In recent years, the use of mobile phones has been increasing significantly across the world. Some statistics state, that in 2013, 73% of internet users accessed the internet via a mobile phone or tablet computer. These numbers are expected to rise up to 90% in 2017, when more than 4.5 billion people own at least one mobile device.

But modern smartphones are much more than just a means of communication. Equipped with location and motion sensors, Bluetooth and wifi, the devices are capable of collecting data such as location, time or surrounding environment without requiring user intervention and thus providing context aware services which are actively exploited and made use of by a vast variety and number of applications.

We are taking our phone with us everywhere anytime. And we are using it in nearly every situation of our daily life. – Including religion and religious practice.

The new special issue of online – Heidelberg Journal of Religions on the Internet (www.online.uni-hd.de) 12 /2017 „Religion to go!“ (due for publication in October/November 2017) sets off to explore the field of religion within mobile internet environments, mobile application, augmented realities and everything in between – and the retroactive effects of the new mobility on our notion of religion and religious practice.

Therefore we are calling for papers from all academic disciplines (e.g. Religious Studies, Theology, Game Studies, Social Sciences, Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Anthropology, etc.) dealing with aspects of this new, exciting (and as of now, scientifically not very much explored) area of religion online.

In addition to “traditional” / “conventional” academic papers, we are also setting up a section featuring introductions and/or reviews of mobile applications and best practice examples dealing with religious content and topics, including those applications created by religious groups and institutions (e.g. prayer apps, confession apps, etc).

Give us „religion to go“ – in the literal sense!
The journal’s language is English. For papers in other languages (e.g. German), please contact the editors.

Important dates and deadlines for issue 12 (2017)
(subject to change)

- April 1st: submission of title and abstract (~ 300 words)
- May 1st: Notification on the acceptance of your proposal by the editors
- July 1st: Submission deadline for full article.
- August 1st: Deadline for comments, requests of revisions by the editors
- September 15th: Submission deadline for revised articles.
- October / November 2017: Publication of the Online Journal

Please send your abstract and / or further inquiries to the following e-mail address:
online.religion@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de.

The editors

Simone Heidbrink (Protestant Church in Baden / University of Heidelberg)
Tobias Knoll (University of Heidelberg)
Oliver Weidermann (Protestant Church in Baden)