

Letter from the President

This is the first Newsletter from the RC22 Board (2018-2022) since our election at the XIX ISA World Congress in July 2018 in Toronto, Canada. I would therefore use this medium to express our profound thanks and gratitude accordingly.

First, we feel very honored and consider it a privilege to be elected to serve as the ISA-RC22 Board 2018-2022, a role that gives opportunity to bring our robust talents and experiences to serve you in the next four years. We therefore accept this obligation with great passion and enthusiasm and promise to discharge our duties and assignments faithfully and to the best of our ability, in representing the needs and interests of the RC22 Committee within the ISA.

Second, our deep gratitude goes to the past President, James Spickard; General Secretary/Treasurer, Eloisa Martin and the entire RC22 Board 2014-2018 for their immense contributions to RC22 Committee, but also in their cooperation in ensuing a smooth transition to the incoming Board.

Third, we cannot escape to mention the immense role and dedication of Anna Halafoff, Sam Han and Caroline Starkey (as Program Coordinators) for anchoring an excellent RC22 program during the World Congress in Toronto. Thanks so very much indeed to you and to all members who attended our various sessions and events, presented papers, and chaired sessions. All these inputs contributed to the huge success of RC22 programs and events.

As President, I pledge to work in conjunction with the General Secretary, Anna Halafoff, Vice President (TBA) and the entire RC22 Board 2018-2022, to further promote international collaboration and intercultural exchange between scholars; enhance the new membership drive; 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. Together, we are poised to serve the RC22 membership and ISA in general with dependability, integrity, and distinction. We therefore covet your support, advice, and contributions to achieving these collective goals.

Our gratitude goes to Alan Nixon who volunteered to take on the role of RC22 Communications Officer and who is already working with Jim Spickard on the website and assisting with circulating the Newsletter and other RC22 business through the website, news blog and other social media.

We would like to whet your appetite with a few RC22 Next Steps!



[International Sociological Association](#)

[RC22 – Sociology of Religion](#)

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Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology

Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

The ISA Forum of Sociology is designed as a mid-term meeting of Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups combined with the Business Meeting of the ISA Research Council.

Key Dates

Call for Sessions: 4 February - 15 March 2019

Call for Abstracts: 15 April – 30 September 2019

Registration deadline for presenters: 19 March 2020

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/>

Since the last World Congress in Toronto, the new RC22 executive board is already active in furthering the promotion of the sociology of religion at various key international events. As some of our forthcoming interim events, Michael Okyerefo will be organising our mid-term conference at the University of Ghana, Legon in 2019. RC22 is looking forward to organising this conference in Africa.

Milda Ališauskienė has also sent an expression of interest to host an event in Lithuania in 2021.

There are two dedicated RC22 sessions at the SISR/ISSR Conference in Barcelona in July 2019, with Marian Burchardt and James Spickard organizing a session on the theme "Decolonizing the Sociology of Religion" and Jualynne E. Dodson conveying another on "The Politics of Religion and Spirituality in Cross Cultural Research" respectively.

We are excited that Roberta Bivar Campos, Juan Cruz Esquivel, and Eloisa Martin are willing to serve as Program Coordinators to lead a team towards organising the RC22 academic program at the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020.

We look forward for your unflinching support and participation in these and other related RC22 programs, not forgetting of course the 20th ISA World Congress in Melbourne, Australia in 2022.

In this newsletter, you will find a brief report from the last World Congress in Toronto but also information about some future events. We encourage you to look out for more detailed information through our media platforms.

We are excited and looking forward to working with you in the next years. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can serve you better, and what ideas you have that will help us together move RC22 to even greater academic heights.

Afe Adogame, Princeton, NJ. USA. president@isa-rc22.org



Visit the RC22 Website

RC22 has its own website at www.isa-rc22.org

It contains:

- an overview of the Research Committee,
- past and present newsletters,
- notice of ISA and RC conferences,
- funding opportunities,
- **and an extensive news and events blog.**

Visit us online!



Why your RC Membership Matters

1. Membership in the ISA as a whole (\$35-\$225 for 4 years, depending on your country; half that for students)
2. Membership on the Research Committees. (\$10-\$30, depending on your country)

Joining RC-22 accomplishes two things:

- **First, the number of members we have determines how many sessions we get at the World Congress and at other conferences. Your RC membership gives more people a chance to participate in these events.**
- Second, we use the money from dues to fund interim-conferences, special events at the main conferences, and the Varga Prize for New Generation Scholars.

This helps build our discipline and makes our get-togethers more fun.

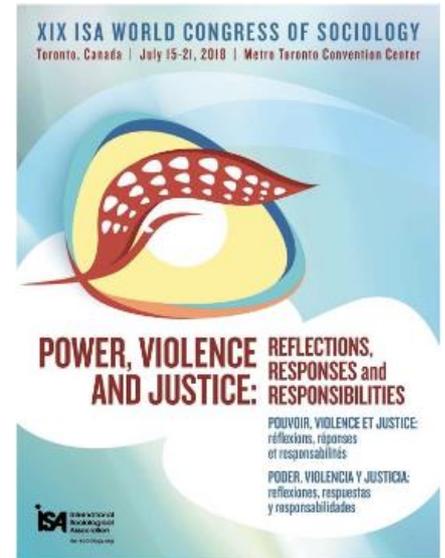
If you are not an RC- 22 Member, please join!

If your membership has lapsed, please renew it asap!

2018 World Congress

The XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology RC22 Sessions – held in Toronto in July 15-21, 2018 – were a great success. A truly international group of scholars presented papers across 14 thematic sessions on topics including social theory, the public sphere, secularity, gender, sexuality, violence, national identity, social movements, youth, welfare, media, and radicalization.

Highlights included Jim Spickard's Presidential Address on 'The Sociology of Religion in a Post-colonial Era,' with respondents Eloisa Martin, Roberto Blancarte, Ed Tiryakian, and Julia Martínez-Ariño, an author-meets-critic session on Roberto Cipriani's new book *Diffused Religion: Beyond Secularization*, and an invited panel on Canada's Religion and Diversity Project.



Congratulations to the Varga Prize winner – Rafael Cazarin

Thank you to Springer Publishing, to the ICSOR, and to an anonymous donor for sponsoring the award in 2018.

Useful links to Pew Research Center reports and data

Conrad Hackett, Senior Demographer & Associate Director, Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center has a wealth of data about religion around the world. It can be hard to keep track of all our products, even for those of us who work at the Center. Here is an incomplete list of links to reports, quizzes and data resources that may be of interest for research and teaching purposes:

Survey reports on religion in: [Western Europe](#) [Central and Eastern Europe](#) [Sub-Saharan Africa](#) [Latin America](#) [Israel](#)

[Muslim majority countries \(religion report\)](#) [Muslim majority countries \(politics report\)](#) [Orthodox Christians](#)

Religious demography reports on: [The Future of World Religions](#) [The Changing Global Religious Landscape](#) [The Gender Gap in Religious Commitment](#) [The Age & Geography Gap in Religious Commitment](#) [Religion and Educational Attainment](#) [The Growth of the Muslim Population in Europe](#) [Global migrant stocks by religion](#) [Religious diversity](#)

Religious restrictions [Latest annual report](#)

US religion reports [Religious Landscape Study](#) [Religious Typology](#) [Jews](#) [Muslims](#) [Mormons](#) [Catholics](#) [Knowledge](#)

[Feelings toward religious groups](#)

Quizzes [Religious knowledge](#) [Typology](#)

Useful data [Download our datasets](#) [Current and projected religious composition of each country](#) [Religion and education data](#) [Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures site](#)

Officers, Board, and other Leadership, 2018-2022

The RC22 leadership team consists of three Officers and ten Board Members, plus appointees for special projects. The Board and Officers serve for four-year terms, beginning and ending with the [ISA World Congresses](#). Each major world region is represented. The Past President serves on the Board *ex officio*.



President: Afe ADOGAME, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA
Vice-President: TBA
Secretary/Treasurer: Anna HALAFOFF, Deakin University, Australia

Board Members

Africa

Lovemore NDLOVU, Zimbabwe
 Michael OKYEREFU, University of Ghana, Ghana

Asia/Australia/Pacific

Hossein GODAZGAR, Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, UK
 SAKURAI Yoshihide, Hokkaido University, Japan

Europe

Milda ALIŠAUSKIENĖ, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
 Olga BRESKAYA, University of Padua, Italy

Latin America

Roberta Bivar CAMPOS, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil
 Juan Cruz ESQUIVEL, National Research Council, Argentina

North America

Jualynne DODSON, Michigan State University, USA
 Conrad HACKETT, Pew Research Center, USA

Past President: Jim SPICKARD, University of Redlands, USA

Contribute to Our Next Newsletter or Blog

- 1) Tell us about the sociology of religion in your part of the world: We'll publish short pieces in future newsletters of 500-750 words from members. Please send them to newsletter@isa-rc22.org
- 2) Write a think-piece about the sociology of religion. What direction do you think our discipline needs to go? What are the cutting-edge issues? What projects do you find most exciting? We'd like short pieces (up to 750 words) that are scholarly but also provocative. Please send them to newsletter@isa-rc22.org
- 3) Tell us about your books and awards. We'll publish significant news from members as space allows, and will post such news on our blog. Send material to: newsletter@isa-rc22.org