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

Network 41

Réseau

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Published by: Giuseppe Giordan

In 2013, the 32nd ISSR Conference will take place

in

Turcu – Åbo (Finland)

June 27th-30th, 2013

The **THEME** of the 32nd ISSR Conference will be decided by the
COUNCIL at its meeting in February 2012

**We invite members to submit proposals (2 pp. maximum) for the theme of the 32nd
Conference, to be discussed at the meeting of the Council in
February 2012.**

**Proposals should specify the general theme, its rationale and how it could be divided between
2 plenary sessions**

**Proposals must reach the General Secretary Giuseppe Giordan before Jan. 15th 2012 :
generalsecretary.issr@unipd.it**

Contents : Letter from the President
ISSR Officers and Council Members (2012-2013)
How to reach us
Minutes of the General Assembly
History of ISSR part 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 31st conference of the SISR/ISSR took place in Aix en Provence at the end of last June. There are a number of people who deserve our particular gratitude for making it the very successful and memorable event that it was. At the top of the list is Raphaël Liogier, the chair of the local committee, and his many excellent collaborators and assistants. But I would be remiss in not also mentioning the hard work and dedication of especially Giuseppe Giordan, our General Secretary, and of Olivier Servais, our now treasurer. At a time when the society is still undergoing an important transition, it is important to applaud those who are actually doing most of the hard work! The theme of this year's conference was *Religion and Economy in a Global World*. Participation in the conference was excellent, with a great many sessions addressing the theme in varied, important, and even imaginative ways that perhaps many of us had not considered before. Attendance at this year's conference was lower than for the past two conferences, probably as reflection of more difficult economic times. Yet it was still at a healthy 430, reflecting the continued strength of the society and the importance of its focus and purpose.

The conference also marked the beginning of new terms for some Council members and officers of the society. Olivier Servais began his official term as treasurer, having served as such in an interim capacity since the beginning of the year. Jörg Stolz is the new vice-president (an office that will see him become president in 2015); Fatma Sündal is the new representative for Eastern Europe, Sakurai Yoshihide for Japan & East Asia, and Siniša Zrinčšak for Central Europe.

At its meetings in Aix en Provence, Council decided to hold the 2013 conference in Turku, Finland. A detailed presentation and proposal from a delegation headed by Tuomas Martikainen of Åbo Akademi in Turku assured us that preparations are already well under way and that the conference will take place toward the end of June of 2013. At its February 2012 meeting in Padua, Italy, Council will finalize the theme of the conference and begin to organize the program. Expect the call for thematic session proposals in early spring and start making plans now to participate and attend what should be another highlight in the life of our society. In addition, Council, especially through the offices of the vice-president and general secretary, is already seriously exploring options for the 2015 conference. A number of proposals may emerge, including the possibility of holding the conference for the first time in Asia.

Finally, let me assure you that the redevelopment of the SISR/ISSR website is in an advanced stage. We hope soon to have, above all, a fully functioning website up and running, thanks in no small measure to the astounding efforts of Jim Spickard and Olivier Servais. It is of course regrettable that our previous efforts to solve the problems of the website were not successful, but as a result of initiatives begun in earnest earlier this year, we hope to have this situation rectified in the very near future.

Peter Beyer
SISR/ISSR President

ISSR Officers and Council Members
(2011-2013)

The Executive Committee

President	Peter Beyer
Vice President	Jörg Stolz
General Secretary	Giuseppe Giordan
Treasurer	Olivier Servais

Council Members

Honorary President : Karel Dobbelaere
Past-president : Jean-Paul Willaime
Véronique Altglas (France)
Elisabeth Arweck (United Kingdom)
Gary Bouma (Australasia)
Roberto Cipriani (Italy)
Pauline Côté (Canada)
Renée de la Torre Castellanos (Mexico)
Matthias Koenig (Germany)
Roberto Motta (South America)
Kati Niemela (Nordic Countries)
Juan-Luis Pintos (Iberic Peninsula)
Yoshihide Sakurai (East Asia and Japan)
Jim Spickard (USA)
Fatma Sündal (Eastern Europe)
Siniša Zrinščak (Central Europe)
To be elected (Benelux)
To be elected (Switzerland)

Ex-officio:

Adam Possamai (Australia) RC 22 ISA
Chair of the Local Committee: Tuomas Martikainen
Secretary of the Local committee

Editorial Committee

Jean-Paul Willaime chair
Véronique Altglas (France)
Elisabeth Arweck (United Kingdom)
Pauline Côté (Canada)
Philippe Portier (France)
Jörg Stolz (Switzerland)

Auditors for the Accounts

Pierre Brechon (France)
Franco Garelli (Italy)
Réserve: Victor Roudometof (Cyprus)

HOW TO REACH US

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Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISSR

Aix-en-Provence (France), Friday July 1st, 2011

1) Welcome

Jean-Paul Willaime, President of the ISSR, opens the General Assembly at 18,15 and welcomes the 87 members present.

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2) Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda is unanimously adopted with a small change: the Treasurer asks that the Auditor's Report precedes the Report of the Treasurer.

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3) Minutes of the previous General Assembly (2009)

The Minutes of the previous General Assembly, which took place in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on Wednesday 29th of July 2009, published in Network 36 (October 2009), are accepted unanimously by the General Assembly.

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4) Report of the Chair of the Local Committee

Raphael Liogier, President of the Local Committee, presents his report.

When I was approached at the end of the 30th Conference of our society in Santiago de Compostella in late July 2009 by the President of the ISSR, and he asked me if my institution would possible be open to hosting the 31st Conference to be held in 2011, I welcomed this prospect with enthusiasm, as proof of the recognition of the place held by the Observatory of religion in the scientific landscape--the laboratory founded there nearly 20 years ago by my thesis director, the late Bruno Etienne . I even saw the proposal as a way to honor his memory as he had just passed away a few months prior (incidentally, the plenary sessions will be held in the auditorium that now bears his name).

As a result of this request I tried to sound out the opinions of those in my academic and institutional environment, particularly the Director of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Aix-en-Provence on the subject. All stakeholders expressed reservations about the feasibility of the event. For several reasons: At its core, the IEP does not specialize in sociology and even less so in the field of religion, but rather is interdisciplinary. Many colleagues did not understand why we might put so much effort into organizing such an event when, roughly speaking, it seemed to involve only a proportional minority of students and researchers from the institute.

Regarding its structure, the IEP is not technically a university but a *Grande Ecole* that does not have the same resources as a university (limited number of lecture halls, which are furthermore limited in size, limited financial resources).

However, several elements were in favor of the event:

- 1) The IEP as an institution is internationally focused on the and this was a unique opportunity to develop its reputation on this scale.
- 2) There is a tradition of specialization in religion begun by Bruno Etienne which it is appropriate to continue.

3) The conference could be a way to launch and to fuel our research at the time when we are entering into a new four-year plan.

4) Finally, holding the conference would come at the completion of a second campus site that has more than doubled our capacity in classrooms, all equipped with the latest technology.

Finally, the fact that the theme of the conference "Economics and Religion in a Global World" was chosen has, subsequently, reassured the administration, again for several reasons:

1) First, because it is at the heart of the 4-year plan for the Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Research in our unique facility, CHERPA (Faith, History, Place, Regulatory Policy and Administration)

2) Secondly, because we assumed that such a theme on economics would facilitate our search for grants and subsidies.

Difficulties in detail

1 – The first major difficulty we found ourselves confronted with was in relation to the calendar. The following examples will illustrate what I mean:

- a) The yearly Aix-en-Provence International Opera festival takes place at the start of July, and, as one might imagine, the city is literally inundated with concert-goers, making it extremely difficult to find suitable accommodation for delegates.
- b) The Aix-en-Provence Economists' Discussion Circle also takes place at the start of July. This is a yearly meeting of important world leaders as well as leading economists. It being an enormously important event for obvious reasons, it takes a large part of Sciences Po Aix's resources.
- c) Sciences Po Aix's doctoral school is in session throughout the month of June and is another time consuming event for our staff.

For all these reasons then, it was quite a challenge to add another event, especially one of the magnitude and importance of the ISSR Congress.

2 - Financially speaking, we are not yet sure of the total cost of holding the congress at Sciences Po Aix but it should end up somewhere between 30 and 50 thousand euros. Such a sum is beyond the means of the *Observatoire du religieux* (Religious Observatory), of which I am the head. Logically then, we have had to intensively seek outside sponsorship. To that end, we created a well-buttressed dossier, demonstrating the importance of the ISSR Congress, and its local impact (especially to attract the attention of the various local authorities). Despite that, we were left with promised grants rather than concrete offers until virtually the last moment (in May our budget was still potentially strongly in deficit).

The first grants we obtained were from the various local authorities in the region, that is to say, Aix-en-Provence City Council, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council and the General Council of Bouches-du-Rhône. We also managed to obtain, at the last minute, three other important financial contributions from *Le Groupe Propedia*, *La Fondation Ecureuil* and especially *Le Groupe Casino*. We also received help from the Aix-en-Provence Tourist Office (in relation to the welcome cases in particular), la Commune d'Aix-en-Provence (for the use of the Vendôme Pavillon for Thursday night's welcoming gathering) and le Groupe Casino (food). The budget should just about break-even.

2) From a technical viewpoint, we had to solve numerous difficulties, most particularly in relation to the installation of computers in each conference room in order to assure the live transmission of the plenary sessions to the various amphitheatres. It proved difficult to manage the distance between the two sites, that is the say the distance between the plenary sessions and the smaller themed group meetings.

3) In terms of human resources, we were obliged to hold regular meetings in order to coordinate all the various personnel (library, IT, maintenance, administration, communication, printing, security etc.) We also heisted for a long period over the question of simultaneous translation (being that the ISSR no

longer wished to handle this task) of the plenary sessions. The choice came down to the use of our own internal resources (that is to say English professors from the IEP, and even native English-speaking students) or calling in outside professionals. We finally choose to opt for the second solution.

4) – Issues around capacity and the limited number of our lecture halls also worried us somewhat, however the simultaneous usage of two sites, one for the plenary sessions and another for the rest of the congress enabled us to surmount this problem.

5) The organization, creation of the congress booklet, the choice of area to showcase books, the creation of different types of badges (essentially those for organizers and participants), the creation of individualized internet access codes for all congress attendees (in particular in our IT rooms) and the parallel organization of cultural events all necessitated a communal period of reflection, something which we were not terribly well prepared for.

6) Another difficulty in this hectic festival period was the negotiation of affordable hotel rates, given that Aix-en-Provence is one of the most expensive French cities in this area. Thanks to the help of the Aix-en-Provence Tourist Office, we managed to obtain a good price package with the various hotels, as well as a not unimportant number of university lodgings.

7) Finally, one of the issues that took up a lot of our was the implementation of an internet site to inform attendees about the congress, to enable them to benefit from lower hotel rates, to inform them about concurrent cultural activities as well as participating in the ‘provençale’ excursion we are offering the day following the congress for those who wish to come along. It proved very difficult for us to coordinate our activities with the ISSR site and, one must admit, we perhaps made an error in publishing all the aforementioned information on our existing website, World Religion Watch.

This last point brings me to the principal difficulty of the project, namely that of defining, in a precise manner, the sharing of responsibility between the ISSR and our local steering committee, a difficulty surmounted in large part by the good will of Jean-Paul Willaime, the availability of Giuseppe Jordan, and also the commitment and hard work of Alix Philippon and Nicole Bordet. The Padova meeting was also highly useful (necessary even!) in enabling us to put in place the final preparations, for at that time there remained still a number of unresolved problems.

Conclusion

I have concentrated essentially on the difficulties encountered in the organizing of this congress since that seems to be the convention, and it is true that the extent of the problems my team and I encountered were difficult to imagine at the time when we first made the decision to get involved in such an adventure! However despite all that, the experience was, on the whole, a very positive and gratifying one. Finally, I would like to finish by saying that it was important for us to concentrate particular attention on the cultural dimensions of the congress (this is France!) with a programme of religion related films, a photo exhibit and small concert at the welcoming event at the Vendôme Pavillon and a visiting programme all carefully thought out, all the way indeed to the box of of culinary delights contained in each participants congress case (the culinary aspect being an integral part of any culture!).

Aix-en-Provence, July 1st 2011.

The President expresses his appreciation for a well organised conference and proposes that the Local Committee and its Chair be congratulated for this achievement. The applause of the participants present in the General Assembly expresses their unanimous appreciation and their gratitude to the Local Committee and its Chair for their excellent work.

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5) Report of the President of the ISSR

The President Jean-Paul Willaime presents his report.

In my 2009 report, I pointed out that it was a great privilege for me to have taken office as President of the SISR/ISSR Conference of Leipzig in 2007, just when this 29th Conference beat a record of participation (438) and when our society could rejoice on this occasion to have surpassed the number of 500 members (517, to be precise): indeed it was preferable to assume the reins of a developing scientific society rather than of a declining scientific society. I can also express the same satisfaction at the end of my term : not only have I started my term as president of a growing society, but I am ending it with a society that is still pursuing this logic of growth : as it was particularly evident in 2009 at the conference of Saint-Jacques-de-Compostela organized by Juan-Luis Pintos and as confirmed by the 502 participants enrolled in the programme of the present conference, a figure which I hope will also lead to increasing the number of the members of our society. First I should like to thank the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence and its director, Professor Christian Duval, for having kindly agreed to host this 31st ISSR conference, in the excellent conditions that you have just experienced. I also wish to thank particularly Raphaël Liogier and the local committee of this conference, especially Mrs Nicole Bordet and Mrs Alix Philippon, for the work done so that this conference might take place at best. I am particularly grateful to the Aix people for having agreed to host our conference just when, owing to the failure of the expectations arisen during the last council in Saint-Jacques-de-Compostela, it was necessary to quickly find a positive solution to the problem of locating a site for our 2011 conference. Stimulated by this episode, the ISSR Council are now attentive to planning more advance time for the proposals concerning the possible premises of our conferences so that we are not caught off of guard. As usual the year before each conference I visited Aix-en-Provence in December 2010, together with the Secretary General and the Treasurer, in order to check the conditions of reception of the conference with the local committee. I had already visited Aix-en-Provence a first time a few months earlier in company of Raphaël Liogier to meet the director of the Institute of Political Studies there.

I began my term as President in company of Karel Dobbelaere as Secretary General and of Jean-Pierre Hiernaux as Treasurer. I am now ending it with Giuseppe Giordan as Secretary General and with Olivier Servais as Treasurer. These changes of people are natural in the life of a scientific society such as ours, but the changes concerning the positions of Secretary General and of Treasurer were of particular importance because of the key roles of these two functions for the life of the society and for... the peace of the President. As a matter of fact a President is not much if he cannot rely on a good Secretary General and a good Treasurer and if he cannot develop good synergies with the people in these roles. A President's job is indeed a very public job held with the whole ISSR Council. I warmly thank all the board members for their involvement and participation in the Council's meetings and for agreeing to work with a French person who does not speak English very fluently : thank you very much for your understanding ! I also wish to greet the board members who have completed their terms : thank you for your contributions, Irena Borowik, Erik Sengers and Taddaatsu Tajima.

I will not repeat here how important the step taken in 2009 was, at the end of Karel Dobbelaere's term as Secretary General, to whom honour was granted on the occasion of the conference of Saint-Jacques-de-Compostela. But I just want to say that I was well trained for my job as president, and that Karel has played an important role in my introduction to the ISSR. I remind you that Karel Dobbelaere continues to accompany us as Honorary President and that he participated in that capacity in the Board in 2009 and, as such, has prepared this conference of Aix-en-Provence. Today I would like to pay tribute to Giuseppe Giordan who took the post of Secretary General. Succeeding to Karel Dobbelaere was not an easy job, and it was a great chance for the ISSR to find in Giuseppe Giordan such a dedicated and rigorous and humanly friendly Secretary General. Dear Giuseppe, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with you, a pleasure to know that you held things well in your hands and that you kept calm and serene despite the difficulties we had to face (particularly in relation to the website) and the changes that were necessary to prompt while preserving the specificity of the ISSR. I will retain excellent memories of this collaboration and I want to thank

the Department of Sociology, Padua University for the facilities it offers so that Giuseppe Giordan can do his job as Secretary General in the best conditions.

Since the succession to the office of Secretary General was settled, and so well settled, I did not expect to be faced, in late 2010 at our meeting in Aix-en-Provence, with the wish of Jean-Pierre Hiernaux to step down as treasurer, I will go back to this point. While understanding and accepting Jean-Pierre's decision, we had to urgently find a successor both to the function of Treasurer and to the function of responsible of the web site of the ISSR. It was a great relief at the special meeting of the Council on 25-27 February in Padua to learn that Olivier Servais agreed to take responsibility for these two charges. On your behalf I express my deep gratitude to have made this decision and to have now-and-already shown since February, that he is the man suitable to perform these functions. Monday, June 27 last, Jean-Pierre Hiernaux informed me that he would not be here with us today. At the same time he wrote this message to me that I am now reading to you :

« I willingly confirm, however, the pleasure I have had over these last ten years, in supporting as Financial Responsible the continuous development of the ISSR, a Society where I also took my first steps since 1975 as co-author of a talk in a plenary session : *Remy J., Hiernaux J.P., Servais E. : Formes religieuses en transformation - Rapport à l'ordre social et aux structures symboliques, in Changement Social et Religion, actes de la 13^e Conférence Internationale de Sociologie Religieuse - Lloret de Mar, Espagne, 31 août - 4 septembre 1975 (Edition du Secrétariat CISR, Lille, 1975, pp.87-110)*. I cordially thank all the colleagues who offered their confidence and support to me : I will retain pleasant and definitive memories. I wish all the very best to those who are returning to work and to all current and future members. I have no doubt that the Society will be able to progress according to wisdom and to the performances of its best proven traditions ».

In addition to his scientific participations to the different ISSR conferences, (from Lloret de Mar in 1975 to many others), Jean-Pierre Hiernaux has served as treasurer of our Society from 2000 to 2010. He did so with good will, conscientiously and with remarkable dedication, preparing for the councils and the General Assemblies the detailed statement of our accounts and the reasonable expectations that we might have. The auditors of our accounts, whom I take the occasion to thank, could see at each conference, how rigorously and absolutely honestly the accounts were kept.. This responsibility has meant to Jean Pierre a considerable amount of hours of work, especially since, until then, he had to manually check each payment. Jean-Pierre Hiernaux was vividly aware of the precarious finances of our Society, depending on the success of our successive conferences. He was particularly keen on safeguarding the capital accumulated over time in order to be able to cope with a reversal of trends. Jean-Pierre Hiernaux has managed our accounts as, so to speak, a good father. For all these reasons I express my deepest gratitude to him. To manifest this gratitude of our Society to Jean-Pierre, I have prepared a gift that I will give him on your behalf. But, in his absence, I would like to invite you to demonstrate, by your applause, that we all thank him.

My mandate has corresponded with a period of transition and renewal for the ISSR. Not only with changes of people, but also with the development of the reflection inside the Working Groups established by the Council. These working groups were charged with the task of studying the evolutions that it was important to foster, in order to promote the very objectives of our Association better.

Our Society, of course, also continues to renew itself through its members. We follow closely the evolution of the distribution of the members per country and continent, as well as per linguistic areas. The ISSR is a bilingual scientific Society having English and French as working languages, even the works of the ISSR are published in a bilingual English/French journal : *Social Compass*, I am particularly pleased to see that the number of French speaking members remains relevant and that is a peculiarity of our Society. I will draw the attention of my successor Peter Beyer over this aspect, knowing that a Canadian from Ottawa is particularly well used to managing this kind of things ! I have mentioned *Social Compass*. I would like to thank the old and the new directors of *Social Compass*, Albert Bastenier, Céline Polain and Jean-Pierre Hiernaux for their good cooperation with the ISSR that they maintain so that each year an issue of the magazine publishes the works of our conference.

Many thanks also go to Sage Publications in London who play the game well and make us pay special attention to the international diffusion of the magazine and its various articles. As past-President of the ISSR, Enzo Pace who with diverse responsibilities has chaired the ISSR Council over thirty years, has exercised the office of President of the Social Compass Editorial Board with great care and efficiency. Now that it's my turn to hold this office, I express, on your behalf, our most sincere gratitude. I also wish to thank Isacco Turina for activating the New Researchers Forum – decidedly the ISSR owes much to the Italians. I am delighted that Omar Fassatoui, of the CHERPA in Aix-en-Provence, has agreed to succeed him.

Since the 2009 Conference in Saint Jacques de Compostela, we have been saddened by the death of Miklos Tomka who played a major role in developing the sociology of religion in Hungary and Jacques Zylberberg who remains in the memory of many of the ISSR members. And we have just learned of the sudden death of our colleague Peter Clarke. We share the grief of their families and of the friends of these ISSR members.

Without going through the theme of our present conference, Religion and Economy, I would just emphasize that it is both a classical theme in the sociology of religion and a highly topical issue. A classic theme, because from Karl Marx to Max Weber, passing by Georg Simmel, not to mention a host of other authors, our great classics have questioned the relation between economy and religion. A very topical issue with the economic globalization and the way in which different religious actors respond to this globalization and interact with each other and with it. Topical also through the proliferation of protest against the social consequences of ultra-liberalism and the economic and financial crises that accompany it. Some religious currents run through anti-globalization movements, we speak of the « Islamic finance » and of a « Buddhist economy » (Sulak Sivaraksa). Certain religious figures advocate « alternative economy », « fair trade », « sustainable development ». Moreover, globalization is also religious and all kinds of religious movements try to expand on a world-wide scale increasing the competition between religious offers and shaking up the inherited traditions linked to the territories and the cultures. Starting from this statement, some speak of the development of a true market of the religious offer, even proposing an analysis of the religious field in terms of market and economy of health goods. This means multiple entries of the theme that, once more time, has aroused the interest of researchers of very different backgrounds and ages, which is very pleasing. I notice in particular the presence in our Aix conference of a network of researchers from Southeast Asia. It seems to me that the opening beyond Europe must remain, it's a priority for the ISSR, although it is clear that the ISSR must retain, and this is its originality, a significant platform of members in Europe.

Finally, dear SISR/ISSR members, I would like to thank you for all that you bring to the association : I urge you to militate in your respective countries, so that other researchers, especially among the youngest ones, become members of our society and may in this way bring their contributions to our conferences. I wish Peter Beyer, who is succeeding me as president, and Jörg Stolz newly elected vice-president, a successful work together with Giuseppe Giordan, Olivier Servais and all the council's members.

To conclude, I would like to express the gratitude of the ISSR to some people, Mrs Nicole Bordet and Alix Philippon of the Local Committee of Aix-en-Provence, as well as to Mrs Eliane Lallement, Giovanna Rech and Manon Wouters who have worked particularly hard to let us assemble in the best possible conditions.

The president's report was unanimously accepted with a vigorous applause.

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6) Report of the General Secretary

The General Secretary Giuseppe Giordan presents his report.

Permit me to say only a few words of introduction to the tables and numbers that you can see in my report.

As has been already said the ISSR is undergoing a period of profound change and that this is especially evident if we compare the extent of the success of the meeting in Santiago de Compostela in 2009 to today. There have been both internal changes in the ISSR and external ones, the latter nevertheless affecting the association itself.

At Santiago Karel Dobbelaere, then General Secretary, and now Honorary President, completed his mandate as General Secretary, in which position I now serve. Some months later the Treasurer, Jean-Pierre Hiernaux, resigned, and now we have a new treasurer Olivier Servais. In both cases it is a generational passage, and this passage is confirmed also in the members of the ISSR: we have many new members joining, who pay the discounted dues rate because they are young researchers or because they belong to the economically weak nations.

However, there have also been other changes, on a broader social scale, which have affected the life of our association: I am referring to the global financial crisis. And that decline of resources has undoubtedly affected participation in the meeting in Aix as well.

At this juncture we can examine the tables of ISSR members and participants in the Aix meeting.

1. Members and Participants at the conferences

Members

Types of members	Number of members in the years					
	2001	2002-03	2004-05	2006-07	2008-09	2010-11
Full Members	168	295	281	305	341	254
Members with a reduced fee	53	87	135	215	275	159
Total	221	382	416	520	616	413 (June 26th)

Registered Participants at the conferences

Conferences	Registered Participants
<i>Turin</i> (2003)	299
<i>Zagreb</i> (2005)	286
<i>Leipzig</i> (2007)	438
<i>Santiago de Compostela</i> (2009)	520
<i>Aix-en-Provence</i> (2011)	293 (June 26th; 502 on the programme)

Taking a look at the two tables it is not easy to arrive at any conclusions because the figures for the 2010/2011 period and those for this Aix meeting are provisional and not definitive.

Some more precise conclusions can only be made at the end of the meeting, when the data will be definitive.

For now, however, we can say at least two things: In the first place there is a great difference between the number of those who are on the program and those pre-registered for the conference before the meeting itself. This is a problem that also occurred in past years, and we should find a solution in order to avoid the uncertainty about the real number of participants up to the last minute. I will say something about this shortly relating to the organization of the meeting in Aix.

In the second place, there is also another factor that can explain, at least in part, the difference in number between those who are on the conference program and those who registered prior to arriving in Aix. Above I have already mentioned the financial difficulties at the global level, and that these have also affected the possibility of anticipating funding for their registration for the conference. The universities and departments often come to know very late whether requests for financial assistance for research and meeting participation will be accepted or not. And this situation, which also places other noted cultural associations and research institutions in difficulty, will very likely continue into the coming years.

2. Elections

Only 62 members voted.

The following candidates were elected

Vice-President: STOLZ Jörg (Switzerland)

Treasurer: SERVAIS Olivier (Belgium)

For a **second mandate** on the Council:

BOUMA Gary (Australasia and Southeast Asia)

CIPRIANI Roberto (Italy)
CÔTÉ Pauline (Canada)
SERVAIS Olivier (Benelux)
NIEMELA Kati (Nordic Countries)
SPICKARD Jim (USA)

For a **first mandate** on the Council

SÜNDAL Fatma (Eastern Europe)
ZRINŠČAK Siniša (Central Europe)
SAKURAI Yoshihide (East Asia and Japan)

Congratulations, Colleagues, and thank you for having accepted to take responsibility for the ISSR.

3. The organization of the 31st conference in Aix-en-Provence

If you recall, the choice of Aix-en-Provence as the site of the 31st CVonference of the ISSR was made late, after the offer of Turkey to host the meeting had been withdrawn for unforeseen reasons.

The enthusiasm of Raphael Liogier, chair of the local committee, however, has provided the initiative that has continued here in Aix-en-Provence. The collaboration with him has been fruitful, and the work of Alix Philippon, which concretized Ralphael's enthusiasm, has been fundamental in managing the many aspects of preparation.

Some numbers alone give an idea of the work that stands behind this Aix meeting: There were 540 persons on the initial program, organized in 125 sessions. Then over the months especially in these past few weeks, there were various withdrawals, up to the arrival of the final program with 116 sessions, 442 papers, and 502 persons.

We have encountered two principal problems over these months.

The first problem was the malfunctioning of our association website: Many of you have tried to become member by online payment. The operation has been alternately possible and not, until the decision to close the possibility was made, since it was not reliable. This problem could have slowed the subscription into the ISSR and could have deterred some of the association subscriptions.

In the coming months we should verify whether it is possible to restore the functioning of the online payments or whether we should construct a new site. I think, however, that we are all in agreement that having a functional website would be of strategic importance for the future of our association.

A second problem, much more important for the concrete organization of the meeting, is what I have already mentioned: too many persons included in the program are not pre-registered and are registered here at the meeting in Aix, making it difficult to plan the initial reception, how many conference bags to prepare, how many programs to print.

How to resolve the problem? I have written again to those who were on the program about pre-registering in the Conference with an advance, but writing e-mails is evidently not sufficient. It is a problem that we already had two years ago in Santiago de Compostela and in 2007 in Leipzig and earlier in Zagreb in 2005.

Before the meeting in Santiago the Council decided that those who, after an invitation to register, did not pre-register, should be removed from the program. That decision was not implemented by Karel Dobbelaere because he would have removed over half of those who were on the program.

It is a difficult question that ought to be dealt with in some way. We could anticipate a deadline for pre-registration then leave a month's time for a later invitation to pre-register, clearly advising that if there is no pre-registration it will be off the program, and after a final deadline eliminate them from the program if they are not pre-registered.

4. Grants

We have received 19 requests for financial assistance for this Conference, and we have offered 10 grants. The names of those who have received financial aid are: Alexander Agadjanian, Yaghoob Foroutan, Hector Tapales Guazon, Min Fang, Lovemore Ndlovu, Thien-Huong Ninh, Danoye Oguntola-Laguda, Anna Sokolova, Ingrid Storm, Rachel Werczberger.

5. Thanks

At the end of my remarks I would like to note that this conference is also the fruit of preparatory work done in collaboration with many persons.

I would like to thank the President, Jean-Paul Willaime, the Treasurers Jean-Pierre Hiernaux and Olivier Servais, and the whole Council for their availability for collaboration these two years.

Particular thanks to the Local Committee, Raphael Liogier and Alix Philippon, for how they have prepared the conference so well. It has been a true pleasure to work with them.

Many thanks also to Manon Wouters, Eliane Lallemand, and Giovanna Rech, who have managed the financial and administrative part of this meeting.

Finally there are two persons who have given me fundamental help: the administrative secretary Chiara Trentin, without which I would not have been able to manage the hundreds of e-mails and the preparation of the program, and Karel Dobbelaere, who has always been available with his experience and suggestions.

And thanks to all you, who in various ways, as session organizers or as participants, have made the good success of this meeting possible.

The report of the General Secretary was unanimously accepted.

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7) Auditor's Report

Pierre Bréchon reported the checks he has done of the Society's accounts to the General Assembly:

I looked at the ISSR accounts on Thursday, June 30 without the help of our treasurer Jean-Pierre Hierneaux till the end of 2010 and without Olivier Servais, the new treasurer.

All the records required for audit were available, but the lack of people acquainted with the accounts made the checks difficult.

The ISSR is not an organization with a big budget and the accounting records are not very many. However we should consider whether in the future we should have our accounts verified by a professional body capable of checking the accounts better than a non-specialist of good will.

In any case it is necessary at least to foresee in good advance the suitable work time between the auditors and the treasurer to audit the accounts.

Anyway, I could control the levels of the different accounts for each period end since July 2009: the announced reserves are not fictitious, they correspond to what is shown on the account statements. Actually I have not checked each accounting transaction.

The reserves levels (including the investments and the current accounts) were:

- 186 464.80 euros at the end of December 2008,
- 231 062.93 euros at the end of December 2009,
- 223 292.57 euros at the end of December 2010,
- 255 296.64 euros at the beginning of June 2011.

This last figure can be compared with that of July 2009 (at the time of the Santiago convention): 227 951.58 euros (with a difference of about 27 000 euros).

The ISSR reserves have then continued to grow in the last period. The overall financial situation is quite healthy. The management of our treasurer has certainly been very honest, careful and prudent. The ISSR expenses have surely been limited thanks to a lot of volunteering. Clearly the management has been that of a “good father”.

The President expressed the gratitude of the membership for the thorough inspection which Pierre Bréchon has made and asked the General Assembly to accept his report.

The General Assembly unanimously adopted the auditor’s report.

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8) Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer Olivier Servais presents his report.

1. Financial Management at the ISSR – Dispositif financier à la SISR

1.1. The Treasurer

Art. 36

Le trésorier est responsable de la préparation des budgets de la Société, de la présentation des rapports concernant la situation financière et, conjointement avec le secrétaire général, de la gestion quotidienne des ressources. La validité de toute transaction financière de la société est garantie par la signature du trésorier ou par celle du Secrétaire Général.

•Art. 36

•The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing the Society’s budget, reporting on its financial situation, and in conjunction with the General Secretary, managing its resources on a day-to-day basis. The signature of either the Treasurer or the General Secretary is sufficient to authorise valid financial transactions on the Society’s behalf.

1.2. Account auditors- Vérificateurs au Compte

•Audition of Accountability-Vérification de la comptabilité

1.3. Council-Conseil

- Surveiller la gestion des fonds de l'Association;
- Supervise the management of the funds of the Association;

1.4. General Assembly-Assemblée générale

- a) élit deux vérificateurs des comptes; elect two auditors;
- c) adopte les comptes et le budget de l'Association; approve the accounts and the budget of the Association;
- d) fixe le montant et la périodicité de la cotisation; determine the amount and the periodicity of dues;

1.5. In –En Consequence

In December 2010 JP Hiernaux resignation-démission

End February 2011 : Designation of O. Servais as interim treasurer by the Council

March-End of June : Transition process (Bank, accountability, etc...)

15th May 2011 : O. Servais elected as new treasurer for 4 years
 In collaboration with JP Hiernaux we closed the Accountability
 In Collaboration with the General secretary we prepared the Budget

2. State of Finance - Etat des finances (June 2011)

(1) avoir total vérifié en fin décembre 2010		223292,57
(2) avoir total vérifiable en début juin 2011 :		
° compte courant DEXIA au 21/06/2011 :	53.631,64	
° compte d'épargne DEXIA au 06-06-2011 :	61.777,59	
° titres en dépôt selon relevé Dexia		
- DEXIA DYNAMIX GLOBAL CAP - val.achat 16-05-2006, 3/1	25211,53	
° dépôt et titres DELEN au 31/03/2011 (dernier relevé trimestriel) :		
- compte à vue rémunéré	883,18	
- HERMES UNIVERSAL FIXED INCOME A CAP - 735 parts	113792,7	
Total de (2) supra :		255296,64

3. Accounts-Comptes 2008-2009

We approve accounts of the last bisannual term

CRÉDITS-Inflow	ACCOUNTS-COMPTES 2006-2007	ACCOUNTS-COMPTES 2008- 2009
C-I Intérêts sur tous dépôts	7231,14	4560,6
C-II Cotisations-Fees	520 membres : 57362,39	616 Members : 68691,97
C-III Confrence enregistrements- registration	436 participants : 31172,28	520 participants : 36107,52
TOTAL CREDITS :	95765,81	109360,09
DÉBITS-Outflow		
D-I Conseil-Council	3382,63	3158,6
D-II Frais bancaires-Bank Fees	188,41	221,38
D-III Frais des cartes de crédit	574,21	658,48
D-IV Social Compass	23464,85	20500
D-V Secretariat	4977,82	4493,18
D-VI Site web et paiement en ligne- Website and Payment system	1620	5259
D-VII Divers	-	1278,83
D-VIII Coneérence	17688,45	18603,19
D-IX Bourses	(dans ci-dessus)	(dans ci-dessus)
TOTAL DEBITS-outflow :	51896,37	54301,66
BALANCE	43869,44	55058,43

4. Budget 2012-2013

CRÉDITS-In flow	BUDGET 2 years « 2010, 2011 »	BUDGET 2 years « 2012, 2013 »
C-I Intérêts sur tous dépôts	4000	4000
C-II Cotisations-Members Fees	"500" membres : 57000	"500" membres : 57000
C-III Conférence inscript. Conference Fees	"400" participants : 29000	"400" participants : 29000
C-IV Subventions	0	5000
TOTAL CRÉDITS :	90000	95000
DÉBITS-outflow	sisr	sisr
D-I Conseil-Council	3300	3500
D-II Frais bancaires-Bank costs	250	300
D-III Frais des cartes de crédit-Credit Card Fees	600	600
D-IV Social Compass	25000	25000
D-V Secretariat	5500	12000
D-VI Site web Site	2000	2000
D-VII Divers	600	600
D-VIII Conference	15000	20000
D-IX Bourses-Grants	4000	12000
D-X- Long term Policy	/	19000
TOTAL DÉBITS :	56250	95000

BALANCE

33750

0

5. Treasurer Priorities

5.1.Preparer un bilan comptable et un état des avoirs détaillés- prepare un state of assets and goods of the SISR.

5.2.Have a complete website with efficient payment system- Disposer d'un site internet complet et un système de paiement efficace.

5.3.Disposer d'un statut légal et clarifier la situation fiscale de l'association- Have legal statute and clarify the tax situation of the association.

5.4.Mettre en œuvre les propositions de stratégie financière du Conseil- Implement the proposed financial strategy of the Council.

5.5.Evaluer les performances et l'éthique de nos organismes bancaires, et, si nécessaire, proposer des modifications- To evaluate the performance and ethics of our banking institutions, and, if necessary, propose changes.

5.6.Ne pas augmenter le prix de la cotisation en dehors de l'indexation- Never increase the price of the members fees out of the normal indexing.

5.7.Développer les Subventions de l'association- Increase the Subvention of the association.

The report of the Treasurer was unanimously accepted.

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9) Election of the auditors for 2012-2013

The General Assembly elects as auditors for 2012-2013 Pierre Bréchon (France) and Franco Garelli (Italy).

Réserve: Victor Roudometof (Cyprus)

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10) Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee

Enzo Pace, Chair of the Editorial Committee, presents his report:

The Editorial Committee met in Aix-en-Provence on July 30th, 2011. The Committee discussed and approved the following report to be presented to the Council and to the General Assembly:

a) The procedure for collecting and assessing the plenary papers, including the discussants' reports, was outlined and discussed. Members of the committee agreed to discuss the comments with authors at the earliest opportunity.

Jean Paul Willaime agreed to coordinate the revision of texts before 30th September 2011 and to submit them to Social Compass no later than 31st October 2011.

b) It was noted that the authors of other papers presented in Aix-en-Provence had been invited to submit papers by the deadline of 15th November 2011 to Jean Paul Willaime for possible publication in Social Compass.

The Chairperson explained that two external referees and members of the Editorial Committee needed to assess each paper before the meeting of the ISSR Council in February 2012. This is the meeting at which papers would be selected for revision and resubmission by 31st July 2012. Jean Paul Willaim needed to submit them to Social Compass by 31st October 2012.

c) The President of the EC is coming to the end of the four-years term in Aix-en-Provence Conference, along with Peter Bayer, Nathalie Luca and David Voas, meanwhile Véronique Altglas is still in charge because she replaced Xavier Costa who resigned two year ago. The president suggests to prepare a list of possible candidates to be approved by the Council. **The members agree to propose the names of: Elisabeth Arweck, Pauline Côté, Philippe Portier, and Jörg Stolz.** The ISSR Past-President, Jean Paul Willaime, will chair the Editorial board.

d) The Chairperson thanked all members of the committee for their contributions towards the success of the ISSR's issues of the journal and gave the incoming Chairperson, Jean Paul Willaime, his best wishes for success.

The General Assembly expresses its satisfaction with the policy of the Editorial Committee and accepts its report. The President thanks Enzo Pace and the members of the Editorial Committee for their work.

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11) The 32nd International Conference of the ISSR in 2013

Tuomas Martikainen of Åbo Akademi in Turku (Finland) presents the venue of the 32nd ISSR International Conference at his University in June 2013. Proposals for the theme of this conference will be discussed at the next Council meeting in Padova (February 17th-19th, 2012).

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At the end of the meeting Jean-Paul Willaime installed Peter Beyer as President of the ISSR for the next four years. The new President said just a few words of acceptance and all the members applauded very warmly.

At 20,30 the meeting came to a close after the President had thanked all members present.

History of ISSR part 2

2.-ROME – OPATIJA: THE FIRST MUTATION ¹

In the sixties, the CISR was confronted by different major issues: its internalization, its denominational character and the redefinition of its objectives.

1. The internalization of CISR

Did the CISR live up to its international aspirations expressed in its name? Already at the 3rd Conference, 66 people were present from 6 different countries: Italy, Germany and the USA joined the three original countries. At the 4th Conference, three more countries could be added: Austria, Canada and Spain. In 1956, at the 5th Conference, 262 people attended from 18 different countries. These participants came from Europe, North and South America. In 1970, the new Secretary General wrote in the *Bulletin de Liaison*: 360 persons from 40 countries, who have attended the conferences, are registered and they receive the *Bulletin de Liaison*. They came from all continents, especially from Europe (West and East) and North America, respectively 60 and 26 percent. This was partly due to the rotating locations of the conferences: we had the first nine conferences in seven different countries, of which, one in the so called New World.

Not only were the audiences international, papers presented at the conference also had an international spectrum. From the second conference on there were papers presented about research on the religious situation in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain. At the 3rd Conference we have to add papers presented by colleagues from Canada, Chile, Columbia, Hungary, Italy, USA and Zaire; and at the 4th conference Austria joined. Later conferences confirmed this trend and, consequently, extended the scope of the Conference.

The internationalization brought to the fore its initial option to be a nondenominational association. From the 5th Conference on there were papers presented by Christians other than Catholics. However, according to the statutes it was a Catholic organization.

¹ The First part of the history of the ISSR was published in *Network 37*, pp. 8-14.

2. The CISR drops its denominational character

In the second part of the 1960s, the strained relationship between CISR and Rome made the President and the Secretary General propose new statutes for the CISR, and they suggested in the CISR *Bulletin* to ask the Holy See for its approval. Many members objected vehemently, and Rome was never contacted. It is clear that a new generation of academics could not accept the “self-imposed” limitations of the objectives of the CISR and that they wanted to link up again with the mainstream of sociology and the sociological tradition of Durkheim and Weber. Drastic changes occurred at the end of the 1960s.

In 1968, the then Secretary General of the CISR, Emile Pin, proposed new statutes in the *Bulletin de Liaison* (1968,1), which, according to the next *Bulletin* (1968,2) were accepted for lack of objections. What was new in these statutes? The purpose of the CISR was no longer limited to the methodology; almost all references to religious bodies were eliminated, except that the membership of the Executive Committee should at least include two Roman Catholics and two members of other Christian churches. Furthermore, active membership of the association was reserved for social scientists “interested in the progress of religion”, although any person interested in the sociology of religion might become an “affiliated member”. Finally, a “preparatory committee” was established to prepare for each conference: until then papers had been offered by members, and others were solicited by the secretary general.

The 10th conference was held in Rome (1969), and the acts present 17 papers offering a criticism of “religious sociology”, a discussion of theoretical and methodological issues in the sociological study of religion, and studies on sects, atheism, and irreligion. Almost all papers had references to mainstream sociology, Durkheim and his school included. Bryan Wilson presented a paper at the conference and was referred to in other conference papers. Other studies explicitly referred to recent works of Berger and Luckmann, who reformulated the central questions of the sociology of religion and criticized “church sociology”. More than half of the 116 participants were clerics. Half of the participants were Italians, the other half came from 15 countries, of which the best represented were USA (13), Belgium (9) and France (7). There were three participants from Eastern Europe, one from Asia, one from

Africa and one from Latin America. Of the 17 papers presented in the Acts, thirteen were in English and four in French.

At that conference, Jacques Verscheure was designated the new Secretary General, to stay in office until his death in 1985. Together with the Presidents Bryan Wilson (1971-1975) and David Martin (1975-1983), he had a major impact on the CISR. When he started his task, he was the director of the Socio-Religious Research Centre in Lille (France). He accepted the designation under a silent agreement with Jean Remy and myself that emerged after a walk in the nice garden of the convent where the conference took place. He asked us if we would accept to take over at the next conference in case he was forced to resign. Jean Remy did not feel that he could promise that, so finally I agreed. Indeed, Verscheure had to ask the consent of his bishop and he also wanted to see if he had the support of the members of the CISR in the difficult tasks that awaited him.

At the 10th conference in Rome, the General Assembly decided to abrogate “in the new statutes and activities” all denominational references. Consequently, a revision of the statutes became essential, a first task that fell unto Verscheure. To mark the openness of the CISR it was also decided that the next conference should take place in Opatija (Yugoslavia). The central theme of this conference being ”Religion and Religiosity, Atheism and Non-belief in Industrial and Urban Society”. This was a second major task for him. How to ensure that the conference would be a scientific meeting and not a discussion of Christians versus Marxists. And in Yugoslavia, he had to ensure that the conference did not incite oppositions from the Catholic Church, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Archbishop of Zagreb, and the Yugoslavian State Institute on Religions and Atheism. Furthermore, he asked himself if a reoriented CISR could survive. On the one hand, what would be its specificity *vis-à-vis* the *Research Committee 22: Sociology of Religion* of the International Sociological Association (ISA) if the CISR became purely scientific? And, on the other hand, being from France, he was confronted with the existing *Groupe de Sociologie des Religions* (GSR) of the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (Paris), that was founded in 1954, of whom none were present. This group wanted to differentiate itself from traditional “religious sociology” and from the ”Durkheim tradition” expressing this in their name “Group of Sociology of Religions”. Was a dual membership acceptable for them? Poulat (1990) refers in his article to the different negotiations that Verscheure undertook during the intra conference period with the Research committee 22 of the ISA (Mol and Birnbaum) and the GSR, which he chaired. Poulat helped Verscheure in rewriting the new statutes. And Verscheure got the

insurances he lobbied for and the financial support from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize the conference.

The 11th Conference in Opatija (1971) was a success; there were 211 participants from 23 different countries; one third came from Yugoslavia; one third from Belgium, France and Italy; and among the other participants, 6 came from Eastern Europe (none from Russia), and 3 from Africa. Desroche (Groupe de [sociologie des religions](#), CNRS Paris) wrote an enthusiastic report in the *Archives de Sociologie des Religions*, underscoring the plurality of the domains covered and of the methodologies used.

There were 83 members present at the General Assembly and 78 adopted the new Statutes. The most important change was that the purpose of the CISR is “scientific”. The clauses that “members should be interested in the progress of religion” and that “the membership of the Executive Committee should include at least two roman Catholics and two members of other Christian Churches” were eliminated. And the category “affiliated members” was suppressed. Indeed for many years, sociologists had sought to restrict CISR membership and conference attendance to sociologists and academics in related sciences (e.g. anthropology, history, and psychology). By the suppression of this category, pastoral workers might be excluded. The impact of the latter on the discussions had indeed come to be negatively evaluated. Consequently, in Opatija, the CISR shed the last vestiges of its religious past and Bryan Wilson became the President. In his person he symbolised the changes: being an internationally recognized scientist, an agnostic interested in all forms of religion and an Anglophone. Indeed in Opatija, the CISR, born francophone, became officially bilingual: English and French.

Since Opatija, the object of the CISR was specified and still is in the Art. 3 and 4 of its statutes: . “The CISR shall be a scientific Association. Its object shall be to advance sociology and related sciences in the analysis and interpretation of religious and related phenomena”. “To fulfil its purposes, the Association shall give priority to the two following objectives: a) to promote throughout the world relations between sociologists and, more generally, between specialists of the various disciplines concerned with the object of the Association; and b) to organize periodical international conferences”. Since then regular conferences were held every two years. The 12th conference in The Hague (Netherlands) in

1973, confirmed its success and the mutation that had taken place. Its membership had grown in four years from 72 to 329 from 54 countries including a delegation of Japan..

3. CISR: “*sociologie religieuse*” or “*sociologie des religions*”?

An important number of members wanted to change the French name in *Conférence Internationale de Sociologie des Religions* to mark the mutation that the society had undergone. This proposal was defeated at the General Assembly during the XI Conference in Opatija by 36 votes for, 39 votes to keep *Sociologie Religieuse* and 8 abstentions. A majority of two thirds was required to change the name of the society.

In his article, Poulat plays down the symbolic meaning of the term “*sociologie religieuse*”. Each and every language has its particularities, he stated; take for example “*sociologie urbaine, rurale, industrielle, etc.* Which is true, but it is not the point. The term “*sociologie religieuse*” implied an ideological option, which is obvious when he pointed out that the group “*sociologie des religions*” of the CNRS, of which he was the chairman, was established in 1954 in Paris, to differentiate itself from the Durkheimian tradition and from another “*de marque catholique*” that labelled itself “*sociologie religieuse*”.

Consequently, when a proposal to change the name from “*Sociologie Religieuse*” into “*Sociologie des Religions*” was defeated in the General Assembly, I suspect that this was because two different groups had a vested interest in perpetuating the old name. On the one hand, the “*Groupe de Sociologie des Religions*” from France wanted to maintain its own specific identity vis-à-vis the “*sociologie religieuse*”, and, on the other hand, some “clerics” wanted to keep the CISR, at least implicitly, as a Catholic organization which promoted a sociology at the service of the Church; a sociology that was sociological only in its acceptance of the empirical techniques, and that rejected sociological theory.

It was this type of sociology, identified as religious sociology that many participants wanted to combat, from the 1960s onwards. What was it that promoted this hostile attitude and led to changes in CISR? As Tschannen documents in his paper in the Acts of the CISR, a new generation of sociologists came to the fore coached, one may say, by mentors like Luckmann, Martin and Wilson. I should like to stress the impact that this generation has undergone from the disintegration of the Catholic identity and from the impact of the

meetings in the ISA RC22 and other professional organisations to understand their negative attitude to “religious sociology”.

The major changes in our association were related to changes in the social environment. At the end of the 1960s, cultural change was rampant and it had a major effect on Catholics. This became quite obvious in the drastic fall in mass attendance on weekends. Catholics were up against a major identity crisis, and this also had its impact on Catholic sociologists: “religious sociology” became, from the 1960s on, as was the case in the American Catholic Sociological Society according to Paul Reiss (1969: 126-127), a “sociology of Catholicism (resp. Protestantism)”. Sociologists started studying Catholic life and not just Church life. In the Netherlands and Belgium, for example a sociology of “pillarization” developed. Sociologists of religion and sociologists of polity started studying the emergence and the development of, and the changes in, Catholic/Protestant organizations, and the impact of these organizations on the political equilibrium of these countries (Billiet, Dobbelaere, Huyse, Remy, Van den Brande and Voyé in Belgium and Kruyt, Lijphart, Thung and Thurlings in the Netherlands to name a few). The latter development, it seems to me, was not a cause but more an effect of the major changes in Catholicism and Protestantism. But, it shows the reorientation of their research.

Moreover, a new generation of sociologists took over from the former generation in the CISR, and the great majority of them were lay people. The former generation – Carrier De Volder, Duocastella, Goddijn, Houtart, Leclercq, Pin, Verscheure and others – were priests and primarily theologians and philosophers, and the great majority of them had no training whatsoever in sociology. The new generation was trained in sociology, either within catholic institutions or elsewhere; a possible church affiliation was irrelevant for their professional work; and their major reference group was not the Church but professional sociologists. This became very clear in their memberships: dual affiliations – both the CISR and the RC 22 Sociology of Religion of the ISA were prevalent. Aquaviva, Cipriani, Dobbelaere, Guizzardi, Isambert, Laeyendecker and Maitre, met with Barker, Beckford, Demerath, Luckmann, Martin, Mol and Wilson, and other sociologists at CISR and ISA meetings. Some core members of the CISR were even officers of the CR 22 of the ISA (Cipriani, Dobbelaere, and later on Davie). Consequently, the ISA played for the CISR-members the same role as the American Sociological Association (ASA) did for the members of the American Catholic Sociological Society (Reiss, 1969: 127 – 128). Many young sociologists also went to conferences in the USA, i.e. the meetings of the ASA, of the Society

for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) and of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR). And in the French-speaking world, I would like to point out a similar trend: the impact of the *Comité de Recherche de Sociologie des Religions* meeting under the auspices of the *Association Internationale de Sociologues de Langue Française* (AISLF). There Lalive d'Épinay, Cipriani, Pace, Prandi, Ferraroti, Zylberberg, Remy, Voyé, and others met and still meet. All these people were and are active in these organizations because they are professional sociologists and their possible religious affiliation is irrelevant for their professional work.

Consequently, in my view, the major change that altered the CISR completely, like the American Catholic Sociological Association, was the switch in reference behaviour of sociologists of Catholic origin. Which resulted from the identity crisis in Catholicism and the extensive international contacts that accompanied the major change. These sociologists looked for professional support: they wanted to be sociologists and went to other international meetings. They also brought sociologists from other associations into the CISR. Consequently, the CISR became an international organization of sociologists, whether they were affiliated to a church or not, and the question of religious affiliation was totally irrelevant for the organization. Since that time, the CISR has been an international organization of sociologists interested in changes in society and religion. The primary purpose of their studies is to gain insight and knowledge, to build theories and not to serve religious bodies. Or if I may put it this way: the CISR is dedicated not to religion but to science. Thus it is that, for a long time, the CISR has no longer held its meetings in the premises of churches, i.e. convents, but rather in universities. However, it will take another decade before the logo will carry "Sociology of ReligionS".

Karel Dobbelaere

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