



NEWSLETTER

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Important items to note from this issue:

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Letter from the President

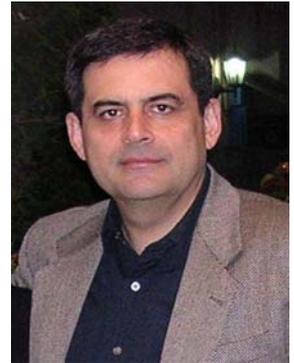
Dear members of the Sociology of Religion Research Committee (RC-22) of the International Sociological Association and dear colleagues:

We are very near our meeting at the Barcelona Forum, which is going to take place between the 5th and 8th of September 2008, regarding the general subject of “Sociological Research and Public Debate”. The program of our RC-22 is set and can be consulted by everybody. This is going to be a great chance to share ideas, opinions, analysis and points of view concerning our subject: Religion and all its “surroundings”. We are also halfway through our journey to Gothenburg, Sweden on July 11-17 2010. But before, we have another rendez-vous in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, next summer on July 27-31 2009, with the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, with which we usually share joint sessions. In Santiago de Compostela we will discuss “The Challenges of Religious Pluralism”. Therefore, we have a full agenda for the next three years and the opportunity to visualize system-

atic discussions with our colleagues in the particular themes that we study. Let's get ready for those meetings!

On this occasion, we will also have a great chance to exchange thoughts with members of other committees of the International Sociological Association who will be attending the Barcelona Forum. In our reunion there will be plenty of opportunities to increase our knowledge and share our findings. Besides our Research Committees' meetings, with subjects spanning from sociology of work to sociology of law, passing through sociology of leisure, sociology of aging and more, there will be Ad-hoc sessions, common sessions, open debates, plenary meetings, special sessions, thematic and working groups. Time is going to be scarce and at the same time possibilities for the development of our field, infinite. If you are going to be among the lucky participants, be ready for an intense gathering! If you could not come to Barcelona, prepare for our next meeting!

I don't want to end these words without thanking all the people who have contributed to the already successful organization of this meeting. First of all, to our colleagues from



Spain and in particular to the Vice-president of the International Association and head of this organization, Arturo Rodríguez Morató, who chaired the efforts of the Catalan Association and the Spanish Federation of Sociology. I also want to thank all the other members of ISA and the Council of our Research Committee, who contributed with proposals and the organizations of our sessions. To Adam Possamai, special thanks for his continuous work as General Secretary of our RC-22. Most particularly, I want to thank professor Olga Odgers, who did, with great patience, grace and sympathy the enormous work of organizing the program of our meeting in the Barcelona Forum. Thanks to all, and I hope to see you soon, members of our research Committee, either in Barcelona, in Santiago de Compostela, or in Gothenburg.

Roberto J. Blancarte
President of RC-22 of the International Sociological Association



Picture taken in Manila. From left to right: M. Stringer, A. Possamai, R. Blancarte, I. Varga, and P. Michel

Religion and the Formation of New Publics: A Mid-Term International Conference (23 to 26 January 2008) - Manila Philippines



The group of participants

The International Conference on "Religion and Formation of New Public"

was held in a working

and pleasant atmosphere at the University of Santo Thomas, the oldest university of European type in Asia. Publicity in Filipino's media and attendance at the opening session of the conference by the local political elite confirmed the significance and scientific influence of its organizing committee. The Mayor of Manila, Mr. Alfredo M Lim, warmly welcomed the participants.

The Conference was organized through plenary and parallel sessions. The list of parallel sessions only, proved how comprehensively relevant questions were addressed. All matters related to the influence of religion on the formation of new public were discussed. For example, themes such as general trends in the development of religious communities, relations between religion and violence, relations between religion and genders, theoretical aspects of the study of religion religion's researches, as well as relations between religion and ecology, mass media, culture etc.

The Conference was a multicultural and international event in the true sense. Representatives of all races, faiths and continents were present. There is no doubt that the conclusions adopted at the Conference will contribute to a better mutual understanding between followers of various religions and thus preserving peace in the World.

It is to be emphasized that Conference would not have been so successful without best endeavors of Research Committee's leaders. The engagement and contributions of Prof. Roberto Blancarte, PhD., President, Research Committee (RC 22), International Sociological Association; Prof. Esmeralda F. Sanchez, Ph.D., Presi-

dent, Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion (PASR), from local Organizing Committee; Secretary/Treasurer Professor Adam Possamai Ph.D; and Honorary President of Research Committee (RC 22) Prof. Ivan Varga, Ph.D., were highly appreciated.



Prof. Dr. Miroslav Jevtic, University of Belgrade, Prof. Esmeralda Sanchez, President of Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion - PASR, Prof. Dr. Rana P.B. Singh, Cultural Geography and Heritage Studies, Banaras Hindu University, India (from left to right)

The mid-term conference of the religious studies section of the International Sociological Association was held in the Philippines this year at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Manila. UST is the oldest University in Asia and will be celebrating its 400th anniversary in four years time (2012). The University has a colourful history and many of its alumni have gone on to become Presidents and senior government officials as well as senior religious and military figures in the Philippines. The main building around which the University has grown was once used as the headquarters of the Japanese when they invaded the country in the Second World War and underground sections of that building were used to imprison captured Allied soldiers from 1942 to when the Philippines were liberated by Allies two years later. Attendees were treated to a beautiful display of Philippine culture, including traditional songs and dances, which conference participants were invited to join in with and learn about after the presentation. Not to outdone by my principal supervisor at the University of Western Sydney, Professor Adam Possamai, I also attempted to learn a Philippine dance on stage, however, unlike my

mentor, I displayed my lack of coordination for all to see. This enjoyable opening welcome prior to the first day of proceedings included speeches by Professor Carlita Carillo, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at UTS, Professor Esmeralda Sanchez, President of the Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion, and the Mayor of Manila, Alfredo Lim. The festivities were followed by a dinner that was much appreciated by all present.

The conference was hosted by the Philippine Association for the Study of Religion (PASR) and the practical organisation of the event was a collaborative effort between UST staff members and student volunteers. In conjunction with RC22 executive board, they organised speakers and arranged for special guest, Prof. Bryan Turner, to give a workshop on the final day for graduate students to enhance their knowledge on the sociology of religion and discuss future trends. Professor Turner was Head of the Sociology faculty at Cambridge University in the UK holding the Chair formerly held by Anthony Giddens. He gave the keynote address on the topic of "Public Space and Social Conflict: Some Sociological Approaches" and very kindly offered to conduct his final workshop pro bono in extra time.



Prof. Dr. Rana P.B. Singh, Cultural Geography and Heritage Studies, Banaras Hindu University, India, Prof. Dr. Ivan Varga, Professor of Sociology, Queen's University, Canada, Prof. Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Department of Anthropology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Roberto Blancarte, President of Research Committee (RC 22), International Sociological Association (from left to right)

Religion and the Formation of New Publics: A Mid-Term International Conference

This lecture, which covered a range of issues and debates over its two-hour duration, was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The tone of the conference, which was often characterised by the tension between classic sociology and the tendency toward debate of a philosophical or theological nature, was exemplified in question time at this workshop when several persons asking questions took the opportunity to air their views on the connection between religion and sociology to Professor Turner, who more than adequately centred the discussion on the sociology of the body and its primal place in the study of displayed religion and/or piety. I was reminded that for sociology to hold a place in the study of religion and the religious, we must not forget the importance of social influences on how people act within such a context. Professor Turner said that questions which have dominated the secularisation debate about what people believe should be replaced by studies about what people actually do. In this sense, the conference provided renewed interest for me in early twentieth century debates when sociology separated from the study of history and Weber separated the rational elements of religion and their institutionalisation by churches from the way the masses responded and reacted to this officialdom.



University of Santo Thomas, the oldest in Asia, founded in 1611.

The conference theme was "Religion and Formation of New Publics". The term "new publics" was coined by

C. Wright Mills in perhaps his most famous work, *The Sociological Imagination* (Mills, 1959:72), and it refers to what was understood in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as wider society or the population in general. Publics gradually became known as "the masses" with the advent of the

science of Sociology and the seminal writings of Sociology's forefathers such as Marx, Weber, and others. Renewed interest in the term appears to have been generated by the need to describe populations that have arisen with the advent of the Internet and cyberspace, which may or may not have physical or geographical borders or locations, but who nevertheless are a burgeoning social reality in late-modern or post-modern times. As identity becomes fluid and changing and multiple identities are possible in cyber-landscapes that invite connections or interconnectedness with others, new ways of looking at "publics" are needed and the conference sought to discuss these changes at the interface of religion and spirituality. The relation between religion and "publics" is not new, of course. As far back as the famous book by St. Augustine, "City of God Against the Pagans", "publics" were described as "the hearts and minds of men" in accord with the religious theme and belief of that work rather than a specific nation state.

After further opening addresses and Professor Turner's keynote lecture on the first day of the conference, the first plenary session was opened by Dr. Rana B. Singh, Professor of Cultural Geography and Heritage Studies at Benares Hindu University in India and by Dr. Ivan Varga, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Queens University, Canada. This session was chaired by Professor Adam Possamai from the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Sydney and was followed by parallel sessions involving a variety of topics covering religious institutions, issues of gender and religion, popular and indigenous religious expressions, the interface of sacred and secular discourses as well as religion and urban modernities. Day Two discussions covered global flows and religious encounters; religion and media representations; religion, territoriality and claims for 'space'; as well as attitudes, cultures and orientations of a religious nature in modern society. The third and final day of parallel sessions at the conference discussed theoretical issues in the study of religion, religion and dis-

courses on peace and violence, the impact of religiosities and spiritualities in social life and religious education in modern society. Many of these discussions were topical being pertinent to the influence of religion on global poverty and 'terrorism' and the need for increased dialogue between religions to counter these threats. It was interesting to hear how discussion groups often contained talks on both ideology and practical sociology, which gave rise to lively debates on the merits of both in end of session forum discussions.

The debate at one well attended forum session following a challenge that we might be seeing the 'end of ontology' in the philosophical underpinnings of the sociology of religion highlighted the fact that while we stand on the shoulders of giants in such discussions, there is always the need to be critical of ideology and philosophy while not moving too quickly to remove the brilliant work of past masters. Connection between ontology, epistemology and religion were renewed for me in this debate, particularly in respect of the way thinkers as far back as Descartes and Brentano linked phenomenology and religion as precursors to discussions in modernity about the need for religion in the social or public sphere in modern times. These topics, while relevant to religious and theological debate, led me to wonder about their place in sociology today and the establishment of sociology as an empirical science. Put simply, this conference held interests for everybody who attended and left me thinking that the sociology of religion is in good shape when scholars from around the world can discuss such a broad range of issues in a healthy and critical atmosphere. I was left with a feeling that sociology continues to hold a very important place in the religious context, embracing as it does the study of 'mankind' in all its cultural, religious and social aspects. I look forward to returning to UTS for its 400th birthday in a few years time.

Brian Salter, PhD Candidate, University of Western Sydney

First ISA Forum of Sociology Sociological Research and Public Debate Barcelona, Spain September 5 - 8, 2008 — Program

Research Committee on Sociology of Religion RC22

Main theme: Religious Actors and Public Debates

Programme Coordinators

Roberto Blancarte, El Colegio de México, Mexico, blancart@colmex.mx

Olga Odgers, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, odgers@colef.mx

Session 1: Secular states, civil and religious freedoms

Chair: Roberto Blancarte, El Colegio de México, México

blancart@colmex.mx

Presenters:

PART 1

Emerson Giumbelli, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, eaqi@terra.com.br : *The monument of Christ the Redeemer (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil): reflections on secularism and religious pluralism.*

Dan Dungaciu, University of Bucharest, Romania, dan.dungaciu@gmail.com dunga-ciu.dan@unibuc.ro : *Religion and public space in the former USSR - the case of R. of Moldova.*

Fatma Sündal, Anadolu University, Turkey, fsundal@anadolu.edu.tr : *Sufi Orders in the Republican Era of Turkey: A Broken Commitment?*

Aidé García Hernández, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, A. C., México politicaspublicas@cddmx.org : *El Estado laico y la salud de las Mujeres.*

Alberta Giorgi, Università di Milano Bicocca, Italy, alberta.giorgi@unimi.it : *Political parties' discourses concerning "Laicity" in Italy.*

Roberto J. Blancarte, El Colegio de México, México. blancart@colmex.mx. *The Gap between secularisation and "laicity" in Latin America.*

PART 2

Anja Hennig, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany, anhen-nig@yahoo.de : *Bioethics, the Catholic Church and the State in Liberal Democracies.*

Carlos Garma, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Iztapalapa, México ganc@yahoo.com.mx : *State Policies and Religious Diversity in Latin America Compared.*

Juan Cruz Esquivel, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, patacon@fibertel.com.ar: *Estado laico en Argentina: ¿realidad o utopía?*

Maria das Dores Campos Machado, José Pedro Simões, Luciana Zucco, Fernanda Delvallas Picolo, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, mddcm@uol.com.br : *The religious leaderships and the sexual policy in Brazil*

Edgar Antonio López, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, lopez@javeriana.edu.co : *El Estado liberal y la construcción de una sociedad postsecular en Colombia.*

María Consuelo Mejía, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, A. C., mariam.mejia@gmail.com: *The abortion debate in Mexico; the Catholic bishops and the secular State.*

Felipe Gaytán Alcalá, Universidad La Salle, México, fgaytan@ci.ulsal.mx, fgaytan@colmex.mx: *(Des) (en) cubrir el riesgo en el tiempo social: cultos religiosos y percepción sobre la incertidumbre en la sociedad contemporánea.*

Session 2: Migrants, believers as new socioreligious actors

Chair: Olga Odgers, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, odgers@colef.mx

Janice McLean, University of Edinburgh, UK, J.A.McLean-1@sms.ed.ac.uk : *Jesus is all I need: An examination of social and cultural capital formation within West Indian Immigrant Pentecostal churches in New York City and London.*

Els Vanderwaeren, University of Antwerp, Belgium, Els.Vanderwaeren@ua.ac.be: *A religious and empowering discourse among "Muslimahs" in Flanders revealed.*

Hiroshi Kojima, Waseda University, Japan, kojima@waseda.jp : *Determinants of Religious Beliefs and Practices of Muslim Migrants in Tokyo Metropolitan Area.*

Miriam Schader, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany, mschade@gwdg.de : *Off the Beaten track of the fundamentalism debate: religious social capital as a resource for immigrant political participation.*

Manuela Canton, Universidad de Sevilla, España,

mcanton@us.es, y Monica Cornejo, Universidad Complutense, España, cornejovalle@yahoo.com : *Transnacionalismo religioso pentecostal. Políticas institucionales y redes migratorias bolivianas.*

Maria Esther Fernández Mostaza, Gloria García Romeral Moreno, Clara Fons i Duocastella, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, España, MariaEsther.Fernandez@uab.cat : *Religious Problems of Migrants at School: The Blatant and the not-so*

Olga Odgers Ortiz, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, México, odgers@colef.mx : *La construcción social del espacio a través de las prácticas religiosas en el contexto de la migración México/Estados Unidos.*

Session 3: Ethnicity, religiosity and beliefs in contemporary world

Chair: Daniel Gutiérrez-Martínez, El Colegio

Mexiquense, a.c., México dgtierrezcolmex@yahoo.fr

PART 1

Noel Clycq, University of Antwerp, Belgium, noel.clycq@ua.ac.be: *The central role of religion in the construction of ethnic identity*

Flávio Munhoz Sofiati, Université de São Paulo, Brésil, flaviosofiati@usp.br: *Weber et Gramsci: éléments sociologiques pour une théorie de la religion.*

Ramiro Jaimes Martínez, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, México, rjai-mesm@yahoo.com: *Mundanización de los espacios sagrados y sacralización del espacio público en Tijuana, Baja California.*

Damian Omar Martínez Arias, Universidad de Murcia, España, doma@um.es: *Nuevas formas de experiencia y renovación epistemológica en las ciencias sociales: El caso de la "identidad asociacional".*

Daniel Gutierrez-Martinez, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico, dgtierrezcolmex@yahoo.fr: *Ethnicity, religiosity and beliefs in contemporary world.*

Daniel Fainstein, Universidad Hebraica, México, danielhugo51@hotmail.com: *Secularización, etnicidad y profecía: la desprivatización religiosa en el pensamiento judío moderno.*

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PART 2

Irina Kargina, Moscow University, Russia, kargina@mqimo.ru: *Is Orthodoxy a dominant Component of the Russian Identity? Mir*

Mirosljub Jevtic, Belgrade University, Serbia, jevtic.miro@sbb.co.yu: *The Role of Religion In the Identity of South Slav Nations*

Gavril Flora, Georgina Szilagyi, Partium Christian University, Romania, gavrilflora@yahoo.com: *Ethnicity, Religiosity and Generational Change in Post-Communist Romania.*

Carolina Rivera Farfán, CIESAS, México, crive-ra@ciesas.edu.mx: *Nuevas señales, emergentes ritualizaciones e impetus sanadores en las comunidades péñeles.*

Geraldine Mossière, Université de Montréal, Canada, geraldine.mossiere@umontreal.ca: *Religiosity in Congolese Pentecostal groups: emerging socioeconomic categories within modernity*

Session 4: Alternative religious movements and public space

Chair: Daniel Gutierrez-Martinez, El Colegio Mexiquense, a.c., México
dgutierrezcolmex@yahoo.fr

Otto Maduro, Drew University Theological School, US, omaduro10@aim.com: *Becoming Pastora: Latina Pentecostal Women's Stories from Newark (NJ, U.S.A.)*

Guenole Labey Guimard, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, France, g.labey.guimard@gmail.com: *Alternative religious movements and public space*

Virgilio Aquino Rivas, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Philippines, ver-linc3@yahoo.com: *The Future of Religion: Intersections of Rorty, Vattimo, and Zabala.*

Daniel Gutiérrez-Martínez El Colegio de México, a.c., México dgutierrezcolmex@yahoo.fr: *Alternative religious movements and public space.*

Miguel Hernández Madrid, El Colegio de Michoacán, México, miguelh@colmich.edu.mx: *Los practicantes del budismo Mahayana en México ¿Creyentes o sujetos de conocimiento?*

Session 5: Popular religion, New media and New Public Spaces.

Chair: Adam Possamai, University of Western Sydney, Australia, a.possamai@uws.edu.au

Isabelle Jonveaux: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, France and Università degli studi di Trento, Italy, jonveaux@ehess.fr: *A Lenten retreat on the Internet: can Internet be a place for the modern religious?*

Aini Linjakumpu, The University of Lapland, Finland, Aini.Linjakumpu@ulapland.fi: *Alternative Islamic Voices: Muslim Sexual Minorities in the Internet.*

Hanisah Bte Abdullah Sani, University of Singapore, Singapore, hanisah@nus.edu.sg: *Innovations in Tariqa Movements.*

Adam Possamai, University of Western Sydney, Australia, a.possamai@uws.edu.au: *Popular and Hyper-Real Religions on the Internet.*

Session 6: Religious conversion

Chair: Esmeralda Sanchez, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, emysanchez2001@yahoo.com

PART 1

Geraldine Mossière, Université de Montréal, Canada, geraldine.mossiere@umontreal.ca: *Critiques of Catholicism in the Narratives of Québécois converts to Islam*

Enzo Pace, University of Padova, Italy, vincenzo.pace@unipd.it: *Convert, revert, pervert.*

Ziad Fahed, Notre Dame University, Lebanon, ziadfahed@ndu.edu.lb: *Religious conversion in the Arab world, the case of the Middle East.*

M.S. Ahluwalia, H.P. University, India, m_s_ahluwalia@hotmail.com: *Religious conversion through cultural absorption: a case study of sikhism and hindu majority syndrome.*

David Radford, Bishkek Kyrgyzstan, Flinders University of South Australia, Australia, david@radford.id.au: *Understanding 'The Religious Convert': An unsuspecting victim of external forces to manipulate change or a conscious actor applying external forces to help bring about change?*

PART 2

Tudor Pitulac, Sebastian Năstută, Petre Andrei University of Iasi, Romania, sebastian.nastuta@gmail.com: *Look, that's what I'll do in Paradise. Social processes involved in building up the image of Paradise by Jehovah's Witnesses.*

Renata Furman, Jagiellonian University, Poland, furman.renata@gmail.com: *Transformation of Identity in Converts' Biography.*

Javier Rosón, Universidad de Granada, España, fjiron@ugr.es: *"Conversos" al Islam en el Albalayzín granadino.*

Sol Tarrés Chamorro, Universidad de Huelva, España, soltarres@hotmail.com: *Las conversiones al Islam en España, 1995-2006.*

Emanuel Gutmann, Netanel Fisher, Hebrew University, Israel, gutmann@013.net: *Conversion as a State function: the case of Israel.*

Session 7: Religious publics, social capital and diasporas

Chair: Afe Adogame, University of Edinburgh, UK, a.adogame@ed.ac.uk

David O. Ogungbile, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, dogunqb@fas.harvard.edu: *Filling in the Space: Creativity, Innovation, Negotiation and African Religious Communities in Boston Area.*

J K Ayantayo, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, kehindjeacob@yahoo.com: *African Christianity and Strategies for Social, Cultural and Capital Formation in Nigerian Space: a Functional Approach*

Ibigholade Simon Aderibigbe, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA, gbo-laade@yahoo.com: *Diasporic Religious Communities as Agencies of Empowerment and Social Mobility: the Redeemed Christian Church of God, North America Model*

Onakuse Stephen, Eamon Lenihan and Mike Fitzgibbon, University College, Cork, Ireland, s.onakuse@ucc.ie: *Impact of New Generation Churches on Poverty in Nigeria Development Process*

Michael Perry Kweku Okyerefo, Visiting Fellow, Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, UK, mpko2@cam.ac.uk; okyerefo@ug.edu.gh: *Äusländer! Pentecostalism as Social Capital Network for Ghanaians in Vienna*

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Afe Adogame, The University of Edinburgh, UK, a.adogame@ed.ac.uk: *Towards a Christian Disneyland! Emplacement and the Politics of Religious Place-making in the new African Diaspora*

Session 8: Transformation of church-state relations in Europe

Chair: Sinisa Zrinscak, University of Zagreb, Croatia, sinisa.zrinscak@zg.t-com.hr

PART I

Mihail Anton, Carol I National Defense University, Romania, mihailanton@yahoo.com: *The role of cultural factors in the church-state relations. The Romanian case through comparative cross-cultural analysis.*

Luca Diotallevi, University of Rome 3, Italy, ldiotallevi@educ.uniroma3.it: *Church-State Relations in Europe and the Crisis of the "European Social Model".*

Daniela Kalkandjieva, University of Sofia, Bulgaria, kalkandjieva@yahoo.com: *The Transformation of Church-State Relations in Bulgaria.*

Michaela Moravčíková, Institute for State-Church Relations, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, moravcikova@gmail.com: *Divergences in the Development of State-Church Relations in Slovakia and Czechia after the separation of „Czechoslovakia“*

Victor Roudometof, University of Cyprus, Cyprus, roudomet@ucy.ac.cy: *Orthodox Christianity and Modernity in Cyprus.*

PART 2

Cosima Rughinis, University of Bucharest, Romania, cosima.rughinis@gmail.com: *Separation of Church and State in Romania: the "moral", the "normal" and the "natural".*

Miroslav Tizík, Academy of Science, Slovakia, miroslav.tizik@savba.sk: *Transnational Integration as a Process of Decomposition of the Secular State.*

Celia Valiente, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain, valiente@polsoc.uc3m.es: *Transformation of Church-State Relations in Spain since 1930s: the case of preschool policies.*

Sinisa Zrinscak, University of Zagreb, Croatia, sinisa.zrinscak@zg.t-com.hr: *Transformation*

of societies and transformation of Church-State relations in Central and Eastern European countries: convergences and divergences.

Session 9: Islamism: The rise of a new enemy?

Chair: Riaz Hassan, Flinders University, Australia, riaz.hassan@flinders.edu.au

Shyamal Kumar Das, Minot State University, USA, shyamalkumardas@minotstateu.edu: *Self-Expression, values, religious practices and socio-historical contexts: The effects of contextual interactions on Islamism in Algeria and Pakistan.*

Daniel Platek, Jagiellonian Univ. Krakow, Poland, daniel.platek@wp.pl: *Islamism and the rise of new media in the Middle East: The case of Iranian nuclear program.*

Melanie Reddig, Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Germany, reddig@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de: *Power struggle in the religious field of Islam: Modernization, globalization and the rise of Islamism.*

Derya Gocer, Department of International Relations, London, d.gocer@lse.ac.uk, Melike Kara, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, France, Zelay Ozdemir Samur, Department of International Relations, London: *Researching political Islam: Old debates and new agendas.*

Büke Koyuncu, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul, Turkey, bukekoyuncu@gmail.com: *Integration of Islamism in modernization through Capitalism; "Modernist Islamist elites" in Turkey.*

Riaz Hassan, Flinders University, Australia, riaz.hassan@flinders.edu.au: *Antisemitism and the Arabs.*

Session 10: Religious pluralism in the public debate and in the public area: Similarities or tensions?

Chair: Claude Proeschel, GSRL, France, claud.proeschel@wanadoo.fr

PART I

Maria M. Griera, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, marqriera@gmail.com: *The "religiously correct" construction: local policies and interfaith groups.*

Ana Burgués, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, nit_dragons@yahoo.es, Lena de Botton, CADIS, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France & Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, lenadebotton@gmail.com, Olga Serradell, CADIS, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France, serradell@ehess.fr: *Multicultural laicity (secularity). A proposal to the coexistence among the religious groups.*

Corinne Torrekens, Université libre de Bruxelles, Bel-

gium, corinne.torrekens@ulb.ac.be: *Debates surrounding 'public space' and 'muslim ethnicity': the inclusion of Muslim groups in the local public space.*

Lise Kanckos, Åbo Akademi University, Finland, : lkanckos@abo.fi: *Reproduction and Religion: Ethics, Subjective Politics and the Church.*

PART II

Roberto Cipriani, University Rome 3, Italy, Roberto.cipriani@tlc.uniroma3.it: *Religious pluralism in Italy.*

Lucia Kusumadewi, University of Indonesia, Indonesia, lucia_raith@yahoo.com: *The Struggle of New Religious Movements in Indonesia's Public Space.*

Danoye Oguntola-Laguda, Lagos State University, Lagos Nigeria, danoyeoguntola@yahoo.com: *Religion, conflicts and violence in a pluralistic society: A study of interreligious interactions in Nigeria.*

Session 11: Challenges of the public in old and new forms of popular religion

Chair: Eloisa Martin, eloisamartin@hotmail.com

João Valença, Alexandre Brasil Fonseca, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, joaovalenc@uol.com.br abrazil@ufrj.br: *Social Support, Religiosity and Popular Education in Healt: Life in a Candomblé Terreiroiro.*

María Eugenia Patiño López, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, México, mepati-no@correo.uaa.mx: *Religión y ciudad: las imágenes religiosas itinerantes en colonias de nueva creación.*

Isabelle Jonveaux: Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, France and Università degli studi di Trento, Italy, jonveaux@ehess.fr: *The monasteries' public and the challenge for the monks.*

Salvatore Mattu, Universitat de Barcelona, España, smattu@ub.edu: *La Religión Popular en Gramsci.*

Eduardo M. Domingo, De La Salle University-Manila, Philippines, domingoe@dlsu.edu.ph: *Surviving the Homogenization of Globalization: Animistic Religions in Thailand, Japan and the Philippines.*

Olga Breskaya University of Brest, Belarus, olga.breskaya@gmail.com: *Well known Religious actors: new aspects in the research of their representations in public space.*

THE CHALLENGES OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM: SISR Conference, Santiago de Compostella 27-31 July 2009 — Joint sessions RC22/SISR

Call for Papers

**Deadline: October 31st,
2008**

www.sisr.org

Toward an index of "laicity" in the world / Vers un index de laïcité mondiale

Convenor: Roberto Blancarte (El Colegio de Mexico, blancart@colmex.mx)

Is it possible to build an index of laicity valid for every country in the world, no matter the cultural differences? The purpose of this session will be to explore the theoretical and methodological consequences of this goal. Scholars coming from different cultural areas are welcomed to expose their own particular experiences.

Est-il possible de construire un index valide de la laïcité qui puisse être appliqué à tous les pays du monde, indépendamment de leurs différences culturelles ? Cette session explorera les conséquences théoriques et méthodologiques qui peuvent émerger suite à cette application. Les universitaires et autres érudits issus de régions culturelles différentes sont les bienvenus pour exposer leur propre expérience particulière.

Religion, migration and diaspora / La religion, l'immigration et la diaspora

Convenor: Professor Inger Furseth (KIFO Centre for Church Research, Norway; Center for Religion and Civic Studies, University of Southern California, inger.furseth@kifo.no)

Documentation on the situation of the new religious minorities in the West has been growing. An important theme is the ways in which migration transforms the religious values and the organization of the religious community. The new context in which migrants find themselves and the new discourses to which they are exposed may also transform the religious traditions. Finally, the growth of new religious minorities may contribute to a transformation of the religious landscapes in the West.

This workshop explores the importance of migration, the context of the host community on transforming immigrant religion, as well as these religions' effect on the host societies. The aim of the workshop is to provide a forum for scholars to present papers on religion, migration and Diaspora. Especially welcome are papers discussing new theoretical approaches, but also empirical works are welcome.

Les documentations concernant la situation des nouvelles minorités religieuses en occident se sont développées. Un de leurs thèmes importants est la manière dont l'immigration transforme les valeurs et l'organisation de ces communautés religieuses importées. Le nouveau contexte dans lequel les immigrés se retrouvent et les nouveaux discours auxquels ils sont exposés peuvent également contribuer à transformer ces traditions religieuses. Finalement, l'augmentation en nombre de ces nouvelles religions minoritaires peuvent également contribuer à changer le paysage religieux occidental.

Cette session explore l'importance de l'immigration et le contexte de la communauté d'accueil sur la transformation

des religions immigrées, et également les effets de ces religions sur les sociétés d'accueil. Le but de cette session est d'offrir un forum pour les universitaires et autres érudits de présenter une communication sur la religion, l'immigration et la diaspora. Les communications présentant des approches théoriques récentes seront particulièrement bien reçues, ce qui n'empêche pas ceux ayant un focus plus empiriques d'être également bienvenus.

Detraditionalization— Retraditionalization / Detraditionalisation--- Retraditionalisation

Convenor: Ivan Varga (Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada, vargai@rogers.com)

The aim of the session is to inquire into the complex processes accompanying cultural globalization. Many students of globalization and postmodernity claim that traditions are weakening or disappearing and increasingly lose their relevance for the culture and/or everyday life of society. The most radical proponents of detraditionalization consider this process unstoppable.

Using an analogy with Roland Robertson's idea of *glocalization* one has to explore not only the survival of local, national, religious traditions but also their strengthening, respectively adapting to the new social—economic—cultural conditions.

THE CHALLENGES OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM: SISR Conference, Santiago de Compostella 27-31 July 2009 — Joint sessions RC22/SISR (Cont)

Le but de cette session est de se renseigner sur les processus complexes qui accompagnent la mondialisation culturelle. Beaucoup de chercheurs sur la mondialisation et sur la condition postmoderne prétendent que les traditions s'affaiblissent ou disparaissent et perdent de plus en plus leur importance lorsqu'il est question de la culture et de la vie quotidienne d'une société. Les adhérents les plus radicaux de la détraditionnalisation envisagent ce processus comme inévitable.

Par analogie avec l'idée de Roland Robertson sur la glocalisation, cette session développe l'idée que l'on doit explorer non seulement la survie des traditions locales, nationales et religieuses mais également leur affirmation, voir adaptation, aux nouvelles conditions sociales, économiques et culturelles.

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Welfare and Values. Transitions related to Religion, Minorities, and Gender/

Le bien-être social et les valeurs. Les transitions en connexion avec la religion, les minorités et le sexe.

Conveners: Grace Davie (University of Exeter, UK, g.r.c.davie@exeter.ac.uk) and Siniša Zrinščak (University of Zagreb, sinisa.zrinscak@zg.htnet.hr)

This session will present the recently completed Welfare and Values in Europe project (WaVe). WaVe - funded by the European Commission's FP6 - started from the assumption that values cannot be grasped independently from practice. Within this framework, it addressed majority-minority relations (particularly in relation to gender, different religious groups, and different types of minorities) through the prism of welfare. Who is, and who is not included in the welfare systems of modern European societies? The aim of this session is to give an account of the project as a whole: its inception, its methodology, its principal findings, its implications for policy and its recommendations for future research. The pros and cons of the FP6 model of working will receive particular attention.

Cette session présentera les résultats du projet Européen WaVe sur le bien-être social et les valeurs. WaVe – qui a été fondé par la commission Européenne FP6 – a travaillé à partir de l'hypothèse que les valeurs ne peuvent être comprises indépendamment de leurs pratiques. Suivant ce paradigme, ce projet explore les relations entre les groupes majoritaires et minoritaires (tout particulièrement en relation avec le sexe, les différents groupes religieux, et les différents types de groupes minoritaires (à travers le prisme du bien-être social). Qui fait partie des différentes sécurités sociales des divers pays Européens contemporain, qui ne le fait pas ? Le but de cette session est de donner un aperçu du projet dans son entier : sa genèse, sa méthodologie, ses résultats principaux, ses implications pour divers règlements, et ses recommandations pour de pos-

Advertisement: Diaspora Mailing List

Diaspora@abo.fi is a specialist discussion and information channel for scholars interested in immigration and religion. It had 440 members (April 2008) from six continents, representing several disciplines and, especially, anthropology, religious studies and sociology. The aim of this mailing list is to provide an easy forum for discussion and information, e.g., on the following topics: religion & immigrant communities, ethnicity, globalisation and international migration. The list also includes information on new publications, conferences, seminars, etc.

Membership subscriptions: Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, tuomas.martikainen@abo.fi

List info: <http://www.diaspora.fi/mailling-list.html>

2007-2008 Books Published by RC22 Members

- Beckford, James A. and N. J. Demerath III** (eds) (2007). *The SAGE Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. London, Sage.
- Beckford, James A., Danièle Joly & Farhad Khosrokhavar** (2007). *Les musulmans en prison en Grande Bretagne et en France*. Louvain, Presses Universitaires de Louvain.
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- Brouwer, R., Groot, C.N. de, Sengers, E., Stoppels, S., & Roest, H. de** (2007). *Levend lichaam: Dynamiek van christelijke geloofsgemeenschappen in Nederland*. Kampen: Kok.
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