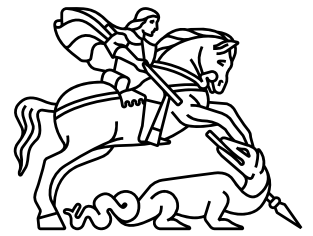


Call for Papers  
Deadline: 30 May 2026



# Religion after Longevity: Between Religious Traditions and Post-Humanism

This conference explores the multifaceted relationship between longevity and religious phenomena. It will begin by examining how religious traditions have historically been connected to the care of both the body and the soul. We will discuss religious rituals, practices, dietary norms, and activities that promote not only graceful aging but also spiritual purification. What is the elixir of a long life? How are bodily care and spiritual well-being interrelated?

Secondly, the conference will consider how aging societies influence religious beliefs and practices. Is there a distinct “religion of elders”? How do religious traditions evolve within societies characterized by an increasingly older population?

Thirdly, we will address how religions accompany individuals through the process of dying. What roles do religious frameworks play in approaching death, and how have these roles transformed over time?

Finally, we will examine emerging religious and quasi-religious movements that challenge the very concept of death, proposing transhumanist approaches to life extension. What is the technological promise of overcoming death? How do scientific, pseudoscientific, and mechanistic understandings of life and death reshape cultural and religious perspectives?

Some possible topics of research include, but are not limited to:

- Comparative studies of longevity practices across religious traditions;
- The role of rituals, diet, and meditation in religious conceptions of aging;
- Representations of aging, death, and immortality in sacred texts and art;
- Religious ethics and bioethics in life extension technologies;
- Esoteric, spiritual, and mystical understanding of longevity, ageing, and death;
- The rise of transhumanism and techno-religious movements;
- The sociology of aging and spirituality in contemporary societies;
- Intersections between medical humanities, theology, and the philosophy of life;
- Practices of physical and/or internal alchemy that in different cultures have promised an indefinite extension of life.

### **Organizers**

The conference is organized jointly by the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations and Spiritualities (Fondazione Giorgio Cini), the Centre for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents – HHP (University of Amsterdam), the Center for the Study of World Religions (Harvard Divinity School), and the Centre for Environmental Humanities – NICHE (Ca' Foscari University).

### **Abstracts and Texts**

Abstracts up to 300 words, accompanied by a short CV, should be submitted in English by the 30th of May to [civilta.comparate@cini.it](mailto:civilta.comparate@cini.it). A notification of acceptance will be forwarded by the 15th of June.

### **Timetable**

1. The call for papers is open – 3 April 2026.
2. Abstracts (300 words maximum) and CVs to be received by 30 May 2026.
3. Notifications of acceptance will be given by 15 June 2026.
4. The conference will be held 1-3 December 2026.

### **Practicalities and Funding**

The organizers will provide accommodation on San Giorgio Island, coffee breaks and lunches for all participants. Participants will arrange and pay for their own transportation. Extra funding may be available to cover the travel expenses of a limited number of scholars who cannot obtain funding from their own institutions. If extra funding is needed, please indicate this in the email with which you submit your abstract. The Library of the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilizations and Spiritualities will appreciate it if participants can bring and donate one book they authored or in which they have participated.

### **Contact**

[civilta.comparate@cini.it](mailto:civilta.comparate@cini.it)