

16.11.2013

Invitation

Guest Lecture

by Megan Macdonald (University of Victoria)

## The Performance of Belief and Secular Dissension.

To be secular, or at least to understand Western society as secular is taken for granted. We act, or perform, our daily lives in a secular way – or do we? Religious arguments and the influence of new spiritualities dominate the news and show that all is not as it seems. In this lecture belief, religion, performance and the secular will be examined as a way to think through an important aspect of contemporary culture. How do these contrasting categories of religious and secular fit together, if at all, and what is it that we are actually performing?

Megan Macdonald is a Performance Scholar whose research focusses on religious and secular rituals in Western culture. She completed her Doctoral research at Queen Mary, University of London on "The Performance of Belief." Originally from Canada, she has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Ottawa and the University of London and held a one-year lectureship at Queen Mary. In 2013 she guest-edited a special issue on Performance Studies for the journal *Liturgy*. She has also published with *Performance Research* and presented at PSi, IFTR, the American Academy of Religion and the Canadian Association of Theatre Research. Most recently she was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, Canada. Her current research looks at the influence of secularism on the development of Western theatre and performance practices

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2013, 18.00 h  
Fakultätssaal, Philosophicum

Fachbereich 05  
Philosophie und Philologie

Institut für Theaterwissenschaft

International PhD Programme  
Performance and Media Studies

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