



THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



Suzanne van Geuns
University of Toronto
Pamela Klassen and Simon Coleman
scmvangeuns@mail.utoronto.ca

Bio and Research Statement

Since September 2016, I am a doctoral student at the Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, under the supervision of Pamela Klassen and Simon Coleman. My work is informed by an interest in the position the internet lays claim to in its users' daily lives, and more specifically, how that position is leveraged in the articulation and mobilization of right-wing political objectives.

In my BA in Dutch Language and Literature (Utrecht University), I minored in Gender and Ethnicity and Religion in Contemporary Societies. The MA thesis I wrote for Comparative Literary Studies (Utrecht University) focused on biblical womanhood bloggers' reliance on 1950s nostalgia in their discussions of Bible-based feminine practices. My dissertation research builds on this prior research in its engagement with the loose constellation of blogs, prayer apps, forums, and news sites that may be called conservative Christian, with a burgeoning interest in religious white nationalist online spaces.

Ranging from forum discussions on the godliness of diets to passionate rejections of feminism as threatening the future of the (white) nation, the internet is a place where the world is imagined in politically conservative terms. My project examines how the material potentialities of the internet are used to both mediate and launch visions religious right-wing visions for the future.