

'Religion and Higher Education in Europe and North America'

Kristin Aune, Coventry University, UK

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1:00pm at Glasscock Center Library (Glasscock 311)



In recent decades, the university student population in Europe and North America has become more diverse as higher education has become accessible to people from more diverse backgrounds. Yet while scholars and practitioners are working to combat inequalities related to gender and social class, religious diversity – at least in Europe – is rarely discussed. The UK government in the last decade passed legislation requiring universities to ensure equal treatment for religious students, and legislation to prevent violent extremism on campuses. As a result, religious students are caught between conflicting representations of them: as carriers of religious diversity or as potential threats to university security.

Dr Kristin Aune is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, where she leads the Faith and Peaceful Relations Research Group. Her previous books include *Women and Religion in the West* (Ashgate 2008) and *Christianity and the University Experience* (Bloomsbury 2013). This talk will showcase findings from a new book (*Religion and Higher Education in Europe and North America*, eds. Aune & Stevenson, Routledge 2017) and argue that universities should take religious diversity more seriously.

This talk is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Program in Religious Studies.