



RELIGION, MIGRATION, AND DIASPORA

2021 Research Fellowships

Call open: January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021

Awards announced: February 2021

Expected research period: April 1 – December 31, 2021

Lived Religion in the Digital Age (LRDA) is a research initiative at Saint Louis University that works with local and regional religious communities, museums, parks, schools, and other civic organizations to develop deeply-considered, multisensory inventories of lived religion. We define the “digital age” as a historical periodization that has conditioned new lived experiences and new modes of understanding the past. Utilizing historical, archival, ethnographic, and digital research methods, LRDA promotes sustained conversation across disciplines, professions, and communities to develop richer understandings of religion (broadly defined to include people, practices, objects, spaces, and ethical, normative, and theological commitments) in place and to develop research models better situated to understand the translation of lived, local experiences into digital products. We are partnering with SLU’s Walter J. Ong, SJ, Center for Digital Humanities to build a publicly accessible interactive database of religious life and practice.

The 2021 project theme is **Religion, Migration, and Diaspora**. We invite scholars trained in religion, theology, anthropology, sociology, history, digital humanities, political science, urban studies, American studies, communication, museum studies, fine and performing arts, and other related fields to participate in these efforts through competitive research support fellowships. For projects funded between April 1 and December 31, 2021, we are especially interested in those that prioritize histories and experiences of migration and diaspora in the formation of local religiocultural contexts. Priority for this cycle will be given to projects relating to religion in St. Louis, but projects relating to any locality in the United States are encouraged. No prior digital humanities experience is required.

Awards will be made available to colleagues of all ranks and faculty status, independent scholars, advanced graduate students, and other professionals whose work contributes to a multidisciplinary study of local, lived religion in the digital age. Research Fellows will be expected to contribute to the project’s interactive database and/or Digital Stories space during their funding period and may be invited to present their work to LRDA academic symposia.

To apply for this fellowship, please submit 1) a letter of interest (no more than two single-spaced pages) that describes your research project and any prior experience with digital humanities, indicates how this award will be used, and proposes a funding period; 2) an estimated budget that includes the availability or receipt of other funding; and 3) a 1-2 page vita. If you are a graduate student, please also include a letter of support from your advisor. Typical awards will be \$500-\$1,500 and we expect to make multiple awards each year. Applications should be sent as a single PDF file to livedreligion@slu.edu with “Research Fellowship Application” in the subject line. Questions may be directed to Rachel McBride Lindsey, Assistant Professor of Theological Studies and Co-Director of Lived Religion in the Digital Age, at rachel.lindsey@slu.edu. The deadline for 2021 Research Fellowships is January 31, 2021. Awards will be announced in February 2021.

Lived Religion in the Digital Age is directed by Dr. Rachel McBride Lindsey and Dr. Pauline Lee and funded through an Advancing Public Scholarship on Religion and Theology grant through the Theology Program of the Henry Luce Foundation.