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Can Women in Interreligious Dialogue Speak?
Productions of In/visibility at the Intersection of Religion, Gender and Race

Echoing Gayatri Spivak's seminal essay "Can the subaltern speak?", this presentation will raise the question, "(How) Can Women in Interreligious Dialogue speak?". It will develop an answer to this question through an analysis of the film *Submission*, by Theo van Gogh and Ayaan Hirsi Ali, and the video installation *Love Story* by Candice Breitz, created for the exhibition *Ponderosa* at the Kunstmuseum Stuttgart in 2016. Both these works of art raise questions of representation and agency for marginalized people, and can therefore teach valuable lessons for gauging the role of women in interfaith dialogue. They give voice to excluded people in very different ways, and by bringing them into conversation with theoretical reflections about women in interreligious dialogue, the paper will chart potential positions of women in the field of interfaith dialogue. The crucial argument will be this: Which position women (and men) take in this field depends on their access to epistemic privilege, which is distributed unevenly along gendered, racialized and religious differentiations. As women begin to speak in interreligious dialogue in such a way that they overcome patriarchal exclusions – when, in other words, women are no longer objects, but subjects in interreligious dialogue – they must continue to critique the uneven distribution of epistemic privilege which silently governs the politics of representation in interreligious dialogue. When interreligious dialogue takes place at the intersection of male, white, and Christian privilege, women have to deconstruct androcentrism, ethnocentrism/racism and Christocentrism.