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**Société Internationale de Sociologie des Religions
International Society for the Sociology of Religion**

Network 17

Réseau

March 2002

Published by: Karel Dobbelaere

27th ISSR/SISR Conference

RELIGION AND GENERATIONS

Turin (Italy) July 21 - 25, 2003

Please make note of the date and put it in your diary

**Description of the conference theme, page 4-5 of this Network
and on our Web Site**

Deadlines

May 31st 2002: Proposals for Thematic Sessions and Working Groups to be sent to the General Secretary

Session titles and the organisers' names will be published in the next Network and posted on www.sisr.org by **July 15th 2002**

October 31st 2002: Abstracts of proposed papers to be sent to the Session Organiser **and** the General Secretary

Early January 2003: Programme of the Conference on the Web Site and in the first issue of Network for 2003

Letter from the President

The Council held a productive meeting in Paris last month. Several important decisions were taken about ways of strengthening our Society and improving the services that it offers to members.

The most exciting decision was to select the general theme of “Religion and Generations” for our next conference, to be held in Turin, Italy between 21st and 25th July 2003. This is a broad theme that will lend itself well to the varied interests of sociologists of religion. The organisation of the Opening Ceremony, the Inaugural Session and the two Plenary Sessions will be the responsibility of a Programme Committee consisting of Régine Azria, Jim Beckford (chairperson), Karel Dobbelaere and Franco Garelli.

Thanks to the hard work of Franco Garelli and his Italian Local Committee, steps are already being taken to provide high quality facilities for participants. There will also be an attractive programme of pre-conference and post-conference tours as well as a mid-week tour of sites of special religious interest around Turin. It is a beautiful city with impressive museums, elegant architecture, excellent restaurants and easy access to the Alps and to the other wonderful regions of Northern Italy. Accommodation will be available in a wide range of prices.

Now is the time to begin preparing your visit to Turin. You will find all the information you need about the procedures and deadlines for proposing sessions and papers later in this issue of Network. Further information will be posted on the ISSR/SISR website as it becomes available. Let me remind you that you can offer to organise a session on the conference theme or a session on an unrelated topic; you can offer to present a paper in these sessions or, alternatively, you can suggest an author-meets-critics session (only for books published since the last ISSR/SISR conference in August 2001). In addition, there will be sessions designed specially for New Researchers, meetings of Linguistic Groups, and sessions for Affinity Groups that might choose to dispense with formally presented papers. Please contact the General Secretary if you have any questions about the intellectual structure of the conference.

From now on, our website is going to serve as the main channel of communication between the ISSR/SISR and its members. Jim Spickard has completely revised the site, so please make a visit to: <http://www.sisr.org> without delay. If you have already ‘bookmarked’ this site, please re-type the address and re-set the bookmark. Otherwise, you may encounter some difficulties in reaching the updated site. Many thanks to Liliane Voyé for checking the French pages of the website.

Another electronic resource available to you is the e-mail user group for New Researchers. Véronique Altglas (EPHE, Paris) has set up New Researchers Network in conjunction with the ISSR/SISR in order to stimulate discussion, in French or English, about the sociology of religion among, for example, doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers and academics near the beginning of their career. In order to join, just follow the instructions at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NewResearchersNetwork/>

More than 80 New Researchers have already joined the Network since it was set up last year. It is hoped that many of them will take part in the Turin conference and will begin preparing their sessions on-line in the near future.

Finally, let me encourage you to renew your subscription to the ISSR/SISR today. By becoming a member you not only gain the opportunity to participate in our unique conferences for a reduced fee but you also acquire a subscription to the four issues of Social Compass each year at almost half the normal rate for individuals. In addition, you will have exclusive access to our new Register of Members when it is posted in a members-only section of the website. The monthly cost to you of all these, and other, benefits amounts to the price of a glass of beer, wine or good quality fruit juice. It is a relatively small amount to pay for the opportunity to participate in all the activities of the only international association of sociologists of religion to operate in the English and French languages.

In addition to paying your subscription without delay, you can help to develop our cosmopolitan vision of the sociology of religion in three ways:

- The first is to plan to take part in the Turin conference in July 2003.
- The second is to take responsibility for nominating candidates for election to the Council.
- The third is to encourage colleagues and friends to join the ISSR/SISR.

I shall close by expressing the ISSR/SISR's gratitude to an anonymous Belgian benefactor who has offered to meet many of our administrative expenses over a four-year period. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the President of the Catholic University of Leuven and to his Vice-President for Human Sciences for helping to arrange this generous assistance.

Finally, let me thank the members of the Council, the Editorial Committee, the Programme Committee and the Local Committee in Italy for all their good work for the future well-being of our Society.

Jim Beckford
President

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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RELIGION AND GENERATIONS

Does the concept of ‘generation’ have a changing significance in the sociology of religion? There has been an assumption that the passing of generations marked the transmission of religion as newer generations inherited religion primarily from older generations. But accelerating social and cultural change in the course of the twentieth century has disrupted these rhythms and has made family and historical generations a frequent source of rebellion and innovation.

The challenge for sociologists of religion is to consider how their research can take account of generational issues. In particular, they face questions about the need to rethink the very meaning of ‘generation’ and the responses of religions to the forces that precipitate the construction and self-construction of new generations. For example, to what extent can tension and conflict between generations be a creative force in religion?

These broad questions about religion and generations will be the focus of presentations in two plenary sessions. Three speakers and a discussant in each session will present both specific case materials and larger theoretical and methodological issues.

Speakers in the first plenary session will critically examine such generational effects on religion as the conflicts specific to some African countries, the impact of colonialism and post-colonialism on South Asian countries, and the ongoing mixing and clashing of cultures in Latin America.

Speakers in the second plenary session will pose questions like: How have different generations responded to the ‘official’ atheism of a previous period in Central and Eastern Europe? How have the different generations of the Muslim diasporas in Western Europe responded to their social, cultural and religious heritage? And how have different generations in Europe responded to the Christian heritage bequeathed by an earlier historical age?

Further elaboration of issues about religion and generations will take place in thematic sessions on topics such as:

- Generations of the sociology of religion
- Generational change and the events of 11th September 2001
- Inter-generational religious transmission
- Generational change in new religious movements
- Atheism as the experience of a generation
- Second generational religious experiences
- Second generational issues in migration and diasporas
- Generations and de-traditionalisation

Generations and re-traditionalisation
Secularisation and de-secularisation as generational phenomena
Religion and the construction of generations
Religion and generations: methodological issues
Generational struggles for power in organised religion
Religion and generations: classical approaches
Religion and 'Generation X'
Generation and gender
Generations in religious orders
Religion, generations and media

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council has set aside limited funds to assist participants in ISSR/SISR conferences coming from countries with non-convertible currencies. Those who wish to request financial assistance from the ISSR/SISR are asked to submit their applications to the General Secretary. Such support can only be offered if the following conditions are met in full:

- The applicant must agree to give a paper at the Conference and remain in residence for the duration of the conference.
- The quality of the proposed paper must be good. A paper that has already been published in French or English will not be accepted.
- The **deadline** for submitting applications for financial assistance is **31st October 2002**. An Abstract of about 3 pages should accompany each application.
- The application must also contain a short curriculum vitae.
- The inability of the applicant to pay for participation in the Conference must be demonstrated.
- The application must be accompanied by a letter from the head of the applicant's academic department or research centre certifying that financial assistance cannot be obtained from the applicant's department, research centre or from national and international foundations.
- Applicants who are informed that their application has been approved in principle must submit the full text of their paper in English or French (between 5,000 and 6,000 words) to the General Secretary no later than 15th March, 2003.
- Successful applicants must become members of the ISSR/SISR and must submit their papers for consideration by the Editorial Committee for publication in Social Compass.
- Payment of financial assistance will be made only when the applicant sends the remaining part of the original ticket (not a photocopy) to the General Secretary after the conference.

Only those applicants who meet these conditions in full will be eligible for financial support from the ISSR/SISR. Applicants are also reminded that requests for funding cannot be met in full. Final decisions rest with the Programme Committee.

Vacant positions in the Council of the SISR/ISSR

Call for candidates

Elections will be organised early next year for the positions of the following geographic regions that become vacant, at the next conference:

France
Japan
Central and Eastern Europe

The following positions are still vacant:

Netherlands
South Asia

According to Art. 20 of the statutes, the following rules should be followed to present candidates for your region:

- a) Vacancies shall be announced by the General Secretary in the bulletin of the Association at least six months before the elections. Candidates shall be members of the Association and shall be nominated in writing by two other members. The candidate shall signify his or her acceptance of nomination.
- b) The candidate and his or her sponsors shall belong to the geographic region for which the candidate is proposed.
- c) Nominations shall be submitted to the General Secretary who shall compile the list of candidates for election.
- d) Voting shall be by postal ballot and shall take place before the Conference which marks the end of the relevant period of office.

The terms of office of the following members of the council come to an end after having served for four years. According to art19 a) of the statutes they are re-eligible: “The members of the Council shall be elected for terms of four years. They shall be eligible for consecutive re-election once, excepting that those who are elected President, General Secretary or Treasurer shall be eligible for a total consecutive duration of membership of the Council of not more than three terms”.

Spain: Pedro Gonzàles Blasco
Scandinavia: Paul Repstad
USA: Jay Demerath

At its meeting in Paris in February 2002, the Council decided to recommend that the membership contribution of Full Members should be increased in line with changes in the cost of living since the membership fee was last changed more than eight years ago. Members will be **invited to vote** on this proposal.

At its meeting in Paris, the Council also decided to propose some changes in the Statutes. Members will be **invited to vote** on the proposed changes.

Who is going to be invited to vote for Council members, changes in subscription rates, and changes in the Statutes?

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

According to art. 11 b of the present Statutes, membership shall be forfeited:

- a) by resignation in writing to the General Secretary;
- b) subsequent to non-payment of the annual dues at the end of the second year;

Consequently, ballots will be sent only to members in good standing: this means those who have paid their membership dues in 2001 and/or 2002

CONSEQUENTLY, WE CALL UPON MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR MEMBERSHIP FEES

(The three last pages of this Network contain the forms which enable you to pay your membership dues without complications.)

We would like to express our appreciation to all members who have already paid their 2002-03 dues.

Thank you very much!

WE ARE SORRY TO HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT:

in view of the enormous secretarial and postal costs involved in preparing and sending out our Newsletters and information to the membership, we will have to **discard** all postal addresses and e-mail addresses of colleagues who have not been in good standing at some time in the last four years.

We hope that this message will encourage all members and former members, who have not already done so, to contact us again by paying their membership dues. By doing so they will ensure that this is not the last time that they will receive a Newsletter from the General Secretariat.

If you think that this is a drastic measure, we want to inform you that the annual excess of expenditure over income is costing the SISR/ISSR about
5,000 to 6,000 euros, or
\$ 4,300 to \$5,200, or
£ 3,000 to £3,6000

Unless we reduce these losses, it may become impossible for the SISR to offer financial assistance to colleagues from countries with non-convertible currency.

If you have an **electronic address** and you receive **NETWORK/RÉSEAU** by regular mail inform the General Secretariat of your electronic address:
sizr@soc.kuleuven.ac.be

Please inform the General Secretariat of changes in address:

sizr@soc.kuleuven.ac.be
or
**General Secretariat of the ISSR/SISR, Department of Sociology,
Van Evenstraat 2B, B-3000 Leuven
Belgium**

CONFERENCES and ANNUAL MEETINGS

ISA Research Committee 22 (sociology of religion) invites proposals for papers to be presented at the XV ISA World Congress of Sociology, Brisbane, Australia, **7-13 July 2002**. Details of the themes and conveners of the various sessions are posted on the ISA Congress Web site: www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2002/rc/rc22.htm

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Annual Meeting 2002 in Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, UT, USA. **October 31-November 3, 2002:** "Practicing Religion In the 21st Century". Send proposals to: Penny Edgell Becker, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, 323 Uris Hall, Ithaca NY 14850, USA. email: peb4@cornell.edu. Include email address on all correspondence. Deadlines: January 15, 2002 Session proposals; March 15, 2002 Paper Proposals; September 30, 2002 Completed Papers. Web site: www.ssrweb.org.

Association for the Sociology of Religion: *Chicago* meeting, **15-17 August 2002**. The formal program call will be included in the next issue of *News & Announcements*, but it is already on the Web site: www.sociologyofreligion.com. Contact Program Chair Grace Davie—g.r.c.davie@exeter.ac.uk—with program suggestions and proposals, or phone: X-44-1392-263302.

American Sociological Association: Annual Meeting, Chicago, **16-19 August 2002**. Section 34: **Sociology of Religion** will organise two regular sessions. "Religion and Inequality" and "Religion in Comparative Perspective: Ascribed and Achieved Identity". Submissions are due January 7th, 2002. For up-to-date information: [www.asanet.org/section 34/index.html](http://www.asanet.org/section%2034/index.html)

British Sociological Association (BSA): Sociology of Religion Study Group will organise its annual Conference in Birmingham on **8-11 April 2002**. The theme: "Religion in an Urban Context". Deadline for proposals: Jan 31st, 2002. The local organiser is Martin Stringer (m.d.stringer@bham.ac.uk). For details, see <http://artsweb.bham.ac.uk/mstringer/conf.htm>.

Sociedad y derechos humanos. Segundas jornadas internacionales de religión: "Creencias, culturas y poder en la construcción de los derechos humanos", **del 7 al 10 de mayo 2002**. Centro de Derechos Humanos "Emilio Mignone". Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Roque Sáenz Peña 180 (1876) Bernal, Provincia de Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA. Teléfono:(54-11)4365-7100 interno: 133; Fax: (54-11)4365-7120. E-mail: ddhh@unq.edu.ar; 2jrdh@unq.edu.ar

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS, 2002 and 2003

Download the Form below, and complete in print or **CAPITAL LETTERS**, and send it as soon as possible, with your payment to :

Jean-Pierre Hiernaux
Treasurer of the ISSR
32 rue des Rabots
B-6220 Fleurus, Belgium

Family name:.....

First name:.....

Institutional affiliation:.....

Address:

City:State:

Zip Code:.....Country:

Telephone:.....

Email:

Membership fees for 2002 and 2003 (the level of fees has not changed, but from now on fees are due for a two year period, as decided by the General Assembly in 2001):

Please tick one box

- Full member: 106 euros** (this includes subscription to Social Compass)
- Reduced fees: 54 euros** (this does not include subscription to Social Compass)
(This category of fees is available to members from countries with non-convertible currency, students, retired colleagues and partners of full members)

Payment can ONLY be made in euros by one of the following three methods:

Please tick the appropriate box:

- by International Money Order made out in Euros to: J.-P. Hiernaux, address above, **no bank cheques!**
- by transferring my fees in Euros to the SISR bankaccount: 777-5953575-82 at BACOB, Chaussée de Charleroi 227, B-6220 Fleurus, Belgique. Swiftcode: BACBBEBB
- by creditcard in Euros, (only VISA or EUROCARD/MASTERCARD are accepted), Credit card users must complete the form on next page.

PAYMENT BY VISA CARD OR EUROCARD/MASTERCARD

Please type or print very carefully:

1. Credit Card Number: | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ | _ _ _ _ |

2. Exp. Date: | _ _ | _ _ | Visa: Eurocard/Mastercard:

3. Name and initials of card holder, exactly as they appear on the Credit Card:

.....

4. If the card holder is not the member for whom the payment is being made, please write

the member's name here:.....

5. Amount: Please tick one box:

106 euros full member

54 euros member from country with non-convertible currency
 student
 retired
 partner of full member, named:.....

6. Signature: Date:

7. **Your guarantee:** Only the Treasurer of the ISSR receives your credit card information. Technically he can only debit your account for the ISSR, and for the amount guaranteed by your signature.

8. **For security reasons, we do not accept** applications or renewals **by Internet**. Please download the forms, complete them in **print** or **CAPITAL LETTERS**, and send them correctly filled in by air/regular mail, **as soon as possible**, to:

Jean-Pierre Hiernaux
Treasurer of the ISSR
32 rue des Rabots
B-6220 Fleurus, Belgium

WHO'S WHO QUESTIONNAIRE

Please download this questionnaire and complete it in **print or CAPITAL LETTERS!!**
We ask you to complete this questionnaire **right away** since we are going to contact you primarily through e-mail and the Web Site. We will put the Who's Who on our Web Site! If you do not want your private telephone and/or your e-mail address to appear on the Web, tick the appropriate line.

Family name.....	
First name:	
Institutional affiliation:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip Code:.....	
Country:	
Telephone:.....	Tick here for privacy
Fax:	
Private Telephone.....
e-mail address.....

May we include the above information, as given by you, in our Who's Who?

Yes...

No*...

*If you choose 'No', the General Secretary will only use your information for the ISSR's administrative purposes.

Language chosen: English

French

Signature: Date:

Please send this form **immediately** to: Karel Dobbelaere, General Secretary ISSR
Department of Sociology
Van Evenstraat 2B; B-3000 Leuven, BELGIUM
Or as an attachment to: sisr@soc.kuleuven.ac.be

We appreciate your co-operation: thank you very much!!