# Religious Anthropology and the Media

## Prof. Silvano Petrosino

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the fundamental concepts for the study of the religious dimension of human experience within the present consumer and entertainment society. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognise and describe the main traits of the religious experience taking a critical attitude toward the use of religious stylistic elements in the current society of consumption and entertainment.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The first part of the course will focus on the definition of some key concepts in religious anthropology, such as *homo religiosus*, sign and symbol, hierophany, religiosity and religions, sacred and profane, and sacred and holy.

The second part of the course analyses some of the main manifestations of the religious dimension within the current society of consumption and entertainment, with a particular focus on the process of transforming the divine into an idol.

***READING LIST***

Key texts:

1. A. Guerrieri, Apple come esperienza religiosa, Mimesi Edizioni, Milan 2013.

2. S. Petrosino, L'idolo. Teoria di una tentazione dalla Bibbia a Lacan, Mimesis Edizioni, Milan 2015.

3. S. Petrosino, Emmanuel Levinas. Le due sapienze, Feltrinelli, Milan 2017.

4. S. Petrosino, Il desiderio. Non siamo figli delle stelle, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2019.

5. S. Petrosino – G. Forti, Logiche follie. Sacrifici umani e illusioni della giustizia, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2022 [only the first part (pp. 9-56) and the third part (pp. 145-154)].

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam. The exam is divided into two parts: On the one hand, an attempt will be made to verify the proper understanding of the fundamental notions of religious anthropology; on the other hand, it will also try to verify the ability of the student to develop, with precise references to the examination texts, independent reflection on and, above all, a critical approach to the image of religiosity and religions provided by the media within the consumer society.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require basic knowledge of anthropological issues and how the media system operates.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.