Christopher Helland

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Biography

Christopher Helland received his doctorate degree in sociology of religion from the University of Toronto in 2004. He was a SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Goresbrook Institute before taking a tenured stream position at Dalhousie University in 2005. He has a number of publications examining the relationship between the Internet and religious activity and is currently completing a book on this topic for Oxford University Press. Selected publications include: *Online Religion/Religion Online and Virtual Communitas* (2000); *Surfing for Salvation* (2002); *Popular Religion and the World Wide Web: A Match Made in (Cyber)Heaven* (2004); *Online Religion as Lived Religion: Methodological Issues in the Study of Religious Participation on the Internet* (2005); *Diaspora on the Electronic Frontier: Developing Virtual Connections with Sacred Homelands* (2007); *Canadian Religious Diversity Online: A Network of Possibilities* (2008); *Online Religion in Canada: From Hype to Hyperlink* (2011).

Research Statement

My current research activities explore the relationships that have developed, and are developing, between new media and religious beliefs and practices. My central questions focus upon the impact of the Internet and World Wide Web on issues of religious authority and control, religious information seeking behaviour, social shaping/spiritualizing of technology, ritual activity, pilgrimage, and popular religious expression.