Letter from the President

Greetings from the ISA! This has been quite a year for the Research Committee for the Sociology of Religion. We had a wonderful World Congress in Yokohama, Japan. We have a newly elected Board. We have a redesigned website. And we are looking forward to our next ISA conference, in Vienna in July, 2016.

The World Congress was big. RC22 held 21 sessions plus our Business Meeting. About 280 scholars proposed papers, of which we accepted nearly 230. (A poster session and two round-table session let us host so many.) Unfortunately, about a third of those were unable to afford the trip. In the end, about 150 scholars presented at our sessions and many more attended. Personally, I found the intellectual tone to be excellent. The presentations were worthwhile, audience members asked meaningful questions, and the discussion was often deep. I want to thank the session organizers (listed on pages 3-5) for gathering a fine crop of papers. I particularly want to thank Esmeralda Sanchez for her work as Co-Program Coordinator. She and I divided the labor, each of us contributing our skills.

I want to make a special comment about the large number of younger scholars who presented on the RC22 program. I was pleased to see so many new faces doing such good research. I had an especially good set of conversations with the participants in the Poster Session. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about their work one-on-one.

RC22 Board. Every four years, we elect a new governing board and officers. As your new President, I want to welcome Eloisa Martín as your new Secretary-Treasurer, Per Pettersson as your new Vice-President, and seven new members to the Board. They are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

They are also listed on our redesigned website: www.isa-rc22.org. Besides looking a lot nicer than the old one, this website contains information about the Research Committee, notices of upcoming events, and so on. It also now houses Adam Possamai’s e-mail list. Adam has moved that list to our blog page at www.isa-rc22.org/news-events/. If you’re not already getting our weekly notices of conferences, publishing opportunities, and so one, visit that page and sign up to receive them. The page also tells you how to add your events to the list. Thanks to Adam for carrying this project for so long.

Finally, the ISA is planning its next big event, the 3rd Forum of Sociology. It will be held in Vienna, Austria, in July, 2016. RC22 is planning to host as many sessions as we can. Read about it starting on page 6, below.

And check out our Secretary-Treasurer’s request for a Deputy Editor of this newsletter (page 10). This is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic PhD student. We’ll even cover your ISA membership fees.

Best wishes to you all,

Jim Spickard
University of Redlands
president@isa-rc22.org
jim_spickard@redlands.edu
Michiaki Okuyama led a group from RC-22 to Kamakura. It was a rainy afternoon but a wonderful place to visit.

Yokohama was a beautiful venue for our conference. Hot and humid, but with good facilities and excellent intellectual stimulation. Yasukazu Kano and Ryutaro Kaneko performed on traditional Japanese instruments to open the event.

Adam Possamai, Jim Spickard, and Miroljub Jevtic

RC-22 Roundtable on Religion and Politics

RC-22 Session on Neo-Liberalism and Religious Organizations

RC-22 Session on Religion and Ethnic Identities

Photo credits: Miroljub Jevtic, Jim Spickard, ISA Secretariat
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014:

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM,
The Impact of Neoliberal Policies, Practices and Ideas on Religious Organizations
Organizer: Tuomas MARTIKAINEN
Chair: Thomas KERN

03:30 PM - 05:20 PM,
New Forms of Religious Organization
Organizer: Thomas KERN
Chair: Tuomas MARTIKAINEN

05:30 PM - 07:20 PM,
Uses of the Past: The Politics of Religion and Collective Memories
Organizers: Marian BURCHARDT and Mattias KOENIG
Chair: Tuomas MARTIKAINEN

07:30 PM - 08:50 PM,
Film: Haifa’s Answer
Organizers: Roberto CIPRIANI and Emanuela C. DEL RE
Chair: Emanuela C. DEL RE

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014:

08:30 AM - 10:20 AM,
Non-Religion in Question: Ethics, Equality, and Justice
Organizers: Susanne SCHENK and Cora SCHUH
Chair: Johannes QUACK

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM,
Locating Religion in Civilizational Analysis
Organizers: Edward TIRYAKIAN and Said ARJOMAND
Chair: Edward TIRYAKIAN

03:30 PM - 05:20 PM,
RC22 Roundtable I
Table A: Facing Inequality from the Perspective of Islamic Organizations
Organizers: Kerstin ROSENOW-WILLIAMS and Matthias KORTMANN
Chair: Matthias KORTMANN

Table B: The Best of All Gods: Sites and Politics of Religious Diversity in Southern Europe
Organizer: José MAPRIL
Chair: Eloisa Martín

Table C: Issues of Secularization
Organizer: Jim SPICKARD & Esmeralda SANCHEZ
Chair: _______________

05:30 PM - 07:20 PM,
Religion and the Transition to Adulthood
Organizer: Kati NIEMELA
Chair: Per PETTERSSON
RC22 Sessions (continued)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014:**

08:30 AM - 10:20 AM,  
**Spiritual and Religious Capital**  
Organizers: Christo LOMBAARD and Maria HAEMMERLI  
Chair: Christo LOMBAARD

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM,  
**Religion, Nationalism and Transnationalism**  
Organizers: Patrick MICHEL, Adam POSSAMAI and Bryan TURNER  
Chair: Adam POSSAMAI

03:30 PM - 05:20 PM,  
**Religion and Countering Gender Inequality**  
Organizers: Anna HALAFOFF, Emma TOMALIN and Caroline STARKEY  
Chair: James SPICKARD

05:30 PM - 07:20 PM  
**Religion, Immigrants, and Health**  
*Joint Session between RC22, RC15, and RC31*  
Organizer: Ephraim SHAPIRO  
CHAIR: Jualynne DODSON

**THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014:**

08:30 AM - 10:20 AM,  
**RC22 Roundtable II**  
**Table A: Lessons for Studying Religion in the African Diaspora**  
Organizer: Jualynne DODSON  
CHAIR: Alphia POSSAMAI-INESEDY

**Table B: Sociology of Orthodoxy: The Study of the Church Life in the Contemporary Russia**  
Organizer: Igor RYAZANTSEV and Maria PODLESNAYA  
Chair: Anna HALAFOFF

**Table C: Religion, State, and Law**  
Chair: Sinisa ZRINSKAC

**Table D: Religion and Politics**  
Chair: Roberto BLANCARTE

**Table E: Religion and Media**  
Chair: Eloisa MARTIN

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM  
**The Role of Religion in the Public Sphere**  
Organizer: Inger FURSETH  
Chair: Per PETTERSSON
RC22 Sessions (continued)

03:30 PM - 05:20 PM
   RC22 Presidential Session: Facing an Unequal Post-Secular World
   Organizer: Adam POSSAMAI
   Chair: James SPICKARD

05:30 PM - 07:20 PM
   Welfare and Civil Society: The Role of Religion
   Organizer: Per PETTERSSON
   Chair: Inger FURSETH

07:30 PM - 08:50 PM
   RC22 Poster Session
   Topics in the Sociology of Religion
   Organizers: James SPICKARD and Esmeralda SANCHEZ

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2014:

08:30 AM - 10:20 AM
   Sociology of Religion in Africa: Challenges and Prospects
   Organizer: Afe ADOGAME
   Chair: Afe ADOGAME

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM
   RC22 Business Meeting

03:30 PM - 05:20 PM
   Religious Diversity and Social Change in Contemporary East Asia
   Organizer: Michiaki OKUYAMA
   Chair: Michiaki OKUYAMA

05:30 PM - 07:20 P
   Multiculturalism and Religion: Contemporary Challenges and Future Opportunities
   Organizer: Joshua M. ROOSE
   Chair: Esmeralda SANCHEZ

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014:

08:30 AM - 10:20 AM
   Religion as a Factor in the Composition and Decomposition of Ethnic Identities
   Organizer: Miroljub JEVTIC
   Chair: Miroljub JEVTIC
Call for Session Proposals
Third ISA Forum of Sociology
“The Futures we want: Global Sociology and the struggles for a better world”

RC 22: Research Committee for the Sociology of Religion Call for Sessions:
“Religion, Secularity and Post-Secularity: Crafting Meaningful Futures”

Programme Coordinator: Vineeta Sinha (socvs@nus.edu.sg)

PROGRAM THEME: The world’s current socio-economic and political turmoil has a profound impact on religious expressions, sensibilities and worldviews. Religious expressions and worldviews also affect the surrounding socio-economic and political spheres. Such dramatic changes produce disquiet, tumult and agitation but also open opportunities to question the status and create novel social possibilities. Sociologists of religion face a number of challenges in understanding these interactions. Among these is the need to develop new theoretical and empirical approaches to our subject. Sociologists have long argued about the continuing place and value of religions in a secularizing and globalizing world. Although the notion of ‘post-secularity’ is hardly new, it has recently emerged forcefully (and somewhat fashionably) in attempts to theorise the visibility and relevance of religiosity in the world today. This raises serious questions that deserve sociological attention. Among these:

- Do recent developments signal to some extent the passing of a ‘secularist’ moment?
- What is meant by ‘post-secularity’?
- Are we living in a post-secular age? Or are we merely looking forward to one?
- If so, what would religion look like in such a context?
- What effect religion could religion have in a rapidly changing world?

The objective of these thematic sessions is to theorise the complex religious landscapes in the present and to contemplate if, where, how and with what effect religions will manifest and organize themselves in a rapidly changing socio-political landscape.

CALL FOR SESSION PROPOSALS: We invite RC 22 members to propose sessions that deal with these complex issues. We especially welcome sessions that include cross-cultural and cross-national comparisons. Besides the thematic topics above, we also seek sessions that contribute to other recent debates within the field. Here are some ideas:

- any of the thematic ideas listed above
- religion in the public sphere
- popular religion
- religion, gender and feminism
- urban forms of religiosity
- material religion
- religious commodification and consumption
- religious revivalism and religious innovation in a global context
- other topics of interest.
HOW TO PROPOSE A SESSION:

If you wish to propose a session before February 2nd, please send an abstract (no more than 300 words), your full name, institutional affiliation, e-mail and a short bio to Vineeta Sinha (socvs@nus.edu.sg)

Otherwise, starting 2 February, 2015, you can submit your proposals online at the International Sociological Association’s website. A link will appear at http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/

- Session proposals must be in English, French, or Spanish.
- **Deadline for submit your session proposal is 15 March, 2015**

Please also note that you must become an RC22 member to have your session proposal accepted; you can join the Research Committee through the ISA website at http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm

In order to be included in the programme, all participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) must join the ISA and register for the Forum by the early registration deadline of 1 April, 2016. Without early registration and membership, presenters, chairs, etc. will not appear in the Programme Book or in the Abstracts Book.

*The Research Committee on the Sociology of Religion (RC22) is the section of the International Sociological Association tasked with advancing theory and research in the sociology of religion, in the context of world sociology.*

*Please visit our website at [www.ISA-RC22.org](http://www.ISA-RC22.org) for information about us and about our programs.*

*Visit the ISA’s website at [www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org) for information about our parent organization.*

*Information about the Third Forum of Sociology can be found at [http://www.isa-sociology.org/vienna-2016/](http://www.isa-sociology.org/vienna-2016/)*

The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World

3rd ISA Forum of SOCIOLOGY

July 10–14, 2016
Vienna, Austria
The ISA has undertaken a new initiative to create an international community of young sociologists who are in the middle of their PhD dissertations or have completed them in the last 5 years, disseminating their dissertation abstracts. At http://www.isa-sociology.org/abstracts-dissertations/ you can search the entries by keyword, author, title or area of interest.

Below, you can find the most recent abstracts on Sociology of Religion, including the year of completion and the country where the dissertation is defended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dissertation Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Key words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jihadi Violence: A Study of al-Qaeda's Media</td>
<td>Armboert, Andreas</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>political violence, terrorism, jihadism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Sociology in Brazil (1946-1971): An Analysis of a Catholic Educational Institution</td>
<td>Cigales, Marcelo Pin</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Instruction of Sociology; Historical Sociology; Catholic Church; Normal School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tale of Industrialization in a Small Town in Turkey: Hacılar-Kayseri</td>
<td>Cengiz, Kurtuluş</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Islamic Capital; Islamic Calvinism; Kayseri; Anatolian Tigers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Individualisation Strategies and Masculinity Construction in Moroccan Men during Transition to Adulthood</td>
<td>Fidolini, Vulca</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Sexuality; masculinities; young adults; body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Renewal and Transformation: A Case Study of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the 21st Century (Working title)</td>
<td>Freudenberg, Maren B.</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>social change structure/agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change without Confrontation: The Making of Mainstream Meditation</td>
<td>Kucinskas, Jaime L</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Meditation; social change; social movements; cultural change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Members of Atheist Organizations in Germany and the United States of America: Participation in a Freethought-Secularist Movement</td>
<td>Mastiaux, Björn</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Social Movements; Participation; Atheism; Secularism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expressing Post-Secular Citizenship: A Sociological Exposition of Islamic Education in South Africa</td>
<td>McDonald, Zahraa Z</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Participation; public sphere; literary public; Deobandi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Gods, New Religions, and Modern Marriages in Nepal</td>
<td>McKendry-Smith, Emily</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Nepal, new religious movements, Brahma Kumaris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We encourage our young colleagues to submit their abstracts, and we invite supervisors to ask their students and former students to post dissertation abstracts in English. ISA will make it available on this website, in its attempts to build a global community of young sociologists. If you have further thoughts or suggestions please contact: isa@isa-sociology.org
Welcome to a New Year

It is my pleasure to initiate my appointment as Secretary-Treasurer of RC22. I am very glad to work jointly with the recently elected Board. As Jim Spickard, our new President, stated in his letter, we have many new projects to develop during the following years, and I would like to invite all RC22 members to participate in all these endeavours. Please do not hesitate to contact me any time.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Afe Adogame, my predecessor, for his brilliant labour and his support in the administrative handover.

Looking forward to hear from you all, soon!

Eloísa Martín
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
sectreas@isa-rc22.org

Looking for a Deputy Newsletter Editor

We need a Deputy Editor for the RC-22 Newsletter. The post is ideal for an enthusiastic PhD student of any nationality. The applicant should have:

- A good command of English
- Familiarity with Microsoft Publisher software (or be willing to learn it)
- Previous experience with writing or editorship (highly recommended)

Duties:

- Assist the Secretary-Treasurer and President put out a twice-a-year newsletter.
- If possible, assist with the ISA-RC22 News and Events blog

There’s no pay, but the RC will cover your 4-year ISA membership fee (at the student level) and your RC-22 membership fee.

Send a short CV (up to 3 pages) stating your qualifications for the position and a one-page letter of interest to Eloísa Martin (eloisamartin14@yahoo.com.br). Include “Deputy Editor” in the subject line. Applications will be received until March 6th.

All applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc selection committee who will make recommendations. Best applicants will be short-listed for and contacted for a Skype interview. The Final decision will be communicated in April 2015.

Contribute your News & Events

Do you have news you want to share with international colleagues? Events that you’d like to publicize? Do you want to report on important scholarly trends? RC-22 has two ways for you to communicate with your colleagues.

1. Send calls-for-papers, conference notices, book announcements, job openings, and so on to our blog. Visit www.isa-rc22.org/news-events to see the kind of things we’re posting. Then send your events and news to BlogSubmit@isa-rc22.org. We can’t do attachments, so put your text in the body of your email. We’ll put it on the blog.
   A weekly summary goes out to over 800 scholars worldwide. If you’re not getting it, go to the blog page and sign up.

2. Want to write for our Newsletter? Propose a topic to our Secretary-Treasurer at sectreas@isa-rc22.org. If we like your idea, we’ll tell you to go ahead. We welcome well-written short interviews, conference reports, and matters of widespread intellectual concern.
# 2012-2018 RC22 BOARD MEMBERS

## Officers
- **President**
  - Jim Spickard, University of Redlands
  - president@isa-rc22.org

- **Secretary/Treasurer**
  - Eloisa Martin, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
  - sectreas@isa-rc22.org

- **Vice-President**
  - Per Pettersson, University of Uppsala
  - vicepres@isa-rc22.org

## Board members

### Asia/Australia/Pacific
- Yoshihiro Sakurai, Hokkaido University
- Seyed Hossein Serajzadeh, Kharazmi University

### Europe
- Olga Breskaya, European Humanities University
- Miroljub Jevtic, University of Belgrade

### North America
- Jualynne Dodson, University of Michigan
- Ephraim Shapiro, Columbia University

### Latin America
- Eloisa Martin, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
- Hugo José Suarez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico

### Africa
- Lovemore Ndlovu, Zimbabwe
- Michael Okyerefo, University of Ghana

### Past President
- Adam Possamai, University of Western Sydney