

RC 22 Elections

President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Board 2018-2022



Instructions



- ☞ To vote, please use the link in the email you will soon receive from SurveyMonkey
- ☞ As a member, you should vote (or abstain) for:
 - ☞ President
 - ☞ Secretary/Treasurer
 - ☞ 2 representatives for each region, independently of where you are based.
 - ☞ E.g., if you are in Europe, you should vote for your European representative, **and also** for the Asia/Pacific, African, etc board members.
- ☞ Candidates whose name are marked with *, are running for a 2nd term
- ☞ The election will be open between April 25th and May 9th
- ☞ Results will be officially announced on or about May 14th



Candidates



President

Afe Adogame

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

I am honored to be nominated to the elective position of President and consider it a privilege to serve the ISA-RC22, a role that gives opportunity to bring my experience in another capacity, having gained deeper insight and understanding of the many challenges and opportunities that organizations grapple with on an ongoing basis. I therefore accept this nomination with great passion and enthusiasm. If elected as President, I promise to discharge my duties and assignments faithfully and to the best of my ability, in representing the needs and interests of the RC22 Committee within the ISA. I shall work, in conjunction with the RC22 Board, to further promote international collaboration and intercultural exchange between scholars; explore new mentoring strategies for early-career scholars/graduate researchers in contributing to the sociology of religion globally, and in their participation at ISA/RC22 programs. I aim to serve the RC22 membership with dependability, integrity, and distinction.

Maxwell M. Upton Professor of Christianity and Society at the Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, USA. He teaches in the History and Ecumenics Department, and Religion and Society Program with emphasis on sociology of religion. He earned his PhD in the History of Religions from University of Bayreuth, Germany. He was Associate Professor of Religious Studies/World Christianity and Director International, New College, University of Edinburgh, UK, until August 2015. In recent years, he also served as visiting professor, Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies, University of Bayreuth, Germany; Research Institute for Theology and Religion, University of South Africa; and Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. Prior appointments also include the Department for the Study of Religion/Institute of African Studies, University of Bayreuth, Germany; Harvard University's Center for the Study of World Religions, USA; and, Department of Religions, Lagos State University, Nigeria. Adogame's broad teaching/research interests include interrogating new dynamics of religious experiences and expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora; the interconnectedness between religion and migration, globalization, politics, economy, media, and the civil society. He served as Secretary/Treasurer, RC22 Sociology of Religion, International Sociological Association (2010–2014).



Secretary/Treasurer

Anna Halafoff

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

It is a great honour to be nominated as Secretary for the ISA's RC22.

I have previously served as the Secretary for the Australian Association for the Study of Religion (AASR) and am currently a Program Co-Coordinator for RC22 at the 2018 XIX ISA World Congress, together with Caroline Starkey and Sam Han. I hope to be elected in order to be of further service to the international community of sociologists of religion.

Senior Lecturer in Sociology and a member of the Alfred Deakin Institute at Deakin University, Australia. She is also a Research Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific at Monash University and of the Religion and Diversity Project at the University of Ottawa. In 2011, Anna was named a United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' Global Expert in the fields of interfaith relations and religion, conflict and peacebuilding. Her current research interests are religious diversity, interreligious relations, preventing violent extremism, education about religions and worldviews, and Buddhism in Australia. Her recent books include *The Multifaith Movement: Global Risks and Cosmopolitan Solutions* (Springer 2013) and *Education about Religions and Worldviews: Promoting Intercultural and Interreligious Understanding in Secular Societies* (Routledge, 2016 edited with Elisabeth Arweck and Daniel Boisvert).





Board





Africa

Members should vote for 2 Representatives



Lovemore Ndlovu*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I want to play an active role in the ongoing ISA research and academic endeavours in my continent. I see the position as an excellent way to be part of a team that is involved in the promotion and development of scientific activities in sociology world-wide and in facilitating international meetings and research in the field of sociology.

A committed lecturer, researcher and consultant with over 20 years of experience at leading academic institutions teaching students from various social and cultural backgrounds. My research focuses on religion in the public sphere or the interconnectedness of religion with other institutions such as religion and society, religion and politics, religion and education, etc. He is a Doctor of Education in Didactics (2010) and holds a Master of Education in Didactics, and a MA in Religious Studies, all from University of South Africa.



Michael Okyerefo*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I present my candidacy to serve on the board for another term to strengthen its work in promoting research in religion in Africa and building partnerships among researchers in our field on the continent and in other parts of the world.

Associate Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, University of Ghana. Michael Okyerefo is a Cultural Sociologist & a Sociologist of Religion, with interests in the nexus of religion and culture, and a host of socio-economic, political, and health processes in contemporary Ghana and human capital formation among Ghanaians in the Diaspora. While a sociologist by training, I also apply anthropological skills with an emphasis on fieldwork in my research, as these are skills I refined during a fully paid Fellowship on Religion and Public Culture at the University of Cambridge from October 2007 to March 2008. He has recently published in *Health Sociology Review*. He is currently on of two Board Members of Research Committee 22, representing Africa. In the current term I have promoted research in religion, reported to the board on some of the research and conference events in East and West Africa, which were relevant to our research committee, and participated in our international conferences.





Asia/Pacific

Members should vote for 2 Representatives



Hossein Godazgar

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

If given the opportunity to be a member of the Board of the RC22 as the Asian representative, I would be glad to use these skills and experience to contribute to the excellent work of the Committee.

Professor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, Dundee, United Kingdom. He has a background in Islamic studies, comparative religions, moral philosophy and sociology of religion. For his Ph.D. (1994-99), adopting Max Weber's sociology of religion and methodology, he studied the impact of religious factors on educational change in Iran via the Islamic revolution of 1979 at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, under the supervision of Professor James Beckford. Since then, as an active member of ISA and as a sociologist of religion working at both Iranian and British universities, he has been disseminating the findings of his research in the area of sociology of religion, with special reference to education, pilgrimage and practical ethics, in the forms of monograph, journal articles, book chapters and conference papers, including but not limited to the ISA (RC22) and ISSR conferences. He is currently Visiting Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology at the University of Warwick, working on a monograph titled *Social Theory, Religion and Bioethics* to be published by Brill.



Yoshihide SAKURAI *

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

As the representative in East Asian region, he has been encouraging colleagues to join in ISA meeting by holding several sessions in which East Asian scholars could exchange and collaborate among RC22.

Professor of sociology at the Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University, Japan. He obtained Ph.D in Development Studies of Thailand at Hokkaido University and he has been publishing many books about contemporary religion in Korea, China and Japan. His English paper is included in the Hokkaido University Collection of Academic Papers:

<http://eprints.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/dspace/index.jsp?locale=en>

He has been executive board member of several academic associations, such as the Japanese Association for the Study of Religion and Society (President from June 2009 to 2011 ; Chief Editor, Religion and Society from 2014 to 2016), the Hokkaido Sociological Association (President from July 2011 to June 2013), Japanese Association for Religious Studies, The Japanese Society for Thai Studies, The Japanese and Chinese Society for Sociology, RC22 of ISA, and ISSR.





Europe

Members should vote for 2 Representatives



Milda Ališauskienė

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I will serve helping to disseminate the knowledge about the sociology of religion in CEE region, and I will contribute to the fostering of RC 22 network for future research projects and conferences.

Professor at the Department of Political Science at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania. Her research interests include religion in the post-socialist society, religion and state relations, religious diversity, religious fundamentalism and new religions. She has published more than 20 scientific articles on religion in contemporary Lithuania, the Baltic States and contributed to collective monographs and studies on social exclusion of minority religions and on the process of secularization in Lithuania. In 2011 together with Ingo W. Schroeder she co-edited “Religious Diversity in Post-Soviet Society”. In 2014 after completion of the national scientific project “Cognition of Religious Diversity in Lithuania: Forms of Alternative Religiosity” funded by Lithuanian Council for Research she co-authored “Religious Diversity in Lithuania: Portraits, Festivals and Everyday Lives” (http://www.religija.lt/sites/default/files/religiju_ivairove-2014-optimizuotas.pdf) In 2015-2017 M. Ališauskienė served as a president for the International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR). Since 2014, she serves as a general secretary for the International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA). And since 2015, she serves as a member of executive board of International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). In 2016 she spent five months as a Fulbright visiting scholar at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

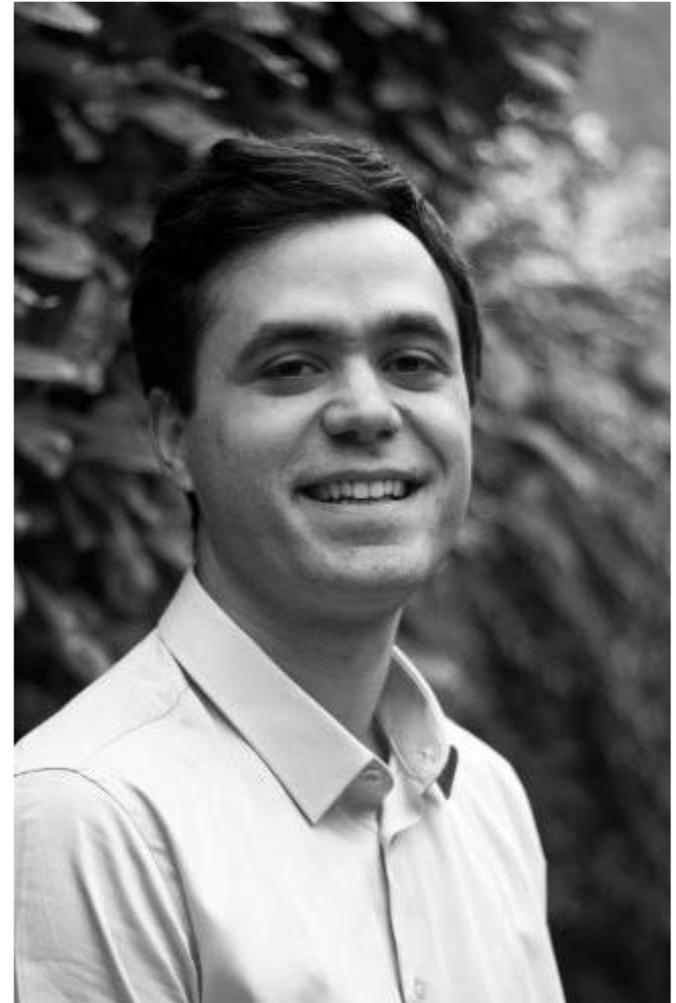


Alp Arat

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Drawing on 3 years of experience at the BSA, I would like arrange intermediate meetings between World Congresses and ensure that all RC22 members can register with the Religion Media Centre database for journalists, policymakers and the public to contact and seek their expertise more easily.

Research Associate at Cardiff University, working on the Leverhulme funded project titled 'Mapping Mindfulness in the UK. He specialized in secularisation and postsecular theory with a particular interest in contemporary practices of meditation. He was born in Turkey and spent many years living and studying in Belgium, Germany, and Hungary.. Formerly, he has held positions as associate lecturer in sociology of religion at the University of Kent and committee member at the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion study group. His work to date has been published in Social Compass, Culture and Society, and the Journal of Contemporary Religion, and his latest book 'Foundations and Futures in the Sociology of Religion' (co-edited with Dr Luke Doggett) traces how the dominance of classical sociological works on religion have been challenged over time and documents some of the key emerging trends in which these are adopted, deployed, and transformed in the field today.



Olga Breskaya*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I would like to serve the Association putting in dialogue traditions of the sociological study of religion in Eastern and Western Europe.

PhD Candidate on “Human rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance” at the University of Padova, Breskaya’s research explores the relationship between religion and human rights, integrating perspectives from the sociology of human rights and quantitative study on religious freedom in Italy. She works with testing and comparing various instruments on religious freedom analysis using statistical methods and interdisciplinary approaches. She has recently published “Divided by religion, united by gender: A socio-religious interpretation of the “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” together with G. Giordan (*Sociologia* 1, 2018), “Understanding human dignity. Theoretical groundings and empirical findings among the youth in Belarus” together with S. Döhnert (In Ziebertz & Sterkens (eds.) *Religion and Civil Human Rights in Empirical Perspective* 2018), and Sociologizing religious freedom: Comparative study of attitudes among young people in Belarus and Lithuania together with M. Ališauskienė (*Religioni e Società* 87(1), 2017).



Miroljub Jevtic*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

As RC22 Board Member (2014/2018), I want to run for second term as member of The Board of RC 22 of ISA

Born on July 12, 1955, in Vranje, Serbia. Graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade University. He has received M.A. at the Faculty of Law, Belgrade University and PhD, at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade University. He is professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade, lecturing: "Politology of Religion", "Religious communities in Serbia" and "Religious Fundamentalism and Extremism". <http://www.fpn.bg.ac.rs/en/teachers-and-staff/prof-miroljub-jevtic/> He is chief of master studies Politological studies of religion <http://www.fpn.bg.ac.rs/en/master-academic-studies-of-political-studies-of-religion-2/> and doctoral studies at the Department of Political Science Belgrade University, and founder and editor in chief of first world wide journal dedicated to Politology of Religion www.politicsandreligionjournal.com. He is a member of editorial board of "Journal of Church & State", which is published on behalf of J.M. Dawson Institute of Church - State Studies at Baylor University, USA



Victor Roudometof

STATEMENT OF CANDIDANCY

I want to participate in RC22 governance in order to foster the geographical diversity within the RC as well as to foster a greater interest in the study of non-western forms of religiosity.

Associate professor of Sociology at the University of Cyprus. His research interests include culture, globalization, religion, transnationalism and nationalism. His publication record includes over 100 articles, chapters, encyclopedia entries, book reviews & review essays. He has served as reviewer for major social science journals & as external reviewer for evaluations conducted by major research centers, international publishers & governmental organizations. He is Faculty Fellow with Yale University's *Center for Cultural Sociology*, Cyprus Correspondent for *EUREL - Sociological and Legal Data on Religion in Europe* and Cyprus Program Director for the *European Values Study*. He is also the author of four monographs and editor or co-editor of several volumes and special issues of scholarly journals. He currently serves as editorial board member in the journals *Nations and Nationalism*, *Interreligious Studies and Intercultural Theology*, *Greek Review of Social Research*, *Religions*, and the *European Journal of Social Theory*. He also serves a 2nd term as board member of European Sociological Association's Research Committee on Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology (2017-2019), as well as a 2nd term as President of the Faculty's Labor Union at the University of Cyprus (2017-2020). Full profile is available at www.roudometof.com





Latin America

Members should vote for 2 Representatives

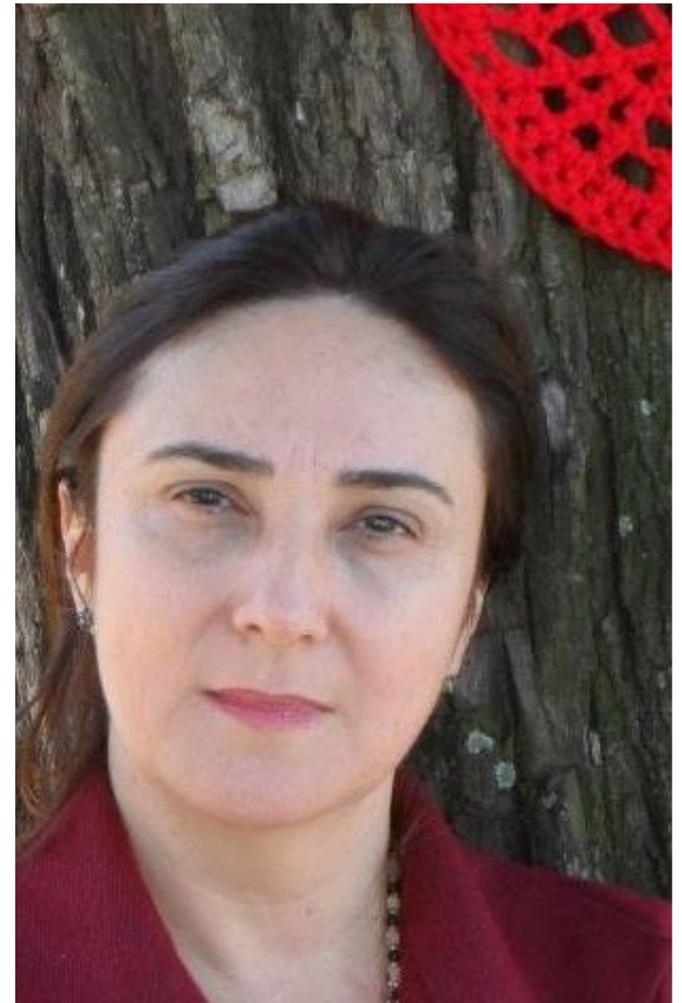


Roberta Bivar Campos

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

I will encourage and promote the participation of Latin American and Portuguese-speaking scholars, especially young researchers, in RC22 activities. Considering next ISA Forum will be in Porto Alegre (Brazil), I will work to stimulate a larger inclusion of researchers from the region in this event.

Associate Professor at the Federal University of Pernambuco and a researcher at the Brazilian National Council for Research (CNPQ). Dr Campos holds a degree in Social Sciences from the Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil, 1992), a Masters in Anthropology from the Federal University of Pernambuco (Brazil, 1995) and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of St. Andrews (UK, 2001). She was a postdoctoral research with Simon Coleman at the University of Sussex (UK, 2009-2010). Currently, she is an and a researcher and vice-leader of the Center for Studies of Christianity (UERJ) in partnership with Dr. Cecília Mariz. She is a member of the Laboratory of Contemporaneity Studies (LEC-UFPE), where she chairs the Observatory of Culture, Religiosities and Emotions (OCRE). She is a member of editorial committees of several Brazilian journals, acting as referee for international journals such as Social Compass, Journal of Contemporary Religion and Globopentecoste Studies. She specializes in secularisms, ritual and religion, emotions and morality, materiality and textuality of the sacred. Her main publications are on Catholic, Pentecostal and Afro-Indo-Brazilian fields, and her researches are concerned with how religion (through the body, emotions, texts and objects) constitutes people and their social relations.



Juan Cruz Esquivel

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

I will work hard to strengthen ties between ISA and researchers from Latin America, to promote the participation of Latin American researchers in the RC22 and ISA World Congress in general, and to spread the Latin American scientific productions in sociology of religion through the tools that ISA can provide.

PhD in Sociology, University of São Paulo, Brazil. A/Professor of Methodology of Social Research, University of Buenos Aires. Researcher for CONICET (National Council of Scientific and Technical Research), Argentina. Director of the research team 'State, Laicity and Secularization' at CONICET. President of the Association of Social Scientists of Religion of MERCOSUR (2015-2018). Chief of Staff at the Secretary for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship in Argentina (2006-2007). Director of several research projects at national and international level about Religion and politics, relationship between State-Church in Latin America. Author of more than 50 publications (books, scientific articles in international journals and book chapters).





North America

Members should vote for 2 Representatives



Jualynne Dodson*

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

I would like to spend the coming term as member of RC22's Board by helping to sustain the quality of our conferring sessions and expanding participation. I also wish to help expand the value and visibility of studying religion among graduate students and the general public.

Professor of Sociology and African American & African Studies at Michigan State University where she teaches sociological theory, qualitative research methods, and courses on the African Diaspora. She serves as founding director of the Award Winning African Atlantic Research Team and has published widely on issues of culture and religion of African descendants in the Americas. As single-author she has published *Engendering Church: Women, Power, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Roman & Littlefield 2002) and *Sacred Spaces: Religious Traditions of Oriente Cuba* (Univ. New Mexico 2008). She is co-editor of *Religion, Culture and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora* (Routledge Press, Studies in Religion Series 2017) and contributing author to several books. She presented at ISA conferring of RC22 in Durban, South Africa and ISA Forums in Compostela, Spain, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Lausanne, Switzerland. She organized a panel for the RC22 sessions in Yokohama World Congress. A list of publications and further details available at:

http://sociology.msu.edu/faculty-and-staff/tenure_stream_faculty_directory/jualynne-dodson.

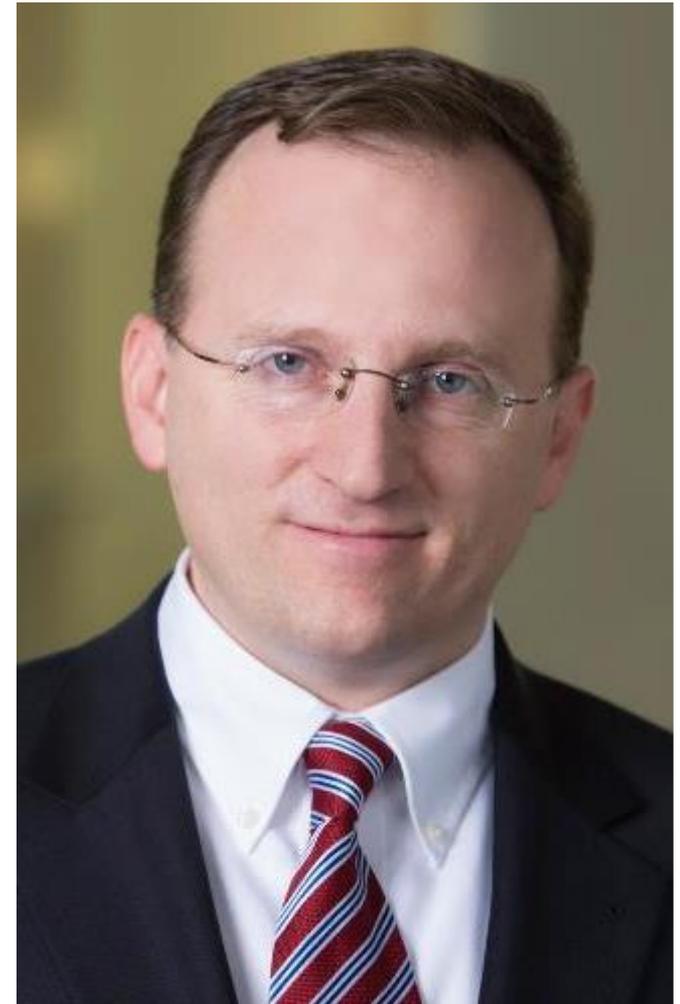


Conrad Hackett

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

I would be honored to serve as the North American board member for ISA's research committee on the sociology of religion. I want to promote and encourage excellent sociological research on topics that reach beyond the most common geographic and substantive areas.

Associate Director of Research and Senior Demographer in the religion project at Pew Research Center. He leads the religious demography team that produced recent reports on Europe's Growing Muslim Population, The Changing Global Religious Landscape, Religion and Education Around the World, The Future of World Religions, and The Gender Gap in Religion Around the World. At Pew, he organized recent conferences on Survey Research and the Study of Religion in East Asia and on Advancing the Demographic Study of Religion. He is a board member and recent program chair for the Religious Research Association as well as a recent chair of the international travel awards committee of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. His research has been recognized with prizes from the religion section of the American Sociological Association, the European Association for Population Studies and the Population Association of America. He has published in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Population and Development Review*, *Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Demographic Research*, *Religion*, and *Social Science Quarterly*. For the last two years, he was recognized as one of the most influential think tank experts on Twitter by Spanish think tank esglobal. His Ph.D. is from the Department of Sociology at Princeton University.



Tom W. Smith

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:

Durkheim noted in 1895, “Comparative sociology is not a particular branch of sociology, it is sociology itself, in so far as it ceases to be purely descriptive and aspires to account for facts.” He of course also recognized the importance of studying the role of religion in society. I share his convictions that studying religion in comparative perspective is central to understanding human society.

Director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Society at NORC, University of Chicago. Since 1980 he has been a principal investigator of the National Data Program for the Social Sciences and director of its General Social Survey (GSS). This is the largest and longest-term Sociology project supported by the National Science Foundation. He specializes in the study of societal change in comparative perspective, and is the co-founder of the International Social Survey Program (ISSP), which is the largest cross-national collaboration in the social sciences. It has conducted an international survey annually since 1985 and has involved 60 nations. He was ISSP Secretary General in 1997-2003. He chaired the drafting groups that designed the ISSP studies on religion conducted in 1991, 1998, 2008, and 2018.

Smith has authored many scholarly papers, including articles in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (4), the *Review of Religious Research* (4), the *Journal of Religion and Health* (1), and a chapter in Finke and Bader (eds.), *Faithful Measures: New Methods in the Measurement of Religion* (2017). Smith has taught at Purdue University, Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Cologne.

