



University
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in
Religion and Society

SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Megan Swift



Yhakh dancers in Sakha Republic,
Russia, Wikimedia Commons.

The Revival of Indigenous Religions in Russia

After decades of suppression, the spiritual traditions of the over 40 indigenous groups of the Russian Federation are experiencing a grassroots revival. How are shamanistic practices and indigenous religious festivals—with their potential ethno-nationalist overtones—viewed in Russia today? Where do minority religions fit inside the Russian Federation, which is largely Russian Orthodox, and actively weaponizing this majority religion for its expansionist agenda in Ukraine? This talk explores the evolving faith map of Putin's Russia, highlighting the consequent political and religious tensions.

Megan Swift is a Professor in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures at the UVic and a specialist in Russian literature, art and culture.

Feb 12, 2026
5:00–6:00pm
CLE B017

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