The Graduate Religious Studies Association at Indiana University invites graduate student papers for a conference on *The Fetish, and Other Ghosts*. This conference will be held April 8-9th, 2022 in a hybrid (in-person and online) format.

Religious Studies is a field haunted – haunted by whiteness and its vicissitudes, ghosts and bedfellows we imagined dead. But such ghosts do not so easily die: they haunt, they linger, and they inflect the study of religion in their yet-aliveness. This conference aims to consider more deeply the study of religion and its historical intimacy with and dependence on whiteness and its global-colonial epistemologies.

*The Fetish, and Other Ghosts* takes “the fetish” as no mere object, but as a discourse that organizes (and racializes) the order of words and matter, beliefs and practices, colonial center and periphery, and humans and gods. We aim to examine the impact that fetish discourses have on the study of religion, and more broadly to approach the fetish as a heuristic in considerations of religion, race, and matter. We invite proposals exploring other ghosts that pervade and animate studies of language, materiality, secularism, canon, whiteness, race, empire, indigeneity, gender, and so on.

Together we will ask: how ought our scholarly and pedagogical practices relate to the afterlives of “dead” concepts and epistemologies in our research and our training? How might our scholarly endeavors catalogue or exorcise, reveal or further invisibilize these specters?

This conference is also interested in how these ghosts appear in the context of teaching, particularly in introductory courses where students are introduced to the contours of the field. In transmitting disciplinary histories and methods, do we perpetuate the field’s grounding harms, and if so, what are possible interventions?

We invite scholars from all corners of Religious Studies, and other academic fields and disciplines, to submit proposals that broaden the terms and ghosts offered here. We also encourage the proposal of diverse methods, including but not limited to the visual, musical, and performance arts, and unconventional presentation styles.

Please send an abstract (maximum 200 words), a title for your presentation, and a short bio which includes your name, email address, institutional affiliation, and a brief description of your research interests to iugraduatereligion@gmail.com by Dec 15.

Participants will be notified of acceptance by January 17. Papers will need to be submitted by March 15 for circulation among faculty respondents from the Department of Religious Studies. Participants will have 20 minutes to present.

Please email questions to iugraduatereligion@gmail.com