

Prof. Dr Beth Singler

Assistant Professor in Digital Religion(s)
Co-Director URPP Digital Religion(s)
University of Zurich, Switzerland

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I am a digital and cultural anthropologist focussing on the religious, ethical, and societal response to artificial intelligence (AI). I employ traditional and digital ethnographical techniques to study digital religions, transhumanists, and public discourse. Fieldwork has taken place in the UK, the USA, Japan, and among online communities and on social media. My science communication work includes a series of award-winning short documentaries on AI, writing and presenting a BBC Radio 4 documentary on the cultural impact of the Terminator, popular publications, science festival talks, press interviews, and international media appearances. My research has also been recognised with awards, including the 2021 Digital Religion Research Award from the Network for New Media, Religion, and Digital Culture Studies, the 2017 Arts and Humanities Research Council's Best Research Film of the Year, the Evening Standard's *Progress 1000*, the Hay Festival's *30 to Watch* and Cofinitive's *21 to Watch*. I published two new books on religion and AI in 2024 - *Religion and AI: An Introduction*, and the *Cambridge Companion to Religion and AI*.

Employment

- March 2025 - **Co-Director, URPP Digital Religion(s) in Phase 2 [URPP Digital Religion\(s\)](#) from Jan 2025**
University of Zurich
- Supporting the Director in all matters relating to the management of the URPP Digital Religion(s) and, in this capacity, participates in regular strategic meetings with the Director and the scientific and administrative management.
 - Involved in strategic, financial, and funding decisions
- Jan. 2025- **Member of the Board of Directors for the Digital Society Initiative, *University of Zurich***
- Jan. 2025 - **Principal Investigator in Phase 2 of URPP Digital Religion(s) from Jan 2025**
Project: "Post-AI Religion and Religious AI: Reciprocal Disruption and Futures"
- Post doc, [Kristina Eiviler](#)
 - PhD, [Accursio Graffeo](#)
 - Research Assistant, Jasmin Müller
- Aug. 2023 - **Co-Lead, [Media Existential Encounters and Evolving Technology Lab](#)**
University of Zurich
- The MEEET Lab offers researchers, students, and the interested public the opportunity to get to know, try out and use technologies that have taken and are taking a decisive role in the process of digital transformation of our society.
- Team leadership and strategy
 - Collaboration with stakeholders and other research organisations
 - Workshop design and delivery
- Oct. 2022 - **Assistant Professor in Digital Religion(s)**
[University Research Priority Programme \(URPP\) Digital Religion\(s\)](#)
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
University of Zurich

- *Research:*
 - Digital and traditional anthropological research on the conceptions and narratives of AI impacting people’s lifestyles, religions, communities, and futures. Publications on theistic AI discourse online, science and religion, digital religions, religious tropes and narratives, and the anthropology of anxiety and trust.
- *Teaching:*

Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, courses and seminars:

 - “Digital Religion(s): Methods, Technologies, and Futures”
 - “Religion, Speculative Fiction, and Popular Culture
 - “Artificial Intelligence, Religions and Ethics”, with Dr Hadil Labadidi
 - “Entanglements of politics with AI and religious influences”, with Prof Dr Dorothea Lüddeckens

Digital Society Initiative and School of Transdisciplinary Studies, module coordinator:

 - Minor in Digital Skills: Artistic Reflection Module
 - Minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship: XP-Lab Module

Oct. 2020 - **Director of Studies: Theology, Religion, and the Philosophy of Religion,**
 Sept 2022 ***Homerton College, University of Cambridge***

- Academic guidance and pastoral care for undergraduates
- Experience in admissions, interviews, EDI (equality, diversity, and inclusion), and unconscious bias training
- Administration of exam enrolment, coordinating supervisions, and writing references.
- Member of Homerton College’s Governing Body and Equality and Diversity Committee.

Oct 2018- **Junior Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence,**
 Sept 2022 ***Homerton College, University of Cambridge***

Feb. 2016 - **Research Associate on the “Human Identity in the Age of Nearly**
 Oct. 2018 **Human Machines” Project,**
Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, St Edmund’s College, University of Cambridge

- Ethnographic fieldwork among AI technologists and experts.
- Surveying technological and pop-cultural sources on AI.
- Produced a series of short documentaries on the future of AI and robots to engage the public, which involved interviews with theologians and philosophers. The first of which, *Pain in the Machine*, won the AHRC Best Research Film of the Year award 2017.

June 2002 - **Freelance Script Editor and Temp Worker, London**
 Oct. 2010 Temp positions while freelancing. PA for film producers, magazine publishers, and Heads of Communications.

Teaching Experience:

Oct 2025- **Module Co-Ordinator, Minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship**
 In charge of the XP-Lab module
 School of Transdisciplinary Studies, UZH

2024- **Module Co-Ordinator, Minor in Digital Skills: Artistic Reflection**
 Digital Society Initiative and School of Transdisciplinary Studies, UZH

- 2024- **Co-Supervisor, PhD**
Maïke Sieler, Religious and Societal Effects of AI, UZH
Accursio Graffeo, AI New Religious Movements (dual degree with UZH and DREST - University of Turin / University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)
- Oct. 2022- **Assistant Professor in Digital Religion(s)**
- Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies:
- Digital Religion(s): Methods, Technologies, and Futures
- Religion, Speculative Fiction, and Popular Culture
- Artificial Intelligence, Religions and Ethics, with Dr Hadil Labadidi
- Oct. 2012- **Affiliated Supervisor and Lecturer, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge**
Sept 2022
Supervising and lecturing undergraduates. Postgraduate supervision on MPhil essays and dissertations.

Topics taught include sociological and anthropological theorists, digital technology and society, science and religion, gender, film and broadcasting, contemporary diet culture, and responses to the Anthropocene from social media influencers.
- Nov. 2020 - **PhD Supervision Committee Member, KU Leuven**
Dec. 2021
Supervising a PhD thesis on “(Post)Human Encounters: Imaginations of and interactions with the ‘Technological Other.’”
- Feb. 2019 **Guest Lecturer: Masters Course on Theology, Imagination, and Culture, Sarum College, Salisbury, UK**
Sessions on:
“Transhumanism – Technology’s Field of Dreams”
“AI - technological eschatology.”
- Nov. 2018 **Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge.**
Paper SOC 8: “Religion and Contentious Mobilisation.”
Sessions on “From Moral panics to Moral Parodies - A History of the Concept of the ‘New Religious Movement’”

Qualifications:

- 2011 - 2016 **PhD Theology and Religious Studies,**
Pembroke College, University of Cambridge
Supervisor, Dr Timothy Jenkins

Thesis: *The Indigo Children: New Age Experimentation with Self and Science*
(Monograph published with Routledge in 2017)

Maternity leave Feb. 2012 – Sept. 2012
- 2010 - 2011 **MPhil Theology and Religious Studies (Distinction),**
Pembroke College, University of Cambridge
Supervisor, Dr Timothy Jenkins
Master’s thesis: “*Skeletons into Goddesses*”: *Creating Religion, the Case of the Pro-Ana Movement*
- 1999 - 2002 **MA Hons (Cantab) Theology and Religious Studies (2:1),**
Pembroke College, University of Cambridge
Undergraduate thesis: “*A Thing of Spirit, Not of Heritage*”: *Inventing Religion, the Case of Modern Pagan Witchcraft*

Academic Publications:

Books

2024 *Religion and AI: An Introduction*, [Routledge](#)

2024 *The Cambridge Companion to Religion and AI*, co-edited with Fraser Watts, [Cambridge University Press](#).

2021 *Radical Transformations in Minority Religions*, co-edited with Eileen Barker, Routledge <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315226804>

2017 *The Indigo Children: New Age Experimentation with Self and Science*, an ethnographic monograph on the New Age Movement, Routledge; <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315100845>

Articles

2025 “Specialists without Spirit”: GenAI Professors, Epistemic Networks, and Religious Education”, in a special issue of *Journal for Pedagogy and Theology*, edited by Prof. Dr Thomas Schlag <https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/zpt-2025-2042/html>

2024 “Existential Conversations with Large Language Models: Content, Community, and Culture”, with Murray Shanahan, pre-print available at <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.13223>

2023 “‘Will AI Create a Religion?’: Views of the Algorithmic Forms of the Religious Life in Popular Discourse”, in *American Religion*, vol. 5 no. 1, 2023, p. 95-103.

2023 “AI Gods, Jeans Gods, and Thrift Gods: Responding to Responses to the Blessed by the Algorithm Paper (Singler 2020)”, in a Special Issue on the Work of Beth Singler, *Debates do NER*, YEAR 23, N. 43 (2023): Religion and Digital Life (Nov. 2023) <https://seer.ufrgs.br/index.php/debatesdoner/article/view/136578>

2020 “‘Blessed by the Algorithm’: Theistic Conceptions of Artificial Intelligence as Entanglements of AI and Religion”, in *AI and Society*, 35, pages 945–955 <https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00146-020-00968-2>

2020 “The AI Creation Meme: A Case Study of the New Visibility of Religion in Artificial Intelligence Discourse”, for a special issue on ‘the New Visibility of Religion’ for *Religions*, 11 (5), 253; <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11050253>

2019 “Existential Hope and Existential Despair in AI Apocalypticism And Transhumanism”, in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, vol 54, issue 1; <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12494>

2018 Edited a special issue on Religion and AI for *The Journal of Implicit Religion*, vol 20, no.3, including contributing two articles:

- “An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Religion for the Religious Studies Scholar”; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1558/imre.35901>
- “Roko’s Basilisk or Pascal’s? Thinking of Singularity Thought Experiments as Implicit Religion”; <https://doi.org/10.1558/imre.35900>

2015 “Big, Bad Pharma: New Age Biomedical Conspiracy Narratives and their Expression in the Concept of the Indigo Child”, in *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (2015) 19 (2): 17–29; <https://doi.org/10.1525/nr.2015.19.2.17>

2015 “‘My Brother, the Insect’: Researching the Indigo Children and their New Age Cosmologies and Spiritual Guides”, in *DISKUS: Journal of the British Association for the Study of Religion*.

2014 “‘SEE MOM IT IS REAL’: The UK Census, Jediism and Social Media”, in *Journal of Religion in Europe*, (2014), 7(2), 150-168. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18748929-00702005>

Book Chapters

Forthcoming “The Moving Event Horizon of AI New Religious Movements and Emergent Spiritualities”, Geraci, R (ed.) *Edward Elgar Handbook of Religion and Artificial Intelligence*

Forthcoming “AI, Religion, and Neoliberalism: From ‘Thin Pagan Religion’ to ‘Appifying’ Jesus”, in Guest, M. and Bielo, J. (eds), *The Handbook of Religion and Neoliberalism*, Bloomsbury

2026 “What is a God? Modalities and Typologies of Deities in Post-AI Religiosity, the Case of LLM-Theisms” in Neumaier, A. (ed) *Artificial Religion: Media - Practices - Materialities*, Kohlhammer, Germany <https://shop.kohlhammer.de/kunstliche-religion-abacp87.html>

2025 “Artificial Intelligence and Hope”, in van den Heuvel, S. and Scioli, A. (eds) *The Oxford Compendium of Hope*, Oxford University Press

2025 “Insights from Current Research on the Entanglements of AI and Religion”, with Kristina Eiviler, in Schlag, T. and Yadav, K. (eds), *Religious communication, interaction and transformation in a culture of digitality. Collected insights from the Zurich University Research Priority Program “Digital Religion(s)”*, DeGruyter

2024 “Introduction: Religion and AI”, in Singler, B. and Watts, F. (eds) *The Cambridge Companion to Religion and AI*, [Cambridge University Press](#).

2024 “The Anthropology and Sociology of Religion and AI” in Singler, Beth and Fraser Watts (eds) *The Cambridge Companion to Religion and AI*, [Cambridge University Press](#).

2023 “How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Question the Apocalyptic AI”, in Campbell and Cheong (eds) [‘Thinking Tools for AI, Religion and Culture’](#)

2022 “Left Behind? Religion as a Vestige in ‘The Rapture of the Nerds’ and Other AI Singularity Literature”, in *Science and Religion in Western Literature: Critical and Theological Studies*, ed Michael Fuller, Routledge.

2022 “AI Apocalypticism and the Religious Impulse In, and From, the Terminator Franchise”, in *Representing Religion in Film*, eds Rebecca King and Tenzan Eaghill, Bloomsbury.

2022 “Origin and the End: Artificial Intelligence, Atheism and, Imaginaries of the Future of Religion”, in *Emerging Voices in Theology and Science*, eds Bethany Sollereeder and Alistair McGrath, Routledge.

2021 “When Galaxies Collide: The Question of Jediism’s Revisionism in the face of Corporate Buyouts and Mythos ‘Retconning’”, in *Radical Transformations in Minority Religions*, eds Beth Singler and Eileen Barker, Routledge.

2021 “Radical Transformations in Minority Religions: Reflections”, in *Radical Transformations in Minority Religions*, eds Beth Singler and Eileen Barker, Routledge.

2020 “Artificial Intelligence and the Parent/Child Narrative”, in *AI Narratives: A History of Imagining Thinking About Intelligent Machines*, eds Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal and Sarah Dillon, OUP; DOI: [10.1093/oso/9780198846666.003.0012](https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198846666.003.0012)

2019 “Conceiving AI: Creation and the Parent/Child Narrative in Blade Runner 2049”, in *Blade Runner 2049 and Philosophy*, eds Robin Bunce and Trip McCosin, Open Court Publishing Company.

2016 “No Leader, No Followers: The Internet and the End of Charisma?” in *Visioning New and Minority Religions: Projecting the Future*, INFORM’s 25th Anniversary Conference Volume, ed. Eugene Gallagher, Routledge; <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315317908>

2016 “The New Age Movement and the Definition of the Child”, in *The Bloomsbury Reader in Religion and Childhood*, edited by Anna Strhan, Stephen G. Parker, and Susan Ridgely, Bloomsbury; <https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760X.2018.1458911>

2015 “Internet-based New Religious Movements and Dispute Resolution” in *Religion and Legal Pluralism*, edited by Russell Sandberg, Ashgate, pages 161-178.

2015 “Possession and Exorcism in the New Age Movement” in *Spirit Possession around the World Possession, Communion, and Demon Expulsion across Cultures*, edited by Joseph Laycock, ABC-CLIO

Book Reviews

2022 Calvin Mercer and Tracy J. Trothorn. 2021. *Religion and The Technological Future: An Introduction to Biohacking, Artificial Intelligence, and Transhumanism*, Palgrave Macmillan, for the Journal of the American Academy of Religion (JAAR) <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfac044>

2022 Wesley J Wildman and Kate J. Stockly. 2021. *Spirit Tech: The Brave New World of Consciousness Hacking and Enlightenment Engineering*, St Martin’s Press, for the Journal of the American Academy of Religion (JAAR) <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfac044>

2021 Emily Cox-Palmer-White. 2021. *The Biopolitics of Gender in Science Fiction: Feminism and Female Machines* - Routledge Studies in Speculative Fiction. *Foundation: Journal of the Science Fiction Foundation*, 139, 50.2 (Summer 2021) <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2580076825>

2017 Gregg, Stephen E. and Lynne Scholefield. 2015. “Engaging with Lived Religion: A Guide to Fieldwork in the Study of Religion”. Oxford: Routledge. 180pp. In *Fieldwork in Religion* 12.1 (2017) pages 129–130; <https://doi.org/10.1558/firn.34700>

2014 Campion, Nicholas. 2015. “Astrology and Popular Religion in the Modern West: Prophecy, Cosmology and the New Age Movement”, Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2012. Pp. 254. In *Religious Studies Review*, Volume40, Issue4, Dec. 2014, pages 195-196; https://doi.org/10.1111/rsr.12166_3

2013 Collins-Mayo, S., and P. Dandelion (eds). 2010. *Religion and Youth*. Aldershot: Ashgate, *Fieldwork in Religion*, 8(1), pages 113–115; [10.1558/firn.v8i1.113](https://doi.org/10.1558/firn.v8i1.113)

2013 Bailey, M., and G. Reddon (eds). 2010. *Mediating Faiths: Religion and Socio-Cultural Change in the 21st Century*. Aldershot: Ashgate. *Fieldwork in Religion*, 8(1), pages 113–115; [10.1558/firn.v8i1.113](https://doi.org/10.1558/firn.v8i1.113)

2011 Cusack, C. M. 2010. *Invented Religions, Imagination Fiction and Faith*. Aldershot: Ashgate. viii + 69 pp. ISBN 978 0 75466 780 3. £50.00. *Fieldwork in Religion*, 5(2), pages 259–260; <https://doi.org/10.1558/firn.v5i2.259>

Conference Papers and Talks:

International

May 2026 KEYNOTE “The Stories We Tell About AI: Myths, Media, and the Making of Machines”, Royal Society of Medicine, London, UK

March 2026 “Entangled Truths: Science and Religion at the Crossroads of World – Where Meaning Meets Matter”, Panel Discussion, Darmstadt, Germany

January 2026 KEYNOTE AI Ethics and Faith event, Art-AI, Lambeth Palace, London, UK

Nov 2025 KEYNOTE on Religion and AI, Faith Angle Europe 2025 Forum, Nice, France

Oct 2025 “Technology and the Apocalyptic Imaginary: Understanding AI through the Lens of Religion”, Lund University, Program “At the End of the World: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Apocalyptic Imaginary in the Past and Present”, Online

Oct 2025 Speaker at Divan Symposium on Cross-Cultural AI, Berlin, Germany

- Sept 2025 "Benevolent AI, Benevolent Conspiracies: Perceptions of Emergent Spiritual Truths in Recent LLM-Human Interactions", *Scientific, Artificial, and Conspiratorial Truth: Resonances and Differences* Workshop, LSE, London, UK
- Aug 2025 "A Poly(theistic) Crisis? Emergent AI Deifications and Their Connection to AI Existential Risk Narratives and Solutions", ISMRC Conference, Boston, USA [Online]
- Aug 2025 "Innovationism 2.0 and the Polycrisis: Discussions on Artificial Intelligence and Singularity on Reddit", with Gerold Schneider (URPP Digital Religion(s), UZH) and Katja Valaskivi (Helsinki), ISMRC Conference, Boston [Online]
- July 2025 "Identities, Artificial Intelligence, Religion and Hope", Sea of Faith Network Conference, London, UK
- March 2025 "Religion, the Human, and AI", Religious Studies Research Forum seminar, Queen's University Belfast
- Feb. 2025 JSPS Symposium on Robotics, Religion and Ethics, Manchester, UK
- Dec. 2024 AI and Faith Salon, ONLINE
- Nov. 2024 KEYNOTE: "Human Says No: The Spectrum of AI Rejection from Religious and Conspiratorial Narratives, to "Decels", "Pauses", "Positive Ludditism" and "Crite-Hype", Dissent in the Digital Age Conference, Oxford, UK
- Nov. 2024 KEYNOTE: "Glitching the Claude: Spiritual Jailbreaks and Hyperstitional Cultures through a Religious Studies Lens", Religion and Media Workshop, AAR, San Diego, USA
- Oct. 2024 KEYNOTE Panel with Q&A "AI – Disciplinary perspectives on AI. What does it mean for knowledge in the religion and worldviews classroom?", RExChange Conference, Online
- Sept. 2024 KEYNOTE: "Religion and AI: Notes from the Field", AI and Faith, Online
- Feb. 2024 Princeton CTI Webinar: "Current Research on AI & Religion", USA
- Nov. 2023 Panel on Religion and AI, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, USA
- August 2023 "The Algorithmic Forms of the Religious Life: AI and the Idea of the 'Creation' of Religion", International Society for Media, Religion and Culture (ISMRC) Conference, Bochum, Germany
- July 2023 KEYNOTE: Virtuous AI: Cultural Evolution, Artificial Intelligence, and Virtue Conference, Rome, Italy
- June 2023 KEYNOTE: "AI and Religion: Imaginaries, Simulations, and Generated Worlds" at the "Digital Incarnation" Summer School, Paris, France, 28th – 30th June
- June 2023 KEYNOTE: ISSR Annual Conference, Swindon, UK
- June 2023 "AI and the Idea of the 'Creation' of Religion in SF Imaginaries and Ideologies", at Science, Fiction, Faith, and the Future(s), London Science Museum, UK
- June 2023 Panel: "AI and Future Technology", GoNeDigiTal Conference 2023, ONLINE

- May 2023 Cambridge Anthropology-Theology Network: "AI and Religion: Entanglements and Ethnographic Impacts", ONLINE
- Nov. 2022 "AI and the Future of Religion – An Evening with Beth Singler", at the Centre for Culture, Society, and Religion, Princeton University.
- Nov. 2022 "AI and Religion in 2041", interdisciplinary panel for the Religion and AI Seminar, American Academy of Religion Conference, USA
- July 2022 KEYNOTE: European Sociological Association, Sociology of Religion Conference, Groningen, 2022. Conference theme: 'Religion in an unstable world: Challenges, transformations and future prospects', ONLINE
- June 2022 "The Rise of the Non-Player Characters and the Non-Human Others: New Risks and Opportunities for Anthropology from Artificial Intelligence and the Metaverse", at Royal Anthropological Institute Conference: Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society, ONLINE
- May 2022 Panel on Religion and AI at 'Exploring Belief' - the Religion Media Festival, London, UK
- May 2022 KEYNOTE: "Deepfaking God? AI and Religious Creativity, Information, and Disinformation", Religion and Science Forum Conference, Birmingham, UK, 2022. Conference theme: the use and ethics of information (data) for science, religion, and society.
- May 2022 "AI in Faith and Faith in AI", Sociologies of AI Network, Leeds University, ONLINE
- Nov. 2021 "fAith: Believing in AI and AI in Belief", Annual Digital Religion Research Award Lecture, Texas, USA [online]
- Oct. 2021 "The Dreams Our Stuff is Made of: Trust, Agency, and Superagency" AI Ethics seminar at Chalmers AI Research Centre, Sweden [online]
- March 2021 "'Blessed by the Algorithm': Artificial Intelligence and Religion in Online and Offline Discourse", AI and Religion Research Seminar at KU Leuven, Amsterdam [online]
- Feb. 2021 "Contemporary Significance of AI for Religion", Cambridge Festival, University of Cambridge, UK [online]
- Nov. 2020 "Robot Politicians: Even Better than the Real Thing?", Homerton Alumni Seminar, Homerton College, University of Cambridge [online]
- Sept. 2020 "'Blessed by the Algorithm': AI, Agency, and Religion", AI and Religion Conference, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy [online]
- Nov. 2019 "Blessed by the Algorithm": Artificial Intelligence and Religion", Edinburgh University Seminar, Edinburgh, UK
- Nov. 2019 "Blessed by the Algorithm": AI Teleology and Popular Discourse, TORCH, Oxford University, Oxford, UK
- Nov. 2019 "Clap if You Believe in AI: Fairies, Ghosts, and Algorithmic Gods", Exeter University History and Philosophy of Science Seminar, Exeter, UK

- Nov. 2019 “‘Blessed by the Algorithm’: Theistic Conceptions of Artificial Intelligence as Entanglements of AI and Religion”, Religion and AI Research Group, American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Diego, USA (peer-reviewed)
- Nov. 2019 KEYNOTE: “I just keep at it till I succeed”: Sophia the Robot, the Singularity, and AI Teleology”, Religion and Media Workshop, American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Diego, USA
- Sept. 2019 “Clap if you Believe in AI: Fairies, Ghosts, and Algorithmic Gods”, Trust and Technology Initiative Conference, University of Cambridge, UK
- July 2019 KEYNOTE: “Thinking About What You Think About Machines that Might Think: Anthropology and AI Apocalypticism”, CenSAMM (The Centre for the Critical Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements) annual conference
- May 2019 “Sexist Input = Sexist Output”, Seminar, CRASSH (Centre for Research in Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities) University of Cambridge, UK
- May 2019 “Blessed by the Algorithm”, AI: Religious and Ethical Perspectives conference, Science and Human Dimensions Project, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, UK
- April 2019 “FAUX-BOTS” Or... Telling AI Tales: AI Narratives, Fear, and Responsibility, British Society for Literature and Science Conference, Royal Holloway, UK
- March 2019 “Faith and AI”, Workshop speaker and leader, St George’s House, Windsor Castle, UK
- Feb. 2019 “What machines can tell us about being human”, Homerton College Research Seminar, University of Cambridge, UK
- Nov. 2018 “Elon and Victor: Narratives of the Mad Scientist as applied to AI Research”, Science in the Public Conference, Cardiff, UK
- Nov. 2018 “AI in a Religious World”, Templeton Conference, Cyprus
- Sept. 2018 “AI and Trust” Trust and Technology Initiative, Annual Conference, Cambridge, UK
- July 2017 “The Narratives of Artificial Intelligence”, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence Conference, Cambridge, UK
- June 2017 “Three Examples of Identity Formation in Digital and Non-Digital Spaces”, NASA and Princeton Centre for Theological Inquiry Workshop on Astrobiology and Digital Media, Windsor, UK
- June 2017 “The Singularity is Nigh: Esotericism and Eschatology in Emerging Technology and the X-Risk Ecosystem”, 6th International Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, Erfurt, Germany
- March 2017 “The Stories We Tell Ourselves about Artificial Intelligence”, Foreign and Commonwealth Office workshop for UK-German AI collaboration, Berlin, Germany
- Sept. 2016 “The Possibility of a Religion: Artificial Intelligence, Science Fiction and New Religious Movements”, BASR Conference, Wolverhampton, UK
- August 2016 “‘It’s the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)’: An Ethnographic Comparison of Existential Hope and Existential Distress in Transhumanist and

- Apocalyptic AI Groups”, Affective Apocalypses Conference, Belfast, UK (peer-reviewed)
- July 2016 “LessWrong = Less Religious? Secularity as Moral Boundary Making in Future Technology Focussed Groups”, Ian Ramsey Centre Conference on Post-Secularity, Oxford, UK
- May 2016 “Roko’s Basilisk or Pascal’s? Thinking of Singularity Thought Experiments as Implicit Religion”, Implicit Religion Conference, Canterbury, UK
- August 2015 “When Galaxies Collide: Jediism’s Revisionism in the Face of Corporate Buyouts and Mythos ‘Retconning’”, International Association for the History of Religion Conference, Erfurt, Germany
- August 2015 “Big, Bad Pharma: New Age Biomedical Conspiracy Narratives and their Expression in the Concept of the Indigo Child”, International Association for the History of Religion (IAHR) Conference, Erfurt, Germany
- May 2015 “126 Characters in Search of an Author: Twitter and Thinking Out Loud on Social Media, The Case of The Indigo Children”, Connected Life Conference, Oxford, UK
- Nov. 2014 “Black, White or Blue? The Indigo Children, Hip Hop, and Interrogating Assumptions about the Race and Aims of ‘New Agers’”, American Academy of Religion, San Diego, USA (peer-reviewed)
- Sept. 2014 “‘My Brother, the Insect’: Researching the Indigo Children and their New Age Cosmologies and Spiritual Guides”, BASR Annual Conference, Sept. 2014, Milton Keynes, UK
- July 2014 “The Tomorrow People, Today: The Indigo Children and an Attempted Resolution of the Crisis in the Definition of the Child”, SocRel Annual Conference, Brighton, UK
- Feb. 2014 “No Leader, No Followers: The Internet and the End of Charisma?”, INFORM 25th Anniversary Conference, London, UK
- Sept. 2013 “Big, Bad Pharma: New Age Biomedical Conspiracy Narratives and their Expression in the Concept of the Indigo Child”, British Association for the Study of Religion (BASR) Annual Conference, Liverpool, UK
- Sept. 2013 “Blame Sheila: The 2011 UK Census, ‘Other Religion’ and the Rhetoric of Narcissism”, BASR Annual Conference, Liverpool, UK
- June 2013 “The 2011 Census and the ‘Other’ Category: A Discussion of Jedi and Scientologists”, BSA Sociology of Religion Study Group Study Day: “Making Sense of the Census, The SocRel Response”, London, UK
- Sept. 2012 “Jedi Ltd. or Limited Jedi? Jediism and the Changing Domains of Religious Conflict in New Religious Movements” BASR Annual Conference, Winchester, UK
- Sept. 2011 “When Ritual Cannot End – The Pro-Ana Movement Online and Anamadic Asceticism”, BASR Annual Conference, Durham, UK
- March 2011 “Theology in the 3rd Millennium: Studying New Religious Movements on the Internet, the case of the Pro-Ana Movement”, INTERFACE Conference: Being a Young Theologian in the World, Maynooth, Ireland

Switzerland

- April 2026 "Move Fast, Break Things, and Live Forever: Transhumanist Prophecies, Politics, and Power", Theology Seminar, UZH
- Nov. 2025 "Religion and AI: An Introduction", Digital Society Initiative's Community 'AI, Culture, and Society' Reading Group, Zurich, Switzerland
- Nov. 2025 "Religion and AI: Emergent Forms of LLM Spirituality and Possible Consequences", for 'Pandora's Box' an ETH GESS Seminar, Zurich
- October 2025 Lecture on emergent LLM spirituality, as part of a lecture series on "How Digitalization and AI are Changing our Society", Zurich, Switzerland
- July 2025 "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Society", Panel Discussion on Visions of the Future with AI as Seen in Harari's *Nexus*, MEEET-Lab Public Event, Zurich, Switzerland
- April 2025 GENTEC 2025 Workshop: workshops on Gender and Technology, Zurich, Switzerland
- January 2024 UZH Tower Talk, Zurich, Switzerland
- Oct. 2024 "Religious Digital Transformation: From Finding God on the Forums to God-like AI", Digital Society Initiative
- Sept. 2024 AI Ethics Workshop, MEEET-Lab
- March 2024 "Religion and AI", Digital Society Initiative, Communication Community
- Dec. 2022 Keynote seminar on "Religion, AI, and Digital Media", for Conference on Twitter, Insta, TikTok, Tinder – Mobile Medien und die mediatisierte Gesellschaft, St Gallen University, Switzerland
- Oct. 2022 "AI and Digital Religion(s)", at Digital Religion(s) Conference, Switzerland

Public Talks

- May 2025 "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Society", Panel Discussion on Visions of the Future with AI as Seen in Harari's «Nexus», MEEET-Lab Public Event, Zurich, Switzerland
- May 2025 Panel on "Human, God and AI: The challenge of artificial intelligence", Kirchentag, Hannover Germany
- April 2025 Abu Dhabi Culture Summit, Panel: "Being Human: Ethics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence", invited by the [Abrahamic Family House](#)
- Nov. 2024 Panel Discussion, "Artificial intelligence: what humanity for tomorrow? From the inert to the living", University of Geneva, Switzerland
- August 2024 "Being Human in an Age of AI", talk, Greenbelt Festival, UK
- July 2024 "The End of Humanity", Panel Discussion, Zurich, Switzerland
- March 2024 "AI and the Future of Religion", Christians in Science, Online
- Oct. 2023 Church Times Webinar: "AI and the Church", with Bishop Stephen Croft and Andrew Brown, and Eve Poole, Online
- Sept. 2023 "How AI is Shaping Our Future", Scientifica, ETH and UZH, Zurich, Switzerland
- August 2023 Panel: "Do You Believe the Hype? Culture, Society, Politics and God in An AI World", Greenbelt Festival, UK
- Dec. 2022 "Obsessed with Sentience? What language models are teaching us about our expectations of tech and humanity", panel for the Digital Ethics Summit, Tech UK

Sept. 2022 “Mythology and Science Fiction”, panel at Science Fiction Squared: A Symposium Exploring the Future of Science Fiction, London, UK and ONLINE

June 2022 “fAIth: Believing in AI”, New Scientist Evening Lecture, London, UK

March 2022 “AI: Friend or Foe?”, New Scientist Live, Manchester, UK

March 2022 “A Salon for Humans & Machines, a conversation with Beth Singler - AI, Us, and Our Dreams of the Future”, with William Powers, for the Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Feb. 2022 Book Launch – Radical Transformations in Minority Religions, INFORM seminar series

July 2021 “Just because you can, does it mean you should? Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI)”, BCS Data Management Specialist Group, UK [online]

June 2021 “Existential Threats: the Unpredictable Horizon” panel and “Why Democracy Needs an Algorithm – Max Tegmark”, CogX Festival of AI and Emerging Tech, London, UK [online]

May 2021 “Ethical tech & bias in AI”, panel, Delphi Economic Forum, Greece [online]

April 2021 “Preparing for the Robopocalypse: the Real Dangers of Artificial Intelligence and Robots” – Homerton College, University of Cambridge [online]

Nov. 2020 “Living In Our Stories About AI”, NYU’s Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU Tandon’s Department for Technology, Culture and Society and the 370 Jay Project, New York [online]

Oct. 2020 “The Near Future”, Panel for Ada Lovelace Day Conference [online]

Sept. 2020 “Technology and democracy: rebuilding from the bottom-up”, Cambridge Alumni Festival in association with the Hay Festival, Cambridge, UK [online]

June 2020 “Privacy Not Included”, Panel, CogX Festival of AI and Emerging Technology [online]

Feb. 2020 “Trust and AI”, Westminster workshop, London, UK

January 2020 Night of Ideas Festival, French Embassy, London, UK

Oct. 2019 “AI, the end of Society?” Norwich Science Festival, UK

Oct. 2019 “God and the Machine”, Cambridge Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge, UK

Oct. 2019 “Could Robots Ever Become Artists?”, panel at the London Science Museum, London, UK

Sept. 2019 “Are We Ready for Artificial Intelligence?”, Cambridge University Alumni Festival, UK

June 2019 “Robomorphisation & The Retrofit Human”, CogX Festival of AI and Emerging Technology, London, UK

March 2019 “AI and humans: fear, hope, and the future”, AI Summit, Munich, Germany

Sept. 2018 “The Fractured Mirror”, Ars Electronica, Liz, Austria

Sept. 2018 “What Machines Can Tell Us About Being Human”, New Scientist Live, London UK

June 2018 “Pain in the Machine” panel and screening, Cheltenham Science Festival, UK

April 2018 Panels on “What do Robots think about when no one is around” and Frankenstein, Edinburgh Science Festival, UK

Nov. 2017 “Pain and the Machine”, BBC Click Live, London, UK

July 2017 “The Transhumanist Club” – The New Scientist, Barbican, London, UK

June 2017 “The Knowledge” at the Science Museum – “How to Make a Robot”, London, UK

June 2017 “The Machine Mind”, Cheltenham Science Festival, UK

May 2017 “30 to Watch” and “The Cambridge Series”, and “BBC Click Live”, The Hay Festival, UK

May 2017 “This House believes that AI/Robotics will make us happier”, The Annual Centre for the Application of Research (CSAR) Debate: Churchill College, Cambridge, UK

Corporate Talks

July 2025 “Religion and AI: Entanglements, Imaginaries, and Futures”, research presentation at Google, London, UK ONLINE

April 2020 “Are We Ready for Artificial Intelligence?”, JISC, [online]

Oct. 2018 “Good in the Machine: AI, Society, and Ethics” FCA, London, UK

- Oct. 2018 “What machines can tell us about being human” IP EXPO, London, UK
 Sept. 2018 “AI Narratives”, Google DeepMind, London, UK
 April 2018 Amazon Research Cambridge (ARC) Seminar Series, Cambridge, UK

Funding and Awards:

- August 2025 **Winner of a 2025 International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) book prize**, in the category of books for professionals and educators, for *Religion and AI: An Introduction* <https://www.issr.org.uk/issr-statements/issr-2025-book-prize/>
- August 2025 **Project Lead with Prof. Dr Thomas Schlag: Templeton Funded Project: “Strengthening Resilience and Well-Being in Adolescents through Religion-Related AI and Digital Resources”**
- 110,000 CHF over two years to fund two PhDs (match funding of 45,944 CHF for total budget of 155,944 CHF)
- July 2023 **Digital Society Initiative funding, UZH: MEEET Lab (Media Existential Encounters and Evolving Technology Lab), co-lead.**
- The MEEET Lab offers researchers, students and the interested public the opportunity to get to know, try out and use technologies that have taken and are taking a decisive role in the process of digital transformation of our society.
 - 121,428 CHF (matched for total budget of 242,856 CHF)
- Nov. 2021 **Digital Religion Research Award 2021, Network for New Media, Religion, and Digital Culture.**
- Winning journal article – “The AI Creation Meme: A Case Study of the New Visibility of Religion in Artificial Intelligence Discourse”, special issue on ‘the New Visibility of Religion’ for *Religions*, 11 (5), 253; <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel11050253>
 - Honorarium \$700
- Sept. 2018 - **Co-Investigator, ‘Global AI Narratives Project’, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI), Cambridge**
 June 2019
- An international project combining local workshops and publications.
 - Co-wrote the successful grant application.
 - Funded by Templeton World Charitable Foundation (TWCF) and Google DeepMind for £300,000.
- Nov. 2017 **AHRC Best Research Film of the Year Award for *Pain in the Machine*** Short documentary on AI and robotics, involving interviews with theologians and philosophers - £2000 for next film.
- April 2016 **Cambridge Shorts/Wellcome Trust Short Film Scheme**
 £4,000 for the production of *Pain in the Machine*.
- July 2011 **Faculty of Divinity Graduate Award for Distinction in the MPhil (£300)**
- June 2011 **The Bethune-Baker Graduate Studentship** – Pembroke College, Cambridge £5,700 p.a. for three years.

Academic Service and Science Communication

- Feb 2025- **Member of the Future U, UZH think tank on the future of the university.**
- 2025- **Member of the “Conceptualizing Agency, Religion, and Digitalization” (CARD) Network, funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Europe**

- 2025- Member of the RhetAI Research Challenge working group focused on the exploration of Faith-based issues and the subject of Persuasion in Artificial Intelligence, USA
- Jan 2024- Advisory Group, Global Affairs, UZH
- 2024- Governance board, URPP Digital Religion(s), UZH
- 2023- Selection Committees for a post doc (Digital Society Initiative at UZH) and two professorships (Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at UZH)
- 2022/23 On the advisory boards of two external projects with Templeton funding: "Self-enhancement, 'Biohacking' and Spiritual Yearning" (Australia) and "Muslims, the Secular, and Existential Risk" (UK).
- Dec. 2022 Member of Digital Society Initiative Communities at UZH: Ethics and Communication
- Dec. 2022 Co-Chair Steering Committee, Religion and Emerging Technologies, American Academy of Religion
- Peer review of submissions for Religion and Emerging Technologies sessions at AAR conferences.
- Oct. 2022- Faculty Board, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Zurich
- March 2022 Founding Member, Religion and Technology Working Group, Woolf Institute, Cambridge
- Collaborative meetings and seeking seed funding for Religion and Technology Projects
- Aug. 2021 Contributor to the Cambridge University's ThinkLab Cambridge Festival Public Engagement Project
- <https://www.thinklab.strategic-partnerships.admin.cam.ac.uk/people>
- Jan. 2021 Contributor to a white paper on AI Ethics, European Academy of Religion and Society
- Available at <https://europeanacademyofreligionandsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EARS-Whitepaper-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf>
- Nov. 2019 - Steering Committee, Religion and AI, American Academy of Religion
- Peer review of submissions for Religion and AI Research Seminars at AAR conferences.
- Oct. 2019 Programme Committee AISB Symposium on Anthropomorphism & AI, 2020
- Peer review of submissions.
- Sept. 2018- Member of the UK Advisory Board for "Citizenship in a Networked Age", a
Feb. 2019 Templeton World Charitable Foundation project.
- Final report at <https://citizenshipinanetworkedage.org/>
- Jan. – Dec. 2018 Co-Chair of the advisory board for RSA/Google DeepMind Forum on Ethical AI. Advising on the formation and execution of citizen juries for the 18-month project
- Nov. 2017 Gave evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on AI
- Research and series of short films cited in the final report, "AI in the UK: Ready, Willing And Able?":
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldai/100/100.pdf>
- June 2017 Editorial Board member for Cambridge University's "Research Horizons" publication, special issue on Artificial Intelligence
- May 2017 - Co-Founder, 'Faith and AI' Project, CFI

June 2019 Organised a series of workshops on AI Ethics and social issues with faith leaders from various faiths, St George's House, Windsor Castle.

Peer reviewer: *Journal of AI and Society, Religions, Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture*

Publisher reviews: Routledge, T&T Clark/Bloomsbury.

Research Fellowships and Memberships

Oct. 2024- Member, AI and Faith Civil Society Commission

Oct. 2024- Member, AI and Faith, International Network

March 2023- Associate Professor, Digital Society Initiative, University of Zurich

Dec. 2022- Associate Fellow, Homerton College, University of Cambridge

Nov 2021 - Founding Member, Human Augmentation Research Network

May 2021- Fellow of the International Society for Science & Religion

Awards and Recognition:

2025 International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) book prize, in the category of books for professionals and educators, for *Religion and AI: An Introduction*
<https://www.issr.org.uk/issr-statements/issr-2025-book-prize/>

2021 Digital Religion Research Award 2021, Network for New Media, Religion, and Digital Culture, USA.

2020 One of Cofinitive's 21toWatch, UK.

2019 Sifted's Top 30 AI People in Europe to Follow on Twitter.

2018 One of the 'Progress 1000' – the 1000 leading figures selected by the Evening & 2017 Standard, UK.

2017 Winner of the 2017 AHRC Best Research Film of the Year for "Pain in the Machine", UK.

2014 Rising Star 2014, University of Cambridge - Public Engagement scheme.

Media Appearances:

Presenter and Writer: "I'll be back: 40 Years of the Terminator", documentary, [BBC Radio 4](#)

TV and Radio: SRF, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Free Thinking BBC Radio 3, The Today Programme BBC Radio 4, The World at One BBC Radio 4, Inside Science BBC Radio 4, The Sunday Programme BBC Radio 4, Beyond Belief BBC Radio 4, The Essay BBC Radio 3, BBC Click and BBC Click Live, the BBC's Inside Out documentary series, BBC News, LBC radio, CNBC, and Radio 5 Live.

Press: The Atlantic, Digital Frontier, The LA Times, The New York Times, Guardian US, New Scientist, BBC, Forbes, CNBC, Mediacat, Techworld, Alphr, OneZero, Church Times, SRF, Mensa Magazine, The Daily Beast, Motherboard, Insider.gr, FastForward.

Podcasts: Hyperscale, Belief in the Future, The Business of Thinking, History Hit – Patented, Mysteries of Science from The Times Junior: Science and Nature, Royal Anthropological Institute, the FUTURES podcast, the Hay Festival Podcast, the Radical AI Podcast, AI and You, Mind over Chatter (University of Cambridge), Desert Island Discworld, Naked Reflections, and The Naked Scientists.