

研究会発表要旨

Circulation of Mediatized Religious Populism in Europe and beyond

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The talk begins from the observation that in the recent decade or so in many countries populist leaders have been able to tie their power with religious movements considered as “the national” religion. Trump in the US, Putin in Russia and Modi in India are just the most obvious examples. At the same time political science, although having discussed media in relation to populism, has mostly ignored religion, while study of religion, although has observed the relationship of religion and populism to some degree, has ignored theories of the media environment.

The talk attempts to illustrate how these three aspects, religion, populism and media are intertwined in the European context and the talk discusses points where it is possible to observe the circulation of religious populism. The talk argues that the affordances and infrastructures of the global, commodified media environment contribute not only to the dissemination of religious populism to different parts of the world, but also prioritizes the populist modes of political communication per se.

Based loosely on the recent article of the presenter and colleagues “Conceptualizing populism in/as/about religion” in the Nordic Journal of Society and Religion, the talk thus discusses ways in which religious populism appears in Nordic countries, Finland in particular.

The talk ends with a suggestion for a wider research agenda on the global circulation of populism and religion in the contemporary age of deep mediatization. It argues that although the question is of a globally observable phenomenon, it is necessary to study it with cultural sensitivity that takes into account national, regional, socio-political and religious contexts and differences in media systems.

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