

## MONDAY LECTURES | SOSE 2026 IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

### LECTURE SERIES BY SOFIA BIANCHI MANCINI PROPERTY, APPROPRIATION, AND THE ECONOMY OF RELIGION

The identification, contextualisation, and management of sacred spaces must be reconsidered in light of written and archaeological evidence that points to far blurrier boundaries between the divine and the secular, the private and the public, and the religious and the civic from the Roman Republic to the Imperial period. We have traditionally relied on structural preconceptions to organise this material; yet recent discoveries and critical revisions have reached a point at which older paradigms risk becoming obstacles rather than productive analytical tools. For this reason, certain foundational assumptions require rethinking: the rigid distinction between the *sacrum* and the *profanum*; the presumed immobility of divine frontiers, as in the case of *luci*; and the assumption that divine property situated on private ground must necessarily form part of domestic religion. Once we acknowledge the extent to which such modern conceptual boundaries can be transgressed in practice, and the relative indeterminacy of divine property itself, we are in a position to reassess processes of occupation, appropriation, and transformation of sacred spaces. These phenomena need not correspond to models of religious substitution, and they call into question the limits of the heuristic category of 'religious cohabitation'. By interrogating both the placement and the mutable nature of divine property, we also gain a clearer understanding of its economic dimension. Civic institutions and offices not classified as religious could be directly implicated in the functioning of sacred sites, operating under and contributing to the prestige of the religious space, whose property and administration are more complex than is sometimes assumed.



08.06.2026 | 15.06.2026 |  
29.06.2026

ALL GUESTS WELCOME.  
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY.