

CV

CV: Laura Feldt (1/25/2023)

Associate Professor, PhD

The Study of Religion, Dept. of Language, Culture, History and Communication, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense S., Denmark.

Education

•PhD, The Study of Religion, Aarhus University: October 30, 2009.

•Cand.mag. (MA), Assyriology, University of Copenhagen: April 19, 2004.

•MA studies of Anthropology and Assyriology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: 2000-2001.

Employment

•12/2012 – now: Associate Professor, The Study of Religion, Dept. of History, University of Southern Denmark.

•10/2010-11/2012: Assistant Professor, History of Religions, Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen. Incl. "Adjunkt-pædagogikum" (university teacher training), on a DFF-post-doc grant.

•09/2009- 08/2010: Post-doc, The Centre for Canon and Identity Formation in the Earliest Literate Societies, University of Copenhagen.

•08/2009: A one-month post-doc grant from Aarhus University.

Maternity leaves

•1) May 2005 - April 2006 and 2) Nov 2007 – Nov. 2008.

Philological competences:

Research proficiency: Ancient languages: Sumerian, Akkadian, Biblical Hebrew, Greek (koine), Latin.

Modern languages: English, German, French (reading).

Some proficiency: Modern: Ivrit (modern Hebrew, rama bet). Ancient: Arabic (Examen Arabicum), Phoenician.

Research Fields

Thematic fields of expertise: 1) The formative roles of religious narratives, 2) religion and media, 3) the aesthetics / sensory / emotional dimensions of religion, 4) the fantastic and monstrous in the history of religions, 5) religion and the environment, wilderness mythologies and religion/nature'-intersections, 6) forms of radical religion and total devotion.

Empirical fields of expertise: 1) Religion in ancient Mesopotamia, 2) The Hebrew Bible and 2nd Temple Judaism, 3) ancient forms of Christianity, and 4) religion and contemporary popular culture, fantasy, and the contemporary spiritual landscape.

Funding and grants

As applicant/PI

2021-2023 Grant of 5.100.000 Danish kr. from DFF- the Danish Research Fund for Independent Research in the Humanities Research Project 2: Total Devotion – Passions and Plots in Radical Religion in the Ancient World.

2023 Guest Researcher Grant from the SDU Climate Cluster of ca. 50.000 Danish kr.

2022 Theo van Baaren Stichting grant for Open Access publication of special issue of Religion: 3000 Euro, ca. 22.400 Danish kr.

2018 HUM-SEED funding, SDU: 26.250 kr. for the development of my DFF-application on Total Devotion/radical religion.

2016 Carlsberg conference grant of 60.000 kr.: Marginality, Media, and Mutations of Religious Authority in the history of Christianity.

2010 Research grant of 1.700.000 Danish kr. from DFF - the Independent Council for Research in the Humanities – an individual postdoctoral grant.

As investigating project participant or collaborator

2022-2024 Collaborator and PhD-supervisor in the Marie Curie Doctoral network led by PI Aglae Pizzone, SDU.

2020 Grant of 5500 Danish kr. from Styrelsen for Undervisning og Kvalitet for the development of teaching materials for primary school teachers on religious identity formation. A part of a larger, collaborative project with colleagues at SDU, led by Caroline Schaffalitzky.

2018-2019 Grant of ca. 212.000 Norwegian kr. The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, Centre for Advanced Study, Oslo, Demise of Religions Project led by Prof. Michael Stausberg.

2009 Research grant of a 1-year postdoc with the Centre for Canon and Identity Formation in the Earliest Literate Societies, Copenhagen University Programme of Excellence, led by Prof. Kim Ryholt.

As a student

2003 Adalbert Gade's Award, 10.000 kr. and Johannes Pedersen's Award, 10.000 kr.

1999 Elli og Peter Ove Christensens Fond's Award, 50.000 kr.

Research Leadership Experience

Project management, Principal Investigator in the Total Devotion – Passions and Plots in Radical Religion project. See: www.sdu.dk/radrel

Head and board member, The Danish Association of the Study of Religion, 2021-. This is the national association that organises the majority of staff employed in the study of religion in Denmark and it is a member of the EASR and the IAHR. Board member since 2014. www.dasr.dk

Head of Research Programme Authority, Materiality and Media, (SDU) from 2014-now.

This includes research management of a group of ca. 25 members incl. four PhD-students from the disciplines of the Study of Religion, History, Classical Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, with a common research agenda.

Main results: a special issue of *Postscripts* (2018), a co-edited volume with *Equinox: Reframing Authority – the Role of Media and Materiality* (2018), a long list of research seminars and workshops

(https://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/institutter_centre/ih/forskning/forskningsprogrammer/autoritet_materialitet_medier).

Editor-in-Chief of NVMEN. International Review for the History of Religions, 2017-2022, a leading journal in the historical, comparative, non-confessional study of religion; collaborating with my US co-editor, managing review editors, copy editors, and liaising with Brill and the NVMEN Editorial Board.
 Member of the Department Board, Department of History, SDU, 2013-2021.
 Member of the Research Committee, Department of History, since 2016 and ongoing.
 Co-organiser, The Environmental Humanities Network SDU, with Associate Professor Peter Wolsing, Philosophy: www.sdu.dk/ehnetwork
 Research Collaboration with the two other research programmes at the Department of History since 2014, to fuel collaboration, good spirits, and mutual inspiration. Most recently, during covid-19, we organised social events online as well as online study groups. We also collaborated in the fall of 2021 to map research interests and ideas for collaboration across the Department via lunch meetings and a common sharepoint file.
 Co-organiser, The Cultural Heritage Study Group, with Lars Boje Mortensen, Spring 2021.
 Advisory Board Member, Education Between the Qur'ān and the Bible, DFF-Inge Lehmann project, led by Johanne L. Christiansen, 2022-2024. Documentation here: https://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/institutter_centre/ih/forskning/forskningsprojekter/eqab and attached as well.
 Research project management, DFF individual postdoctoral grant 2010-2013. Project management, building international networks, and teacher training.

Professional Experience / Good Citizenship / Service to the Profession

- Member of research grant assessment committee as the Humanities member of the SDU Climate Cluster Fund, 2022-2024
- External evaluator, Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 2022.
- Editor-in-Chief: Numen – International Review of the History of Religions (Brill), 2017- 2022.
- Editor with Prof. Jan N. Bremmer, the book series: Studies in the History and Anthropology of Religion, PEETERS, Leuven, 2013-ongoing.
- 2018-2022 Associate, Centre for Medieval Literature (SDU), a Centre of Excellence founded in 2012, led by Prof. Lars Boje Mortensen and Christian Høgel and funded for ten years by the Danish National Research Foundation.
- Member of the Study Board of the Study of Religion from ca. 2015-2021; currently, I am a member of the Study Board of History, Classical Studies, the Study of Religion and Middle Eastern Studies (2022-).
- 2018-ongoing, Member of the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
- Associate Editor, Journal of the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture 2013-2015.
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of the Study of the Old Testament (SAGE), 2013-2015.
- Editorial Board Member, Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift, 2014-now.
- Chairman, Board member and Secretary, Danish Association of the Study of Religion, 2013-2020. From 2021---, I serve as the Chairman.
- External evaluator of the Study Programme in the Study of Religion, BA and MA curricula, Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Copenhagen University, Spring of 2022.
- Member of the Department Board for the Department of History, SDU, 2013-2021.
- Member of the BFI-Committee for the Study of Religion, ca. 2015-2021.
- Head of Assessment Committee for associate and assistant professorships in the study of religion, member of hiring committee, SDU in 2014, 2015, 2019, and in 2022.
- Member of assessment committee for an associate professorship in the study of religion, Bergen University, 2022.
- Member of assessment committee for PhD-degree in the Study of Religion, Lund University 2021: Ive Brissman, Wild Enchantments in the Anthropocene.
- Member of assessment committee for PhD-degree, Assyriology, Uppsala Universitet, 2014: Therese Rodin, The World of the Sumerian Mother Goddess: An Interpretation of Her Myths.
- Member of assessment committee for PhD-scholarship applications at the Department of History, SDU: 2014, 2015, 2016.

Reviewer and peer reviewer for the journals

Chaos - dansk-norsk tidsskrift for religionshistorie (Chaos forlag)
 The Classical Review (Cambridge University Press)
 Environmental Humanities (Duke University Press)
 Religion (Taylor and Francis)
 Journal of the Study of the Old Testament (SAGE)
 Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (Equinox)
 Journal of Religion and Popular Culture (University of Toronto Press)
 Journal of Semitic Studies (Oxford University Press)
 Mediekultur – Journal of Media and Communication Research (Sammenslutningen af medieforskere)
 NVMEN – International Review of the History of Religions (BRILL)
 Religion and Theology (BRILL)
 Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift (Aarhus University)
 Temenos - Nordic Journal of Comparative Religion (The Finnish Society for the Study of Religion)

- Member of the external exam committee for the Study of Religion 2012-2021.
- Member of the external exam committee for Assyriology (censorkorpset), Copenhagen, 2004-2009.

International Invited Lectures and Invited/Funded Research Stays

2024 Invited speaker, at the conference Religious Narrative and Belief, the Study of Religion and Classical Studies, University of Ohio, March 22-24, 2024.

2023 Invited speaker at the conference: Masks, Mimes, Miracles... and Mysteries: Retelling and Performing Sacred Stories in Late Antiquity, Regensburg, organised by Tobias Nicklas and Luigi Walt, May 25-26

2023 Invited speaker at Relating to the Non-Human in Late Antiquity and Byzantium, Lesbos, organised by Laura Borghetti and Thomas Arentzen, May 1-3.

2023 Invited speaker at the Extreme Beliefs Project, ERC-funded research group led by Rik Peels, Amsterdam, Jan. 19.

2023 Invited speaker, Centre for Historical Studies, Groningen University, Jan. 18.

2022 Keynote speaker, The Fantastic in Cultural History, Linnæus University Sweden, June 21, organised by Cecilia Trenter, Anna Höglund.

2022 Invited speaker at Religion in Late Antiquity workshop, organised by Professor Einar Thomassen, at the EHES, Centre Universitaire Norvège à Paris.

2022 Invited speaker at Religionsvidenskabeligt Forskerseminar, Religionsvidenskab, AU: Fest og følelse i oldtidens Mesopotamien: Gudeas cylindre, organised by Marianne Schleicher.

2022 Keynote speaker at a conference on Religious Narrative organized by Klazina Staat and Uffe Holmsgaard Eriksen, SDU. Ca. 10 international speakers.

2021 Invited speaker at the Ohio State University Classics Seminar: Ancient Wilderness Mythologies, organized by Sarah Johnston, December 2021.

2021 Invited panel speaker at the Dynamic Mediators and Distant Gods Symposium, Det norske Videnskaps-Akademi, i forbindelse med uddelingen af HUMSAM-prisen October 2021.

2021 Invited speaker: Sacred Nature: Divinity, Agency, Materiality in Ancient Religions, CAMNES: Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies, Firenze, organized by Anna Perdibon, May.

2020 Keynote speaker, Ohio State University, conference on Religion and Narrative, organised by Prof. Sarah Iles Johnston, April 9. Cancelled on short notice due to Covid.

2018-2019 Invited research stay, The Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, Centre for Advanced Study, Oslo: Demise of Religions; research stay 01/02-01/05 2019.

2018 Keynote speaker, The Swedish Association for the Study of Religion Annual Conference: Wilderness Mythologies: Space, Narrative, and Identity Formation.

2017 Keynote speaker, Narrative Cultures and the Aesthetics of Religion, international conference, Oslo University, organised by Dirk Johannsen, Jens Kreinath, Anja Kirsch

2017 Invited speaker at the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond's Internationalization of Humanistic Research in Scandinavia Seminar, Stockholm.

2017 Invited speaker at the International Seminar on Asceticism, Aarhus University, organized by Anders K. Petersen, a two-day seminar, November.

2016 Invited speaker, The Gospels in Anthropological Perspective, Leuven University, international conference, organized by professors Jos Verheyden and John Kloppenborg.

2015 Invited speaker, The Johannes Pedersen Foundation's Imagery in Premodern Literature conference, Lund, organized by professor Kerstin Eksell.

2015 Invited speaker, Food and Ritual – Ancient Practices, Modern Perspectives, international conference at Oxford University, Corpus Christi College, organized by Sarah Hitch and Rita Langer.

2013 Invited speaker, The Materiality of Magic conference, München University, organized by Jan N. Bremmer.

2013 Invited speaker, The Aesthetics of Religion conference, Groningen University, organized by Jay Johnston and Alexandra Grieser.

2013 Invited and funded international research stay at the Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt, on the invitation of Prof. Jörg Rüpke (2 weeks).

2011 Invited speaker, The Incredible in Ancient Religions, international conference, Regensburg University, organized by Prof. Tobias Nicklas and Janet Spittler.

2010-12 International research stays at the University of Aberdeen (on the invitation of Prof R.A. Segal, one week, Centre for the Study of Myth), the University of Bergen (on the invitation of Prof. Gilhus, one week, Section of the History of Religions).

2010 Invited speaker at the Rewriting Religious Texts seminar, organised by Anders K. Petersen, the Study of Religion, Aarhus University.

2006 Keynote speaker on Sumerian religious narratives at the Ancient Narratives international conference on narrativity in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, The Oriental Institute / SOAS, Oxford University, organised by Martin Worthington.

International and national networks - memberships

American Oriental Society
Danish Association for the Study of Religion (Head)
Environmental Humanities Network SDU
European Association of Biblical Studies
European Association of Jewish Studies
European Association for the Study of Religion
International Association for the History of Religions
Nordisk Nettverk for Klima og Religion
Nordic Network of the Fantastic in Cultural History
Society of Biblical Literature
Society for the Study of Ancient Mediterranean Religions
World Union of Jewish Studies

Supervision Experience

- Co-supervisor for PhD-student Bouchra Mossmann, SDU, 2022-2025.
- Supervisor for post.doc. Klazina Staat (2021-2023), on my DFF-project.
- PhD-supervisor for Tamara Holkenov, 2021-2023, on my DFF-project.
- Mentor, assistant professor Johanne L. Christiansen 2019-2020.
- Supervisor [adjunktvejleder], assistant professor Jane Hjarl Petersen, 2014-2015.
- PhD group supervision, Department of History (2018), PhD-courses in 2018, 2019, 2022.
- Organizing a series of PhD-seminars and study groups for the PhD-students in Authority, Materiality and Media (see above – from 2013-2022).
- Supervision of ca. 5-10 MA-theses pr. year since 2013 on topics in ancient forms of Judaism, Christianity, Mesopotamian religions, as well as medieval Christianity, contemporary forms of Christianity, other forms of ancient religion (Greek, Roman, Celtic), all sorts of religion and popular culture intersections, contemporary folk religion and spirituality.

Conferences and seminars organized

International panels/sessions that I have organized at the European Association of Religions Annual Conference / the International Association for the History of Religions Conference:

- Radical Religion in the Ancient World (2021)
- Wild and Monstrous Identities – Religious Identity Formation and Natural Spaces in Ancient Religions (2019)
- Ancient Wilderness Mythologies (2018)
- Total Devotion: Religious Narrative, Emotions, and Identity Formation (2017)
- Marginality, Media, and Transformations of Religious Authority (2015)
- Religious Authority and Knowledge Claims (2014)

Conferences and seminars organized at The University of Southern Denmark, Odense:

- Spirituality and the Climate Crisis. DIAS lecture with Professor Bron Taylor, March 22, 2023, Odense.
- Radical Environmentalism. The Total Devotion Project, the SCC, and the Environmental Humanities Network seminar with Professor Bron Taylor, March 24, 2023, Odense.
- Stories of Emotion and Devotion in Late Antiquity, Total Devotion research group seminar, October 2022, Svendborg.
- Narrativity and emotionality in radical religion, Total Devotion research group workshop, May 2022, Nyborg.
- Total Devotion: Passions and Plots in Radical Religion in the Ancient World, fall 2021 with 10 international speakers.
- Department of History Address with Sarah I. Johnston Fall 2021
- Department of History Address with Professor Joanna Bourke Fall 2017
- Marginality, Media, and Mutations of Religious Authority in the History of Christianity, SDU, 2016 – ca. 12 international speakers.
- Authority, Materiality and Media conference (2016) – ca. 12 Danish speakers.
- A long series of international seminars at SDU organized as head of the research programme ca. 6 per year - themes/guests/programmes can be found here:

https://www.sdu.dk/da/om_sdu/institutter_centre/ih/forskning/forskningsprogrammer/autoritet_materialitet_medier)

A two-day national conference for The Danish Association for the Study of Religion in Odense every year since 2013 – I am the main organiser of this yearly event

I have organized these national conferences in my function as board member, secretary, and chair of the Danish Association for the Study of Religions from 2013 onwards continually until today on a variety of topics from “religion and media”, to “religion, processions and feasts”, “religion, animals and nature”, “religion and fake news”, “forgotten heroes and heroines of the study of religion” and many more. In 2023, the theme is “religion and emotion” Usually, between 25-30 Danish scholars of religion participate. The DASR is the key national organization for the study of religion today and a sister organization of the EASR and the IAHR.

Conferences and seminars organized at the University of Copenhagen 2010-2012:

- Religion and Wilderness Mythologies, 2011 with 14 international speakers
- Animism – past and present, 2011 with Rane Willerslev, Graham Harvey and Robert A. Segal
- The Climate Catastrophe in Cultural History, 2011 with Isak Winkel Holm
- Modern Witches, Magic and Nature, 2011 with Anne Mia Steno
- New Approaches to the Interpretation of Religion in Modern Europe, 2011; with Kocku von Stuckrad, Groningen
- Spirituality after Darwin. Dark Green Nature Religion as New Global Religious Movement, 2011; with Bron Taylor, Florida
- Co-organized with a team: Problems of Canonicity and Identity Formation in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia (May 2010) and Literature and Identity Formation – An Interdisciplinary Symposium (May 2011). Two large three day conferences with many international and national speakers.

More information and list of publications: <https://portal.findresearcher.sdu.dk/en/persons/lfeldt>

Teaching-CV

Jeg har en bred undervisningserfaring fra 1997 og frem. Jeg har erfaring både med undervisning på BA- og kandidatniveau, inkl. vejledning af mange specialer og BA-projekter, og både mindre hold på 25 studerende og derunder, samt store hold à 40-60 studerende, samt i min tid på SDU ofte på store hold med 80-100 studerende. Jeg har også erfaring med internetbaseret undervisning (Akkadisk sprog på KU, introduktion til Mesopotamiens historie, KU). Med undtagelse af nogle få fag på Assyriologi (Religion i Mesopotamien, Litteratur i Mesopotamien, o.a.), samt undervisning i Hebraisk sprog på AU, har al min undervisningsaktivitet ligget på faget Religionsvidenskab/religionshistorie, hvor jeg har undervist både i brede introducerende fag og i specialiserede kurser særligt vedr. oldtidsreligioner, samt tematiske, komparative kurser om magi, monstrøsitet, naturforestillinger, medier og populærkultur, religionsvidenskabelig teori og metode og meget andet. Jeg har undervisningserfaring fra tre danske universiteter, Aarhus Universitet, Københavns Universitet, og siden december 2012, SDU.

På Religionsstudier underviser jeg ofte i flg. fag: Religion i Den hebraiske Bibel med Jødedom, Kristendomsformer i oldtid og middelalder, Fokusemne i sammenlignende religionshistorie: religion i Mesopotamien, samt Religion, medier og populærkultur, Moderne kristendomsformer, m.fl. Jeg vejleder BA-projekter og specialer inden for en lang række emner og historiske perioder afhængigt af den studerendes interesser. Jeg har taget initiativ til vores speciale-workshop på kandidatens 3. semester og varetager den sammen med Mikael Aktor.

Jeg færdiggjorde adjunktpædagogik på Københavns Universitet, religionshistorie, i 2011 samt kursus i Phd-vejledning på SDU i 2016, ligesom jeg tidligere har deltaget i kurser om Retorik og talekunst, studenterinddragelse, specialevejledning, o.a. Jeg har bidraget til forskellige pædagogiske udviklingsforløb, samt undervisningsudviklingsforløb, både på AU (semesterteams), KU (Vestasiens Historie, kandidatseminar på Religionshistorie KA, kollegial feedback, o.a.) og på SDU, her særligt i samarbejde med Caroline Schaffalitzky de Muckadell. Jeg har undervist på forløb med flere undervisere - bl.a. et tværfagligt forløb sammen med bl.a. Christian Høgel på SDU, og på den religionshistoriske kandidat på KU sammen med Catharina Raudvere i faget Tekst og metode. Som leder af forskningsprogrammet Autoritet, materialitet og medier forsøger jeg at involvere de kandidatstuderende på Religionsstudier i vores aktiviteter så ofte det er muligt. Jeg har været medlem af Studienævnet på Religionsstudier, SDU, i perioden 2014-2016, samt igen fra november 2018-.