

RELIGIOUS CONVERSION AND THE POLITICAL SPHERE : NEW APPROACHES (ANTIQUITY-EARLY MODERN TIMES) CALL FOR PAPERS

Université Paris-Est Créteil, January 24-26th 2018

Scholars involved in the research program POCRAM (Pouvoir politique et conversion religieuse de l'Antiquité à l'Epoque Moderne) have been working since 2014 on **how political authority changed its views or attitudes toward religious conversion** from the end of Ancient times to the end of the 18th century. Their approach has been innovative by putting the political sphere at the centre of the investigation on conversion and by working on an extended chronology. Their research confirmed that studying political authorities' attitude toward religious changes contributes to a better understanding of the place of religion inside the social body and to interrogate the definition of religion in itself. The Conference to be hold in 2018 will be one of the main outcomes of this research project. Following new questions born out the research project and retaining the long-term perspective, the conference aims to explore wider fields of research, adding to the connections between the three main monotheisms **other religious configurations and reaching wider geographic and cultural boundaries**.

The 2018 Conference will be devoted to **global conversion dynamics**, boosted by a minority in political domination situation (conversion of the Roman Empire, princes converting their kingdom, Islam first expansion, conversion politics connected to colonial expansion), as well as to **relations between political authority and religious minorities** (construction of modern confessional States, regulation of religious plurality in an imperial body).

Inside such a frame, we invite proposals for papers based on the various aspects of religious conversion connected to the political sphere, especially in connection **with political construction and conversion of public spaces**. Topics should be in relation with one of the following themes:

1. *Conversion as identity breach*
2. *Conversion and Ethnicity : Fixed and changing affiliation*
3. *Compliance and genuineness*
4. *Conversion politics and target population*
5. *Procedure, rites of conversion and the political sphere*

Papers (25 mn in length) can be presented in French or in English. All papers will be published in English.

Please-mail abstracts of no more than 300 words **before March 31, 2017** to
pocram.anr@gmail.com

Related resources (longer version of the call for papers): <https://pocram.hypotheses.org>

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