RELT 20121: RELIGION, CULTURE AND GENDER

Katja Stuerzenhofecker (katja.stuerzenhofecker@manchester.ac.uk)

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COURSE CONTENT:

You will be studying gender issues in **contemporary Jewish and Christian communities** in the context of wider society in Britain. Of course, gender applies to **women and men**, and the course pays equal attention to both and questions whether these two categories are actually sufficient. Your own experience as a gendered person is a valuable source of learning throughout the course.

In preparation for the study of religious communities, the lectures will introduce you to several **gender theories**. This leads us to consider what impact religion has on **believers' gender identity**. Moving on from individuals to a wider context, we will examine **gender roles** in British society in comparison to Jewish and Christian communities. We will focus on **'the family'** as a particularly significant social unit. For some light relief (?!) we will be watching examples of the **representation of gender and religion in film** before moving on to gender issues in **scripture** and **images of the divine**. Finally, we will be considering **global perspectives** on the topic.

The seminars are organised as **student-led discussions** which allow you to work with others on a topic of your own choice under one of six broad themes: **sexuality, popular culture, education, reproduction, everyday life, and religious institutions**.

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

The assessment tasks allow you to develop your skills in designing a viable research project, and to make connections between your studies and the world out there, incl. potential career options. Assessment consists of a **student-led discussion** (group task, 10%), **two reflective pieces** (on lectures: 40%, and on the student-led discussion: 10%) and a **Guide** (think: literature review, 40%) for a non-academic professional audience (e.g. teachers, police, NHS, religious leaders) on a real-life issue of your own choice.