

## Religiosity East and West: Keynote Speakers

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**Prof. Dr. Ann Taves** (USA, UC St. Barbara)

*What Counts as Religious Experience? The Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences as a Tool for Analysis across Cultures and Traditions*

Ann Taves is a Professor at the department of Religious Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. In light of her interest in how people perceive experience and the conditions under which they interpret them as extra-ordinary and/or special, she became an international expert on the topic of religious experience. Prof. Taves founded the “Religion, Experience, and Mind Lab Group” in which she is currently researching what experiences count as religious or spiritual for people in the US and India.



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**Assist.-Prof. Dr. Zuhul Ağilkaya-Şahin** (Turkey, Medeniyet University)

*Introducing Turkish Measures of Religiosity*

Zuhul Ağilkaya-Şahin is an Assistant Professor at the department of Psychological Counseling and Guidance at Medeniyet University in Istanbul/Turkey. Her studies are located in the field of religion, spiritual/pastoral care, and counseling. Besides her interest in various topics of the psychology of religion, her expertise is in teaching and giving spiritual care as well as counseling.



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**Prof. Dr. Aryeh Lazar** (Israel, Ariel University)

*The challenges of religion research among Jewish (Israeli) samples*

Aryeh Lazar is an Associate Professor of psychology at the department of Behavioral Sciences at Ariel University in Israel. His research topics cover a wide range within the psychology of religion including psychological understanding of prayer, spirituality and job satisfaction, religious support and psychological well-being, religiousness, and sexual satisfaction – most in the relationship to Jewish religiousness. Therefore, Prof. Lazar became an international expert on Jewish religiousness and its correlates.



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**Dr. Sabrina Müller** (Switzerland, University Zurich)

*Accountability in Christian communities in a pluralistic society*

Sabrina Müller is a postdoctoral researcher in Practical Theology at Centre for Church Development, University of Zurich and an associate lecturer in Practical Theology at Faculty of Theology. Her main research topics are life-changing religious experiences and personal transformation processes, church development, missional movements such as fresh expressions of church, ordinary theology as well as pastoral theology and grief after suicide.