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

Network 26

Réseau

September 2005
Published by: Karel Dobbelaere

29th ISSR Conference in Leipzig in 2007

The **THEME** of the 29th ISSR-Conference will be decided by the COUNCIL at its meeting in February 2006

We invite members to submit proposals (2 pp. maximum) for the theme of the Leipzig conference, to be discussed at the meeting of the Council in February 2006.

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

Proposals must reach the General Secretary before Dec. 15th 2005 :
karel.dobbelaere@soc.kuleuven.be

Contents : Letter from the president
How to reach us
Minutes of the General Assembly
ISSR Officers and Council Members (2005-2007)
News of the members
Conferences and Annual Meetings

Letter from the President

By most accounts, the 28th Conference held in Zagreb was highly successful. I would like to thank all of you, because everyone contributed in some way or other to the success of this venture. Special thanks again go to the Local Committee and all the speakers, at both plenary and thematic sessions, for their contribution to discussion on the themes dealt with at the Conference. The Zagreb Conference was an important event for the ISSR/SISR: for the first time in our history, we exceeded the figure of 400 members in good standing. This bodes well for the future, given the increased attendance at the conference of young researchers and of colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe, together with the confidence we showed in voting to give a second term of office to Karel Dobbelaere as General Secretary and Jean-Pierre Hiernaux as Treasurer.

The General Assembly accepted the proposal put forward by our German colleagues, Monika Wohlrab-Sahr, Chair of the Local Committee, and Detlef Pollack, Secretary of the Local Committee, to hold the 29th Conference in Leipzig. Preparations will be made in Padua (Italy) in February. Our German-speaking colleagues have proposed the theme of “Secularity and Religious Revival”, but since we are open to other suggestions, anyone wishing to put forward other themes (including possible sub-themes and suggestions for possible speakers) should contact the General Secretary.

In conclusion, I wish you all a good start to the new academic year after a well-deserved vacation (on the Dalmatian coast for some of us perhaps!).

Enzo Pace
President

N.B. Please note my new address: Dipartimento di Sociologia, Via Cesarotti 10/12, I-35100 PADOVA (Italy). My phone number, fax and email address remain the same!

Take note of the changes in the addresses of the President and of the the General Secretary, they are typed in red in the table below!!!

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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Social Compass

If you presented a [paper at the Zagreb conference](#) you are cordially invited to have your paper considered for publication in the journal Social Compass in 2007.

Please submit your paper, in conformity with the guidelines distributed with the conference registration documents **and** re-printed on the next page, **no later than 15th December 2005 to**
Jim Beckford, Dept. of Sociology, University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL, England

The Editorial Committee of the ISSR encourages you to submit the paper(s) that you have presented in French or English at the 28th ISSR conference in Zagreb for possible publication in Social Compass 2006 (2).

Only papers presented at this conference are eligible for consideration.

Please note that Social Compass publishes only *original* articles, i.e. articles that have not been published in any other language.

Please follow the instructions carefully when preparing your paper. If you have any questions, Jim Beckford will try to answer them.

1. **One** printed copy of the paper must be submitted **in addition to** a floppy disk containing the text file in Word format. The filename must be the author's family name. Submissions by e-mail will not be accepted.

* * * * *

2. The first page must contain the paper's title and the author's name, affiliation, address, phone and fax numbers and e-mail address.
3. The second page must contain a 150-word summary in the language in which the paper is written (English or French) and a 100-word biographical note about the author(s).
4. The entire text (including summary, endnotes and bibliography) must be typed or printed double-spaced in a font not smaller than 12pt.
5. Endnotes must be printed at the end of the main text – before the bibliography.
6. In-text references must follow the 'name + date' system. Please follow the Social Compass model.
7. The bibliography (2 pages maximum) must follow the endnotes.
8. Tables must be printed on separate sheets attached to the end of the paper.
9. Texts must not exceed 30,000 characters with spaces, i.e. more or less 5,000 words (inclusive of summary, biographical note, text, endnotes, bibliography and Tables).

* * * * *

10. Authors whose first language is neither English nor French and who originally wrote their text in another language are permitted to add the original version when submitting their French or English text. In some cases, this can facilitate the Editorial Committee's work.
11. Papers must arrive by post or courier **before December 15th 2005** at this address:
Prof. J. Beckford, Chair of the ISSR Editorial Committee
Department of Sociology
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL
United Kingdom
Tel. Office: + 44-2476-523156
Fax. + 44-2476-523497
e-mail: j.a.beckford@warwick.ac.uk

Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISSR

Zagreb, Wednesday 20th of July 2005

1) Welcome

Enzo Pace, President of the ISSR, welcomes the 92 members present.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda is accepted unanimously.

3) Minutes of the previous General Assembly (2003)

Eileen Barker proposes that the Minutes of the previous General Assembly that took place in Turin (Italy), Wednesday 23rd of July 2003, and that were published in Network 21 in October 2003, be accepted. Liliane Voyé seconds this proposal. The minutes of the previous General Assembly are accepted unanimously.

4) Report of the Chairman of the Local Committee Siniša Zrinščak

At the beginning of his report, the Chairman of the Local Committee, welcomed all participants and expressed his pleasure with the fact that such a scholarly conference took place in Zagreb. He also apologized for any problems and inconveniences that some participants might have faced in connection with their travel and stay in Zagreb.

He extended his thanks to all members of the Local Committee, and particularly to Dr. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov, vice-president of the Local Committee, who proved to be the heart of the Local Committee. He stressed the contribution of students who did a marvellous job as well as our host institution, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture which has not only provided us with a space but helped with many organizational aspects. Siniša Zrinščak also expressed gratitude for all the help from the following institutions and agencies that contributed organizationally and financially to the conference: Croatian Sociological Association; Institute for Social Research in Zagreb; Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia; Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia; Zagreb City Government; Zagreb Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation and Zagreb Tourist Board.

At the end of his report Siniša Zrinščak stressed the problem regarding the conference fee payments as just a few days before the conference there were fewer than 200 pre-registered participants from among the 330 names on the programme. Since such a situation produces many organizational problems he made an appeal to participants and members of the ISSR for timely fulfilment of their obligations.

The applause of the participants present in the General Assembly expressed their unanimous appreciation and their gratitude to the Local Committee and its Chairman for their excellent organization of the conference.

5) The Report of the President of the ISSR Enzo Pace

With the Zagreb conference, the ISSR will reach the ripe old age of 57. They say that with age comes wisdom, the fruit of experience accumulated over the years, but also imagination and a vision of the future based on the maturity of experience. The problems before us are numerous and it requires wisdom to run a medium-sized, but rather complex organization like the ISSR (with its two official languages), as well as a certain amount of imaginative vision in order to deal with new themes using a variety of methodologies. It is a challenge we have already faced on previous occasions, achieving interesting results, such as the creation of a forum for young researchers, a permanent area for research groups, and discussion with the authors of significant works, hot from the press.

The state-of-the-art of the sociology of religion could be likened to a building site, with work in progress: old walls have fallen down, others are propped up with difficulty, while new ones are rising from the rubble. At times, our analytic tools and standard empirical methods seem unable to explain the many paradoxes which confront us. We have, for instance, the paradox of a secularized society with religions coming noisily into play in the public arena and in politics; society shaken by religious furore (using the powerful image of Peter Berger, who has spoken for some time of de-secularization); society which cannot represent to itself the main changes taking place within it, in the shape of an entirely new form of religious pluralism, perceived as a threat to collective identity (who are we? to paraphrase Samuel Huntington's work on the identity of the USA after 9/11). It is no mere accident that over the past two years, several books and articles have appeared (among others, that of Trigano in France and the special issue of MAUSS) which address the vexed question: what is religion? What are we talking about when we (with our ethnocentric conditioned reflex) use this word to describe and classify phenomena which are far more complex and removed from the traditional centre of European and American sociology of religion? It is not by chance that some of us (and here I am thinking of Jim Beckford's *Social Theory and Religion*) have addressed the topic we have often attempted to tackle at our conferences: how to bring together again the broken threads of the sociology of religion and sociological theory. The former, in fact, is in danger of getting bogged down unless it comes to terms with the theoretical paradigms being developed by general sociological theory.

All this should make us think about the future and reflect on the wisdom of our investments. I believe that there are two main challenges we have to face in order to guarantee a future for our association.

- a) We need to choose themes and methods of debate which enable us effectively to take stock of the theories and field research we have used so far, in order to modify the conceptual categories we employ to understand the complex phenomenon we continue, for the sake of convenience, to call religion.
- b) We must continue with our successful approach of "opening our borders" and make an even greater effort to boost the presence, in terms of both quality and quantity, of scholars from countries such as China, South Korea, India and Pakistan (in Asia), South Africa (you will remember that we had the pleasure of the company of a group of scholars from South Africa at the Maynooth conference in Ireland when I was General Secretary), and the Maghreb and Mashreq areas (still poorly represented). Unlike the traditional core of

European, American (North and South) and Japanese scholars, representatives from these countries find themselves in a minority and at times completely absent from the life of our association. There are now many opportunities to involve scholars from these countries, including the spin-off from globalization. Indeed, globalization means that culturally different worlds come closer together. Our multicultural society produces new generations of sociologists and anthropologists of religion who have first-hand knowledge of cultures which are no longer so far removed, such as Hindu, Sikh, Moslem and Taoist cultures. They know how to interpret the changes which take place in these various cultural and religious worlds, as well as their impact on society, with its new socio-religious pluralism.

Broadening our boundaries also means thinking about the future of our association. Those of us who have combined some part of our academic and professional lives with that of the SISR/ISSR are well aware that we have to come to an agreement with the younger generation, many of whom have already become part of our association. We sincerely hope that there will continue to be an increase not only in their numbers but also in the standard of their contributions. From this viewpoint, Zagreb may constitute at the same time, both a new departure and a point of arrival. We have a new generation of young researchers from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Sociologists from Spain and Latin-America have returned with renewed energy to swell the ranks of the Forum for Young Researchers. But as we all know, this is not enough. We have to encourage them to take on organizational and managerial responsibilities, not only to prepare for the natural turnover of the executive, but also to ensure the circulation of new ideas and energy.

The development of the ISSR depends on two essential resources: on the one hand, the active participation of its members at all levels (which is shown by membership renewal, voting for the official posts, the submission of articles of a high standard for publication in *Social Compass*, and our ability to offer interesting ideas and proposals for discussion in international academic circles), and on the other, international co-operation with other associations. As far as the latter is concerned, in the period from 2003 to 2005 the President and General Secretary's initiatives have been consistent with the aim of promoting greater dialogue. However, as regards the former, the lack of participation (even by Council members) in the elections for the renewal of the Council and the post of General Secretary gives cause for concern. This is not a new phenomenon, however. In past years we have tried to create more interest in elections by increasing the number of candidates, but to little avail. If my memory serves me well, it has worked only on one occasion in the past. We could perhaps try having several candidates for each post again. I think we should consult the General Assembly on this question to see whether it is in fact perceived as a problem and if so what can be done about it.

Four members have passed away since the last conference: Yoshiya Abe who promoted the scholarly exchange between Japanese scholars and the ISSR; Silvano Burgalassi, a longstanding member of the ISSR and one of the founding fathers, with Sabino Acquaviva, of the sociology of religion in Italy; Herman Punsmann who was still present in the Torino Conference; and Bryan Wilson, our Honorary President. We retain a clear memory of their presence in our Society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the local committee for their excellent work in preparing the Zagreb conference. A special thank you to the General Secretary, Karel

Dobbelaere, and his staff for the efficiency and enthusiasm with which they have run the ISSR and to the Treasurer, Jean-Pierre Hiernaux, for keeping our accounts so carefully and scrupulously in order (I might even say: fully respecting the Maastricht parameters!)

Meredith McGuire voices her appreciation for the President's report. The applause of the participants present in the General Assembly expressed their unanimous appreciation for his report.

6) Report of the General Secretary Karel Dobbelaere

1. Membership

On September 26th 2005, after the 28th conference in Zagreb, we have 416 members, which is 35 members more than in 2002, an increase of 9 %, and nearly twice as many as in 2001.

Type of members	Number in 2001	Number in 2002	Number in 2003	Number in 2004-2005 *)
Full Members	168	295	294	281
Members with Reduced fees	53	88	87	135
Total	221	383	381	416

However, we have 13 full members fewer than in 2003, which is largely compensated for by 48 members paying reduced fees. This means that we have more members from countries with non-convertible currencies and young researchers, which is excellent for us, but also more retired members. We ought be able to retain our number of full members since a substantial decline in their number could produce problems in the future. Indeed, the price the Society has to pay Sage for a subscription to *Social Compass*, which is part of the membership services that full members receive, depends upon the number of full members we have. More, the offer that Sage has made to give free subscriptions to *Social Compass* for certain types of members (see point 7 of this report) also depends upon the number of full members that we have. These last two years, we have made a big effort to motivate former members to renew their membership. About 125 former members did not renew their membership, of which the largest part were full members. We must conclude then, that a fluctuating number of members depends upon several factors, among others: the theme of the conference and those of the thematic sessions; and the venue and the dates of the conference. However, it is also evident that some of our members are retired and cannot find the necessary funds to participate in the conference. Alternatively, some of them have health problems.

2. *Elections*

Only 59 members voted (63 voted at the election in 2003): all candidates are elected

General Secretary: Karel DOBBELAERE	57
Treasurer: Jean-Pierre HIERNAUX	56
Candidates for Council:	
Elisabeth ARWECK (Great Britain)	46
Peter BEYER(Canada)	48
Xavier COSTA (Spain)	44
Carlos GARMA (Mexico)	40
Cecilia MARIZ (Brazil)	41
Jörg STOLZ (Switzerland)	47
Monika WOHLRAB-SAHR (Germany)	42

At the last General Assembly, it was suggested that more members would vote if there were several candidates for each position. Some years ago we tried to motivate more candidates for each vacant position in the Council or the Executive Committee. However, we must be happy if one member agrees to become a candidate for a vacant position. Since we need a vote according to the Statutes, I suggested to the Council that we should change the voting procedure and present a slate to the members who are invited to express their (dis)approval. This would legitimate the slate “en bloc”.

Last Monday, the Council discussed this proposal and decided to change the procedure to nominate candidates in conformity with the statutes:

- a) When there is a vacant position in the Council, the members of the region or country concerned will be invited by e-mail to nominate candidates to represent them
- b) if the nominees agree to be candidates, their names will be on the voting slip and all members of ISSR will be asked to vote on the candidates

The Council hopes that this way there will be several candidates for each position

3. *Maecenas*

The Vice-President for Human Sciences of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven was able to motivate our Maecenas or Patron to donate 7.500 € for the next two years of the mandate of the actual General Secretary. For the previous four years he gave already 20.000 €.

4. *The organization of the 28th conference in Zagreb*

At the General Assembly of the previous conference, I proposed to make it easier to organise the conference by delegating the organization of the Thematic Sessions to the conveners of these sessions. I want to express publicly to the conveners of the Thematic Sessions at this conference my gratitude for the work done and their co-operation in setting up the final programme. The General Secretariat was only in charge of the Miscellaneous Sessions, the New Researchers Forum and the Sessions ‘Author meets Critics’.

I have been very lenient as far as the final dates were concerned for the acceptance of miscellaneous papers. But, the next time, I will be more strict about the format in which the papers and the abstracts should be presented. Authors not following the set rules will receive the abstracts back in order to re-format them. I will ask the conveners of Thematic Sessions to do the same. I waste too much time re-formatting these abstracts, and some problems had to be solved by the President of the Local Committee since my technical competences are limited. A model Abstract will appear in Network/Réseau.

On the basis of data received by an agreed date, I will structure the 29th Conference.

I want to thank the authors of the abstracts for the effort made to send them in English and French, the two official languages of the conference. In order to do so, they mobilized colleagues who are more competent in these languages. The conveners of the Thematic Sessions also made a great effort to improve the abstracts stylistically and grammatically. However, there is no doubt that grammatically and style-wise the abstracts are far from perfect. I have neither the competence nor the time to check all the texts. I will ask conveners of thematic sessions to take responsibility for monitoring the abstracts of their sessions. Furthermore, I will ask the members of the Council, whose mother tongue is either French or English to help me in re-writing the abstracts for which I am responsible

These proposals have been accepted by the Council.

5. *The Web Site of the ISSR*

Suggestions were made to improve the web site. If we decide to change the web site then I have two offers costing respectively: 6 to 800 € and 4880 €

Last Monday, the Council took the following decisions:

- a) the choice between a French and an English version on the web site will be maintained;
- b) the programme of the conference will be presented as a word document that can easily be downloaded;
- c) the Who's Who will be re-organised: all the names that are included in the Who's Who will be presented per country on the web site. It will be possible to access information about particular members only by clicking on their respective names. This will prevent members' addresses from being easily downloaded by unauthorised people.

6. *Using the acronym of the ISSR*

I had to intervene as far as the use of the acronym of the ISSR by members involved in organizing colloquia in which the ISSR was not involved. The following questions were put to the members of the Council:

- who may use the acronym?
- for what type of events?

- who will give the authorization to use it?
- what are the responsibilities of those who receive such permission?

The Council decided last Monday that only members in good standing, having paid their dues, may use the acronym for scholarly purposes (e.g. Colloquia) and **only** after having received authorisation from the President. I want to propose that such scholarly events should be open to the members of the ISSR and that the person responsible for them should inform the General Secretary, who will have all members of the ISSR invited to the event.

These rules were accepted.

7. *Free subscriptions of Social Compass.*

At the General Assembly during the 27th ISSR-conference (Turin, July 23rd 2003), the question was asked if Sage could offer free subscriptions of *Social Compass* for young researchers and members of countries with non convertible currency who can not afford to pay a subscription to the journal. Following the General Assembly, this matter was raised by the General Secretary with Caroline Lane (Senior Production Editor, Journals, Sage Publications), who was at the conference. She promised to discuss the issue with her colleagues back in London and gave a very positive signal in September, indicating that a maximum of 70 such subscriptions could be offered, pointing out, at the same time, however, that the cost of the postage would be at the expense of the ISSR.

The Executive Committee worked out a proposal that took the financial consequences for the ISSR into account; it was discussed at the Council in Padova and, in reference to a proposal made by the Past President, the Council proposed *an extension* to academic libraries that had never had a subscription to *Social Compass* and that were unlikely to do so, for reasons of economic difficulty, in the foreseeable future. The argument was that making the journal available in carefully selected libraries would probably widen the access to it more effectively than by giving it solely to individual scholars. It was also felt that such a scheme would help to raise awareness of the ISSR and of the journal among people who are currently unaware of them – and in regions of the world where the presence of the ISSR is relatively weak such as parts of Latin America.

The targeted members were informed of the possibilities.

The results: a) 22 individual members applied for a free subscription and received it;
 b) With the help of the Council members from Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America eight university libraries were selected: the proposal was accepted in the Council on Monday July 18th: Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine for Central and Eastern Europe and Argentina, Brazil (2) and Mexico for Latin America.

It should be noted that this offer was made by Sage with reference to the number of members paying full membership.

8. *The programme book of the conference*

Last Monday, the Council has decided that the programme book will contain only the programme and that abstracts will be available on the web site. The cost of printing the programme book, including the abstracts, was 3 to 4000 € for each of the last two conferences. This reduction of pages will at least lower the costs by 50 %.

9. *Thanks*

I want to express my gratitude towards the *President* and the *Treasurer* for the spirit in which it was possible to work together and for the suggestions given to me for improving the functioning of the General Secretariat. I also want to thank *all members of the Council* who have given valuable suggestions and who have helped to uphold the spirit of the ISSR.

Furthermore, I want to report that it was a great pleasure to work with the members of the *Local Committee* who have done a marvellous job under the direction of its Chair, *Sinisa Zrinscak*, whose efficacy and dedication I have witnessed and greatly appreciated. *Dinka Marinovic Jerolimov*, as his closest associate, not only assisted him very efficiently but also did so with great charm, of which I also was the happy beneficiary. Moreover, the Local Committee gave the ISSR a gift of more than 3.000 € for Travel Grants. This was very much appreciated now that our traditional patrons seem to be unable to contribute anymore to the Verscheure Fund.

I also want to thank very cordially *Mrs Van Meerbeeck* who has helped the Treasurer and myself with administrative duties, who has corresponded gently with members asking for information about the ISSR and its conference, and who has helped me in the preparation of this conference. Thanks are due also to *Mme Lallemand* of the *Université Catholique de Louvain* who was an efficient assistant to the Treasurer. Not only have they both served you very kindly and efficiently at this conference, but, over several years, they have also contributed to the smooth functioning of the Society. I also want to address a word of thanks to the *Secretaries of the Department of Sociology of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven* who managed to prepare the address-lists for the different mailings and Networks that have been sent to you over the past two years. They also have printed all the documents that you have received from the General Secretariat.

The students of the University of Zagreb were very helpful and efficient and they did everything possible and even more to facilitate the life of the participants during the conference, they deserve our great appreciation.

I also want to thank two former Presidents: Jim Beckford who corrected my English in the official documents and Liliane Voyé who corrected or translated documents into French.

Finally, I want to thank *you all* for having participated in such large numbers in the 28th ISSR-conference and contributed to the scholarly exchanges that have taken place and will take place here this week.

Discussion of the report

The members present expressed their appreciation by their applause for the growth of the membership, the newly elected members of the Council, the continuing support of the Maecenas, and by way of accepting the report.

As far as the future elections are concerned, Roberto Cipriani suggests that when sending ballots we should ask members to acknowledge that they have received their voting slip. Many members also suggest that we need a nominating committee. After discussing the voting procedure it is decided that the proposed procedure should be applied, but, that the council should function as a “nominating committee” at its meeting in February. In the letter asking the nominated members if they accept their nomination, they should also be informed of their duties as member of the Council.

7) The Report of the Treasurer Jean-Pierre Hiernaux and the Report of the Auditors

7.1 The report of the Treasurer

7.11 The accounts of 2002-03

The Treasurer presents first the final *accounts of 2002-03* (see next page). These accounts were closed in December 2003, i.e. after the General Assembly of Turin. Consequently, the present General Assembly is the first to be able to examine the final results

It is clear from the accounts that the results would also have been slightly positive without the sponsorship, although much less! This is due to the increase in membership; much lower operational costs than in the past; the number of participants in the Turin conference and the generosity of the Local Committee of that conference. Such a result depends also clearly upon the support of the universities of the General Secretary (the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) and the Treasurer (the Université Catholique de Louvain): indeed there are hidden costs that are not to be seen in the accounts since they did not involve expenses for the ISSR.

The accounts of 2002-03 are accepted unanimously by the General Assembly

7.12 Estimations for 2004-05

Since the accounts of 2004-05 will only be closed on December 31st of 2005, the final results can only be presented at the next General Assembly in 2007 on the occasion of the 29th ISSR-Conference. However, we are in a position to state that the results will be as favourable as these of 2002-03. Have contributed to these results: a continuous prudent management; the persistent generous support of the Maecenas, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the Université Catholique de Louvain; but also the adjustment of membership fees and conference fees; the still growing number of members; the high level of participation in this conference; and the support of the Croatian Local Committee and their patrons.

C-0203-A-EXERCICE 2002-2003 - BILAN

A. CRÉDITS

C-1	Intérêts sur tous dépôts	2914,02
C-2	Cotisations	34505,16
C-3	Conférence enregistrements	20408,61

TOTAL CRÉDITS : **57827,79 (a)**

B. DÉBITS

	SISR	Mécénats	Débit total
D-1	Conseil	906,42	2884,78
D-2	Frais bancaires	60,21	60,21
D-3	Frais cartes de banque	518,33	518,33
D-4	Social Compass	20422	20422
D-5	Secrétariat	1842,64	4668,09
D-6	Site web	1474,50	03,41
D-7	Divers	168,88	168,88
D-8	Conférence	10869,76	15682,27
		+775 (II)	

TOTAL DÉBITS : **36262,74 (c)** **10345,23 (I+II)** **46607,97 (b)**

RÉSULTATS :

(a) - (b) = **11219,82** (si la SISR avait dû assumer seule le total des débits)

(a) - (c) = **21565,05** (avec l'intervention du mécénat)

Commentaires :

Cet heureux résultat ne fut possible que parce que :

- le **nombre de membres cotisants** fut plus élevé que jamais;
- les **coûts de fonctionnement furent écrasés** à un niveau minimal;
- le **nombre d'inscrits à la conférence** fut exceptionnellement élevé;
- le **support local et sa générosité** furent remarquables;
- un **mécénat généreux** a suppléé à une part significative des frais;
- nombre de **coûts cachés** ont été pris en charge par des institutions-hôtes et des prestataires bénévoles.

Même si une réserve positive a pu se constituer, **le fait que l'exercice ait bénéficié de conditions exceptionnellement favorables, invite à persévérer avec la plus grande prudence.**

POUR INFORMATION

Nombre **total de membres** en fin de période 2002-2003 : **381**

Evolution du nombre d'**abonnés à Social Compass (= membres à plein tarif)** :

95	96	97	98	99	00	01	2002-03	pour comparaison
245	230	225	115	156	135	168	299	= 2001 x 178%
moyenne des 7 années antérieures : 182								= moyenne des 7 années antérieures x 164%

These elements allow us to estimate that the final results will probably be of the same level as the previous accounting period. This will allow us to add to the reserves of the society, an option already taken at the previous General Assembly. The Treasurer underlines its importance! Sufficient reserves are indeed indispensable in order, on the one hand, to be able to deal with risks (for example being able to deal with invariable fixed functioning costs and variations in participation at conferences) and, on the other hand, to be able, in the long run, to pay for the travel grants from the income of the capital of the society. This is all the more important because, since the 27th Conference (Turin), our traditional sponsors have informed us that they are unable to provide us with the necessary funds for travel grants in the future. On the other hand, the sponsorship that the General Secretariat receives will in the near future, in two or – a most – four years, stop: it is already at a lower level compared to the four preceding years. We may say then that in the future the ISSR will, so to say, be obliged to be its own sponsor.

7.13 Budget for 2006-07

Next, the Treasurer presents the Budget for 2006-07 (see document C-0607-B-BUDGET below). He stressed, on the one hand, that the budget approved at the General Assembly in Turin in 2003 turned out to be generally realistic. On the other hand, all seems to indicate that we will not be in very different conditions in 2006-07 compared to 2004-05. Consequently, the budget proposed for 2006-07 has the same structure and reproduces the same equilibrium as the one of 2004-05. However, the nominal values of the expenses have been adjusted to the foreseeable evolution of the cost of living over the coming two years, which is estimated at +2.5 % per year. If the nominal value of the expenses must be adjusted, then the income also needs to be adjusted: the membership dues and the conference fees should be raised accordingly. It is clear that this does not represent a rise in real value for the Society since it only integrates the effects of foreseeable inflation to assure that the fees keep the real value that they have for the Society up to now.

Consequently, the Treasurer proposed to Council last Monday to change the 2006-07 membership dues and the registration fees for the conference, unchanged since 2003, in line with the increase in the cost of living. This change will not be applied to the fees of members from countries with non-convertible currency, by which the Society and the other members express their solidarity with these members. The Council agreed and puts this proposal to the vote of the General Assembly. The adjustment (see document C-0607-B-BUDGET below) is accepted by the General Assembly with one abstention.

To reduce the expenses for the organization of the conferences, the Council decided furthermore to limit the programme book to the programme and to make the abstracts available on the ISSR web site only. Finally, the Council also decided last Monday that part of the capital of the Society should be invested in “no- or low-risk” bonds, stocks and securities to augment the income of the Society. Only a part of the capital should be kept in short term banking accounts to cover operating costs not yet covered by the regular income from membership dues, since only half of the members pay their biannual dues the first year.

This policy was unanimously agreed upon by the General Assembly.

C-0607-B-BUDGET

nb: ce budget table sur un fonctionnement analogue à celui de l'exercice précédent (cf. **C-0405-A-ANALYSE GESTION - SYNTHÈSE PROVISOIRE.doc** présentée au Conseil lundi dernier), avec un nombre de membres égal, une hausse de 2,5% /an de la valeur numéraire des coûts - répercutée sur les tarifs SISR - et une prise en charge SISR comparable à celle exposée pour les conférences de Torino et Zagreb.

TARIFS

Pour une hausse moyenne de la valeur numéraire des coûts de +2,5% annuels, les tarifs - adaptés la dernière fois en 2003 - devraient, pour avoir la même valeur réelle en 2006, avoir évolué normalement en numéraire - au courant des années 2004 et 2005 - selon la formule [("tarif" + 2,5%)+2,5%] sans que cette évolution en numéraire ne constitue cependant une hausse en valeur effective.

Il est donc proposé d'appliquer cette formule comme suit à **l'exception du tarif pour "pays à monnaie non-convertible" destiné aux nouveaux membres qui estiment devoir en bénéficier ainsi qu'aux membres qui en bénéficiaient déjà :**

affiliations :	2003-4	2006-7
(1) membre tarif plein	136	143
(2) étudiants, sans emploi, retraités, partenaires de couple	69	72
(3) pays à monnaie non-convertible	54	sq
(4) envoi de Social Compass gratuit pour (2) et (3)	20	21

pré-enregistrement conférence :

(1) tarif plein	80	84
(2) demi-tarif	40	42

- B. CRÉDITS

"06+07"

C1-CRÉDIT-Intérêts dépôts	3200
C2-CRÉDIT-Cotisations	42500
C3-CRÉDIT-Dons	(ignorés au budget ordinaire)
C4-CRÉDIT-Conférence	13200

TOTAL CRÉDITS: 58900 (a)

- C. DÉBITS

"06+07"

	SISR	Mécénat	TOT
D1-DÉBIT-Conseil	2000	1000	3000
D2-DÉBIT-Frais bancaires	250	0	250
D3-DÉBIT-Frais cartes bque	500	0	500
D4-DÉBIT-Social Compass	20000	0	20000
D5-DÉBIT-Secrétariat	2700	2500	5200
D6-DÉBIT-Site web	2 00	0	2000
D7-DÉBIT-Divers	250	0	250
D8-DÉBIT-Conférence	12000	1000	13000
D9-DÉBIT-Bourses	2000	3000	5000

TOTAUX DÉBITS: 41700 (c) 7500 49200 (b)

*** la brochure-programme est à prendre en charge par l'organisation locale**

- SOLDES :

(a) - (b) = **9700** (si la SISR assumait seule le total des débits)

(a) - (c) = **17200*** (avec l'intervention du mécénat)

* affectation proposée : consolider les dépôts en placement de manière à (a) garantir un fonds de réserve à la Société, (b) sans préjudice de l'amortissement des effets d'érosion monétaire, pouvoir imputer sur les recettes d'intérêts prioritairement la couverture des bourses-"grantees" (D9)

7.2 The report of *the auditors* was presented by Grace Davie:

“The undersigned auditors have verified the accounts for the period mid 2003 to mid 2005, which were prepared by the Treasurer of the Society, Jean-Pierre Hiernaux.

The general impression is that the accounts are very well organized and our questions regarding the accounts were clearly answered.

The system devised by the Treasurer allows for easy cross-references and thus permits control of individual items. These can be easily traced if need be, which seems all the more important since the Society's officers do not all work in one location. The auditors do not have any suggestions for improving the accounting system now in place.

The auditors have verified that the declared figures tally with the actual bank statements for the whole accounting period. Declared income and expenditure correspond with account movements. The auditors have also made sample checks of individual items and found them all correct.

Signed Grace Davie and Pauline Côté, Zagreb, 20-7-05”

The Report is unanimously accepted with thanks to the Auditors from the President and so are the Accounts and the Budget.

8) Election of the Auditors for 2004-2005

James V. Spickard (USA) and John Fulton (Great Britain), are unanimously elected. Since it is possible, as happened in the past, that an auditor cannot come to the next conference, Stefan Adriaenssens (Belgium), is unanimously elected as reserve.

9) Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee Jim Beckford

I begin by reminding members that the ISSR publishes the papers from its conference plenary sessions in one issue of Social Compass and, one year later, a selection of other papers delivered at the same conference. The plenary papers and one of the responses given in Turin in 2003 appeared in issue number 2 of 2004, and the other papers in issue number 2 of 2005. Both issues of the journal appeared on schedule.

With the encouragement of Council, the Editorial Committee worked hard to attract good quality papers. It was a successful campaign: we received 38 papers. All of these papers were reviewed by the Editorial Committee and by at least two external referees. The selection process was difficult, but finally the authors of 10 papers were invited to revise their papers for publication.

The Editorial Committee hopes that the response to the call for papers to be submitted after this conference in Zagreb will be excellent. I would like to encourage the authors of all papers to submit their revised papers in French or English before the deadline of 15th November this year.

I would also like to encourage members of the Society to act as referees of the papers that will be submitted. This is an important aspect of professional responsibility for the sociology of religion. The General Secretary's office staff have provided the Editorial Committee with lists of members' fields of specialisation, so that suitable referees can be selected.

I would like to conclude by thanking the members of the committee for their hard work over the last two years. They are Erwan Dianteill, John Fulton, Carlos Garma, Fabienne Randaxhe and Pål Repstad. Erwan Dianteill and John Fulton have completed their mandates. They will be replaced by Peter Beyer and Nathalie Luca.

10) The 29th Conference in 2007

Leipzig (Germany) is the venue of the next SISR-conference!!!

It was almost 20 years ago – in the year 1987 – that a German city was the host of a SISR-conference. So it's about time to invite you – sociologists of religion from all parts of the world – to Germany again.

When the SISR-conference took place in Tübingen, nobody expected that some day an East German city would open its doors for the SISR. We are glad that this time has come.

Leipzig has much to show you. First of all, it is a very lively, beautiful city, and it is fun to be there, to walk under lime trees, have coffee in one of the many cafés or a beer outside in the evening sun. Leipzig has a rich architectural history, including Renaissance buildings as well as several beautiful fin-de-siècle-districts. And – not to forget – it is the city of Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelssohn. Bach worked here for decades as the cantor of St. Thomas's boys' choir, and this musical as well as religious tradition is still very much alive. Not only in the annual Bach festival, but also in the "Motetten", being held in St. Thomas church every Saturday afternoon – a church service that focuses on Bach, his music and religiosity. There you may have a chance to hear parts of the choir or other great musicians and singers. Felix Mendelssohn headed the Gewandhaus Orchestra and founded Germany's first conservatoire. Even today the Gewandhaus Orchestra is one of the most famous orchestras in Germany. And there is the Opera house, the ballet, the jazz festival, the documentary film festival

But Leipzig is not only a place of cultural attractions, but also a place to study the dark sides of German history. It was once the city with the 6th largest Jewish community in Germany . Only 200 of them survived the deportations between 1942 and 1945. In 1938 the big synagogue was

destroyed. Today a memorial reminds us of this time: it shows empty chairs in the place where the synagogue once stood. But in the meantime the Jewish community is growing again, especially because of Russian immigrants coming to Leipzig.

The inner city was heavily destroyed during bombing raids in World War II. And the destructions went on in the Communist period. In 1968 the University church – St. Paul – which had survived the war more or less intact, was blown up by the SED-regime in order to create a “modern” socialist city centre. This experience has torn a wound that is still painful in the memory of many of those who saw the church fall in that year.

There was a big and heated debate about whether the church should be rebuilt as it was originally – like the Frauenkirche in Dresden – in the course of the construction of a new university building. Finally it was decided to create a modern building instead that nevertheless reminds us of the destroyed church. It is presently being built according to the plans of a Dutch architect. In 2009, the 600th anniversary of the university’s foundation, this building will be completed.

The University of Leipzig is Germany’s second oldest university with about 30.000 students. Even Émile Durkheim came here for some time to study with Wilhelm Wundt.

But Leipzig was also the city of the “Monday demonstrations” which reached their peak on October 9th and 16th, 1989, with 120000 people protesting against the SED-regime. After many important steps that had already been taken by several political actors in the world, this “peaceful revolution” was the courageous contribution of Leipzig’s citizens to the opening of the borders and finally to German reunification. Today you can participate in guided city tours “in the footsteps of the peaceful revolution” which give an impressive insight in the dramatic events of that time.

East German sociologists of religion in particular have shown how severely the GDR-time has changed the religious landscape in East Germany. In 1990, 69% of the population did not belong to any religious denomination, whereas forty years earlier, this was the case for only 8%. Since German reunification the religious field has changed again, but the secularization process has hardly been revised. Nevertheless, there are some new phenomena that may be of interest for sociologists of religion. Most recent data indicate that the percentage of young East Germans under the age of 20 who believe in life after death (but not in God or in a Church) has grown remarkably. Also the belief in occult phenomena has grown, which in Leipzig may be observed in the annual “Gothic”-Festival at Whitsun that brings thousands of young people, all dressed in black, into the city. In general, it seems to be a cautious reopening toward transcendent perspectives that is happening among this age group rather than something amounting to a religious revival.

There is much more to say about Leipzig. But come and find out yourself!

In the name of my German colleagues I’m happy to invite you to Leipzig. See you there in 2007!

Monika Wohlrab-Sahr, chair of the Local Committee

11) Miscellaneous

Some members informed participants about other conferences taking place in the near future.

ISSR OFFICERS and COUNCIL MEMBERS (2005-2007)

The Executive Committee

President	Enzo Pace
Vice President	Jean-Paul Willaime
General Secretary	Karel Dobbelaere
Treasurer	Jean-Pierre Hiernaux

Council members

Past-president	Jim Beckford
Elisabeth Arweck (United Kingdom)	
Peter Beyer (Canada)	
Irena Borowik (Central and Eastern Europe)	
Xavier Costa (Spain)	
Jay Demerath (USA)	
Franco Garelli (Italy)	
Carlos Garma (Mexico)	
Cecilia Mariz (South America)	
Frédéric Moens (Belgium)	
Fabienne Randaxe (France)	
Paul Repstad (Nordic Countries)	
Erik Sengers (the Netherlands)	
Jorg Stolz (Switzerland)	
Tadaatsu Tajima (Japan)	
Monika Wohlrab-Sahr (Germany)	
<u>Ex-officio:</u>	
Roberto Blancarte RC 22 ISA (Mexico)	
Detlef Pollack (Secretary of the Local Committee Germany)	

Open position / Postes non pourvu:

Australasia

Auditors for the Accounts 2005-2007

James Spickard (USA)
John Fulton (Great Britain)
Reserve: Stefan Adriaenssens (Belgium)

Editorial Committee

Jim Beckford, chair
Nathalie Luca (France)
Peter Beyer (Canada)
Carlos Garma (Mexico)
Fabienne Randaxe (France)
Pål Repstad (Norway)

NEWS OF THE MEMBRES: PUBLICATIONS

Abe W. ATA, *Christian-Muslim Inter-marriage in Australia*. Victoria: David Lovell Publishing, 2003: 128 p.

Abe W. ATA, *Mixed marriages: Catholic/Non-Catholic Marriages in Australia*. Victoria: David Lovell Publishing, 2005: 116 p.

Claude BOVAY en collaboration avec Raphaël Broquet, *Recensement fédéral de la population 2000 : Le paysage religieux en Suisse*. Neuchâtel : Office fédéral de la statistique, 2004 : 129 p.

Roberto CIPRIANI, *Manuel de sociologie de la religion*. Paris : L'Harmattan, 2005 : 382 p.
Roberto CIPRIANI, *Manual de sociologia de la religion*. Buenos Aires : Siglo XXI, 2004.

Grace DAVIE, Paul HEELAS, and Linda WOODHEAD (eds.), *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular and Alternative Forms*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003: 253 p.

Kimmo KÄÄRIÄINEN, Kati NIEMELÄ and Kimmo KETOLA, *Religion in Finland: Decline, Change and Transformation of Finnish Religiosity*. Tampere: Church Research Institute, 2005: 185 p.

Aïda KANAFANI –ZAHAR, *Liban : le vivre ensemble. Hsoun, 1994-2000*. Paris : Geuthner, 2004 : 204 p.

Nathalie LUCA, *Les Sectes*. Paris : PUF, Que Sais-Je ?, 2004 : 126 p.

Victor ROUDOMETOF, Alexander AGADJANIAN and Jerry PANKHURST (eds.), *Eastern Orthodoxy in a Global Age: Tradition Faces the 21st Century*. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2005: 280 p.

Jean-Paul WILLAIME, *Sociologie du protestantisme*. Paris : PUF, Que Sais-Je ?, 2005 : 126 p.

CONFERENCES and ANNUAL MEETINGS

AFSR Colloque: A croire et à manger. Religion et alimentation. 6 et 7 février 2006, 59 rue Pouchet, Paris, F-75017, France. Renseignements et inscriptions: afsr@iresco.fr.

American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting 2006: Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org

Association for the Sociology of Religion's Annual meeting 2006: Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org

British Sociological Association (BSA): Sociology of Religion Study Group's Annual Meeting 2006: Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org

Religious Research Association: Annual Meeting 2005 in Hyatt Regency Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA. November 4-6: "Congregations Denominations and Research on Religion: Promoting Cooperation".

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Annual Meeting 2005 in Hyatt Regency Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA. November 4-6: "Multiplying the Study of Religion".

Anouncement of a website that has been developed for the
Atlas of European Values:

<http://www.atlasofeuropeanvalues>

Information from Loek Halman, Department of Social Cultural Sciences
Faculty of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Tilburg University
PO Box 90153
5000 LE TILBURG, The Netherlands
tel. + 31 (0)13 466 20 15
fax. + 31 (0)13 466 30 02

Journal of Law and Religion SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM Friday, October 28, 2005

Hamline University School of Law, Law/Grad Conference Center

Further details on the conference call can be obtained at

<http://www.hamline.edu/law/jlr/Symposium> or by calling 651-523-2122.

"A Raft of Hope"

Three Conversations about Liberal Democracy, God and the Human Good

A REQUEST

I have started a new project with the intention of compiling in an "**Annual Bibliographic Bulletin**" the references of all books and articles published in any country or in any language related to the following topics: **the sectarian phenomenon, new religious movements, occultism (and everything related to this field: new religiosity, neopaganism, New Age, millenarianism and apocalypticism, different esotericisms, gnosis, theosophy, spiritualism, satanism, groups of Christian origin, New Thought, orientalism, gurus, ufological groups, anticult controversy, etc.)** I am interested in all these subjects from any point of view: **sociology, psychology, theology, religious sciences, history, law, ethnography, communication sciences, etc.**

I would like to start with the year 2004. Would you be so kind as to tell me **if you have published** anything on any of these topic areas up to today? Would it also be possible to **keep me up to date** with all the publications you make or you may know concerning these subjects (including the whole reference), please?

I am trying to do it as thorough as possible, so as to make the academic research on this field easier. I have not decided yet anything on its publication, but I am willing to accept any comments or suggestions you may make.

Thank you very much for your collaboration. Yours sincerely,

LUIS SANTAMARÍA DEL RÍO

luissanrio@hotmail.com

Address: Apartado de correos 314. 49080 Zamora. Spain.

The Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion

Rodney Stark informs: "I have assumed full financial responsibility for *The Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, taking over from the Berkeley Electronic Press. The IJRR now has a new, more attractive, and FREE website. www.religjournal.com. Everyone who registers can freely download all articles. Nor is there any longer a fee to submit an article. However, IJRR still pays 1,000 for each article it publishes. Seven major articles are now available, with many more to come. Welcome."

From: Observatoire des Religions en Suisse

Nouveau site Internet : Venez régulièrement rendre visite à notre nouveau site, vous y trouverez plus d'informations, plus de liens utiles, etc
<http://www.unil.ch/ors>

Observatoire des Religions en Suisse

Université de Lausanne

Bâtiment Provence

1015 Lausanne

info.ors@unil.ch (nouvelle adresse !!!)

Tel: (41) 021 692 27 02; Fax: (41) 021 692 27 26



a website of information on the social and legal status of religion in Europe

<http://eurel.u-strasbg.fr/>

Contact:

PRISME - Société, Droit et Religion en Europe (UMR 7012)

Director: Francis Messner

CNRS - 23 rue du Loess ; BP 20 ; 67037 Strasbourg Cedex 02 ; France

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The EUREL website aims to provide accurate and up-to-date information on the social and legal status of religion in Europe, from an interdisciplinary perspective.

This website is intended for the international scientific community (scholars, authorities, political forces) and gathers comparative information concerning the member states of the European Union, as well as candidate countries and Switzerland. A specific headline is dedicated to Europe as a whole. Data are provided and checked by a network of correspondents, specialists of law or social sciences.

This project is carried out by *PRISME - Société, Droit et Religion en Europe*, research unit of the CNRS and of the 'Université Robert Schuman' (Strasbourg III), in collaboration with *Groupe de Sociologie des Religions et de la Laïcité*, unit of the CNRS and the 'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes'.

The topics of Eurel

For each country, information is given under the following headings: general overview; historical highlights; legal status of religions; social and religious data; religion and society; current debates; bibliographical marks and a list of links