

Network 49 Réseau

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April 2015 | Published by Siniša Zrinščak

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Letter from the President

This issue of Network contains important information about the upcoming conference of the ISSR, which will take place in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium from 2-5 July 2015. It also contains information about all the candidates running for election to the ISSR Council in preparation for the vote that will take place in April. All members will at that time receive links and instructions to cast their votes online during that month.

2015 marks the first year that the ISSR has expanded its funded activity to include more than the conference and the journal issue of Social Compass. During 2014, we set up a permanent Fund dedicated to funding a variety of activities. For 2015 we held a competition for helping to fund an international workshop. The winner of that competition is announced in this newsletter. We are also, for the first time in 2015 holding competitions for two prizes, the ISSR Best Article Award and the ISSR Student Paper Award (see the web site, on the homepage, for more information). The results for these awards will be announced at the conference.

For information on the conference itself, we invite you to visit the ISSR's web site, where we also encourage you to register for the conference and renew your membership, if applicable.

In this context, a number of helpful reminders:

If you have not already done so, please do not delay in renewing your membership for the 2014-2015 period. The place to do this is directly through our web site www.sisr-issr.org (click on "Join") and, if at all possible, electronically. It is still possible to do this by regular mail, however. The form can be found on the web site as well.

The web site is also the place to find all the technical information that you will need to attend the conference, specifically at the local committee's site at <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-sisr.html>. There you will find details about accommodation and travel, tourism in the area, dining information, maps,

and sundry practical information (you can get to this part of the web site from the “Conferences” page; see the link at the bottom).

Since about the middle of March, the preliminary program for the conference has been posted on the web site (see the “Conferences” page). If you are participating, please check the program regularly over the next month as it is being updated weekly and your details may therefore have changed.

Pre-Registration this year is done through the web site. Please be reminded again that you must pre-register in order to deliver a paper at the conference. The deadline for pre-registration for paper presenters is **1 May 2015**. If, for technical, visa, or other reasons, this will not be possible in your case, please contact the General Secretary at general_secretary@sir-issr.org.

And finally, another reason that it is important to be a member is that only members will be able to vote in this year’s Council elections, mentioned at the outset.

I very much look forward to meeting you all (again) in July! I am certain it will be a fantastic conference.

PETER BEYER, President

Preliminary program

The preliminary program for the conference is now available. You can find it on the web-site under <http://www.sir-issr.org/English/Conferences/Conferences.htm>

We kindly ask you to check it for errors and report them to the program chair (2015program_chair@sir-issr.org) before April 6, 2015.

Membership + conference fees

We remind you that all conference participants have to be ISSR members for the 2014-2105 period and pay the conference registration fee. For participants to remain on the program, they

have to have paid the membership fee and the conference fee by May 1, 2015. If there is a good reason why you cannot do this by the 1 May 2015, please contact the general secretary at general_secretary@sir-issr.org

You may pay your membership through the web site, under “Join”, and the conference fee through the link to be found on the home page or under “Conferences”.

Local committee

For all practical information please see the local committee website: <http://www.uclouvain.be/en-sir.html>

We also strongly advise all participants to purchase their own travel insurance. Neither the ISSR/SISR nor the Local Committee can be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to conference participants and their property on the way to and from the conference venue or during the conference.

Enhancement Fund results

In light of its mission to foster international exchange in the sociology of religion, the ISSR invited proposals in 2014 for international workshops on innovative research topics in the field to be held in 2015. Two proposals were submitted and the Enhancement Fund Workshop Committee chose the one which got the funding. The title of the proposal was Is Secularism Bad for Women? Women and religious change in contemporary Europe and was submitted jointly by Dr Kristin Aune (Coventry University), Prof Mia Lövheim (Uppsala University), Dr Terhi Utriainen (University of Helsinki), Dr Alberta Giorgi (University of Coimbra) & Dr Teresa Toldy (Fernando Pessoa University, Porto).

The ISSR congratulates the winner!

2015 ISSR Elections

Elections for vacant positions will be organized in the next half of April.

Presentation of the candidates:

Vice- President

VÉRONIQUE ALTGLAS

Véronique Altglas has a PhD from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Warwick University and a Research Fellowship at Cambridge's department of sociology, she was appointed as a lecturer in sociology at Queen's University Belfast in 2009. Her research areas are globalisation of religion, transformations of religiosity in modern societies, and cross-national comparisons of the responses to religious diversity. She has conducted research on the transnational expansion of neo-Hindu movements and the management of minority religions in France and Britain. In more recent years, she has pursued a research interest in the popularisation of kabbalah in France, Britain, Brazil and Israel. This empirical research is inscribed in broader reflections regarding contemporary practices of bricolage, the making of identities, and epistemological issues within the sociology of religion.

Recent publications include: *Le nouvel hindouisme occidental*. Paris: Éditions du CNRS, 2005; *Religion and Globalization: Critical Concepts in Social Studies*. London: Routledge, 2010; *Religious Exoticism: The Logics of Bricolage in Contemporary Societies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Véronique Altglas is a member of the ISSR since 1999. On request of its president, she created the ISSR Internet network of young researchers and animated the young researchers sessions during its conferences (2001-2004). She was the French representative on the ISSR Council between 2005 and 2013 and is currently the *Social Compass* editor for the ISSR conference papers (2013-2015).

INGER FURSETH

Inger Furseth, Dr. polit, is professor at Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo and adjunct professor at KIFO Centre for Church Research, Norway. She got her doctorate degree in the social sciences from University of Oslo (2000). She has worked as research associate at KIFO Centre for Church Research, Oslo (1987-2013) (where she also was interim research director 2012-2013), adjunct professor in the sociology of religion at Norwegian School of Theology (2005-2012), and research associate at Center for Religion and Civic Studies, University of Southern California (2002-2013). She is also editor of the journal *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society* (since 2004).

Some of Furseth's books include *A Comparative Study of Social and Religious Movements in Norway, 1790s-1905* (Edwin Mellen 2002) and *From Quest for Truth to Being Oneself. Religious Change in Life Stories* (Peter Lang 2006). *An Introduction to the Sociology of Religion* was published in 2006 (Ashgate), which she co-authored with Pål Repstad. This textbook is translated to three Nordic languages and Turkish, and in January 2015, it was selected by Ashgate as one of their books that have had the most impact. She co-edited *The Changing Soul of Europe. Religions and Migrations in Northern and Southern Europe* with Helena Vilaca, Enzo Pace, and Per Pettersson (Ashgate 2014). Furseth has also published numerous articles in Norwegian and international books and journals, including *Social Compass*. Her current writing includes articles from a project on "Religion in the lives of immigrant Muslim women in the Los Angeles area," and a book manuscript entitled "Contemporary sociologists on religion" with Pål Repstad. This book analyzes key social thinkers and their views on religion, and it will hopefully be finalized in 2015-17.

Furseth has been the director of a five year Nordic research project, "The role of religion in the public sphere. A comparative study of the

five Nordic countries” (NOREL), funded by the Nordic research councils, NOS-HS (2009-2014). The project focused on four topics: 1. Religion and state, 2. Religion and politics, 3. Religion and the media, and 4. Religion and civil society. The project included more than 20 researchers, including two PhD students. The edited book manuscript, *Religion back in the public sphere? Religion and politics, media, state, and civil society in the Nordic Countries since the 1980s* will be finalized the spring of 2015. A book from the Norwegian NOREL research will be published in Norwegian in April 2015 (Universitetsforlaget). Furseth’s research interests cover a broad area within the sociology of religion: religion in the public sphere, religious diversity, gender issues, Muslim women, social and religious movements, and social theory. Furseth first attended a SISR/ISSR conference and presented a paper in Budapest in 1993. Since 2001, she has actively participated at every SISR/ISSR conference with papers, and arranged sessions at every conference since 2005.

Council members

Members eligible for the second term

SWITZERLAND

IRENE BECCI

Irene Becci took her Bachelor and Master degrees in Social Sciences from the University of Lausanne, and made her PhD in Political and Social Sciences at the European University Institute, Florence in 2006. Since 2012, she is assistant professor at the Institute of Social Sciences of Religion, faculty of Theology and Religious Science, at the University of Lausanne with the focus on “Emerging religions and contemporary spirituality”. Irene Becci has worked on the topic of religion in prisons in Germany and Italy during her doctoral and on religion for ex-prisoners in her postdoctoral studies, comparing Italy, Germany and Switzerland. She is currently enlarging her perspective to other state institutions dealing with religious diversity and spirituality, in particular on health institutions. Currently, she deals with contemporary expressions of “spirituality” in European urban contexts. Her most recent books are: “Topographies of faith” (2013, Leiden: Brill), co-

edited with Marian Burchardt and José Casanova and “Religious Diversity in European Prisons: Challenges and Implications for Rehabilitation” (2015, New York: Springer), co-edited with Olivier Roy.

BENELUX

ANNE-MARIE VUILLEMENOT

Fields :

Anthropology of the Body, Religious Anthropology (Shamanism, Sufism, Contemporary Islam), Anthropology of the senses, Anthropology of Space and Housing

Ethnographic fields:

Inner Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan), Laddakh, Capo Verde.

Languages:

- good level : English, Russian, Kazakh, German, Portuguese of Brazil

- basic knowledge : Ladakhi, Creole Cape Verdean

Titles and Affiliations :

Anthropologist - Professor at UCL

Director of Laboratory for a Prospective Anthropology

Published works (2013-2014):

Books:

Intimité et réflexivité du chercheur, 2015, Investigations d'Anthropologie Prospective, codirigé par Defreyne E., Hagdad Mofrad G, Vuilleminot A.M, Academia-L'Harmattan, Louvain-la-Neuve.

Présences du corps et kinésie, 2014, n°9 Parcours Anthropologiques, n° en ligne : <http://pa.revues.org>, dirigé par Vuilleminot A.-M.

Scientific articles :

2015, 3 Articles dans le dictionnaire Anthrope: Chamaniser, Implication, Anthropologie Prospective (<https://www.anthrope.org/> en cours d'ouverture)

2015, « De l'insécurité à l'appel des invisibles: femmes bakhsis au Kazakhstan », actes du colloque « Femmes et Résistance en Asie centrale et région MENA », publication CECID (ULB) et Université d'Ottawa (à paraître).

2014, « Bakhsi et Lha-mo: charmeurs et serviteurs de l'invisible sur la route de la soie », actes du colloque « Rencontres et médiations culturelles entre la Chine, l'Occident et le monde autochtone: missionnaires, chamanes et intermédiaires religieux », Québec, Université Laval, 2-5 octobre 2012.

2014, « Enjeu d'une anthropologie prospective: décoloniser la pensée en anthropologie », in Furtado, C., Evora, E., Laurent, P.-J. (sous la direction de), Les sciences sociales au Cap-Vert, Praia/Lisbonne, édition UNI.CV.

2014, « Médiatiser l'invisible, Bitva ekstrasensov », in BOELSTORFF (T.), MAURER (B.), MAZZOCCHETTI (J.) & SERVAIS (O.) (dir.), Annales de la Chaire Singleton 2013, Louvain-La-Neuve (Belgique).

2014, « Bouches ouvertes. Bouches fermées. Qui mange avec qui ? Comment ? Et que mange-t-on ? », in : Altérité rencontrée, perçue, représentée. Entre Orient et Occident du 18e au 21e siècle, Jialin

Wu C. & Servais P ed, Rencontres Orient-Occident, Louvain-la-Neuve, Academia-L'Harmattan: 105-116

2014, « Corps, transe et mysticisme » in : Hamadcha du Maroc. Rituels musicaux, mystiques et possession, Maréchal B & Dassetto F ed, Louvain-la-Neuve, Presses Universitaires de Louvain : 31-39.

2013, « Nus et nudité : enjeux autour de la dissimulation du corps » in : Jacques Marquet, Nicolas Marquis & Nathalie Hubert (dir.), Corps soignant, corps soigné. Les soins infirmiers: de la formation à la profession/, Louvain-la-Neuve, Academia : 135-146.

2013, « La cartographie du corps : leçons d'une enquête auprès d'étudiants en soins infirmiers » (Nathalie Hubert, Jacques Marquet, Nicolas Marquis, Anne-Marie Vuilleminot) in : Jacques Marquet, Nicolas Marquis & Nathalie Hubert (dir.), Corps soignant, corps soigné. Les soins infirmiers: de la formation à la profession, Louvain-la-Neuve, Academia : 59-83.

2013, "Les chamans-soufis kazakhs surfent sur l'invisible", in: Laruelle M. & Pérouse S. éd, Eclats d'empires, Asie centrale, Caucase et Afghanistan, Fayard/CERI, Paris : 79-83.

2013, "Muslim Shamans in Kazakhstan" in: Shamanism and Islam. Sufism, Healing rituals and Spirits in the Muslim World, Thierry Zarcone et Angela Hobart ed., Tauris Press, London: 59-78.

2013, « Un exemple de modernité insécurisée : comment vivre sans chanyrak dans le Kazakhstan contemporain ? » in : La modernité insécurisée, anthropologie des conséquences de la mondialisation, n°3 d'Investigations d'Anthropologie Prospective, codirigé par Breda C., Derrider M., Laurent Pierre-Joseph, Academia-L'Harmattan, Louvain-la-Neuve, 2013 : 109-130.

EAST ASIA AND JAPAN

YOSHIHIDE SAKURAI

Dr. Yoshihide Sakurai is a professor of sociology at the Graduate School of Letters, Hokkaido University, Japan. He obtained Ph.D in Development Studies of Thailand at Hokkaido University and published *Regional Development in Northeast Thailand and the Formation of Civil Society* (Khon Kaen University Press, 2003).

And he has been publishing many books about contemporary religion in Japan. His English paper is included in the Hokkaido University Collection of Academic Papers : <http://eprints.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/dspace/index.jsp?locale=en>. He has been executive board members of several academic associations such as the Japanese Association for the Study of Religion and Society (President from June 2009 to 2011 ; Chief Editor, Religion and Society from 2014 to 2016), the Hokkaido Sociological Association (President from July 2011 to June 2013), Japanese Association for Religious Studies, The Japanese Society for Thai Studies, The Japanese and Chinese Society for Sociology, RC22 of ISA, and ISSR. Contact: saku@let.hokudai.ac.jp

EASTERN EUROPE

FATMA KOCAMEMIK SÜNDAL

Fatma Kocamemik Sündal received her Ph.D in Sociology from the Middle East Technical University of Ankara (2002). She conducted socioeconomic research in Eastern Mediterranean part of Turkey for KFW-Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (1995) and taught introductory sociology courses at Bilkent University of Ankara (1996-1997), while she was still a doctoral student.

She was awarded a scholarship by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2001) and a post-doctoral research grant by TÜBA (Turkish Academy of Sciences) and hosted by Catholic University of Milan in 2002 and 2004. Since the end of 1997 she has been working at Anadolu University of Eskişehir.

She is currently an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Humanities of Anadolu University of Eskişehir, teaching Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Everyday Life, Theory of Knowledge, and Qualitative Research Methods. She has been a member of ISA RC 22 between 2006 and 2014, and ISSR/SISR since 2006. Fatma (Kocamemik) Sündal is involved in both national and international research projects on religion and she has recently taken place within Editorial Board of a Book Publishing Programme on Theology and Religious Studies within Versita de Gruyter to represent Eastern Europe between 2011 and 2012.

Main Research: Political Islam, Sufi Orders, Women and Gender in the Middle East, Euro-Islam, Religious Lives in Modernity, Laïcité and Secularisation.

Recent Publications:

Sünder, Fatma. "Invisible Women Visible Islam: Engendering Everyday Lives of Educated Islamist Women in Turkey", *Anadolu University Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(1): 109-130, 2005.

Sünder, Fatma. "Un Ensayo Sobre el Proceso de Secularización en Turquía" *Los Retos de la Laicidad y la Secularización en el Mundo Contemporáneo*, (Coord.) Roberto Blancarte., (trad.) Mónica Portnoy México: El Colegio de México, Centro de Estudios Sociológicos.397-427, 2008.

Sünder, Fatma. "What Has Happened in AKP years in Turkey: The Condition of Islamism, Turkish Islam Synthesis, and Islamist Violence", *Politics and Religion*. II(1), 13-29, 2008.

Sünder, Fatma. "Sufi Spirituality and the Code of Islam in Everyday Practice: Findings from a Qualitative Study of a Sufi Group in Milan" ASR Religion and Social Order Series, vol. 22: *Mapping Religion and Spirituality in a Postsecular World* (ed) Giuseppe Giordan and Enzo Pace. Leiden, Boston: Brill. 181-199, 2012.

Sünder, Fatma. "La Condición de Laicidad en la Turquía Contemporánea: Los Sunitas y los Alevitas en las Últimas Décadas" *Laicidad, Religión y Biopolítica en el Mundo Contemporáneo*, (Coord.) Roberto Blancarte, El Colegio de México/ Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México DF. 55-84, 2013.

New members

LORI G. BEAMAN

Lori G. Beaman is the Canada Research Chair in the Contextualization of Religion in a Diverse Canada and Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. Prior to completing her PhD in sociology in 1996, she was trained and worked as a lawyer, receiving her LL.B in 1987 and was in general practice until 1992. She has been a member of the ISSR since 2005 and the Society has been an important catalyst in her international programme of research. She is Project Director of a 7 year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada funded Major Collaborative Research Initiative, entitled “Religious Diversity and Its Limits: Moving Beyond Tolerance and Accommodation,” known as the *Religion and Diversity Project* (see www.religionanddiversity.ca). This international, comparative, multidisciplinary research project involves 37 team members at 24 universities in 5 countries, and explores the management of religious diversity along 4 axes, including religious identity, limits on religious freedom, sexuality and gender, and moving beyond tolerance and accommodation to a model of deep equality. Professor Beaman was awarded a Rockefeller funded residency in Bellagio, Italy in October, 2014 to complete a book manuscript on Deep Equality. She is also the incoming President (2016) for the *Association for the Sociology of Religion* and has a history of service to the ASR, as well as the *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (SSSR) as a member of council and programme chair. She sits on the advisory boards of IMPACT (Sweden) and the *Centre for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain* (Netherlands), among others.

Professor Beaman is regularly invited to give plenary and keynote lectures, including keynote lectures at the 2014 *Nordic Conference for Sociology of Religion*, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; the 2014 *Annual Conference of the Australian Association for the Study of Religion*, Deakin University, Australia; and at the 2014 *Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network*, Pitzer College, U.S.A. Recent publications include: “Deep Equality as an Alternative to Accommodation and Tolerance,” *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society*, 27(2) 2014:

CANADA

ANDRÉ CORTEN

Professor in the Department of Political Science of the Université du Québec à Montréal (since 1980). Founder-member (2000) and director of the GRIPAL (Research Group on Political Imaginaries in Latin America), interuniversity group (UQÀM, Concordia, UdeM, U Laval, U Ottawa, York Univ.). PhD in Political and Social Sciences (1967), Université de Louvain.

Books: 25 books including

Dieu est brésilien. Montréal, CIDIHCA, 2014, 74p.

Co-Edited with Doran, Marie-Christine, *Religion and Politics : Between Transcendence and Immanence*, Social Compass, 54 (4), dec. 2007. Special No.

Co-Edited with Dozon, Jean-Pierre, Oro, Ari Pedro, *Les nouveaux conquérants de la foi : L'Église Universelle du Royaume de Dieu (Brésil)*, Paris, Karthala, 2003, 294p. São Paulo, Editora Paulinas, 2003, 379p.

Co-Edited with Mary, André, *Imaginaires politiques et pentecôtisme: Afrique/Amérique latine*, Paris, Karthala, 2001, 368p.

Co-Edited with Marshall-Fratani, Ruth, *Between Babel and Pentecost: Transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America*, London/Bloomington, IN, Hurst Publisher/Indiana University Press, 2001, 311p.

Alchimie politique du miracle (collaboration Fridman, Viviana, Deret, Anne), Montreal, Balzac, 1999, 251p.

Misère, religion et politique en Haïti : diabolisation et mal politique, Paris, Karthala, 2001, 245p.

Pentecostalism in Brazil, Basingstoke, Macmillan, 1999, 206p.

Some articles

“ Pentecôtisme, baptême et système politique en Haïti “, *Histoire Monde et Cultures Religieuses*, N 29, 2014 :119-132.

89-111; “Opposing Polygamy: A Matter of Equality or Patriarchy?” in M.-P. Robert, D. Koussens, and S. Bernatchez (eds.) *Of Crime and Religion: Polygamy in Canadian Law*, 131-157 (Éditions Revue de droit de l’Université de Sherbrooke, 2014); “The Will to Religion: Obligatory Religious Citizenship,” *Critical Research on Religion* 1(2) 2013: 141-157; *Varieties of Religious Establishment* (Ashgate, 2013), edited with Winnifred F. Sullivan; *Defining Harm: Religious Freedom and the Limits of the Law* (UBC Press, 2008); “The Status of Women: The Report from a Civilized Society,” *Canadian Criminal Law Review* 16(2) 2012: 223-246; and “Battles over Symbols: The ‘Religion’ of the Minority Versus the ‘Culture’ of the Majority,” *Journal of Law and Religion* 28(1) 2012/3: 101-138.

USA

MARY JO NEITZ

Mary Jo Neitz has been a member of the ISSR since 2008. She presented papers at the 2009 meetings in Santiago de Compostela and in 2013 in Turku. She has her Ph.D in Sociology from the University of Chicago, and is currently a Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. She has also served as president of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chair of the Sociology of Religion section of the American Sociological Association, and on the Council of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, as well as chair of the Women’s Caucus of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. She has conducted ethnographies of Pentecostal Catholics, contemporary paganism and goddess spirituality, and congregations in six Missouri communities that were rural in 1950. She is interested in feminist methodologies, theory, gender and religion. She has published *Sociology On Culture* (Routledge, 2003) with John Hall and Marshall Battani; *Culture: Sociological Perspectives* (Prentice Hall, 1993) with John Hall (Chinese edition, 2002, Commercial Press of Beijing); *Charisma and Community: A Study of Religious Commitment Within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal* (Transaction Press, 1987); and *Feminist Narratives and the Sociology of Religion*, (AltaMira Press, 2001), edited with Nancy Nason-Clark. She currently working on a new book project, *Gender in Small Town Churches: Organizational authority,*

“ La souffrance : injonction religieuse versus expression politique “, *Anthropologie et sociétés*, 35, 3, 2011 : 251-267.

“ Souffrance sociale, parler ordinaire, imaginaires religieux et expression politique “, *Social Compass*, 58, 1, Spring 2011 : 143-152.

“ Immanence/transcendance ”, *Dictionnaire des faits religieux*, Paris. PUF Quadrige, 2010 : 529-531.

“ L’Armée céleste en Haïti : une stratégie de marronnage? “, in Latouche, Serge, Laurent, Pierre-Joseph, Servais, Olivier & Singleton, Michael (Eds.), *Les raisons de la ruse : Une perspective anthropologique et psychanalytique*, Paris, La Découverte- MAUSS, 2004 : 233-2.

personal autonomy, and spiritual practices. In addition she has published numerous articles and chapters, of gender and religion, and feminist methodologies.

CENTRAL EUROPE

DINKA MARINOVIĆ JEROLIMOV

Dinka Marinović Jerolimov, PhD in sociology of religion (University of Zagreb) is a senior researcher (scientific advisor) at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb where she has been working since 1985. Her main fields of interest are traditional church religiosity, minority religions, religious education and youth religiosity. She published two books about religious communities in Croatia, numerous book chapters, and articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has been attended ISSR/SISR conferences since 1995 and served as Vice-President of the Organizing committee of the 2005 ISSR/SISR conference in Zagreb, Croatia. Also, she was President of the Organizing committee of the 2001 ISORECEA (*The International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association*) conference held in Zagreb, Croatia. Her interest in CEE region has been confirmed by long-standing participation as a member of the ISORECEA Governing Board and the Editorial board of its journal RASCEE (Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe). In 2014 she became President of ISORECEA. She was principal investigator for Croatia in the EUFP6 CA project REVACERN (Religion and Values in Central and Eastern Europe Research Network) and has been

principal investigator of the ISSP (International Social Survey Programme) for Croatia since 2005. She has been co-director of the Postgraduate course “Future of Religion” at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia since 2006.

NORDIC COUNTRIES

MIA LÖVHEIM

Dr Mia Lövhheim is since 2011 professor in Sociology of Religion at the Faculty of Theology, Uppsala University, Sweden. Her PhD in 2004 was entitled “Intersecting Identities: Young People, Religion, and Interaction on the Internet”. Her research has since then focused on religious and gender identity among youth, particularly in discussion groups and blogs, and on religion in the lives of youth. More recently she has studied representations of religion in Swedish daily press, within the projects The role of religion in the public sphere: A comparative study of the five Nordic countries (NOREL) and The resurgence of religion?! A study of religion and modernity in Sweden with the daily press as case. She is currently involved in the comparative Scandinavian project Engaging with Conflicts in Mediatized Religious Environments.

Mia Lövhheim plays a leading role within the Linneaus Center of Excellence and research program The Impact of Religion: Challenges to Society, Law and Democracy at Uppsala University. She has been the coordinator of the Nordic Network for media and Religion and is currently Vice-President of the International Society for Media, Religion and Culture (ISMRC). She is the editor of Modernities, Memory and Mutations: Grace Davie and the Study of Religion (with Abby Day, forthcoming May 2015, Ashgate), Media, Religion and Gender: Key Issues and New Challenges (Routledge 2013), Mediatization and Religion: Nordic Perspectives (with Stig Hjarvard, Nordicom 2012) and Religion som resurs? Existentiella frågor och värderingar i unga svenskers liv (Religion as a resource? Existential issues and values in the lives of Swedish youth, with Jonas Bromander, Artos 2012). Her work has also been published in several scientific journals Nordic Journal of Society and Religion, Culture and Religion, Nordicom Review, Information, Communication and Society and Feminist Media Studies, as well as in international edited volumes.

ITALY

GIUSEPPE GIORDAN

Giuseppe Giordan, Ph.D. (2002) in Social Sciences, Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Rome), is Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion at the University of Padua (Italy). He is Co-Editor of the Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion (Brill), and elected member of the Executive Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion.

He served as General Secretary of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion from 2009 to 2013 and as Secretary of the Italian Sociological Association – Section on the Sociology of Religion from 2007 to 2010.

He is author, co-author, editor or co-editor of fifteen books or journal special issues in the sociology of religion. His books include Identity and Pluralism. The Values of the Post-Modern Time. New York: Center for Migration Studies, 2004; Vocation and Social Context (ed.), Leiden: Brill, 2007; Conversion in the Age of Pluralism (ed.), Leiden: Brill, 2009; Youth and Religion, Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion (ed.), 1, Leiden: Brill, 2010; Religion, Spirituality and Everyday Practices (ed. with William H. Swatos, Jr.) New York: Springer, 2011; Prayer in Religion and Spirituality, Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion (ed. with Linda Woodhead), 4, Leiden: Brill, 2013; Religious Pluralism. Framing Religious Diversity in the Contemporary World (ed. with Enzo Pace), New York: Springer, 2014.

His sociological research focuses on the interaction between religion and spirituality, youth and religion, religious and cultural pluralism. His current projects are on the Christian Orthodox churches and Chinese immigrant religions in Italy.

AUSTRALASIA

ANNA HALAFOFF

Dr. Anna Halafoff is a Lecturer in Sociology, and a member of the Alfred Deakin Research Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. She is also a Research Associate of the Religion and Diversity Project, led by Prof. Lori Beaman (University of Ottawa). Dr Halafoff is a sociologist of religion specialising in research on religion and diversity, interreligious relations, education about religions

and beliefs, countering violent extremism, and Buddhism in Australia. She has published one sole-authored book, one co-edited book, fourteen journal articles, thirteen book chapters and six conference papers. She has co-edited one Special Issue of Social Inclusion (Cognatio) and is currently co-editing another for the Journal of Intercultural Studies (Taylor & Francis) and for Studies in Interreligious Dialogue (Routledge). Dr Halafoff is also co-editor of a Book Series with Prof. Beaman and Assoc. Prof. Lene Kühle (Aarhus University) on Boundaries of Religious Freedom: Regulating Religion in Diverse Societies (Springer).

Dr. Halafoff is currently participating in a number of international research collaborations, including the Religion and Diversity Project's studies of religion and media and religion and education, a project on religion and education with the University of Warwick and Monash University, and the Critical Analysis of Religious Diversity Network led by Assoc. Prof. Kühle. She also regularly contributes to media discussion, and advises Australian government departments, faith-based community organisations and UN agencies on interreligious relations. Dr. Halafoff is a member of many learned societies including The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), the Australian Association of Religious Studies (AASR). She was Secretary of this Association from 2012-2013. Dr. Halafoff now co-edits the AASR's Journal for the Academic Study of Religion (Equinox), with Professor Douglas Ezzy (University of Tasmania). She has been the Convenor of the Australasian Association of Buddhist Studies' Victoria Chapter since 2012 and a member of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (SISR/ISSR) since 2011.

Dr Halafoff first participated in the SISR/ISSR 2011 Conference in Aix-en-Provence, and co-coordinated a Thematic Session with Professor Gary Bouma on religion and education at the 2013 Conference in Turku. This TS resulted in a Special Issue of the Journal of Intercultural Studies mentioned above. Dr Halafoff will be co-coordinating a second religion and education TS at the 2015 Conference in Louvain-la-Neuve, with Prof. Beaman and Dr Elisabeth Arweck (University of Warwick). She will also assist Dr Bob Dixon and Prof. Bouma with organising the 2017 Conference in Melbourne.

Information about the new book

The Intimate: Polity and the Catholic Church. Laws about Life, Death and the Family in So-called Catholic Countries. KAREL DOBBELAERE & ALFONSO PÉREZ-AGOTE (eds.). KADOC Studies on Religion, Culture and Society nr 15. Louvain: Leuven University Press: February 2015. <http://upers.kuleuven.be>

For centuries the Catholic Church was able to impose her ethical rules in matters related to the intimate, that is, questions concerning life (from its beginning until its end) and the family, in the so-called Catholic countries in Western Europe. When the polity started to introduce legislation that was in opposition to the Catholic ethic, the ecclesiastical authorities and part of the population reacted. The media reported massive manifestations in France against same-sex marriages and in Spain against the de-penalization of abortion. In Italy the Episcopal Conference entered the political field in opposition to the relaxation of several restrictive legal rules concerning medically assisted procreation and exhorted the voters to abstain from voting so that the referendum did not obtain the necessary quorum. In Portugal, to the contrary, the Church made a “pact” with the prime minister so that the law on same-sex marriages did not include the possibility of adoption. And in Belgium the Episcopal Conference limited its actions to clearly expressing with religious, legal, and anthropological arguments its opposition to such laws, which all other Episcopal Conferences did also. In this book, the authors analyse the full spectrum of the issue, including the emergence of such laws; the political discussions; the standpoints defended in the media by professionals, ethicists, and politicians; the votes in the parliaments; the political interventions of the Episcopal Conferences; and the attitude of professionals. As a result the reader understands what was at stake and the differences in actions of the various Episcopal Conferences. The authors also analyse the pro and con evaluations among the civil population of such actions by the Church. Finally, in a comparative synthesis, they discuss the public positions taken by Pope Francis to evaluate if a change in Church policy might be possible in the near future.

Introduction - Karel Dobbelaere & Alfonso Pérez-Agote

Euthanasia and the Belgian Catholic World - Liliane Voyé & Karel Dobbelaere

“Mariage pour tous”: The Same-Sex Marriage Controversy in France - Céline Béraud & Philippe Portier

The Italian Catholic Church and the Artificial-Insemination Referendum - Annalisa Frisina, Franco Garelli, Enzo Pace & Roberto Scalon

Ethical Challenges of the Catholic Church in Portugal - The Case of Same-Sex-Marriage - Helena Vilaça & Maria João Oliveira

The Catholic Church Faces Ethical Challenges in Spain - The Regulation of Abortion - Alfonso Pérez-Agote, Jose Santiago & Antonio Montañés

Comparative Synthesis - Karel Dobbelaere, Alfonso Pérez-Agote & Céline Béraud

Practical information

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