

# Network 14, February 2001

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## → A Letter from the President

The snow is thick on the ground in Warwick as I write this letter, but my thoughts are already turning to the warm reception that we can look forward to in Mexico in August 2001. You can read Roberto Blancarte's account of the conference preparations later in this bulletin, but the important thing is to plan your participation now. We're extending the deadline for submitting proposals for papers and sessions until **15th March** so that everybody has ample opportunity to make the necessary arrangements in good time. On the topic of conferences, please give some thought to the venue of our conferences in 2003 and 2005. Now is the time to discuss with colleagues in your own country whether you can offer to organise these future conferences. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible to discuss what is involved.

Those of you who have visited our website will realise that it is taking longer than expected to put all the English and French pages into place. I would like to apologise in particular to French-language users. But, with the help of Jim Spickard and my colleague at Warwick, Tony Colombo, we shall soon have everything in good shape. Eventually, space will be added for Spanish-language information about the 2001 conference. The address is: <http://www.sisr.org>

The results of the two recent postal ballots are given in detail below, but I need to apologise for the omission of a ballot form concerning the election of Auditors. This was an unfortunate omission from the last mailing. Please complete the enclosed ballot form and return it to the General Secretary **no later than 15th March 2001**.

Please note that you still have time to nominate our new General Secretary and our new Treasurer. The deadline has been extended until **15th March 2001**. I look forward to receiving your nominations.

Finally, let me say how sad it is to report the death of our Italian friend and colleague, Paolo Giuriati, at the age of only 60 years. He was an active member of the SISR for many years and an innovative scholar of popular religion and pilgrimage. He will be greatly missed.

With all good wishes for the New Year  
Jim Beckford  
President

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## → XXVII Conference of the SISR

***Interpreting religion today: competing processes and paradigms  
Ixtapan de la Sal (Mexico) - 20-24 August 2001***

**Information from the Local Committee**

In a few weeks time you will be able to find information about hotels and the programme of non-academic activities at the XXVI conference of the SISR on the following website:  
<http://www.cmq.edu.mx/sisr/xxviconf.htm>

**Information from the Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee, consisting of Louise Fontaine (Chair), Roberto Blancarte, Enzo Pace and Jacques Zylberberg, is organising the next SISR conference. You will find the fruit of their work in the next edition of the Bulletin. For the moment they will continue to receive your proposals for sessions and papers. Bearing in mind the procedures set out in Appendices A and B in Bulletin no. 13, you are invited to send your proposals to the General Secretary as soon as possible and no later than 15th March (an extended deadline which gives you a second and final chance to participate in this international conference).

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**→ Financial Support**

The Council has set aside limited funds in Canadian dollars in order to assist participants in the conference coming from countries with non-convertible currencies. Those who would like to request financial support for the Conference from the SISR are asked to submit their applications to the Secretary General. Such support can only be offered if certain conditions are met in full:

- The first criterion governing the distribution of grants will be the quality of the proposed paper;
- The second criterion will be the inability of the applicant to pay for participation in the Conference.
- the applicant must give a paper at the Conference (a copy of a three pages abstract should accompany the request for funding);
- the application must contain a short curriculum vitae;
- the application must be accompanied by a letter indicating that financial support cannot be obtained from the institution in which the applicant works;
- the application -plus supporting documentation- must reach the Secretary General *by 15 March 2001*.

Only those candidates who meet these conditions in full will be eligible to apply for support. Applicants are also reminded that requests for funding cannot be met in full. Final decisions rest with the Executive Committee.

In addition, the journal [Social Compass](#) has very generously offered to pay the full costs of two members of the SISR who are unable to meet their own travel and accommodation expenses. All those who apply for financial support from the SISR will automatically be considered for these two special awards. The SISR wishes to record its gratitude to Social Compass for this wonderful contribution towards our efforts to open our conference to scholars from all parts of the world."

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**→ 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. You are requested to consider the proposal and to return your completed ballot form to the Secretary-General no later than **15 March, 2001**. Ballot forms returned after this date will not be counted. The result will be announced in the next edition of the SISR Network. As for the practicalities of the ballot, we suggest the following procedure and instruction: Please place your ballot in a sealed envelope clearly displaying your name and your signature on the outside. Then place this envelope inside another envelope before sending it to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General will ensure that only those envelopes displaying the names of paid up members for 2001 will be opened. The ballot papers will remain anonymous.

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## → 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 **15 March 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**

It will be necessary to elect a new Treasurer to take office following the Mexico Conference. Nominations will be required no later than **15 March 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.

### **Elections to the Council of the SISR**

The term of the eight following Council members will expire in 2001; of these three are eligible for a second term of four years.

John Fulton (Great Britain) - eligible for a second term

Ari Pedro Oro (Brazil)

Gerhard Schmied (Germany)

Meerten Ter Borg (Netherlands)

Olivier Tschannen (Switzerland) - eligible for a second term

Lekshmy Thara Bhai (India) - eligible for a second term

Jacques Zylberberg (Canada)

Candidates represent different countries/groups of countries on the Council. It is important to remember, however:

a) that candidates are elected as individuals and not as representatives of national organizations;

b) that each candidate has to be elected by the membership of the SISR as a whole, and not simply by the members who come from his/her country / group of countries.

Please observe the following conditions in nominating candidates. Proposer, seconder and candidate must reside in the country in question and be fully paid up members of the SISR; the candidate must have indicated his/her willingness to become a member of the Council.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary General by 15 March 2001. Elections for both first and second term candidates will take place in the next edition of the Network.

## **The result of the 2000 Election**

37 members voted for the change of Statutes (with none against).

36 members voted for Franco Garelli  
(as representative of Italy on the Council).

8 ballots were rejected either because the person had not paid a subscription for 2000 or because the ballot envelope did not specify who had submitted it.

The total number of ballots received was 45.

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### **→ Practical Information**

#### **'Who's Who' on the SISR 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.

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### **→ Announcements of Other Conferences**

Peter Brierley: "You go to Church? Well, I never!" or: What the 1998 English Church Attendance Survey reveals about who goes to Church. 15 February 2001. Further information from: Edward I. Bailey, Winterbourne Rectory, Bristol BS36 1JQ, UK. Email: <eibailey@csircs.freemove.co.uk>

"Connecting Faith and Public Life (Chris Sunderland) " 10 May 2001. Further information from: Edward I. Bailey, Winterbourne Rectory, Bristol BS36 1JQ, UK. Email: <eibailey@csircs.freemove.co.uk>

"Inter-Disciplinary week-end of Implicit Religion", Denton Hall, West Yorkshire, 11-13 May 2001. Further information from: Edward I. Bailey, Winterbourne Rectory, Bristol BS36 1JQ, UK. Email: <eibailey@csircs.freemove.co.uk>

**Société Internationale de Théorie Pratique (SITP)**. Roma, 22-27 May 2001. Further information from: Isabelle Grellier, president, fax: 33 1 60 74 24 26.

**CEMER - Terres Partenaires**. The next «rencontres euroméditerranéennes» in Hammamet (Tunisia), May 2001. Further information from : Anne-Marie Topalov, Chercheur au C.N.R.S., Résidence du Châteaouble, B1, 13090 Aix-en-Provence, France. Tél. et fax: 04 42 95 15 81; email: <am.topalov@freemove.fr>; web site: <<http://www.cemer.partenaires.org>>

**Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)** 2001 "Religion and Societal Marginality", 17-19 August 2001, Anaheim, California. Further information from: Patricia Wittberg, Sociology Department, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202 USA. Tél.: (317) 274-4478; email: pwittber@iupui.edu

**Regional Conference of SISR**, Tokyo, Japan, in 2002 (perhaps December). Further information from: Susumu Shimazono, University of Tokyo, 1-18-9 Imagawa, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 167-0035- JAPAN, email:<[BYZ03513@nifty.ne.jp](mailto:BYZ03513@nifty.ne.jp)>.

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### **→ Our Thanks**

We would like to record our thanks to Sage Publications for their assistance in providing copies of *Social Compass* for all our members, including those from countries with non-convertible currencies, whose subscriptions do not cover the costs of the journal. We are most grateful to Mrs. Elaine LeBlanc (secretary of l'Université Sainte-Anne's Acadian Centre) and to Mr. Edwin Doucet and Mr. Clarence Doucette (printers) for their generous help with the production of *Network/Réseau* 14.