A pointing gesture is one of the most fundamental and deceptively complex communicative actions that we perform in everyday life. Frequently overlooked, however, is the role that pointing gestures play in our understanding of religious signs. Religious signs are often described as “pointers” or said to “point” to something beyond the sign itself. This lecture looks at the nature and function of pointing gestures to better understand why they are so often used as a metaphor for religious signs.

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