PUBLIC LECTURE

"Serving the Nation": Neo-Pentecostal
Megachurches in Singapore and
the Boundaries of Religious, Public and
Commercial Spheres



RELIGION AND SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTRE

Speaker

Dr. Katja Rakow, Heidelberg University, Karl Jaspers Centre for Transcultural Studies

Date and Time Thursday 2 July,

1:00pm-2:30pm

Venue

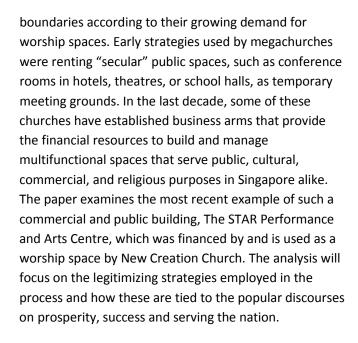
Bankstown Campus 01.1.119

RSVP

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By Monday 15 June

Abstract

The small city-state of Singapore has one of the highest population densities in the world and the construction of new buildings for religious purposes is governed by the state's rational, pragmatic, and effective planning principles based on mathematical ratios. Simultaneously, these serve to segregate and balance the major religions in the secular state of Singapore. Moreover, state regulations prescribe a strict separation of the political and the religious sphere and promote the maintenance of religious harmony between the different religious traditions; a violation of the separation or the cause of religious disharmony are punishable by law (Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act). Since the 1980s, a sustained growth of (mainly Neo-)Pentecostal churches in Singapore is observable. The paper addresses how Neo-Pentecostal megachurches negotiate the state-imposed



Biography

Dr. Katja Rakow, a scholar in the field of Religious Studies, is currently leading a research group on Global Pentecostalism at Heidelberg University, Germany. Her research interests focus on the transcultural dynamics of religious history, especially of Tibetan Buddhism and contemporary forms of Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism in a global context.