



# Remediating Sacred Scriptures

*Symposium at Syracuse University  
11-12 October 2013*

The RSS symposium begins with a set of questions: How does a scripture's sacred status alter as it shifts from oral to written to printed and on into digital media? On the one hand, do new technologies open us to a broader sensorium in relation to texts, allowing contemporary people to hear and see and feel and examine and intellectually probe ancient books in modes heretofore inaccessible? On the other hand, will these new technologies, now available to the masses in ways well beyond the impact of the printing press, challenge traditional authority structures? Do they have the potential to create a radical new reformation? Could we here, due to the proliferation of global technologies, see the emergence of an inter-religious reformation, simultaneously impacting Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and other more local traditions?

Three invited scholars will discuss their work in relation to these questions. Each presentation will be followed by a formal response, with ample time for follow up conversation. The aim is to make these questions relevant to scholars working in a number of regions, with varying scripts, and to raise questions about the new mediations of sacred scripts.



## *Program*

### *Friday, 11 October*

**4:30 p.m.** Welcome Reception

**5:00 p.m.** *Gregory Grieve*, UNC-Greensboro  
“From Satori to Second Life: Convert Zen and the Spiritualization of Cybernetics in Post War America”  
**Respondent:** Abhishek Amar, Hamilton College

### *Saturday, 12 October*

**9:30 a.m.** *Nabil Echchaibi*, University of Colorado-Boulder

“Post-Islamist Sounds: Nasheed and Qur’anic Recitation on YouTube and the Triangulation of Islamic Preaching”

**Respondent:** Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, Ithaca College

**11:00 a.m.** *Rachel Wagner*, Ithaca College

“Frag, Fiero, Fun, and Firepower: Apocalypticism in New Media”

**Respondent:** M. Gail Hamner, Syracuse University

*The symposium is sponsored by the  
Central New York Humanities Corridor and Syracuse University  
and organized by SCRIPT (script-site.net)*

*Questions? Contact Brent Plate, [splate@hamilton.edu](mailto:splate@hamilton.edu) or James Watts, [jwwatts@syr.edu](mailto:jwwatts@syr.edu)*