

## OPEN PANEL

### PHD FORUM - 2025

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**Subject Area:** Religious Studies, ,

**Number of Accepted papers:** 8

**Panel description:** On May 20, 2024, FSCIRE - Fondazione per le scienze religiose, the European Research Infrastructure for the study of religion RESILIENCE and DREST - Italian Doctoral School of Religious Studies promoted in the framework of the European Academy of Religion Annual Conference the "PhD Forum", aiming at discussing the future of the study of religion and the role of Research Infrastructures and Doctoral Schools in this field, in the European context. Thirteen scholars participated in the discussion, bringing to the forum the different national perspectives, and identifying the opportunities and challenges envisioned in a possible pan-European doctoral initiative. The purpose of this panel is to bring on the discussion on the Doctoral schools in this field by focusing on the students taking part in their activities and building their own professional and/or academic career along such a path. The panel welcomes short interventions presenting practices in career development, research support and cooperation endeavours in European Doctoral Schools, therefore encouraging both established and young scholars to bring in their perspectives and analyses. The expected outcomes of the panel are the identification of areas in which RESILIENCE and the European Doctoral Schools involved in the Forum can converge to better operate and contribute to the future of Doctoral students and early career scholars.

#### Papers:

##### PHD STUDENTS IN EUROPEAN SCHOOLS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Melloni A. (Speaker)

Fondazione per le scienze religiose ~ Bologna/Palermo ~ Italy

Many are the layers that should be taken into account when addressing the challenges and opportunities offered by European doctoral schools contributing to the study of religion. Among them, European research and innovation strategies, the global advancement of the scientific fields, generational trends, and technological developments. This contribution will look into these four elements and propose a common operational framework for European doctoral schools willing to identify shared purposes and objectives.

##### SUPERVISION IN THE FIELD OF STUDY OF RELIGIONS

Ben Pazi H. (Speaker)

Bar Ilan University ~ Ramat Gan ~ Israel

Advanced students embarking on doctoral research in the field of religious studies come from within the religious world or specific tradition that they originate from. One of the greatest challenges in guiding such research is to help students move beyond their specific tradition to adopt a broader perspective. Therefore, it becomes crucial to identify and invite for a more expansive approaches to research. These approaches encourage early-career researchers to step out of their "comfort zone" and into comparative study. The first, and most straightforward, approach involves shared research workshops for doctoral students during their studies. These workshops, grounded in encounters between different traditions, provide a solid foundation for developing essential skills. The second, more challenging approach concerns facilitating the selection of a supervisor from a different religious tradition. The third approach is to utilize critical methodologies that demand advanced accountability. For me, the philosophical and ethical perspective is one of the most crucial tools for supporting such endeavors. The presentation will illustrate examples of guidance from each of these three approaches.

##### BALANCING PRIORITIES IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION: ENHANCING SUPERVISION AND ACADEMIC SKILLS TRAINING

Danz C. (Speaker)

Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion VDTR, University of Vienna ~ Vienna ~ Austria

The Vienna Doctoral School of Theology and Research on Religion (VDTR) addresses the challenge of balancing multiple priorities, particularly improving supervision quality while meeting the evolving needs of doctoral researchers in an interdisciplinary context through academic skills training. This contribution will briefly present the strategies of the University of Vienna and the VDTR concerning supervision and skills training. It aims to initiate a discussion on identifying key priorities for supervision and academic skills development in disciplines related to research on religion.