

# Religious education in media cultures

authority, authenticity, agency

“When I came to you, brothers and sisters,  
proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come  
with sublimity of words or of wisdom.  
For I resolved to know nothing  
while I was with you except  
Jesus Christ  
and him crucified.”

1 Cor 2:1-6

# outline

- an exercise
- another glimpse of the challenge
- a Web 2.0 response (FeAutor)
- Q&A

authority,  
authenticity,  
agency

an exercise...

**Day of prayer and remembrance**

**September 14, 2001**

how is authority  
constructed here?

what makes this  
authentic?



what kind of agency is  
evoked?

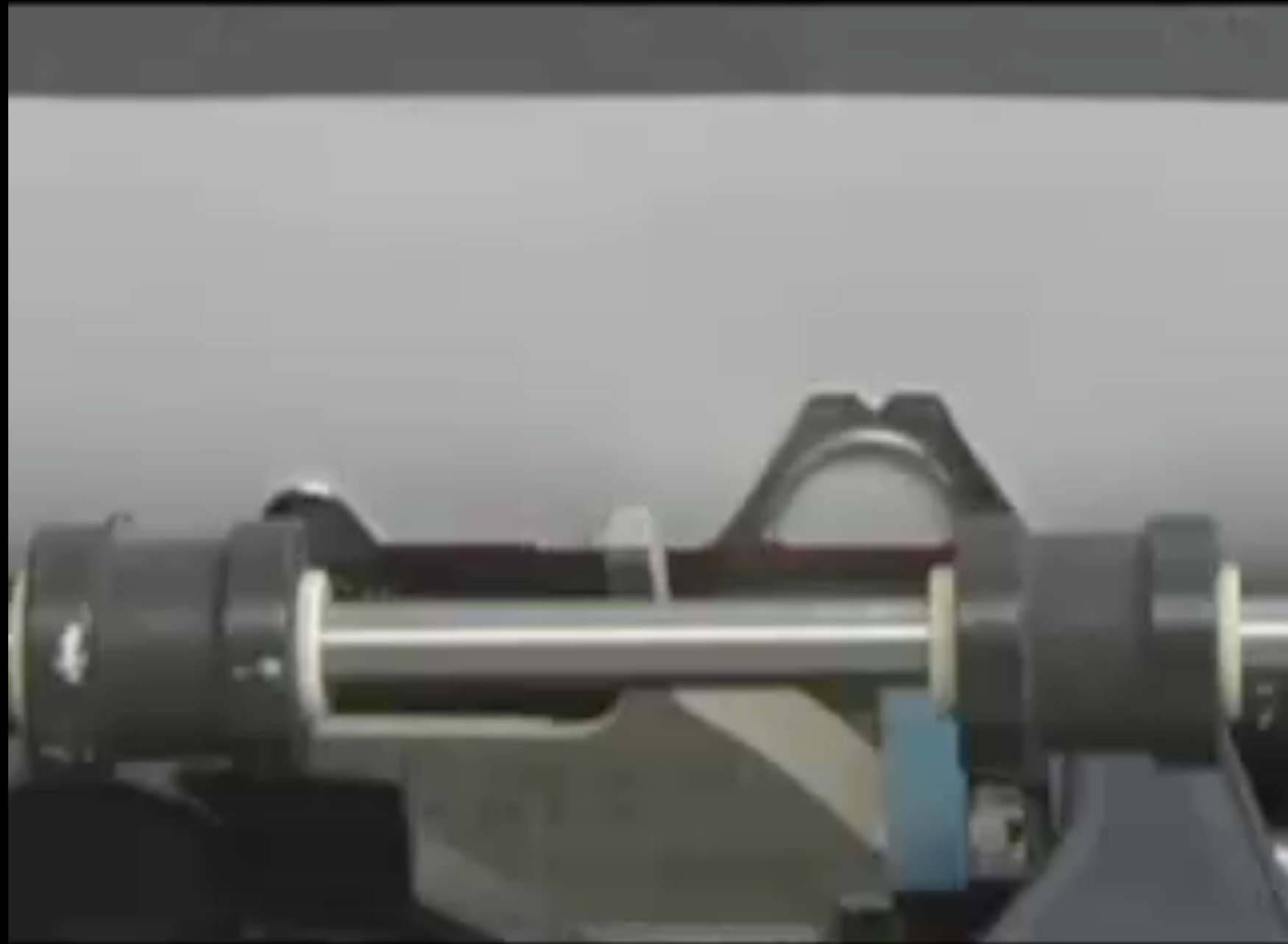


how is authority  
constructed here?

what makes this  
authentic?

what kind of agency is  
evoked?

further complicating  
matters...



Web 2.0





# WEB 2.0 Landscape

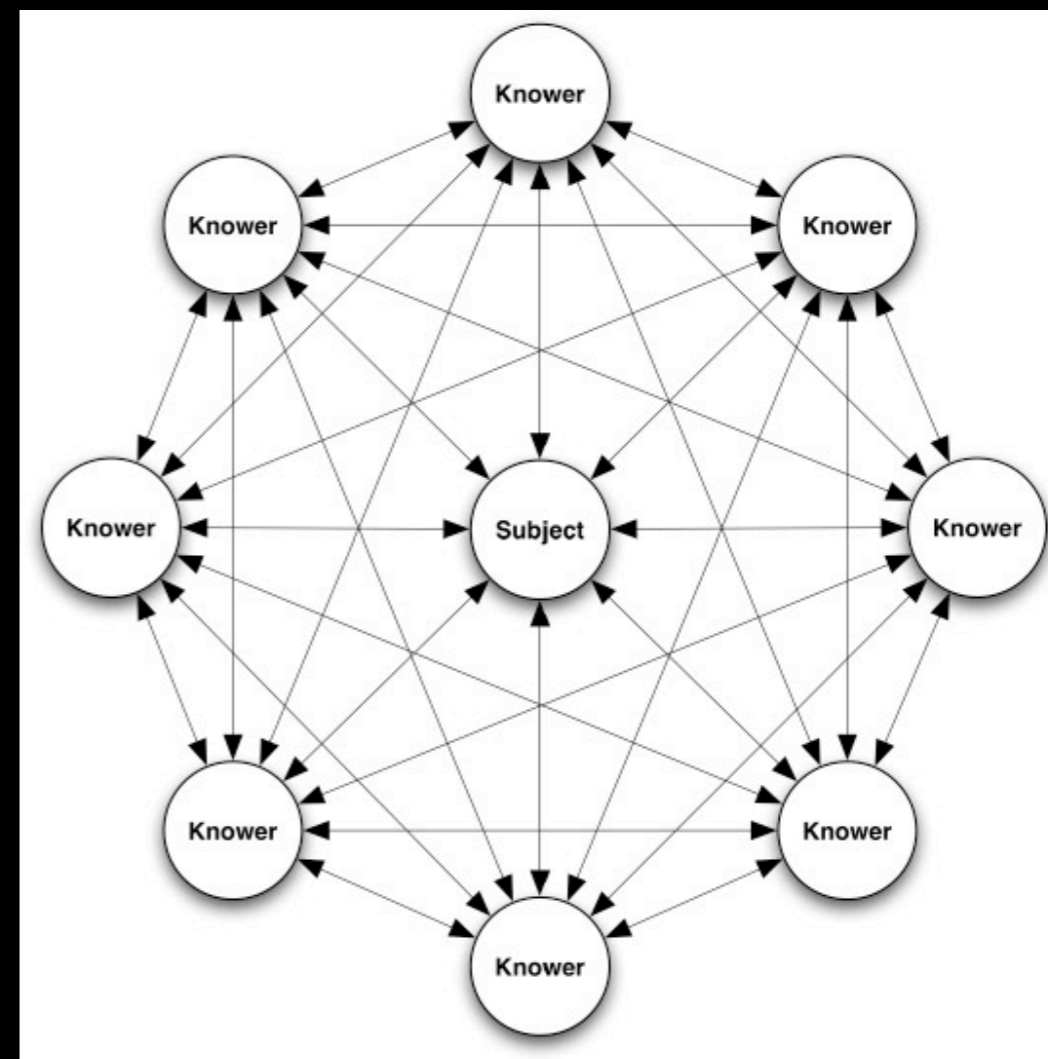
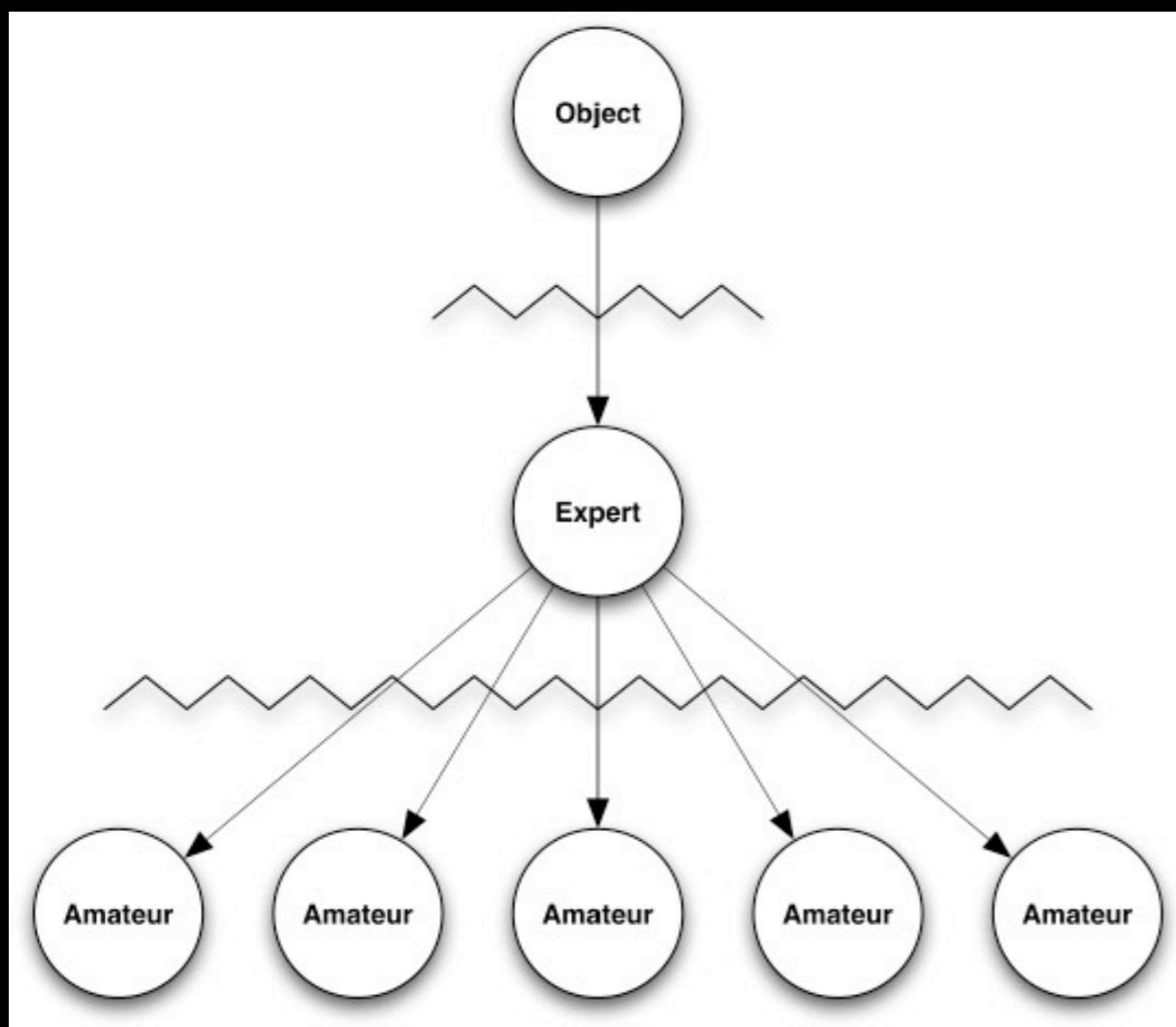


**WE ARE**



authority, authenticity,  
agency

an epistemological  
challenge



adaptive  
vs.  
technical

difference is between  
acquiring a skill  
and transforming  
meaning-making



in religious education...

# several issues

- highly mobile persons, changing communities
- many competing commitments
- need to introduce, as well as ground, content
- how to socialize when the structures are shifting?

chose to work on one  
challenge

how to develop  
grassroots capacity to  
share, critique, and  
ultimately write  
materials

enter FeAutor



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A free, multilingual, and open space to share religious resources

- Groups
- ELCA Shared Resources
- Red Create

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Contribute content Contribute translation

Recent contributions

**Children's Books for the Liturgical Year**  
by Martha Bess DeWitt, DCE, Nashville, TN, Northeastern Ohio Synod Resource Center  
A list of books, printing companies and ISBN codes that can be used during the Liturgical Year.  
Read +

**Discipleship includes . . . asking hard questions about . . .**  
by Martha Bess DeWitt, DCE, Nashville, TN, NE Ohio Synod Resource Center  
"Books written for children are usually affirmative. . . there is passionate concern for the broken, the lost, the hurt. All my life through stories, those I read and those I write, I have been building (intuitively, rather than consciously) a theology."  
Read +

Highlighted contributions

- Policy to Prevent Abuse of Children and Youth**  
A policy to prevent abuse.  
by NW synod of Wisconsin Resource Center, Trinity/Long Lake Church, Birchwood, WI  
Read +
- Director of Elementary and Middle School Youth Ministry**  
The Director of Elementary and Middle School Youth Ministries role is to direct and lead the youth programming for youth grades 2 through 5 (Noah's Crew) and grades 6 through 8 (Glory Gang). The position shall seek to foster Christian relationships, commitment to the church and growth in faith in Jesus Christ.  
by Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center, First Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI  
Read +
- Myths about media and the church**  
This is a handout I've developed based on shared work with Adan Medrano, that outlines some of the false assumptions people have about how the church and media operate, and proposes more descriptive notes.  
by Mary Hess  
Read +
- Prayer Cards**  
The H3 (Holy, Happy & Healthy) Group at Immanuel received business-card sized laminated cards with different topics to pray about. Some members keep them at home and use them as devotion flash cards - flipping through the cards and saying a short prayer about each topic. Other members have them in their car and use them for prayer topics while driving.  
by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Resource Center  
Read +

redefining agency  
may be  
our most potent  
contribution now...

“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

2 Cor 4:7-15



Q&A

Mary Hess  
18 March 2008  
Luther Seminary Faculty Seminar  
St. Paul, MN