

IFTR WG Performance, Religion and Spirituality

Four-year plan, 2016-2019

GOAL 1: Increase and diversify the group's membership and breadth of interests

Method 1.1: Hold a full group meeting at **every** IFTR conference during these four years.

- 1.1.1 Hold at least **two** working group open panels or roundtables during that time, if possible.
- 1.1.2 Hold at least **two** joint sessions with other working groups during that time.
- 1.1.3 Via recruitment and word-of-mouth, welcome at least **seven** scholars who have not yet worked with us to the working group over these four years.
- 1.1.4 Via recruitment and world-of-mouth, ensure that these seven new scholars represent at least **four** countries on **two** continents.

Method 1.2: Host at least **two** interim sessions or special conferences during these four years.

- 1.2.1 Ensure these sessions are in at least **two** different countries and on **two** clearly distinct topics
- 1.2.2 Do all possible to ensure these conferences are financially and practically accessible to scholars of all backgrounds (including graduate students)

Method 1.3: Develop the group's online presence.

- 1.3.1 Create and maintain a modern and attractive group website
- 1.3.2 Link this website to appropriate social media sites (Facebook, Academia.edu, the IFTR's own site, member's institutional web pages, other networks etc.)
- 1.3.3 Add relevant material – such as member biographies, field-specific bibliographies, links to syllabi and course outlines – to the website.

GOAL 2: Develop and solidify the group's subfield by means of publications

Method 2.1: Increase the number of formal group publications.

- 2.1.1 Complete editing work and submit the full manuscript of our first collection, *Performative Technologies of Spirituality*, to Palgrave, for publication by the end of 2016. Use the introduction to this work to set out our group's working methods and intellectual focus.
- 2.1.2 By the end of 2020, publish at least one other work as a group (whether a second edited collection, a special issue of a journal, or a co-authored piece of work).

Method 2.2: Through the work of our members, develop the publications available in religion, spirituality and performance.

- 2.2.1 With our colleagues from ATHE, support and facilitate the creation and development of a widely-accessible journal from a prominent press on the topic of performance, religion and spirituality to serve as a standard-bearing publication for the field and an appropriate forum for its continuing development. Encourage our members (and their

institutions and colleagues) to read, subscribe to, and publish in this journal. We aim to publish the first issue of the journal by the end of 2017.

- 2.2.2 Encourage and celebrate the production of at least **two** book-length works by members of the group on relevant topics over the four-year period. We will discuss them in the group's meetings and facilitate book launches where possible.

GOAL 3: Build links across disciplines and borders with other groups in order to develop the group's interdisciplinary and international character.

Method 3.1: Develop our links across the field of theatre and performance studies.

- 3.1.1 Develop links with other IFTR working groups for the sake of mutual discussion. As per 1.1.2 above, hold at least two joint sessions with other working groups during the four years of this plan.
- 3.1.2 Develop our links with other theatre and performance research networks, such as TaPRA, Nordic Theatre Studies, PSi, ATHE, ASTR, and ISTR. Have at least **three** panels or sessions presented at meetings of these groups that are either co-sponsored by our working group or include members of our working group.
- 3.1.3 In particular, coordinate more closely with the ATHE Theatre and Religion focus group to share ideas, resources, methods and ways of working.
- 3.1.4 Ensure our publication (*Performative Technologies of Spirituality*, above at 2.1.2) has an adequate presence in the field, through reviews in appropriate journals and availability at conferences.
- 3.1.5 Develop our relationships with practitioners and practice-based researchers in order to encourage performative exploration and research on religion and spirituality.

Method 3.2: Develop our links outside of the field of theatre and performance studies.

- 3.2.1 Participate in at least **three** academic networks or conferences on themes of religion and performativity or ritual that are *not* led by theatre or performance scholars. Use these opportunities to build links with academic colleagues in fields such as religious studies, anthropology, linguistics, education and theology. Ensure that at least **one** of these is based outside of Europe and North America.
- 3.2.2 In particular, develop links with the Ritual Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion, the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture, and the South Asia Institute at the University of Heidelberg. Whenever possible, use these links to develop joint research projects, conferences or publications
- 3.3.3 Encourage group members to publish work coming out of the group in non-theatre-specific journals, where appropriate. Over the course of the four years, assemble **five** journal articles by group members that reflect the work of the group but are not in theatre specific journals, or book reviews of group member's work in non-theatre specific journals.