



university of  
 groningen

faculty of theology and  
 religious studies

## Symposium

Between heaven and hell. Religious and spiritual experiences in the  
 context of mental health care

30 January 2020, 14.00 – 17.00 h.

Doopsgezinde kerk Groningen, Oude Boteringestraat 33, 9712 GD Groningen



Religious and spiritual experiences are generally considered as very 'real' for those who have them. Do they refer to a divine reality, and what do they mean? How can we distinguish between healthy and pathological religious experiences? How does clinical practice take into account these topics in communication and treatment?

Eva Ouwehand's dissertation: *Mania and meaning. A mixed methods study into religious experiences in people with bipolar disorder: Occurrence and significance* shows that spirituality and religious or spiritual experiences are important for people with a mental disorder. But there are still many questions left. This symposium will address some of these questions and focuses on the relation between religiosity and psychopathology from a multidisciplinary perspective.

The symposium will take place after the promotion ceremony of Eva Ouwehand (11.00-12.30, nearby in the Academy Building). Prior to the official symposium program, there is time to meet and greet.

Admission is free, but please register by sending an email to [n.zonneveld@altrecht.nl](mailto:n.zonneveld@altrecht.nl), specifying if you are student, spiritual caregiver, mental health professional or otherwise. A voluntary contribution for lunch for other participants than guests would be appreciated.

## Time schedule

12.30-14.00 Meet and greet: coffee, tea, lunch

14.00	Welcome	<b>Dr. Hanneke Muthert</b> Assistant professor Psychology of Religion and Spiritual Care, University of Groningen.
14.05-14.35	<i>Hearing voices, hearing the divine?</i>	<b>Prof. dr. Christopher Cook</b> Durham University, Department Theology and Religion. Director of the Centre for Spirituality, Theology & Health.
14.35-14.45	Response	<b>Drs. Arthur Hegger,</b> Clinical psychologist and psychotherapist Eleos
14.45-15.15	<i>Meaning in life-narratives of people with psychosis. A case-study approach.</i>	<b>Prof. dr. Lars Danbolt</b> MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society (Practical Theology/Psychology of Religion), Oslo.
15.15-15.25	Response	<b>Drs. Irene Plaatsman-van der Wal</b> Health care chaplain Lentis
15.25-15.45	Coffee and tea	
15.45-16.15	<i>Integrating meaning and spirituality in personalized care in bipolar disorder: a role for treatment guidelines?</i>	<b>Prof. Ralph Kupka, MD, PhD,</b> Professor of Bipolar Disorders, Amsterdam University Medical Center / Vrije Universiteit, Dept. of Psychiatry.
16.15-16.25	Response	<b>Edwin</b> Expert-by-experience
16.25-17.00	Panel discussion	

Accreditatie bij de SKGV is aangevraagd

Centre for Religion, Health and Well-being: Hetty Zock, Hanneke Muthert & Eva Ouwehand