



University  
of Victoria



# Nourishing Religious Studies: What Food Reveals about Religion

## Rachel Brown and Michel Desjardins

Thursday, September 12th

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Turpin Building, Room A110

Food plays a significant role in people's religious lives, across traditions and around the world. It tends to get overlooked in the academic study of religion, and in people's descriptions of their own religion. Our interactive presentation explores three areas that underline the explanatory power of food in understanding religion. We look at how (1) food in religious contexts brings people together while also separating them from others, (2) meat can be imagined as good in some contexts and bad in others, and (3) food can heighten religious memory.

**Rachel Brown** is the Program Coordinator and Religious Studies Teaching Fellow at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society. She holds a PhD in Religious Diversity in North America from Wilfrid Laurier University and specializes in religion and food, migration, and contemporary Islam.

**Michel Desjardins** is Emeritus Professor of Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University. He and Ellen Desjardins are currently preparing a book grounded in their decade-long research on how food matters in religion.

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