

Welcome to the new RC22 Vice-President

We are delighted to welcome Mar Griera, as the new Vice-President of the RC22. The Board elected Mar due to her high-standing within the sociology of religion community. Mar is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Director of the research group ISOR (Research in Sociology of Religion). Her research interests include the governance of religion in contemporary societies, interreligious relations, and the growth of holistic spiritualities and therapies and their role in public institutions such as prisons, hospitals and schools. She was a co-founder of the Religion & Public Institutions Research Network, and is President of the Sociology Committee of the Religion of the Spanish Federation of Sociology. Mar was also the Conference Convenor of the recent ISSR 2019 Conference in Barcelona. Both Afe and Anna have collaborated with Mar through the ISSR and CARD network, and we very much look forward to continuing to work with her as part of the RC22 Executive and Board.

Afe Adogame, RC22 President and Anna Halafoff, RC22 Secretary-Treasurer

Letter from the Vice-President

Dear colleagues,

This is a short letter to let you know that I am deeply honoured to be able to serve as the new Vice-President of the ISA RC22. The first international conference that I ever attended was the XVI World Congress of Sociology held in Durban in 2006. There I participated in the sociology of religion committee (RC22) for the first time. From the beginning, I was impressed by the existence of this vibrant community of international scholars of religion, and the friendly and cooperative atmosphere that prevailed in the meetings. It is now a real pleasure to have the opportunity to work as a the RC22 Vice-President and, in collaboration with the other members of the Board, to contribute to strengthen the vitality of the Committee and to preserve this lively academic community.

This new academic year is full of exciting activities. First, please, keep in mind that the deadline for abstracts for the [Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology](#) to be held in Porto Alegre (Brazil) in 2020, is the 30th of September. We hope to see you all there! Before this, some of us will also meet at the mid-term conference of the RC22 hosted by Michael P.K. Okyerefo, Rose Mary Amenga-Etego and Genevieve Nrenzah in Accra (Ghana) in November, 2019. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the role of religion in the public sphere in the Global South, and exchange knowledge with colleagues from all over the world.

Together with the President, the Secretary/Treasurer and the members of the Board we will keep working to make the RC22 a dynamic and interesting research community. Please, remember that ideas, comments and suggestions from any of you to contribute to this endeavour are very welcome!

All the best, Mar Griera



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Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology

Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14-18, 2020

“Challenges of the 21st Century for Sociology of Religion”

Key Dates

Call for Abstracts: 15 April – 30 September 2019

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2020>

Registration deadline for presenters: 19 March 2020

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

Please consider proposing papers for the following RC22 Sessions: (click on the link to see session details and to submit a paper)

- [Beyond Western Centricism of Religion: To Study Africa Inspired Religions in the 21st Century](#)
- [Civil Society and Religion](#)
- [Culture, Religion, and Gender Inequality](#)
- [Early Career Sociologists of Religion Session](#)
- [Overlapping Trajectories: Religion, Migration and Health Paths.](#)
- [Religion and Practical Ethics: Bioethics, Environmental Ethics and Legal Ethics](#)
- [Religion, Environment, and Social Movements](#)
- [Religion, Spirituality and Morality in a Post-Secular Age](#)
- [Religions, Social Movements and Politics Circulation, Production and Politics of Knowledge in the “Christianisms of Liberation” and Its Adversaries](#)
- [Religiosity in Transition; Change of Roles Over the Time](#)
- [Religious Dynamics in the Public Sphere in Latin America](#)
- [Religious, Spiritual and/or Non-Religious Young People](#)
- [Revisiting ‘religion’ from a Gender Perspective](#)
- [The Public Role of Religion](#)
- [The Reciprocal Influence of Religion and Demography](#)
- [Where Is Religion in Popular Religion? New Approaches for an Old Debate](#)
- [Wtf? \(“What the Faith?”\) – Peering Anew into the Conceptual Domains of “Religion”, “God”, “Spirituality”, “Faith” and Related Constructs](#)

The ISA CONFEX website will be open for paper proposals until September 30, 2019 24:00 GMT. Sessions may only be submitted through the CONFEX site (via the links above). Programme coordinators cannot include papers sent by email or include papers submitted after the CONFEX system is closed. **Please, note that you must be an RC-22 member to submit a paper proposal.**

Please address your questions to any of the Program Coordinators:

- Juan Cruz Esquivel jucesquivel@gmail.com
- Roberta Bivar Carneiro robertabivar@gmail.com
- Eloísa Martín eloisamartin@hotmail.com

ISA Forum of Sociology



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

September 30, 2019, 24:00 GMT

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!

35th ISSR Conference in Barcelona

The 35th International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR) Conference –held in Barcelona in July 9-12, 2019- gathered together around 500 scholars working on the study of religion. The main theme of the Conference was the politics of religion and spirituality, and there were three plenary sessions that addressed this topic from different angles. In addition, there were around 100 parallel sessions and several other social activities and academic encounters. Many RC22 members actively participated in the ISSR Conference, and several thematic sessions were organized in collaboration between RC22 and ISSR members. Highlights include the session dealing with “Theoretical Approaches to the Social Sciences... in the Global South” in which several members of the RC22 including Juan Esquivel or Eloisa Martin were involved in, and also sessions on “Social Theory and Religion” convened by Inger Furseth and Titus Hejlm and on “Decolonizing Sociology of Religion?” convened by Marian Burchardt. There were also many other thematic sessions convened by RC22 members including “The Politics of Religion and Spirituality in Cross Cultural Research” (Jualynne E. Dodson), “Well-being and Well-dying in Medicalized Longevity Society” (Yoshihide Sakurai), “Religion and Bioethics” (Hossein Godazar), “Living Well Together in Religious Diversity”, (Douglas Ezzy and Anna Halafoff), “Religion and Urban Politics” (Julia Martínez-Ariño), and “The Reciprocal Influence of Religion and Demography” (Conrad Hackett).

The Conference was also an opportunity for the RC22 board members participating in the Conference to join together for an informal lunch meeting. This was a productive and enjoyable meeting where the committee discussed the upcoming 2020 Brazil Forum, and interim meetings in Ghana in 2019 and in Lithuania in 2021.



International Sociological Association (ISA) Research Committee 22 – Sociology of Religion Mid-Term Conference 2019

Rethinking Religion in the Public Sphere in 21st century Global South

University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Bank of Ghana Conference Centre

November 15-17, 2019

For more information please contact the hosts and local organizing committee:

1. Michael P.K. Okyerefo, University of Ghana & Board Member, RC 22 Africa Rep., MOKYEREFO@ug.edu.gh
2. Rose Mary Amenga-Etego, University of Ghana
3. Genevieve Nrenzah, University of Ghana Dr. Genevieve Nrenzah, gnrenzah@ug.edu.gh

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: Mar GRIERA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Secretary/Treasurer: Anna HALAFOFF, Deakin University, Australia

Board Members

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

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 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