

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Acknowledgements | 7 |
| List of abbreviations | 9 |
| 1. What is World Youth Day? | 17 |
| 1.1 The biggest papal gathering on record? | 17 |
| 1.2 When did World Youth Days begin? | 21 |
| 1.3 Previous research | 28 |
| 1.4 Contextualizing this study | 36 |
| 1.4.1 Pilgrimage studies | 37 |
| 1.4.2 Digital game studies | 41 |
| 1.5 Summary and outline of chapters | 48 |
| 2. Religious interaction: What gaming can teach us about religion | 51 |
| 2.1 “Lucy looks into a Wardrobe” | 51 |
| 2.2 Running out of Hosts at World Youth Day | 52 |
| 2.2.1 Realms of lived reality | 54 |
| 2.3 Religion as interaction | 57 |
| 2.3.1 Superhuman persons | 58 |
| 2.3.2 Interaction and presence | 60 |
| 2.3.3 Transrealm interaction | 63 |
| 2.4 Interface | 68 |
| 2.4.1 Religious interfaces | 68 |
| 2.4.2 Interfacial elements | 70 |
| 2.4.3 What about <i>media</i> ? | 71 |
| 2.4.4 The interfacial mind | 74 |
| 2.4.5 Governing the interface: Magisterial and other normativities | 77 |
| 2.5 Immersion | 79 |
| 2.5.1 Immersion, <i>flow</i> , <i>presence</i> , and vulnerability | 82 |
| 2.6 Summary | 85 |
| 3. World Youth Day Origins: From Youth Gathering to Pilgrimage, 1984–1991 | 87 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 3.1 From youth gathering to pilgrimage | 88 |
| 3.1.1 World Youth Day emerges | 88 |
| 3.1.2 Naming World Youth Day a pilgrimage | 96 |
| 3.1.3 World Youth Day as a pilgrimage | 104 |
| 3.2 Acknowledged influences in the official narrative | 107 |
| 3.2.1 John Paul II | 107 |
| 3.2.2 Catholic “World Days” | 110 |
| 3.2.3 The United Nations | 112 |
| 3.2.4 The revivification of pilgrimage trails | 113 |
| 3.2.5 The new evangelization | 114 |
| 3.2.6 Christocentrism and mariocentrism | 118 |
| 3.2.7 The emergent official narrative | 120 |
| 3.3 Other possible influences | 120 |
| 3.3.1 Contextualizing World Youth Day | 120 |
| 3.3.2 The communist World Youth Festival | 121 |
| 3.3.3 Polish precursors to the World Youth Day Cross | 124 |
| 3.3.4 Charismatic Christian “crusades” | 130 |
| 3.4 Conclusion | 133 |
| 4. Changing Pilgrimage: World Youth Day 1993, Denver | 135 |
| 4.1 Denver: From metropolitan city to pilgrimage site | 138 |
| 4.1.1 How World Youth Day in Denver became a pilgrimage | 138 |
| 4.1.2 Preparing for pilgrimage | 146 |
| 4.1.3 Life and pilgrimage | 151 |
| 4.1.4 Event design | 156 |
| 4.1.5 Papal presence and participation | 163 |
| 4.1.6 The World Youth Day community | 167 |
| 4.1.7 World Youth Day saints | 168 |
| 4.1.8 Our Lady of the New Advent | 169 |
| 4.1.9 The Way of the Cross and the female Jesus controversy | 173 |
| 4.2 How Denver defined World Youth Day | 176 |
| 4.2.1 Remaking pilgrimage | 176 |
| 4.2.2 Legacy | 177 |
| 4.3 Conclusion | 181 |
| 5. “Bringing the mind to Heaven”: Religious interaction at World Youth Day 2016 | 183 |
| 5.1 Interfacial elements at World Youth Day 2016 | 185 |
| 5.1.1 Identifying interfacial elements | 185 |
| 5.1.2 The Eucharist | 185 |
| 5.1.3 Confession | 192 |
| 5.1.4 The World Youth Day community and the universal Catholic Church | 195 |
| 5.1.5 Pope Francis—an interfacial element? | 200 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Contents | 13 |
| 5.1.6 Places, Poland, and Pope John Paul II | 202 |
| 5.1.7 The Divine Mercy image(s) and the relics of Saint Faustina | 209 |
| 5.2 Conclusion | 215 |
| 6. Pilgrimage and immersion: Nuances of <i>pilgrim(s)</i> and <i>pilgrimage</i> at World Youth Day 2016 | 217 |
| 6.1 Asking about pilgrimage | 218 |
| 6.2 Transrealm interaction as a criterion for pilgrimage | 219 |
| 6.2.1 Self-describing as <i>pilgrim(s)</i> | 219 |
| 6.2.2 Describing pilgrimage | 227 |
| 6.2.3 Pilgrims, non-pilgrims, and the “pilgrim scale” | 232 |
| 6.2.4 Pilgrimage as immersion | 240 |
| 6.3 Expanding possibilities for (inter)action | 241 |
| 6.3.1 “Offer it up”: Pain as part of play | 241 |
| 6.3.2 God as fellow pilgrim: Superhuman persons initiate interaction | 249 |
| 6.4 Conclusion | 252 |
| Conclusion | 257 |
| Appendix: Method and methodology | 261 |
| 1. A mixed-methods approach | 261 |
| 1.1 The evolution of a research design | 262 |
| 1.2 Historical research | 262 |
| 1.3 Fieldwork | 264 |
| 1.4 Respondents | 265 |
| 2. Research ethics | 265 |
| List of references and archival material | 269 |
| References | 269 |
| Archival material | 294 |
| Index | 299 |