

hel  
global network player authority PewDiePie guilt god Lets Play angel undead wtf authentic mediatization Skill pvp contest  
game rule system avatar WoW blessing noob kills demon fact body fight pop's spe ingame PST discussion digital  
religion game analysis The Last of Us death resurrection funeral runes ritual virtual identity buff priest genesis clan wedding  
simulation ludology death resurrection funeral runes ritual virtual identity buff priest genesis clan wedding gamer  
narrative

## Issue 02 (2015)

### articles

The WoW Factor: A Virtual Ethnographic Study of Sacred Things and Rituals in World of Warcraft

Sonja C. Sapach, 1

Spirits in the Aether: Digital Ghosts in Final Fantasy XIV

Tim Appignani, Kaylee Kruzan, Indira Neill Hoch, 25

Extending the Dimensions of the Social World through Game-Worlds

Jonathan Tuckett, 61

Methods for Analyzing Let's Plays: Context Analysis for Gaming Videos on YouTube

Kerstin Radde-Antweiler, Xenia Zeiler, 100

### interview

Interview with Third Faction

by *gamevironments*, 140

### research reports

Establishment of a new AAR-Seminar "Video Gaming and Religion"

by Kerstin Radde-Antweiler, 153

IASGAR: The new International Academy for the Study of Gaming and Religion

by Xenia Zeiler, 156

### game review

The Witcher 3: A Wild and Modern Hunt to Medievalise Eastern and Northern Europe

by Derek Fewster, 159





















medieval tale of griffins, dragons and other monsters. *TW3* catches the spirit of an age by making the folklore true. It provides a commendable way to try to understand the medieval mindset of the mostly unlettered, without the inherent condemnation given by modern rational historiography. The presence and use of Slavic mythology and folklore in the design of monsters, beliefs and magic objects is one of the most invigorating features of the game.

In *TW3* people have their beliefs and uncertainties, but the player/Geralt is the only totally rational and learned solver of the problems arising. Geralt being a true outsider, a witcher, makes it possible to present the protagonist as an plausible extension of the modern player in a skilfully medievalised world. Even so, not investigating the relevant sites, clues and corpses thoroughly will sometimes subtly lead the Geralt astray and the player into incomplete solutions, possibly without the gamer ever realising it, just like in real life.



Figure 8: Talking to a farmer who believes in a brand new deity. Will you believe him?

Adding to a relative sense of realism is that there are no divine interventions, no avatars of gods, ever. Beside of mostly northern and eastern pagan beliefs and folk lore, without any classical pantheon, there is only one organized religion present, the fanatic Order of the Holy Flame, This creed provides clear references to Christianity, especially to the inquisition and elements of dogmatic intolerance. However, interestingly enough, there is no analogue of Christ in the religion of the Order of the Holy Flame. The rigorous hierarchical organization is purging the main town in the game, Novigrad, by burning books and undesired people, as well as hunting “witches”, i.e. anyone associated with magic, herbs, paganism and wisdoms of the old. “We must forge a new morality – or rid ourselves from morality altogether”, a preacher of the Order claims. Certain dialogues show that this new morality has a rather strong relation to Marxism as well. “Religion is the opiate of the masses! The gods are dead! Thus speaks Master Friedrich of Oxenfurt!”, the same preacher states.



















---

<http://armedgamer.com/2015/05/the-witcher-3-has-a-sex-problem/>,  
<https://medium.com/@adrianchm/feminist-frequency-and-the-witcher-3-part-deux-253f8faa45e0>,  
<http://kotaku.com/the-complicated-women-of-the-witcher-3-1711003491>,  
<http://techraptor.net/content/witcher-3-sexism-experience-taking>,  
<http://www.loadthegame.com/2015/05/28/sexism-witcher-3-polygon-article-got-wrong/> and  
<http://www.polygon.com/2015/5/13/8533059/the-witcher-3-review-wild-hunt-PC-PS4-Xbox-one>, all  
accessed 25 September 2015.