The Santa Fe Fiesta:

Ritual, Media, and Conflict

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In this multimedia presentation Grimes explores the dynamic interactions of ritual and media in conflictual situations by briefly considering several examples and then concentrating on one, New Mexico’s Santa Fe Fiesta.

Although ritualization marks the human life cycle and suffuses religious practice, existing research pays scant attention to ritual’s capacity for mediating or provoking conflict. Media representations have long been instrumental in establishing, maintaining, and challenging political and economic power, as well as in determining the nature of religious practice. Media technologies are changing the dynamics of conflict, as well as shaping the ways groups use ritual in situations of conflict.