**Presidential report**

During the period 2017-19 I have worked closely with the executive to further the interests of our society.

The most important problem to be solved was to find a new venue for our 2019 conference, once it became clear that the Poland (Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University, Warsaw) option was not feasible. We received two excellent replacement applications, one from Montréal, the other from Barcelona. We finally decided in favour of the Barcelona application, mainly for practical reasons. We thank the organizers from Barcelona, especially Maria del Mar Griera, as well as the scholars sending the other applications from Warsaw and Montréal, for their invitations.

Apart from “daily business”, as president of the ISSR, I (1) chaired the council meeting of the ISSR 16/17 February 2018 in Belfast, (2) found a program chair (Manéli Fahramand) as well as third party-funding to help the program chair in her task. At this point I would like to thank Manéli Fahramand, Frédéric Cottier, and Vildard Martial for their excellent work on the program (3) organized the keynotes of the Barcelona conference, (4) created new drafts for bylaws to reorganize they way the ISSR council meets and how conference feedback is organized (5) discussed with Social Compass how our future collaboration might look like.

In the past year, our members André Corten and David Martin passed away. We remember them as great scholars and wonderful colleagues. One of our keynote speakers, Jean-Mari Donégani unfortunately had an accident and could not attend. We wish him that he will soon completely recover. He was replaced by David Koussens whom I thank for having stepped at such short notice.

Karel Dobbelaere has informed me that he steps down as honorary president because his age does not permit him anymore to attend the conferences. This seems therefore a fitting place to thank Karel for everything he has done for the society - and for the sociology of religion in general. There has been no one else who has both given so much time and energy and has so strongly and positively influenced our society. This legacy lives on in our society both institutionally and scientifically.

I thank the general secretary, Veronique Altglas, the treasurer, Olivier Servais, the in coming-President, Inger Furseth for countless hours of work and an excellent collaboration. I also thank the Conference chair Maria del mar Griera and her team, including Manuel Delgado, Victor Albert, Rosa Martínez, Anna Clot, Romina Martinez  Algueró, Josep Roca, Carolina Esteso, Oriol Sebastià López, Avi Astor, Esther Fernández Mostaza, and Alberto López Bargados to have organized our conference at such short notice and in such a professional manner.

Last but not least, I wish Inger Furseth all the best for her beginning mandate as president of our society.

Oxford, 26.6.2019 Jörg Stolz