



**FROBENIUS INSTITUTE**  
FOR RESEARCH IN  
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY



## Conceptualising Religious Infrastructures

International Workshop

September 24th, 2020

Organisers: Yanti Hoelzchen & Benjamin Kirby

Infrastructure is conventionally defined as the background “scaffolding” that makes social and economic activity—even *life itself*—possible. Recent anthropological studies have foregrounded the social work that infrastructural networks do by constituting and reconfiguring everyday forms of sociality and lived experience. These insights generate new opportunities to “think infrastructurally” (Chu 2014) about religion: how do religious actors navigate and assemble different infrastructural arrangements, and what kinds of social and spiritual worlds do these sustain? Taking up these questions, this workshop uses religious infrastructure as an experimental site for researching social entanglements.



# Programme

All times: UTC+2 (Berlin/Amsterdam/Paris)

## Session I

**3.00 – 3.25 p.m.**

**Yanti Hoelzchen** (Frankfurt)

**Benjamin Kirby** (Leeds)

Welcome and  
introductory presentation

Discussant: Nelly Babere

**3.25 – 3.50 p.m.**

**Matteo Benussi** (Berkeley)

Ethical infrastructure in Muslim  
Russia: the spatiality of halal living

Discussant: Murtala Ibrahim

**3.50 – 4.10 p.m.**

Open discussion on session I

**4.10 – 4.30 p.m.** Break

## Session II

**4.30 – 4.55 p.m.**

**Murtala Ibrahim** (Utrecht)

Islam in the digital third space:  
the rise of cyber Islamic practices in  
northern Nigeria

Discussant: Yanti Hoelzchen

**4.55 – 5.20 p.m.**

**Nelly Babere** (Dar es Salaam)

Religious infrastructure, public health,  
and the politics of urban development:  
the case of Sinza ward in Dar es  
Salaam city

Discussant: Peter Lambertz

**5.20 – 5.40 p.m.**

Open discussion on session II

**5.40 – 6.00 p.m.** Break

## Session III

**6.00 – 6.25 p.m.**

**Peter Lambertz** (Leuven)

Enchanted infrastructures:  
risks, belonging and salvation on  
Congo's inland waterways

Discussant: Benjamin Kirby

**6.25 – 7.00 p.m.**

Open discussion on session III  
and concluding discussion

The workshop will be held online via Zoom.

To participate and receive the login information, please sign up via email to:

**[b.j.kirby@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:b.j.kirby@leeds.ac.uk)**

For accessing the presentations' abstracts and the full workshop brochure,  
please go to: <https://frobenius-institut.de/en/>