**Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISSR in Lausanne**

Thursday 6 July 2017

**Agenda**

1) Welcome

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

3) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous General Assembly (2015)

4) Report of the President of the ISSR / Chair of the Local Committee

5) Report of the General Secretary

6) Report of the Treasurer

7) Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee

8) Awards

9) The 35rd ISSR Conference in 2019

10) Any other business

**1.J. Stolz, the ISSR President, opened** the meeting and welcomed all members = 436 members

**2.** The proposed **agenda** was accepted.

**3. The** **minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting (**Louvain-la-Neuve 2015), published in Network 50, were unanimously accepted.

**4.** J. Stolzpresented **the President’s report and the report as a Chair of the Local Committee** (Annex I)which was unanimously accepted.

**6.** S. Zrinščak presented **the** **General Secretary Report** (Annex II) which was unanimously accepted.

**7**. O. Servais presented **the** **Treasurer’s Report** (Annex III). Members raised questions about the need to allocate more money for the web, about the ethical investment and about the spending policy as currently we have high amount of assets. The need for raising money for the web was accepted, it was explained that we do have and do follow the ethical investment policy, and that the long-term policy includes more investments, such as are grants for the international workshop, grants for members to come to the conference, awards grants, etc. After the discussion the report was unanimously accepted.

8. P. Beyer presented **the report as a Chair of the Editorial Committee** (Annex IV) which was unanimously accepted.

9. I. Furseth, Vice-President, read appreciations and gave **awards** to:

Véronique Altglas – Best book award for:

2014. *From Yoga to Kabbalah: religious exoticism and the logics of bricolage*. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Francesco Piraino – Best article award for:

“Between real and virtual communities: Sufism in Western societies and the Naqshbandi Haqqani case”, *Social Compass* 63(1): 93-108, 106.

Josselin Tricou – Best student paper award for:

La « cathosphère », montée en puissance de nouvelles autorités religieuses? *TIC & Société* 9(1-2), 2016.

Gabrielle Angey - an honourable mention of another student paper for:

“La mission dans les écoles turques du mouvement de Fethullah Gülen en Afrique subsaharienne »*, Politique Africaine, no. 3*, 2015.

**10**. Maria Sroczynska and Artur Wysocki presented **Warsaw as a venue** for the 2019 conference (Annex V). Members raised questions about the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland and the possible interference to the scientific character of the conference. It was concluded this will be further discussed between the Council and the Local Committee in order to assure the conference according to ISSR standards.

**11**. **Any other business**

Nothing was raised and the President closed the meeting.

Minutes prepared by:

Siniša Zrinščak

General Secretary

**Annex I**

**President’s report**

As president of the ISSR, I organized the council meeting of the ISSR 19th-21st February 2016 in Lausanne.

In the summer 2016 it became clear that we had to change the venue of the conference 2017 from Melbourne (as originally planned) to Lausanne. The organizers in Melbourne had started with the assumption that conference fees would pay all the costs of the conference, while the council and executive council had assumed that the usual ISSR financing system would be applied (involving substantial additional raising of money).

After the decision had been taken to change the venue of the conference to Lausanne, I raised money, created a local organizing committee and started the organization of the conference (see below).

I have been in continuing contact with Olivier Servais concerning questions of the relationship between the ISSR and Social Compass. A meeting will take place after the ISSR conference between the directorial committee of Social compass and one or more members of the executive council of the ISSR.

I have also been involved in the question of searching the next venue of our conference in 2019. For the moment being, the possibility of having the conference in Warsaw seems to be promising.

**Report of the President of the Local Committee**

While we took on the task of organizing the 2017 ISSR conference only in the Summer 2016, that is, comparatively late, things worked out very smoothly.

* We created a local committee (Irene Becci, Pierre-Yves Brandt, Philippe Gonzalez, Monika Salzbrunn, Manéli Farahmand, Christophe Monnot, Pascal Tanner, Anaïd Lindemann, Jörg Stolz), and inside this committee a task force of people who did most of the work: Manéli Farahmand (conference coordinator), Christophe Monnot (assisted by Frédéric Cottier) (program), Anaïd Lindemann (website), Pascal Tanner (tours), Jörg Stolz (overall responsibility).
* We raised money (about 50'000 Euros). Sponsors were different organizational entities from the University of Lausanne (ISSRC, ISS, FTSR, DIHSR, Direction), as well as FNS, Ville Lausanne, MySwitzerland.
* We created a conference website http://wp.unil.ch/issr2017conference/?lang=en
* We reserved rooms in the University buildings; reserved nights in hotels; organized food and drink; organized the panels and receptions, etc. etc.
* We created a programme booklet that we hope is easy-to-use.
* All of this was done in very close contact with the executive council of the ISSR

Most things worked really well, but three points have to be looked at for the next conference:

* The abstract submission system we used was difficult to use and even crashed; we will have to choose a professional and efficient way of doing this.
* The ISSR Website is nice, but it was not always easy to change things rapidly. We will have to think about how to handle this.
* The communication between the treasurer's office, the general secretary, and the local committee has to be looked at and reorganized for the organization of the next conference.

I thank everybody for their collaboration, especially the "Task force" (Manéli Farahmand, Christophe Monnot, Anaïd Lindemann, Pascal Tanner) who have done a tremendous job, then also the other members of the local committee, the executive council of the ISSR, Sinisa Zrinscak, Olivier Servais, and Inger Furseth who have been in close contact with me, as well as Bérénice Goffin and Lydie de Backer who have done a lot of work on the finances of the conference. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

A special thanks goes to my colleague and friend Sinisa Zrinscak, the out-going general secretary, whom I thank for all the work he has done for the society, and with whom I have had an excellent collaboration over these last two years. At the same time, I welcome Véronique Altglas as the new general secretary, looking very much forward to working with her.

Jörg Stolz, president of the ISSR

Lausanne 29.6.2017

**Annex II**

**General Secretary Report**

In the period from July 2015 to July 2017 the work of the GS included a wide range of activities, from setting up the new web-site, involvement in conference organization, publishing news and sending newsletters to members, coordination of different activities / committees, as well as almost everyday communication with members and conference participants. As has been stated in the last report the electronic communication with members has become more intensive, which included the new form of newsletters. In this respect the main achievement is the new web-site. It proved to be functional, though we experienced also some shortcomings which should be overcome in the next period. Also, the web should be developed further, in particular in relation to the members-only section.

On June 20th the ISSR had 490 members, out of which 227 were full-rate members and 245 reduced fee members (85 from non-convertible countries, and 160 opted for reduced fee as students, unemployed, or retired), while 18 members would pay the fee on the spot. Two years ago, exactly on the same date, we had 498 members. Comparison to previous membership periods (432 in 2010-2011, and 482 members in 2012-2013) shows the stability, though in late 2000s numbers were higher (520 in 2006-2007 and 616 in 2008-2009). Also, the share of full / reduced fee membership is almost identical to previous membership periods.

In relation to the conference, also on of June 20th, there were 377 participants who paid the fee (176 the full rate, 201 the reduced fee rate). In addition, 14 members would pay the fee on the spot, 9 members got a financial assistance, 15 paid the non-member fee, and 25 participants were exempt of paying the fee (keynotes, the Local committee members, awards recipients, journalists), which makes a total of 440 participants. Again, numbers are similar to last conferences.

Election for new officers was held in May 2017. There were two candidates for the GS position and two candidates for country representatives from France, Germany, and Brazil and South America. 110 members casted their votes. The following candidates were elected:

General Secretary:

Véronique Altglas (first mandate)

Treasurer:

Olivier Servais (second mandate)

Council members – first mandate:

Kees de Groot (Benelux)

Yannick Fer (France)

Heidemarie Winkel (Germany)

Rosa Maria de Aquino (Brazil and South America)

Council members – second mandate:

Helena Vilaça (Iberic Penninsula)

Christina Gutierrez Zuňiga (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean)

David Voas (United Kingdom)

Congratulation to newly elected officers and members and also many thanks to all those who run in the election!

As usual, the ISSR provides financial assistance for attending conference. We got 22 applications, and 10 of them were selected for funding: Alana Sa Leitao Braga da Souza, Edilson Pereira (who cancelled the participation), Henri Gooren, Karina Barcenas Barajas, Louis Martinez, Mballa Elanga Edmond VII, Mortaza Shams, Olga Breskaya, Lovemore Ndlovu, and Danoye Oguntola. The selection committee was composed by Inger Furseth, Olivier Servais, and Siniša Zrinščak.

In this period several committees were employed for awards and funding of the workshop. On behalf of the ISSR I congratulate to winners but also thank to the committees for their work.

Best book award (granted for the first time!) - Véronique Altglas. 2014. *From Yoga to Kabbalah: religious exoticism and the logics of bricolage*. Oxford University Press.

Best article award - Piraino, Francesco. 2016. “Between real and virtual communities: Sufism in Western societies and the Naqshbandi Haqqani case”, *Social Compass* 63(1): 93-108.

Best student paper award – Josselin Tricou, 2016. La « cathosphère », montée en puissance de nouvelles autorités religieuses? *TIC & Société* 9(1-2)

Workshop: no funding due to not well developed proposals.

Best student paper committee: Peter Beyer (president), Grace Davie, Detlef Pollack, Barbara Thériault

Best article committee: Matthias Koenig (president), Enzo Pace, Elisabeth Arweck, Margit Warburg

Best book committee: Mary Jo Neitz (president), Lene Kühle, Pål Repstad, Adam Possamai

Workshop grant committee: Yoshihide Sakurai (president), Véronique Altglas, Solange Lefebvre, Irena Borowik

To sum up, the work of the GS is mainly about communication and cooperation. I was trying to perform it at the best of my abilities. At this point I would like to thank all ISSR officers, two Local Committees in last four years as well as all members for, what is my impression, and besides mistakes done on my side, an excellent communication and cooperation. My particular thank goes to Branko Ančić, Administrative Secretary.

It was my real pleasure to serve for the Society.

Siniša Zrinščak

ISSR General Secretary

**Annex III**

**Treasure’s Report**

**Power Point presentation in attachement**

**Annex IV**

**Report of the ISSR/ SISR *Social Compass* Editorial Committee**

Chair of the Committee: Peter Beyer

Committee members: Roberto Motta, Inger Furseth, Irene Becci, and Anna Halafoff.

The committee saw to publication the 2017/2 issue of *Social Compass,* in which were published a selection of papers originally given at the 2015 ISSR conference in Louvain-la-Neuve. Of the 21 papers initially submitted after the 2015 conference and sent out for peer review as of the last council meeting (February 2016), 9 were eventually published in the issue. After peer review, these were apportioned among the committee members for the purpose of seeing to the revisions (necessary in all cases) with a view to publication. This process was completed by the end of October 2016, at which time the completed and revised articles were sent to the Social Compass editorial office and the issue has since been published. One additional paper was added to the nine. It consisted of a paper that had been accepted for publication in the corresponding 2015 issue (attendant upon the 2013 conference in Turku), but could not be completed for reasons beyond the author's control. Including it presented no problem because the 9 accepted articles did not take up the total pages allotted to the ISSR for this issue. Of the ten articles thus finally published, 5 were by women and 5 by men; 4 were written in French, and 6 in English.

I would like to thank Anna Halafoff, Irene Becci, Roberto Motta, and Inger Furseth for the excellent work that they have done in their role as committee members. Their contribution has been invaluable.

Peter Beyer

Chair, Editorial Committee of the ISSR

**Annex V**

**Warsaw 2019 conference PTT presentation** (in attachment)