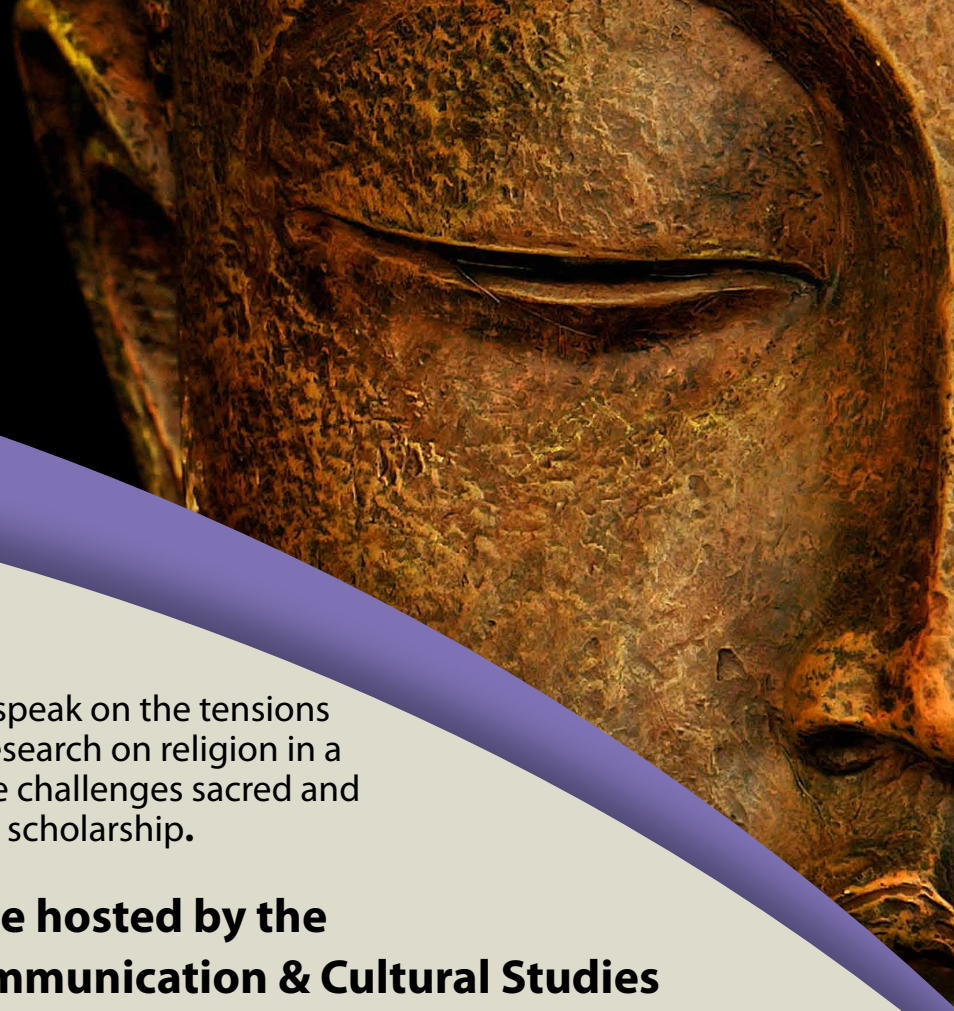




MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY



Join the discussion.

Hear two of our leading academics speak on the tensions and contradictions of conducting research on religion in a deeply secularised academy and the challenges sacred and religious viewpoints pose to secular scholarship.

**An interdisciplinary lecture hosted by the
Dept. of Media, Music, Communication & Cultural Studies**

10 November 2011

Public Lecture

**Sacred Ground in the Academy:
Researching Religion in a Secular Institution**

4.00 - 6.00pm

Building Y3A

Theatre 1

Macquarie University

SPEAKERS

John Potts

Associate Professor in Media

Stuart Piggin

Director, Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience

This lecture is free and open to the public

For further information please contact Dr. Holly Randell-Moon at holly.randell-moon@mq.edu.au

Associate Professors John Potts and Stuart Piggin will discuss the tensions and contradictions of conducting research on religion in a deeply secularised academy and the challenges sacred and religious viewpoints pose to secular scholarship.

Speaker Bios

John Potts is Associate Professor in Media at Macquarie University. He has published five books, including *A History of Charisma*. His lecture entitled, "Heavens Below: The Religious Impulse in a Secular Age", explores the religious underpinnings of various forms of secular cultural and political expression. This discussion of the secularisation of religious thought and practice includes reference to oppositional politics, environmentalism, cultural studies and arts.

Stuart Piggin is the Director of the History of Christian Thought and Experience in the Ancient History Department, Macquarie University. His books include two published by Oxford University Press on disaster and Australian Christianity, which are not two accounts of the one phenomenon. Associate Professor Piggin will be speaking to a lecture entitled, "Adventures in Desecularisation: Researching Religious Experience in Ancient, Feminist and Australian History". Secularism typically privileges a reductionist approach to religion, thereby reducing the role of religion in social history. This lecture explores what happens when the historian seeks to look at history from the perspective of those who made it and takes seriously the significance of religion in shaping historical and social change.