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Letter from the President

The 33rd biannual conference of the ISSR will take place in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium from 2-5 July, 2015. In this newsletter you will find the description of the conference theme, which is entitled “Sensing Religion”, as well as information on how to submit session proposals for the conference. Additional information on various deadlines, membership requirements, and the coordinates of key contact people is also provided. Finally, we also draw your attention to the new ISSR program for supporting the organization of international workshops, in this first case to be held during 2015.

With your participation and contribution, we look forward to another successful biannual conference in 2015. At this point in the organization of the conference, the most important task for you is to submit your proposals for sessions, whether the standard thematic sessions, working group sessions, author-meets-critics-sessions, or other (for example, joint sessions). This year, for the first time, session (and eventually paper) proposals are to be submitted on-line, through the ISSR website (<http://www.sisr-issr.org/English/Conferences/Conferences.htm>) using the submission form to be found there.

Of particular practical importance for session proposals is a) that session organizers must be members in good standing of the ISSR; and b) that each member may only submit one thematic or working group session proposal, although they may, in addition, also submit an author-meets-critics session proposal. Member in good standing means that you must have paid your membership fees for the 2014-2015 period. Joining the ISSR or renewing membership should also be done through the website at <https://www.sisr-issr.org/Payments/>.

I would also like to call your attention to the call for ISSR workshop proposals. In light of its mission to foster international exchange in the

sociology of religion, the ISSR is now sponsoring international workshops on innovative research topics in the field. For the first round, these workshops should be held in 2015; and the ISSR will provide co-funding to a maximum of EUR 15,000-. To submit a proposal for a workshop, again, please go to the ISSR website. You will find the link to the proposal information on the home page.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I note that our Past President, James A. Beckford, received a *Docteur ès Sciences des Religions, honoris causa* from the University of Lausanne on the 23rd May 2014. For more information go to <http://www.unil.ch/ftsr> (Click on the photo to read the laudatio). Our heartfelt congratulations, Jim!

PETER BEYER, President

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The 33rd ISSR Conference

Sensing Religion

Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), 2nd-5th July, 2015.

Religions are not just a matter of belief, of practice, and of social organization. They more broadly also involve experience, perception, and the expression and representation of such 'sensing of the religious'. Experiences may be sensory, as with the sights, sounds, and smells of religious rituals; and they may be communal and emotional, as various scholars have theorized through concepts such as 'collective effervescence', 'communitas', and 'collective emotional regimes'. The sensible and the senses in religion has been a recurring theme in sociology and anthropology since the beginning of these disciplines. It unfolds in multiple directions and poses a whole host of interconnected questions.

- > What are the locations for sensing religion and how do the individual body and the communal temple interrelate as such locations? How are deities and spiritual entities represented and how does that representation articulate with bodily and communal religious practice? How is religious experience involved and how

does that manifest and articulate with sensory perception and representation?

- > How do contemporary religious groups use sensory and other experiences to gather and serve their adherents – from mega-church audio-visuals to congregational art, music, and dance? What is the role of images, music, and dance as producers of the religious and not just religious productions?
- > The audio-visual dimension is involved in various ways with media, including through television, radio, religious art, the Internet and the world of gaming – how do religious people understand the experiences that they increasingly claim are central to their religious lives? How do such matters vary across the world's different religious traditions, and what can we learn from this variety?
- > How are experiences – sensory, emotional, or inward – expressed in varying religious discourses? What is the role of religious language in this sensory and emotional context? What are the emotional characteristics of religious language? How do we understand, in this context, the success of various charismatic movements?
- > How do people sense religion in daily life? To what extent and how do people feel religion as, for instance, a source of meaning, identity, guilt, health or obligation in their day to day existence?
- > And from a reflexive perspective, what do we as sociologists and anthropologists 'sense' as the religious? Why and how? Does the importance in our discipline of the questions just outlined signal transformations in this observation of the religious?

These questions, and others like them, will be the focus of our 2015 conference. We welcome sessions and papers on these and other topics of interest to the social sciences of religion.

DEADLINES

- > Session proposals - 15 September 2014
- > Papers proposals - 15 December 2014
- > Conveners to finalize sessions - 15 January 2015
- > Acceptance letters sent by the Program Chair – 15 February 2015
- > Publication of provisional program - 15 March 2015
- > Responses / corrections - 1 April 2015
- > Definitive program - 15 April 2015
- > Registration - 1 May 2015
- > Final program to the Local Committee - 30 May 2015

SUBMISSION

For this conference, session and paper proposals should be submitted online by following

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

Time	2 July	Time	3 July	4 July	5 July
9:00	Council meeting	9:00 - 10:30	Plenary 1	Plenary 2	Session 8
12:15	Opening session	10:30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
14:30 – 16:00	Sessions 1	11:00 – 12:30	Sessions 3	Sessions 6	Session 9
16:15 – 18:00	Sessions 2	12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
19:00 or 19:30	Welcome party	14:00 – 15:30	Sessions 4	Sessions 7	Council meeting (begins)
		15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	
		16:00 – 17:30	Sessions 5	Linguistic groups	
		17:30 – 19:00	General Assembly	Presidential Address	
		19:00		Conference dinner	

this link <http://www.sisr-issr.org/Program/>. The online facility for submitting session proposals is now open and the deadline for submitting session proposals is 15 September 2014. Each convener may only organize one thematic session or one working group. In addition, a convener may organize one Author-Meets-Critics session.

PROGRAM CHAIR

For this conference the ISSR Council has introduced the position of Program Chair, who will be responsible for organizing the program. The Program Chair for the 2015 conference is:

DR. JASJIT SINGH

Leeds Humanities Research Institute
29-31, Clarendon Place, University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT
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E-mail: 2015program_chair@sisr-issr.org

Membership Dues

Please keep in mind that the 2012-2013 membership expired on 1 January 2014 unless you have already renewed for the coming period. In order to submit a session or paper proposal you have to be a member in good standing of that ISSR.

All information regarding membership dues is available on the ISSR website.

www.sisr-issr.org

Call for ISSR workshop proposal

PURPOSE

In light of its mission to foster international exchange in the sociology of religion, the ISSR invites proposals for international workshops on innovative research topics in the field to be held in 2015. ISSR will provide co-funding to a maximum of EUR15,000-.

ELIGIBILITY

- > Proposals may be submitted by a group of a minimum of three ISSR members in good standing, who come from at least three different countries;
- > Proposals should include confirmed and significant co-funding from at least one other source (e.g. universities, research institutes);

APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

Proposals shall consist of

- > a concise explanation of the scientific purpose and potential publication plans (three pages maximum);
- > a list of potential participants to be invited and/or to be addressed through an open Call for Papers;
- > a detailed budget plan and timeline of organization;
- > confirmation letter(s) from co-funding source(s).

DEADLINE

Proposals should be sent in electronic format to the Chair of the ISSR Workshop Committee, Roberto Motta (rmcmotta@uol.com.br) by November 1, 2014.

Practical information

PETER BEYER, President

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Please inform the General Secretariat of any changes in address.

All changes to be sent to Branko Ančić, Administrative Secretary or Siniša Zrinščak, General Secretary.
