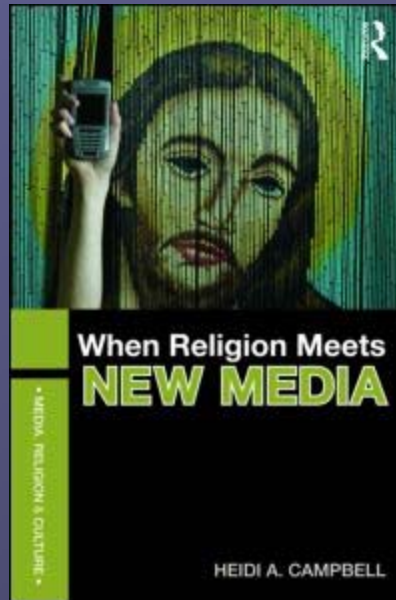


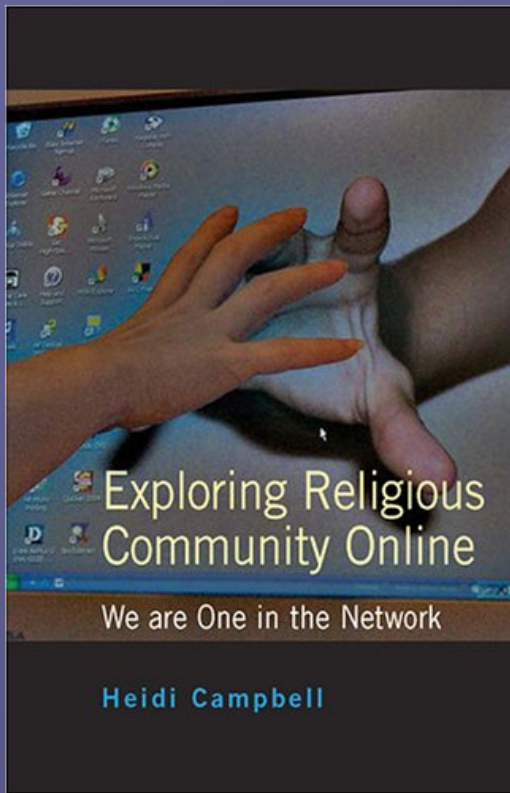
*When Religion Meets New Media:
How to Negotiate New Technology
Religiously*



Heidi Campbell

When Religion Meets New Media
[Routledge 2010]

Exploring Religious Community Online



- **Online community as supplement not substitute**
 - creates desire to go beyond screen
 - offers support & encouragement lacking in offline church
- **Lessons:**
 - Net part of Global Religious Community
 - Online as integrated & networked
 - Challenges traditional notions of gathering and authority

Religious Communities Response to New Media

- Religious communities...
 - Are active participants and evaluators of technology
 - Undergo unique belief-based negotiation processes related to technological choices

<i>Old Media</i>	<i>New Media</i>
Media space as static space	Media space as navigable space
Linear form dominant	Database form dominant:
Window—provide window on the world	Control panel-provide way to control

Lev Manovich, *The Language of New Media* (MIT Press, 2002)

Religious Communities Response to Media (Ferre, 2003)

● Media as **Conduits**

- Positive response to media, gift of God
- embracing & innovative use of media

● Media as **Modes of Knowing**

- Negative/cautious response to media
- suspicious of use of media

● Media as **Social Institution**

- Reflective response to media, good & bad
- use of media as purposeful & critical

Religious-Social Shaping of Technology

- 1) History & Tradition: Uncover history of community discourse & response to tech
 - Attention to community, authority & text
- (2) Core Beliefs: Identity dominant social values that shape interaction with tech
- (3) Negotiation: Highlight the process of Acceptance, Rejection and/or Reconfiguring
- (4) Communal Framing: Consider how new tech supports previous discourses or creates need for new patterns

Catholics Views & Use of Internet

- **History & Tradition:** Sacramental (community), Hierarchical (authority) and Intermediated (text)
- **Core Beliefs:** *Communio et Progressio*, media as “gifts of God”
- **Negotiation:** Social Affordance vs. Theological/Structural Constraints
- **Communal Framing:** Officializing Discourse as Community Guidebook & PR

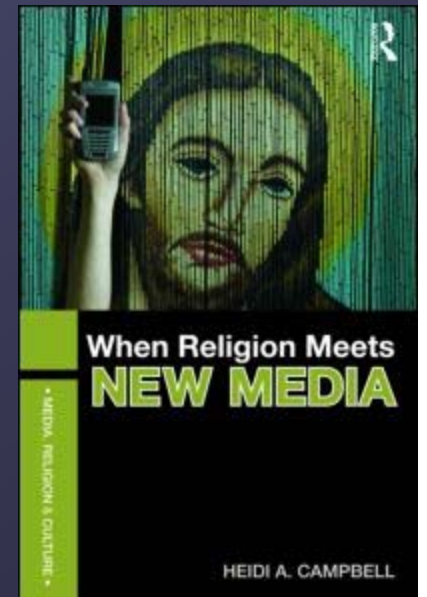
A Theological Understanding of Technology

● **Theologically informed decisions requires**

- knowledge of communal history and response to media
- Awareness of current culture and context of community
- attention to negotiation strategies their roots & trajectories
- examination of internal and external discourse about technology

Implications

- Technological choices are constrained and motivated by community specific values
 - Tension emerge at intersection of belief & tradition



Thank You!

- Blog: When Religion Meets New Media

- <http://religionmeetsnewmedia.blogspot.com/>

- New Media, Religion & Digital Culture FB group:

- <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=147898082571&ref=mf>