

Network 13, September 2000

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→ A Letter from the President

The most important announcement of this Network is that our conference in 2001 will take place in Mexico. I am delighted to report that Roberto Blancarte, of the Colegio Mexiquense (Toluca) and the Colegio de México, has invited the SISR to hold its conference between 20th and 24th August in Ixtapan de la Sal, a thermal spa about 60 miles South West of Mexico City. The SISR Council accepted this invitation with enthusiasm at its meeting in February this year. Since then, planning for the conference has made a good start. You will find details of the theme and sub-themes later in this Network. But I want to emphasise now that this conference represents an important new venture for our Society. It will be the first full-scale SISR conference to take place in Latin America and the first of our meetings in a predominantly Spanish-speaking country since 1975. This is an important opportunity, then, to create and strengthen inter-continental links among sociologists of religion. I am sure that the SISR will make many new friends in Latin American countries and that our sociological understanding of religion will be greatly enhanced by the experience.

Let me add that I am grateful to many individual people and institutions for making it possible for the SISR to visit Mexico, in particular Roberto Blancarte, members of the Mexican Local Committee, el Colegio Mexiquense, el Colegio de México, and the International Office of the University of Warwick.

There is no time for delay: please read all the information about the conference theme and sub-themes in the next section of this bulletin and then send your proposals for thematic sessions, working groups, affinity groups and miscellaneous papers to the Secretary General before the deadline of 1st February, 2001. This is your opportunity to ensure that the quality of our intellectual debates is as high as possible.

Incidentally, the timing of the Mexico conference will also enable participants to take part in the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. This meeting will take place in Anaheim, Southern California from the 17th to the 19th August. Please contact the ASR's Executive Officer, Bill Swatos, for further details (swatos@microd.com).

Since the last issue of Network your Council members have agreed a number of proposals designed to improve the quality of the SISR's services to you. Some of the changes will affect the way in which the Society functions; others will have a bearing on the organisation of our conferences. All the changes are in response to suggestions that

have been received from members. So, let me thank those of you who responded so positively to the invitation that I made at the conclusion of the Leuven conference to keep the Council informed of your opinions. It goes without saying that I also encourage you to vote in favour of all the Council's proposals. The dawn of a new millennium is the perfect moment to make some fundamental changes.

In harmony with the spirit of the new age of cyber-communication, the SISR is now the proud owner of its own web site. Thanks to the skills, generosity and hard work of Jim Spickard, with help from Régine Azria, Louise Fontaine and James Crombie, you can now obtain a lot of information about our Society at: www.sisr.org. It is likely that more and more communication with members will take place via this website in the future. But, as the current pages are still in their developmental stage, it would be very helpful to have your comments on them.

Before closing, I want to encourage you to do three things that will help the SISR to develop its services:

The first is to ensure that you have paid your membership fees for this year.

The second is to persuade colleagues, graduate students or friends to join our Society.

And the third is to ensure that the libraries where you conduct your research have a subscription to [Social Compass](#).

Finally, let me thank four groups of people who work hard for the SISR 'behind the scenes'. Firstly, the members of the Executive Committee (Louise Fontaine, Enzo Pace and Yuki Shiose) who are constantly at work on behalf of the SISR. Secondly, the members of the past and present Editorial Committees (Meerten Ter Borg, Pierre Bréchon, Roland Campiche, Erwan Dianteill, John Fulton, Wade Clark Roof, Liliane Voyé, Jean-Paul Willaime and Jacques Zylberberg) who put a lot of effort and care into the selection of articles for publication in our issues of Social Compass. Thirdly, the members of the newly-formed Programme Committee (Roberto Blancarte, Louise Fontaine [Chair], Enzo Pace and Jacques Zylberberg) whose task is to produce the best possible conference in 2001. And, last but not least, the members of Council who strive to ensure that the SISR honours its commitment to 'advance sociology and related sciences in the analysis and interpretation of religion and related phenomena' (Article 3 of the Statutes).

Jim Beckford

President

→ 2001 Conference

Click [HERE](#) for conference details.

→ Proposed Amendments

Click [HERE](#) for amendments.

→ Appointment of Auditors

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to elect two Auditors. As this was overlooked in the meeting in Leuven, members are kindly requested to vote for the two candidates named on the ballot form:

Albert Bastenier, of l'Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, and Margit Warburg, of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

→ Proposed Change to Period of Subscription

In response to the current Treasurer's observations on the dramatic drop in the number of membership subscriptions that occurs in the years when SISR Conferences do not take place, Council recommends that the period of subscription should be for TWO years.

This proposal will be considered by the General Assembly in 2001.

→ Elections

The position of Secretary-General

A new Secretary-General will take office in 2001 following the Mexico Conference. This is an advance notice that nominations for a new Secretary-General will be required no later than 31 January 2001. Nominations must include the names of the candidate, the proposer and the seconder. The candidate must indicate his or her willingness to be a candidate. Candidates, proposers and seconders must be fully paid-up members of the Society.

The position of Treasurer

If a majority of members vote for the inclusion of a Treasurer among the elected officers of the SISR, it will be necessary to elect a new Treasurer to take office following the Mexico Conference. Nominations will be required no later than 31 January 2001.

Nominations must include the names of the candidate, the proposer and the seconder.

The candidate must indicate his or her willingness to be a candidate. Candidates, proposers and seconders must be fully paid-up members of the Society.

Election of an Italian representative on Council

It is necessary to elect a candidate for Italy to replace Enzo Pace who has been elected to the post of Vice-President. Our Italian colleagues have nominated Franco Garelli. As candidates for Council have to be elected by all members of the SISR, please complete the voting form and return it to the Secretary-General no later than November 24, 2000.

→ Network on the Web Site

In order to reduce the SISR's expenses and to increase its efficiency, future editions of 'Network' will be posted on the SISR's web site.

Printed copies will be sent only to those members who have not informed the SISR of their e-mail address.

[Write the President about this policy change.](#)

→ Who's Who on the Web Site

Council has decided that future editions of Who's Who will probably be posted on the SISR web site in order to reduce costs.

If you do not wish to have your address, phone, fax and e-mail published on the web site, please tick the appropriate box on your next membership renewal form.

If you select this option, only your name and the postal address of your institution will be published.

[Write the President about this policy change.](#)