

International Conference

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Session: Transnational Dynamics of the Religious
Landscape, Part I

9:30AM MST, March 16, 2024

The Orthodox internet and the extension of canonical territory

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The question of canonical territory and jurisdiction is an essential issue in the governance of the Eastern Orthodox communion. This paper will address how Orthodox online media is used to extend the notion of canonical space around the globe increasing the influence and authority of various autocephalous Churches. This paper will address how Orthodoxy understands online media and its relationship with the physical boundaries of canonical territory and how it impacts ongoing ecclesial disputes through analysis of online media from the Russian Orthodox Church, Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This paper will help to address the question: Does cyberspace have the potential to be sacred in Orthodoxy?

Jacob Lassin is Assistant Professor of Russian Regional and Cultural Studies at the **Air** University, Maxwell, Alabama. He was formerly a Teaching Fellow at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Media, Journalism, and Film at Miami University of Ohio. Lassin received his PhD from Yale University in 2019. His area of expertise is the intersection of religion, politics, and new media in Ukraine, Russia and the former Soviet Union. He is an expert on the use of social media to build social movements. He is currently writing a book entitled, *Sacred Sites: Russian Orthodox Cultural Politics Online*, which explores how websites run by the Russian Orthodox Church and its allies work to reframe the national literary canon. He held Postdoctoral Fellowships at Arizona State University and Harvard University.