmes; to supervise BA and MA theses and co-supervise PhD students; and to participate in the administration and development of the Religious Studies programmes.

Lecturer (Docent), Sociology of Religion, Leiden University, 2011–2015

My duties were to develop, teach, and assess courses, to supervise BA and MA theses, and to participate in the administration and development of the Religious Studies programmes.

PhD Candidate, Study of Religion, Aarhus University and Leiden University, 2009–2012

Instructor, Study of Religion, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2004–2007

My duties were to develop, teach, and assess tutorials in the BA programmes Religious Studies and Arabic Language and Islamic Culture.

Deputy Study Coordinator, Study of Religion, Aarhus University, Denmark, 2005–2007

My duties included advising students on admission, arrangement of studies, exemptions, course concessions, studies abroad, internships, and personal problems.

EDUCATION

PhD, Leiden University (*cum laude*), 2014

Thesis: The Spiritual Tolkien Milieu: A Study of Fiction-based Religion.

Supervisor: Prof.dr. Ab de Jong.

(In the Netherlands, the distinction cum laude is awarded for the best 5 % of all dissertations).

MA in the Study of Religion, Aarhus University, Denmark (120 ECs), 2008

Focus areas: Non-institutional religion online; religion and popular culture; theory of religion and ritual; university didactics.

Exchange: Erasmus exchange semester at Karl-Rupprechts-Universität zu Heidelberg, Germany, 2007.

BA in the Study of Religion, Aarhus University, Denmark (210 ECs), 2006

Supplementary subject: Cognitive psychology and neuropsychology (60 ECs).

Focus areas: Cognitive study of religion; pre-Christian Nordic religion and shamanism.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Research Trainee Grant. Leiden University, to employ two part-time research trainees for the research project 'Modern Perceptions of Ancient Religions', 2019; with Kim Beerden (EUR 11,400).

Research Trainee Grant. Leiden University, to employ two part-time research trainees for the research project 'Religious Narratives as Plausibility Structures', 2016–2017; with Kim Beerden (EUR 11,400).

International PhD Scholarship. Danish Research Council for Independent Research (Humanities), international PhD scholarship entitled 'Fictional Religions: The Morphology and Reception of Invented Religions embedded in Works of Fiction', 2009–2012 (EUR 184,485).

AWARDS

Gerardus van der Leeuw PhD Dissertation Award. Dissertation award of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion. Awarded biennially for the best doctoral dissertation in the Study of Religion defended at a Dutch university; for each round about 40 dissertations compete, 2016 (EUR 650).

Arenberg-Coimbra Prize for Erasmus Students. Awarded for integrating knowledge acquired during my Erasmus stay at the University of Heidelberg in my thesis and for sharing this knowledge with fellow students by co-teaching a course on Religion and Modern Media, 2009 (EUR 5,000).

Nominee: Facultaire Onderwijsprijs Geesteswetenschappen (Best Teacher, Faculty of Humanities), nominated by the TFLS, the student association for the study of religion. Universiteit Leiden, 2018.

PHD SUPERVISION

Amir Ardalan Emami. Transformations in Ancient Iranian Religion: The Achaemenids as Agents of Long-Term Change, 2015–. (Co-supervisor).

TEACHING**Leiden University**

Courses. Courses developed and taught in Dutch and English for the BA programmes Religious Studies (formerly World Religions), Islamic Studies (formerly Islamic Theology), Theology, and International Studies, and for the MA programmes Religious Studies (formerly Theology and Religious Studies) and Education in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Religion and Worldview:

- Introduction to Social-scientific Approaches to Religion and Faith [BA-I: NL 2011, 2012; with colleague].
- Introduction to New Religions / New Religions [BA-I: NL 2012; EN 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020].
- Sociology of Religion [BA-II: NL 2012, 2013, Spring 2014; EN Autumn 2014; 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020].

- The Multireligious Context of Spiritual Care [BA-elective: NL 2012].
- Alternative Spiritualities [BA elective: EN 2013, 2016; with colleague].
- Fiction, Parody, and Play in New Religions [BA elective: EN 2013, 2015, 2018].
- Seminar 1: Rituals and Symbols [BA-I: NL 2015].
- Topics in the Sociology of Religion [MA: EN 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014].
- Tools and Theories in the Study of Religion: Historical, Cognitive, and Social-Scientific Approaches [MA & PhD: EN 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020].
- MA Thesis Seminar Religious Studies [MA: EN 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019].
- The Future of Religion: The West and the Rest [BA-III. International Studies: EN 2019].
- Religion, Worldview and Citizenship in Secondary Education [BA/MA elective: NL 2020].
- Introduction to the Didactics of the Study of Religion [Educational MA: NL 2020].

Thesis supervision. Twenty-one theses concluded (eight BA, thirteen MA), in particular on topics related to new religions/alternative spirituality, modern Christianity, religion education, the cognitive science of religion, and religion and video games.

Awards. One MA thesis, Bas van Rijn's "The Mind Behind the Cards: Searching for the Source of Tarot Divination's Popularity through a Cognitive Analysis", won the Cornelis Tiele MA Thesis Award of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion in 2018. Another, Frits Brouwer's, "A Crumbling Fortress is our God: The Maintenance Mechanisms of the Dutch Reformatoric Community", won the annual MA Thesis Award of the Beheerstichting Theologische Fondsen in Leiden in 2019.

Other tasks. Study trips (Poland 2014; Belgium 2015; Glastonbury 2017), student recruitment, mentor for 1st and 2nd year students (2015–2016).

Aarhus University

Courses. Tutorials taught in Danish for the BA programmes Religious Studies and Arabic Language and Islamic Culture:

- Religion and Modern Media [Elective RS: 2007; with colleague].
- Introduction to the Study of Religion [Academic Skills unit RS: 2005, 2006].
- Philosophy of Science unit of Studium Generale [ALIC: 2005].
- History of Religion [RS: 2004].

TEACHING ADMINISTRATION

Exam committee (*Examencommissie*, MA), *Educatie in de Mens- en Maatschappijwetenschappen* [Education in the Social Sciences], member 2020-2023.

Exam committee (*Examencommissie*, BA + MA), Religious Studies, chair 2019–2022.

Study programme committee (*Opleidingscommissie*, BA + MA), Religious Studies, chair, 2016–2019; ordinary member, 2014–2015.

Programme Distinction. In the National Student Guide 2019, the BA Religious Studies was awarded the predicate 'Top Education Programme', together with just two other programmes of the in total 23 BA programmes at the Leiden Faculty of Humanities. In the National Student Guide 2020, it was awarded the predicate 'Top Education Programme' once more, together with three other programmes of the in total 25 BA programmes at the Leiden Faculty of Humanities.

Advisory board, Leiden Institute for Religious Studies, member, 2012–2014.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Leiden 2018–2019. Member of curriculum task force, tasked with revising the MA Religious Studies to begin in 2020.

Leiden 2016–2020. Member of curriculum task force Educational Masters, tasked with developing completely new, two-year, integrated educational master programmes to start in 2020 for the school subjects Dutch, English, German, French, and Religion and Worldview. Head of sub-task force responsible for developing and implementing the profile Religion and Worldview (*Religie en Levensbeschouwing*).

Leiden 2014. Head of curriculum task force, May–November 2014, tasked with revising the following study programmes to begin in 2015:

- BA Religiewetenschappen (Religious Studies)
- MA Theology and Religious Studies
- Minor Religion in a Changing World

Aarhus 2004–2005. Member of curriculum task force. BA & MA programmes in the Study of Religion.

DIDACTICAL TRAINING

Thesis Supervision Workshop. ICLON (Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching), 21 November 2015.

University Teaching Qualification (*Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs*). Mandatory teaching certificate for university teachers, awarded by ICLON (Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching), 2014.

Leiden Top Teachers. Invitee and regular participant, 2013–2014. This initiative of the ICLON (Leiden University Graduate School of Teaching) consisted of half-yearly meetings on university teaching for excellent teachers from all UL faculties.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG)

Founder/chair, NGG Working Group Religiewetenschap en onderwijs [Study of Religion and Religion Education], 2018–.

General secretary, 2012–2017.

PhD and student representative on the board, 2009–2012.

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)

Invited member and Leiden representative, national working group on the implementation of the KNAW rapport ‘Klaar om te wenden...’ on the future of the study of religion and theology in the Netherlands, 2015–2016.

Chair, task force ‘Onderwijs VO/HBO’ [Secondary schools and teacher training] under the national working group, 2015–2017.

Member, focus group. KNAW-committee Theology and Religious Studies in the Netherlands, 2014.

Peer Review

Academic articles: *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* (2015), *Sociologie* (2015), *Social Compass* (2015), *Journal of Religion in Europe* (2015), *Journal of Young Academics “Ex Nihilo” of the Jagiellonian University* (2016), *Implicit Religion* (2016, 2017), *Correspondences: Online Journal for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism* (2018), *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* (2018), *Numen* (2019).

Book proposal: University of Wales Press (2015).

Research proposals: The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO; 2018); Estonian Research Council (ETAg; 2018).

Audit Work

Midterm teaching review, panel member, University of Amsterdam, 2017. BA Religiewetenschappen (Religious Studies), MA Theology and Religious Studies, MA Kunst- en Cultuurwetenschappen, MA Erfgoedstudies (Heritage Studies).

Advisor, revision 'Kennisbasis Docent godsdienst & levensbeschouwing' [Knowledge foundation for religion teachers; secondary level], 2016.

PhD Committees

[3] 2020. Hanneke Minkjan. "Nehalennia's Lowlands: Wicca, Druidry, Asatru, the Goddess movement and Neo-Shamanism in the Netherlands", Free University Amsterdam. Member of reading committee and opposition committee.

[2] 2018. Ömer Faruk Gürlesin, "Elite and Popular Religiosity among Dutch-Turkish Muslims in the Netherlands", Leiden University. Member of reading committee and opposition committee.

[1] 2018. Marietje Beemsterboer, "Islamitisch basisonderwijs in Nederland" ["Islamic Primary Education in the Netherlands"], Leiden University. Member of opposition committee.

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Expertisecentrum Levensbeschouwing en Religie in het Voortgezet Onderwijs (LERO)

[Expert Centre for Religion and Worldview Education in Secondary School]

Project leader, project "Basis Curriculum", 2019–.

Member, core group (*kernteam*), 2018–2019.

Member, establishment group (*regieteam*), 2017–2018.

Member, taskforce core curriculum in religion education, 2016–2017.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH VISITS AND AFFILIATIONS

Bergen, Norway, Dep. of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, 8 May–27 June 2013.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Major conferences

[3] 2016. 21 June. Religiewetenschap en religieonderwijs: Visies voor onderwijs over religie en levensbeschouwing in het voortgezet onderwijs [The Study of Religion and Religion Education: Visions for Teaching Religion and Worldview Analysis in Secondary Education], Leiden University.

[2] 2013. 24–25 October. Lived Religion: Studying Religious Practice, annual conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), Leiden University. (Main organizer; with Wim Hofstee & William Arfman).

[1] 2011. 3–4 November. Method and Theory in the Study of Religion, PhD conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), Soesterberg.

Symposia and workshops

- [16] 2020. 20 April. Mormonism 200 Years On: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 200 Years After the Initial Revelation to Joseph Smith, 9th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [15] 2019. 14 June. Science of Religion at the Post-theological University, 3rd Tri-University Research Colloquium, Leiden University.
- [14] 2019. 6 May. The Paranormal: Experiences and Experiments, 8th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [13] 2018. 31 October – 1 November. The Study of Religion and Good Teaching Materials, Working Group Study of Religion and Religion Education (NGG) & Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religious Studies (NOSTER), Leiden University. (With Ammeke Kateman).
- [12] 2018. 30 April. Stories of the Supernatural: Encounters with the Other Side in Literary and Everyday Narratives, 7th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [11] 2017. 24 April. What Cards and Coins Reveal: Divinatory Techniques in the Netherlands, 6th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [10] 2016. 27 May. Thinking with Fiction-based Religion, Spring Meeting of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), Leiden University.
- [9] 2016. 23 May. Globale Religie [Global Religion], Study-day for secondary education religion teachers, Leiden University.
- [8] 2016. 18 April. Elves, Spirits, and Aliens: Superhuman Entities in New Religions, 5th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [7] 2015. 8 June. Jan Platvoet and the Study of Religion, Leiden University. (Main organizer; with Corey Williams and Ab de Jong).
- [6] 2015. 29 May. Religiewetenschap in Nederland: Hoe nu verder? [The Study of Religion in the Netherlands – Challenges for the Future], Spring Meeting of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), The Hague. (With Kocku von Stuckrad).
- [5] 2015. April 7. Playing with Religion, 4th Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [4] 2014. October 17. Narrative and Belief: International Symposium on the Persuasive Power of Religious Narratives and Supernatural Fiction, Leiden University.
- [3] 2014. April 17. New Forms of Sacrality in the Netherlands, 3rd Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [2] 2013. April 4. Identity and Tradition in Contemporary Paganism, 2nd Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.
- [1] 2012. April 12. Hekserij in Holland, 1st Leiden Symposium on New Religiosity, Leiden University.

Convened panels and roundtables

- [6] 2019. November 1. “Religie in het Onderwijs” [“Religion in Education”], *Religion and the Production of Difference*, Annual conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), October 30–November 1. (With Annemeik Schlatmann, Marije Verkerk, & Manon Meijer).
- [5] 2017. October 20. “Rondetafeldiscussie Onderwijs over religie in een pluralistische wereld” [“Roundtable Teaching Religion in a Pluralistic World”], *Dynamics of Religious Diversity: The Study of Different Religions and Religious Difference in Postcolonial Configurations*, Annual conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), October 19–20. (With Guido Versteegh & Gerard Wiegers).

- [4] 2017. September 20. "Esotericism and the Cognitive Science of Religion: Mediation, Communication, Cognition", *Communicating Religion*, EASR, University of Leuven, 18–21 September. (With Egil Asprem).
- [3] 2015. August 28. "Formations and Transformations: Modelling the Dynamics of Religious Traditions", *Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present*, IAHR, University of Erfurt, August 23–29.
- [2] 2014. May 12. "Art, Fiction and Science as Basis for Religion: Cognitive Approaches to Religious Appropriation of Non-Religious Knowledge", *Religion and Pluralities of Knowledge*, EASR, Groningen University. (With Egil Asprem and Carole Cusack).
- [1] 2011. September 21. "Challenging Approaches to New Religions/Spiritualities: Experiences from the Field", *New Movements in Religions: Theories and Trends*, EASR, Budapest, September 18–22. (With Carole Cusack).

EDITORIAL WORK

Implicit Religion, editorial board member, 2016–.

Journal of Religion in Europe, editorial board member, 2015–.

Guest editor for thematic issue on 'Esotericism and the Cognitive Science of Religion', *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 17(1), 2017; with Egil Asprem.

Guest editor of article series on "Religiekunde in de lespraktijk" [Dutch: "Religion Education in the Classroom"] and accompanying teaching material, *Narhex: Tijdschrift voor levensbeschouwing en educatie*, 16(2), 16(4), 17(1), and 17(3) 2016–2017; with Jeannette den Ouden.

Guest editor for thematic issue on 'Religion and Fiction', *Religion* 46(4), 2016.

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Monograph

- [1] Under contract. *Tolkien Spirituality: Constructing Belief and Tradition in Fiction-based Religion*. Book manuscript to be published as volume 65 in the series *Religion and Society* by De Gruyter, Berlin, forthcoming 2022.
Open Access. Selected for open access publication by Knowledge Unlatched.

Edited volume

- [1] 2018 (actually published December 2017). *Narrative and Belief: The Religious Affordance of Supernatural Fiction*, London: Routledge. ISBN: 978-1-138-55966-0.
Reviews by Arjan Sterken, *Numen* 66(5–6) (2019), 616–619; by Friedemann Rimbach-Sator, *Correspondences* 7(2) (2019); by Jens Schlieter in *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 35(1), 117–119 (2020); and by Joseph Laycock in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 23(3), 125–128 (2020). Additional reviews under way in *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* and *Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift*.

Dissertation

- [1] 2014. *The Spiritual Tolkien Milieu: A Study of Fiction-based Religion*.
Award. Awarded the Gerardus van der Leeuw PhD Dissertation Award 2016.
Citations. Cited 22 times (not counting self-citations).

Edited special issues of academic journals

- [2] 2017. 'Esotericism and the Cognitive Science of Religion', *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 17(1). (With Egil Asprem). Introduction, three research articles, response article.

- [1] 2016. 'Religion and Fiction', *Religion* 46(4). Introduction and five research articles.
Republication. 2018 as SPIB: *Narrative and Belief*, see above.

Academic articles and book chapters, refereed

- [11] 2020 (accepted). "Van Baaren's Systematic Science of Religion Revisited: The Current Crisis in Dutch Study of Religion and a Way Out", *NTT Journal for Theology and the Study of Religion*.
Target Article. Target for four 3000 words commentaries.
Open Access. Selected for open access publication (gold).
- [10] 2020. "Studying Religions as Narrative Cultures: Angel Experience Narratives in the Netherlands and Some Ideas for a Narrative Research Programme for the Study of Religion", in Dirk Johannsen, Anja Kirsch, and Jens Kreinath (eds.), *Narrative Cultures and the Aesthetics of Religion: Storytelling—Imagination—Reception*, in the series *Supplements to Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, Leiden: Brill, 91–122. (With Bastiaan van Rijn). Chapter DOI: 10.1163/9789004421677_006.
- [9] 2017. "The Jedi Community: History and Folklore of a Fiction-based Religion", in the special issue 'The Folk Awakens: *Star Wars* and Folkloristics', edited by John E. Price, *New Directions in Folklore* 15(1/2), 7–49.
Open Access. Published as open access (gold).
- [8] 2017 (actually published October 2016). "The Elven Path and the Silver Ship of the Valar: Two Spiritual Groups Based on J. R. R. Tolkien's *Legendarium*", including two appendices, "Tië eldaliéva", by Rev. Michael Ayras de Cygne and Calantirniel, and "Ilsaluntë Valion", by Gwineth, in Carole M. Cusack & Pavol Kosnác (eds.), *Fiction, Invention and Hyper-reality: From Popular Culture to Religion*, Abingdon & New York: Routledge, 15–39.
- [7] 2016. "The Religious Affordance of Fiction: A Semiotic Approach", in thematic issue on 'Religion and Fiction', *Religion* 46(4), 521–549. DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2016.1210392.
Open Access. Published as open access (gold).
Citations. Cited 9 times (not counting self-citations).
Republication. 2018. In Markus Altena Davidsen (ed.), *Narrative and Belief: The Religious Affordance of Supernatural Fiction*, London: Routledge, 33–61, under the title "The Religious Affordance of Fiction: Towards a Catalogue of Veracity Mechanisms in Supernatural Narratives".
- [6] 2016. "From *Star Wars* to Jediism: The Emergence of Fiction-based Religion", in Ernst van den Hemel & Asja Szafraniec (eds.), *Words: Religious Language Matters*, New York: Fordham University Press, 376–389. 571–575.
- [5] 2013. "Fiction-based Religion: Conceptualising a New Category Against History-based Religion and Fandom", *Culture and Religion: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 14(4), 378–395. DOI: 10.1080/14755610.2013.838798.
Invitation. Invited contributor to thematic issue 'Creating New Religions through Fiction, Parody and Play'.
Impact. Currently the third-most all-times downloaded article from *Culture and Religion* (4400 views).
Citations. Cited 34 times (not counting self-citations); cited in three Wikipedia articles including "Religion".
Open Access. Included in Routledge's *Religion across the Disciplines*, a selection of key articles in the interdisciplinary study of religion made available for open access between September and December 2015.
Republication. 2015. In Carole M. Cusack & Steven Sutcliffe (eds.), *The Problem of Invented Religions*, London: Routledge, 26–43.
Republication. 2016. In Carole M. Cusack & Helen Farley (eds.), *Religion, the Occult, and the Paranormal*, 4 Vols., Vol. 3, *Religion, the Occult, and the Paranormal: Pop Oc/culture, Media and Modern Mythology*, 239–257.
- [4] 2012 (actually published in 2013). "Future Directions in the Sociology of Non-institutional Religion", *Implicit Religion* 15(3), 378–395. DOI: 10.1558/imre.v15i4.553.
Invitation. Invited contributor to thematic issue 'Implicit and Non-institutional Religion and Beyond'.
Citations. Cited 7 times (not counting self-citations).

- [3] 2012. "What is Wrong with Pagan Studies?", *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 24(2), 183–199. DOI: 10.1163/157006812X634881.
Impact. The AAR group on Pagan Studies organised a roundtable at the 2013 AAR conference in response to this article; the contributions were published in a thematic issue of *The Pomegranate: The International Journal of Pagan Studies*. The debates are discussed at some length in the Wikipedia article 'Pagan Studies'.
Citations. Cited 34 times (not counting self-citations).
- [2] 2012. "The Spiritual Milieu Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Literary Mythology", in Adam Possamai (ed.), *Handbook of Hyper-real Religions*, in the series *Brill Handbooks on Contemporary Religion* 5, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 185–204. Chapter DOI: 10.1163/9789004226944_011.
Citations. Cited 15 times (not counting self-citations).
- [1] 2010. "Fiktionsbaseret religion: Fra *Star Wars* til jediisme" [Danish: "Fiction-based religion: From *Star Wars* to Jediism"], *Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift* 55, 3–21.

Academic articles and book chapters, non-refereed

- [5] 2022 (accepted). "There Was No Dutch School of Phenomenology of Religion" – The Netherlands", in Satoko Fujiwara, David Thurfjel, and Steven Engler (eds.), *Global Phenomenologies of Religion: an Oral History in Interviews*, in *The Study of Religion in a Global Context Series*, Sheffield: Equinox. (With Jan G. Platvoet).
- [4] 2019. "Honouring the Valar, Finding the Elf Within: The Curious History of Tolkien Spirituality and the Religious Affordance of Tolkien's Literary Mythology", in Anna Milon (ed.), *Tolkien the Pagan? Reading Middle-earth through a Spiritual Lens: Proceedings of Tolkien Society Seminar 2018*, in the *Peter Roe Series XIX*, Edinburgh: Luna Press Publishing, 31–45.
- [3] 2017. "Editor's Introduction: What Cognitive Science Offers the Study of Esotericism", *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 17(1), 1–15 (With Egil Asprem). DOI: 10.1163/15700593-01701001.
- [2] 2016. "Fiction and Religion: How Narratives About the Supernatural Inspire Religious Belief – Introducing the Thematic Issue", in thematic issue on 'Religion and Fiction', *Religion* 46(4), 489–499. DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2016.1226756.
Open Access. Published as open access (gold).
Republication. 2018. In Markus Altena Davidsen (ed.), *Narrative and Belief: The Religious Affordance of Supernatural Fiction*, London: Routledge, 1–11.
- [1] 2015. "In de Ban van Tolkien: Geloof en Geloven in Tolkien-spiritualiteit" [Dutch: "Under Tolkien's Spell: Belief and Believing in Tolkien Spirituality"], *Religie & Samenleving* 10(3), 213–234.

Entries in reference works

- [6] 2021 (accepted). "Esoteric Order of Dagon", in Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.
- [5] 2021 (accepted). "Fiction-based Esotericism", in Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.
- [4] 2021 (accepted). "Silver Elves, the", in Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.
- [3] 2021 (accepted). "Tribunal of the Sidhe, the", in Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.
- [2] 2021 (accepted). "Tolkien Spirituality", in Egil Asprem (ed.), *Brill Dictionary of Contemporary Esotericism*, Leiden: Brill.
- [1] 2018. "The Jedi Community", *World Religions and Spirituality Project*, 21 February, <https://wrludreels.org/2018/02/21/jedi-community/>.

Articles and book chapters for a professional audience, non-refereed

- [6] 2020. "Religiewetenschappelijke Vakdidactiek" [Dutch: "RS-based Didactics"], Monique van Dijk-Groeneboer et al. (ed.), *Handboek Vakdidactiek Levensbeschouwing & Religie: Leren leven vanuit je wortels*, Expertisecentrum LERVO, 288–299.
- [5] 2019. "Objectief, kritisch en pluralistisch? Wat Nederland kan leren van het Noorse onderwijs over levensbeschouwing en religie" [Dutch: "Objective, Critical, and Pluralistic? What the Netherlands May Learn from the Norwegian Education in Worldviews and Religion"], *Narthex: Tijdschrift voor levensbeschouwing en educatie* 19(2), 11–19.
- [4] 2018. "Het begrip religie: Over het religiewetenschappelijke definitiedebat en zijn implicaties voor het voortgezet onderwijs" [Dutch: "The Concept Religion: On the Debate on Defining Religion in the Academic Study of Religion and the Implications Hereof for Secondary Education"], *Narthex: Tijdschrift voor levensbeschouwing en educatie* 18(4), 58–64.
- [3] 2016. "Star Wars in het religieonderwijs: Religiekunde in de lespraktijk I" [Dutch: "Star Wars in religious education: Religion education in the classroom I"], *Narthex: Tijdschrift voor Levensbeschouwing en Educatie* 16(2), 64–71. (With Jeannette den Ouden).
- [2] 2015. "Religion baseret på J.R.R. Tolkiens fantasybøger", [Danish: "Religion Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Fantasy books"], *Religion: Tidsskrift for Religionslærerforeningen for Gymnasiet og HF* 2015(1), 32–41.
- [1] 2010. "Fantasy som religion: Star Wars og jediisme" [Danish: "Fantasy as religion: Star Wars and Jediism"], *Religionspædagogisk Forum* 2010(1), 15–23, thematic issue 'Fantasy og Religion'.
Impact. This article on the use of *Star Wars* and fiction-based religion in religion education led to interviews in *Kristeligt Dagblad* and the science portal www.videnskab.dk.

Academic book reviews

- [12] 2019. Jens Schlieter (2018), *What Is It Like to Be Death? Near-Death Experiences, Christianity, and the Occult*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Reviewed for AAR Reading Religion. <http://readingreligion.org/books/what-it-be-dead>.
- [11] 2015. Carole M. Cusack and Alex Norman (eds.; 2012), *Handbook of New Religions and Cultural Production*. Reviewed in *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* 28(3), 334–335. DOI: 10.1558/jasr.v28i3.27598.
- [10] 2014 (actually published in 2015). Per Faxneld and Jesper Aa. Petersen (eds.; 2013), *The Devil's Party: Satanism in Modernity*. Reviewed in *Aura: Tidsskrift for akademiska studier av nyreligiösitet* 5, 149–158 [Danish].
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- [12] 2012. April 28. Morten Mikkelsen: "Unge dyrker vampyrer som religion", *Kristeligt Dagblad*, front page. [Newspaper; Danish].
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PRESENTATIONS

Keynote lectures

- [2] 2018. July 1. "Honouring the Valar, Finding the Elf Within: The Curious History of Tolkien Spirituality and the Religious Affordance of Tolkien's Literary Mythology", *Tolkien the Pagan? Reading Middle-earth through a Spiritual Lens*, Tolkien Society Seminar, Leeds.
- [1] 2016. May 27. "Good to Think With: Fiction-based Religion and Theorizing in the Study of Religion", *Thinking with Fiction-based Religion*, Spring Meeting of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), Leiden University.

Invited lectures

- [9] 2020. March 17. "Tolkien Spirituality: Constructing Belief in Fiction-based Religion", Kosmoi lecture 2020, Kosmoi: The Leuven Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Religion and Worldview, University of Leuven.
- [8] 2020. March 3. "The Religious Affordance of Supernatural Fiction", Symposium 'Narrative, Religion, and Magic', Center for the Study of Religion, Ohio State University, Columbus.
- [7] 2020. January 29. "Literature as Source of Religion: Tolkien Spirituality and the Religious Affordance of Tolkien's Literary Mythology", Research Group Literature & Religion, University of Bergen.
- [6] 2019. October 31. "Worldview and *Levensbeschouwing* in Dutch Secondary Education", Roundtable on "Worldview and *Levensbeschouwing*: Productive Terms for Religious Studies?", *Religion and the Production of Difference*, Annual conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG), University of Groningen, October 30–November 1.
- [5] 2019. March 29. "Analysing Religious Self-Narratives: The Case of Angel Experience Narratives in the Netherlands", Kick-off Workshop for the SNF-project "Experiments with Experience: Experimenting with Religions and Spiritual Practice as Experimentation", Universität Bern, March 29–30.

- [4] 2016. June 16. "New Religions as Narrative Cultures", *Narrative Cultures and the Aesthetics of Religion: Storytelling – Imagination – Efficacy*, International AESToR.net-Conference, University of Oslo, June 16–18.
- [3] 2015. January 30. "The Spiritual Tolkien Milieu: How Fiction-based Religion Matters to the Sociology of Religion", Werkgezelschap Godsdienstsociologie en Godsdienst antropologie, Utrecht.
- [2] 2012. April 20. "The Concept of Non-institutional Religion", *Implicit Religion, Non-institutional Religion and Beyond*, seminar on the occasion of the retirement of Prof.Dr. Meerten B. ter Borg, Leiden University.
- [1] 2010. January 8. "Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings as Authoritative Texts: Strategies of Interpretation and Legitimation in Fiction-based Religions", *Rewriting Authoritative Texts*, Aarhus University.

Conference presentations

- [30] 2020. 6 March. "The Rhetoric of Religious Narratives: Towards a Catalogue of Veracity Mechanisms", 2020 International Conference on Narrative, New Orleans.
- [29] 2019. 29 November. Discussant in the workshop "Religion and Humanities-based Multidisciplinary International Studies", Leiden University.
- [28] 2019. July 3. Discussant in the ContERN panel "Accessing Contemporary Esoteric Techniques for Altering Consciousness", 7th Biennial Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), *Western Esotericism and Consciousness: Visions, Voices, Altered States*, University of Amsterdam, 2–4 July.
- [27] 2019. June 14. "Van Baaren's Systematic Science of Religion Revisited: Comparison, Explanation, and the Identity of the Science of Religion as an Academic Discipline", Science of Religion at the Post-theological University, 3rd Tri-University Research Colloquium, Leiden University.
- [26] 2018. November 17. "The Rise of the Real Jedi: How a Religious Identity Movement Emerged from the Star Wars Fan Culture", American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, New Religions Unit, Denver, November 17–20.
- [25] 2018. October 31. "Good Quality Teaching Materials for Religion Education: Aims and Raison d'être of the NGG Working Group on Religion Education", *The Study of Religion and Good Teaching Materials*, NGG & NOSTER, Leiden University, October 31–November 1.
- [24] 2017. May 19. "Religious Narratives as Plausibility Structures", 1st Tri-university Research Colloquium Religious Studies, University of Amsterdam. [With Marlies de Groot & Bas van Rijn].
- [23] 2017. February 2. "The Religious Affordance of Fiction: A Semiotic Approach", LIAS/LUCSoR Anthropology and Sociology Network, Leiden University.
- [22] 2015. August 31. "To Theorize Religion We Must Assume the Non-Existence of Spirits and Gods", debate with Jochem van der Boogert, LIAS Religion and Philosophy Network Academic Year Opening Workshop, Leiden University.
- [21] 2015. August 28. "Towards a Theory of Religious Rationalisation: The Case of the Spiritual Tolkien Milieu", in the panel 'Formations and Transformations: Modelling the Dynamics of Religious Traditions', *Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present*, IAHR, University of Erfurt, August 23–29.
- [20] 2014. October 17. "How Supernatural Fiction Persuades: A Semio-cognitive Approach", *Narrative and Belief: International Symposium on The Persuasive Power of Religious Narratives and Supernatural Fiction*, Leiden University.
- [19] 2014. September 30. "Valarkult og selvidentificerede elvere: Religion baseret på J.R.R. Tolkiens fantasybøger", [Danish: "Valar Cult and Self-identified Elves: Religion Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Fantasy Books"], Centre for Contemporary Religion, Aarhus University.

- [18] 2014. May 12. "How Religious Fiction Persuades: A Cognitive Approach", in the panel 'Art, Fiction and Science as Basis for Religion: Cognitive Approaches to Religious Appropriation of Non-Religious Knowledge', *Religion and Pluralities of Knowledge*, EASR, Groningen University..
- [17] 2013. June 5. "Religionising Tolkien", Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, Bergen, Norway.
- [16] 2011. October 28. "Fiktionsbaseret religion: Brug af fiktion i moderne religiøs bricolage" [Danish: Fiction-based religion: Use of fiction in modern religious bricolage"], *Nordisk konferens om forskning om nyreligiositet*, FINYAR, Sigtuna, Sweden, October 27–28.
- [15] 2011. September 21. "Conceptualising Fiction-based Religion", in the panel 'Challenging Approaches to New Religions/Spiritualities: Experiences from the Field', *New Movements in Religions: Theories and Trends*, EASR, Budapest, September 18–22.
- [14] 2010. October 7. "The Spiritual Milieu Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Literary Mythology", PhD seminar, LIRS, Leiden University.
- [13] 2010. August 16. "The Spiritual Milieu Based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Literary Mythology", in the panel 'Religion and Spirituality on the Boundaries of Contemporary Culture: The Fantastic, the Fictional, and the Fabricated', *Religion: A Human Phenomenon*, IAHR, Toronto, August 15–21.
- [12] 2010. May 26. "Fiction-based Religion", PhD pre-conference, *Mediatization, Religion and Transformations of the Nordic Public Sphere*, Nordic Research Network for the Mediatization of Religion and Culture, Sigtuna, Sweden.
- [11] 2010. April 12. "Fiction-based Religion: From *Star Wars* to Jediism", NOSTER Algemene Opleidingsdagen, Zeist.
- [10] 2010. March 19. "Fiction-based Religion and the Internet", The Aarhus Workshop on Internet Studies in collaboration with the Oxford Internet Institute, Centre for Internet Studies, Aarhus University.
- [9] 2009. November 3. "Fiktionsbaseret religion: Spiritualitet baseret på Tolkiens værker" [Danish: Fiction-based religion: Spirituality based on Tolkien's works], Centre for Contemporary Religion, Aarhus University.
- [8] 2009. October 30–31. "Fiction-based Religion", *Alternative Spiritualities, the New Age and New Religious Movements in Ireland*, Maynooth, Ireland. [Poster & handout].
- [7] 2009. September 2. "Fiction-based Religion", Promovendidag, LIRS, Leiden University. [Poster].
- [6] 2009. June 16. "In George Lucas' Words: *Star Wars* Between Fiction and Revelation in Jediism", NWO conference *Future of the Religious Past: Words*, Groningen University, June 15–16.
- [5] 2009. March 16. "May the Force Be with You: The Invention of Jediism", PhD course *Media, Religion and Popular Culture*, Forskerskolen i Medier, Kommunikation og Journalistik, March 16–17.
- [4] 2007. May 19. "Online Religion: Schnorcheln im Meer der Cyberreligion", 14. *Symposium der Studierenden der Religionswissenschaft*, Leipzig University, May 17–20.
- [3] 2006. May 27. "The Study of Religion in Denmark", 13. *Symposium der Studierende der Religionswissenschaft*, Marburg University, May 25–28.
- [2] 2006. May 26. "Roy Rappaport's Theory of Religion: Ritual as Facilitator and Restrictor of Language", 13. *Symposium der Studierenden der Religionswissenschaft*, Marburg University, May 25–28.
- [1] 2006. May 19. "Roy Rappaport's System Theoretic Approach to Religion and Society", PhD workshop, *Religion, Cognition, and Culture* research unit, Aarhus University, May 18–20.

PhD workshops

- [3] 2020. March 17. "Strategies of Comparison in the Study of Religion: The Case of Fiction-based Religion", Kosmoi Master Class, Kosmoi: The Leuven Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Religion and Worldview, University of Leuven.

- [2] 2020. February 7. "RS-based RE: Religieonderwijs op religiewetenschappelijke grondslag", followed by group discussion, NOSTER Midyear Meeting on the theme "The Role of Religion Education in Secondary Education", University of Nijmegen.
- [1] 2016. October 26. NGG PhD Master Class, University of Amsterdam. Senior respondent.

Continuing education

- [9] 2019. March 14. "Religie als vakbegrip", De orthodoxe wortels van de hedendaagse spiritualiteit, workshop at the annual study day of the VDLG (=professional organisation for secondary school teachers in the Netherlands), Utrecht.
- [8] 2017. September 18. Course on "Boeddhisme in het vak Godsdienst/Levensbeschouwing" ["Buddhism in the School Subject Religion"], for secondary education religion teachers, Leiden University. (With Jeannette den Ouden).
- [7] 2016. October 12. Workshop on "Verplicht Kennisdomein Religie en Levensbeschouwing in het VO" ["Mandatory Knowledge Domain Religion and Worldview Education in Secondary Education"], for secondary education religion teachers and teacher trainers, Leiden University. (With Jeannette den Ouden).
- [6] 2016. May 23. Workshop on "Religiekunde", Globale Religie [Global Religion], Study-day for secondary education religion teachers, Leiden University. (With Jeannette den Ouden).
- [5] 2016. March 16. "Religiekunde: levensbeschouwelijke geletterdheid voor alle leerlingen", [Dutch: "Religion Education: Religious Literacy for All Pupils"], VU-Symposium Religie doet ertoe: Levensbeschouwing & religie in het onderwijs van 2032 [Religion matters: Philosophies of life and religion in the education of 2032], Free University Amsterdam.
- [4] 2015. November 13. "Perspektiver for forskning og religionsdidaktik" [Danish: "Perspectives on research and didactics of religion"], part of course on "Forskningsperspektiver i vores fag" ["Research perspectives in our subject"] for teacher trainers, organised by Læreruddannelsens Religionslærerforening, i.e. the organisation for religion teachers on Danish teacher training colleges, Copenhagen.
- [3] 2014. October 3. "Fiktionsbaserede religioner i religionsundervisningen" [Danish: "Fiction-based Religions in Religion Education"], *Religion i medierne – fiktion og identitetsdannelse*, part of course for high school religion teachers, organised by the publisher Systime.
- [2] 2010. September 23. "Fantasy og religion" [Danish: "Fantasy and Religion"], part of course on 'The Fantasy Genre', Folkeuniversitetet [University Extension], Aarhus.
- [1] 2010. September 22. "Genfødt og blå: Religiositet baseret på James Camerons *Avatar*" [Danish: "Reborn and Blue: Religiosity based on James Cameron's *Avatar*"], part of course for high school religion teachers, 'Vil du ha' nougat til nadveren', Aarhus University.

Popularising lectures

- [12] 2017. 21 March. "Midden-aarde kan je beleven: Rituelen en ritueelkalenders in Tolkien-spiritualiteit" [Dutch: "Middle-earth can be experienced: Rituals and ritual calendars in Tolkien spirituality"], Djembe (student association for cultural anthropology), Utrecht University.
- [11] 2016. April 12. "Tolkien-Religion: Fact or Fiction?", Radboud Reflects, RU.
- [10] 2016. March 9. "Tolkien-spiritualiteit en jediïsme: De aantrekkingskracht van *fiction-based religions*" [Dutch: "Tolkien Spirituality and Jediism: The Attraction of Fiction-based Religions"], Studentenvereniging Prometheus, Leiden.
- [9] 2016. January 6. "Tolkien Spirituality: A Study of Fiction-based Religion", Studium Generale, Technical University Eindhoven.

- [8] 2015. September 25. "In de ban van Tolkien: Tolkien-spiritualiteit en de toekomst van religie" [Dutch: "Under Tolkien's Spell: Tolkien Spirituality and the Future of Religion"], Science Festival *Naturalis After Dark*, Leiden.
- [7] 2015. September 8. "In de ban van Tolkien: Sociologie van Tolkien-spiritualiteit en andere fictiereligies" [Dutch: "Under Tolkien's Spell: Sociology of Tolkien Spirituality and other Fiction-based religions"], Science Café Leiden, Leiden.
Media. Report published in *Leidsch Dagblad* 16 September 2015 by Bianca Prinse under the title "Eru Ilúvatar als god naast God en Allah" [Dutch: "Eru Ilúvatar as god next to God and Allah"].
- [6] 2015. February 12. Panel discussion, "De kwestie fictie en overtuiging" [Dutch: "The Issue of Fiction and Persuasion"], Damagomi Project, Nest, The Hague. With Florian Schönfeld, Maria van Daalen, and Flora Lysen.
- [5] 2014. October 2. "Valarkult og selvidentificerede elvere: Religion baseret på J.R.R. Tolkiens fantasy-bøger" [Danish: "Valar Cult and Self-identified Elves: Religion based on J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy books"], RELIGIO (lecture society, Study of Religion, University of Southern Denmark), Odense.
- [4] 2014. September 24. "Praten met engelen en doden" [Dutch: "Speaking with Angels and the Dead"], *Re:think: Liveshow over religie en wetenschap*, De Burcht, Leiden. (With Elpine de Boer).
- [3] 2011. December 14. "Jediisme en de Jedi Knights uit *Star Wars*: Een nieuwe religie met fictieve rolmodellen" [Dutch: "Jediism and the Jedi Knights from *Star Wars*: A New Religion with Fictional Role Models"], TFLS symposium *Religion Reloaded*, Leiden.
- [2] 2011. March 10. "De Jedi-ridder als Religieuze Identiteit" [Dutch: "The Jedi Knight as Religious Identity"], TFLS & SSR symposium *Religie en identiteit*, Leiden.
- [1] 2009. November 3. "May the Force be with you: Jediismen mellem fiktion og religion [Danish: "May the Force Be with You: Jediism between Fiction and Religion"], Religionsvidenskabelig Forening (student lecture association, Study of Religion, Aarhus University), Aarhus.

Secondary school guest lectures

- [5] 2016–2020. *Star Wars* en religie. Leiden University guest lecture programme. I have given the guest lecture myself nine times; students trained by me have given it an additional twenty times.
- [4] 2020–. Moderne hekserij als natuurreligie. Leiden HUM Lab.
- [3] 2019–. Vergelijking en verklaring in de religiewetenschap. Leiden Pre-university College.
- [2] 2015–2016. Vampiers & Satanisten. Leiden HUM Lab. Twice.
- [1] 2015–2018. In de ban van Tolkien: Religiewetenschappelijk onderzoek naar Tolkien-spiritualiteit en andere religies gebaseerd op fictie. Leiden Pre-university College. Four times.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATIONS

- International Association for the Cognitive Study of Religion. Founding member since 2006.
- Nordic Research Network on the Mediatization of Religion and Culture. Member 2007–2014.
- Centre for Internet Research, Aarhus University. Member 2008–2013.
- Nederlands Genootschap voor Godsdienstwetenschap (Dutch Association for the Study of Religion). Since 2009.
- European Association for the Study of Religion. Since 2009.
- International Association for the History of Religions. Since 2009.
- Nederlandse Onderzoekschool voor Theologie en Religiewetenschap (NOSTER). Junior member 2010–2014. Senior member since 2015.
- Forskning och Information om Nyreligiösitet (FINYAR). Since 2010.

Werkgezelschap godsdienstsociologie en godsdienstantropologie (Vlaams-Nederlandse Werkgroep Godsdienstsociologie). Since 2010.

International Society for the Study of New Religions. 2011–2012.

Nederlandse Sociologische Vereniging. 2015–2018.

Association for Psychological Science. 2015–2016.

Dansk Selskab for Religionsvidenskab (Danish Association for the Study of Religion). Since 2016.

Nordic Network for the Cognitive Science of Religion. Since 2016.

Vereniging van Docenten Levensbeschouwing en Godsdienst (Dutch Association for Religion Teachers in Secondary Schools). Since 2016.

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism. Since 2017.

American Academy of Religion. 2018–2019.

International Society for the Study of Narrative. 2019–2020.

LANGUAGES

Danish. Native language. I read and understand Norwegian and Swedish.

English. Fluent orally and written.

Dutch. Fluent orally and written.

German. Good reading skills.