

Feeling Faithless:

Making the Affective Turn in Secularism Studies

Public lecture by **Donovan Schaefer**



It's easier than ever to talk about the ways that religion is more than just what's in our heads. Scholars working on embodiment, ritual, and emotion have diagrammed the paths by which religion is felt, experienced, and lived—rather than merely believed. But could we say the same of the secular? The standard definition of the secular associates it with an absence of feeling, sometimes under the heading of “disenchantment.” This talk explores the ways that the category of the secular can be understood from the perspective of affect. Examining the history of the Sheldonian Theatre at the University of Oxford, this talk suggests not only that what Talal Asad calls “formations of the secular” are felt, but that starting with affect allows us to reframe and revisit the secular/religious binary in productive ways.

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Online via Zoom

Please register at
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uni-leipzig.de**

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