## Conference Draft

Most religions endorse some sort of demarcation between men and women. They allocate and legitimize power on the basis of sex and gender; they police the female body and its sexuality, controlling access to religious knowledge and leadership via this binary opposition.
Nonetheless, women play a major role in the maintenance, growth and renewal of religious communities, seeing themselves as true believers.

Over the last 30 years, a rich body of research in the social sciences and gender studies has sprung up in relation to this "paradox". Its "undoing" was a socio-political endeavor as well as an analytic challenge.

Our conference intends to build on this research, while addressing several new issues. This conference will attempt to go beyond the contributions of women to the growth of religious communities in terms of membership by describing and investigating the expansion of orthodox doctrines through practical critique, fresh interpretations, alternate performances of piety and rituals, and alternative lexicon of faith – to name just a few.

## Site Map

Kirchgasse 9, Room 200
Tram 4 from Main Station, Tram 15 from Central
Stop Helmhaus
Building right next to Grossmünster

## Organization

Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar
Sigi Feigel Gastprofessur für Jüdische Studien
Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüddeckens
Prof. Dr. Tamar El Or
Universität Zürich
Kantonsschulstrasse 1
CH-8001 Zürich

Application
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Further Informations
http://www.religionswissenschaft.uzh.ch/tagungen/women.html

University of Zurich[UZH]

# Women and the Maintenance, Growth and Renewal of Religious Communities

**Conference**
**6th/7th June**
**Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar**
**Sigi Feigel Gastprofessur für Jüdische Studien**
**Universität Zürich**

## Thursday 6th June

13.30 - 14.00
**Welcome**
Tamar El Or (Jerusalem/Zurich), Dorothea Lüddeckens (Zurich)

14.00 - 14.45
**Women in Religious Communities in Poland. The Catholic Church and the Brahma Kumaris Movement**
Agnieszka Koscianska (Warsaw)

15.00 - 15.45
**Growth of Christian Churches in China and the Role of Women**
Tobias Brandner (Hongkong)

15.45 - 16.15
**Coffee/Tea Break**

16.15 - 17.00
**The Production and Reproduction of the Nation. Gendered Jewish Conversion in Israel**
Michael Kravel Tovi (Tel Aviv)

17.15 - 18.00
**Rearranging Home After the Return. Creativity and Tshova**
Tamar El Or (Jerusalem/Zurich)

18.15 - 19.00
**Conclusion and Further Questions**
Rafael Walthert (Zurich)

19.15
**Apéro Riche in the Courtyard**

20.30
**Schwander-Goltz-Duo**
Klezmer & Folk Music with Bernhard von der Goltz (Guitar) and Rainer Schwander (Saxophon and Hammered Dulcimer)

## Friday 7th June

10.00 - 10.45
**The Role of Women in the Islamic Movement an-Nahda in Tunisia**
Joëlle Sara Affolter (Zurich)

11.00 - 11.45
**Learning Religion: Engagements of Female Students in Islamic Groups in Indonesia**
Claudia Nef-Saluz (St. Gallen)

11.45 - 12.15
**Coffee/Tea Break**

12.15 - 13.00
**Conclusion**
Tamar El Or (Jerusalem/Zurich)

## Speakers

M.A. Joëlle Sara Affolter
Graduate Student, URPP Asia and Europe at the University of Zurich

Prof. Dr. Tobias Brandner
Assistant Professor at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Prof. Dr. Tamar El Or
Professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem

PhD Agnieszka Koscianska
Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Warsaw

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Lüddeckens
Professor for Religious Studies at the University of Zurich

Dr. Claudia Nef Saluz
Research Assistant for Social Works at the University of Applied Sciences in St. Gallen

PhD Michal Kravel Tovi
Faculty Member at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Tel Aviv University

Dr. Rafael Walthert
Post-Doctoral Researcher in Religious Studies at the University of Zurich