

## Panel IAHR 2015 Erfurt

### Technology and Religion in Historical and Contemporary South Asia: Spaces, Practices and Authorities

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#### Chaired by:

Dr. Kristina Myrvold  
Department of Cultural Sciences,  
Linnaeus University  
[Kristina.Myrvold@lnu.se](mailto:Kristina.Myrvold@lnu.se)

Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen  
Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural  
Studies and Religion, University of Bergen  
[Knut.Jacobsen@ahkr.uib.no](mailto:Knut.Jacobsen@ahkr.uib.no)

#### Panel title:

Technology and Religion in Historical and Contemporary South Asia: Spaces, Practices and Authorities

#### Abstract (tentative):

This panel explores intersections between technology and religion in South Asia in the past and at the present and how various forms of techno-religious intersections transform and open up for new religious practices, discourses, communities, and institutions. Technological developments at different times in history may include new machines and technologies in a broader sense (e.g. printing technology), new means of transportation (e.g. railways, cars) and new means of communication (e.g. telephone, mobile phones, and the internet) that have facilitated new spaces of religion. The techno-religious intersections generate several questions about authority and power, the politics and poetics of identity, community and place and how religious agency, information and experience are mediated and commodified to new demands of societies. With specific focus on South Asian contexts and religions this panel invites papers that discuss various empirical and theoretical aspects of how technological innovations create, alter and negotiate religious spaces, practices and authorities.

**Note:** The papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in a volume on Technology and Religion in South Asia edited by Kristina Myrvold and Knut A. Jacobsen.