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

Network 27

Réseau

March 2006
Published by: Karel Dobbelaere

29th ISSR/SISR Conference

Secularity and Religious Vitality

Leipzig (Germany) July 23-27, 2007

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

Description of the conference theme:

page 3-4 of this Network and on our Web Site

Deadlines

May 31st 2006: Proposals for Thematic Sessions and Working Groups to be sent to the General Secretary

Session titles and the organisers' names will be published in the next Network and posted on www.sisr.org by **July 15th 2006**

October 31st 2006: Abstracts of proposed papers for sessions to be sent to the Session Organiser, abstracts of miscellaneous papers to be sent to the General Secretary

Early January 2007: Programme of the Conference on the Web Site and in the first issue of Network for 2007

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In Padua at the end of February work began for the next conference, which, as you all know, will be held in Leipzig in July 2007. The ISSR is returning to Germany after many years' absence, the last time being the Tübingen conference in 1987. Situated in the region of Saxony, the historical city of Leipzig is eminently suitable for our 29th conference. With its musical fame (here J.S.Bach expressed his artistic genius in its full maturity) and the presence of historical publishing houses, libraries and a monumental museum devoted to the Battle of the Nations in 1813, Leipzig combines the old and the new to form a centre of great interest.

And the theme of the conference itself promises to be just as interesting: *Secularity and Religious Vitality*. Chosen from among many proposals by the Council, it was the idea of Monika Wohlrab-Sahr and Detlef Pollack, the colleagues who will be organizing the conference *in loco* and whom I wish to thank on behalf of everybody for taking on this demanding task. They have, I am sure, all our support.

The theme is a far-reaching one which, it is hoped, will encourage a critical dialogue between different theoretical points of view, from the classical approaches to secularisation to the more innovative – and controversial – ones current in sociology of religion. I also feel sure that our theme will stimulate thoughts on the most pressing questions posed by everyday reality, including the growing tension between religion and politics, the secular nature of the state, the vivacity of charismatic movements, as well as the new forms of spirituality which cannot be classed as strictly religious.

In Network you will find all the information you need as well as the deadlines which I would ask you to respect to make our General Secretary's work a little easier.

Finally, our web site, <http://soc.kuleuven.be/ceso/sisr/>, has been improved and updated, thus providing a useful instrument for communication among us.

My best regards to everyone
Enzo Pace
President

DO NOT FORGET THE FIRST DEADLINE:

May 31st 2006: Proposals for Thematic Sessions and Working Groups to be sent to the General Secretary karel.dobbelaere@soc.kuleuven.be

29TH ISSR/ SISR CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE THEME

SECULARITY AND RELIGIOUS VITALITY

Secularity and religious vitality are often in tension, if not in conflict, and both have many meanings. Each can be defined and examined at the macro-, meso- and micro-levels, each can be seen as a process or a stable condition, and each can occur as either the exception or the rule. But if one thing is clear in recent research, it is that secularity and religious vitality very often co-exist, in part because they frequently play off one another dialectically. This conference is intended to probe their interactions in diverse settings around the world at different levels and with various outcomes, however temporary.

According to secularization theories, secularity reflects the functional differentiation of society, the disestablishment of religion, the institutionalization of individual rights, etc. Secularity is institutionally embedded in democratic politics and may be ideologically supported by the idea of confining religion to the private sphere. Secularity may be positively correlated with modernization.

These propositions have come under hard attack during the last two decades, theoretically and empirically. Newer religious developments -- including the expansion of Protestant movements in different regions of the world, the high public profile of recent Catholic popes, the growth of alternative spiritualities, the revitalization of indigenous religious traditions, the increase in religious participation in China, the rise of diverse Islamic movements, and the surge of political Hinduism -- have demonstrated religion's potential vitality and undermined the plausibility of some sociological theories of the secular.

Nevertheless, the relation between secularity as a characteristic of modern societies and the sometimes competing religious movements within those societies remains to be clarified. The two may be incompatible or even in open contradiction, as quarrels over religious law versus secular law indicate. But religious mobilizations may also provoke new bargaining processes between religion and secularity, as evinced by battles over blasphemy. And in some cases religious movements may encourage new attempts at social order that respond to the perceived failures of secular states, as the growth of certain Protestant and Islamic movements in different countries around the world suggests.

Plenary One : New Theoretical Approaches to Secularity and Religious Vitality

Within a comparative and/or global perspective, this session will elaborate the relationship between processes of secularization, patterns of societal change and manifestations of religious vitality. It will present new models, theories and critiques.

Plenary Two: Case Studies of Religious Vitality and Secularity Around the World

This session will focus on empirical studies of religious movements and secular conditions in different regions. It will deal with relations between religious vitality and secularity in both conflict and negotiation.

Possible Topics for Thematic Sessions and Papers

Conceptions of the relationship between religious institutions and the state.
Islamic vitality in European societies.
Secularity and religious conflict in India.
The societal role of evangelical and charismatic movements.
Growing religious activity in China: is there a religious revival?
Religiosity and popular religion outside official religion and religious organizations.
Private vs. public religion amid religious change.
Pluralism, secularity, and religious vitality.
Religious indifference, atheism, and cultural religion.
Discontinuities in religious and economic developments.
Assessing the moral impact of religious movements.
Religious and secular constructions of gender identity.
Competition between religious and secular organizations.
The societal influence of secularist organizations.
Social class and tensions over religion and secularity.
Battles over blasphemy as in novels and cartoons.
Transnational religion and secular orders.
Religious versus secular nationalism.
Sacred conceptions of the secular.
Civil religion and secular states.
Spirituality and personal growth movements.
Conflict over religion in education.
Spirituality vs. religion?
Religion and global migration.
Religious and secular movements: conditions for dialogue
Transmitting secularities and religions as traditions.
Medicine, healing, and religion.
Religion and secularity in the media.
Religion and secularity in the public sphere.
Religion, popular culture, and the media.

CONVENERS OF

Thematic Sessions

and

Workinggroups

Should send to the General Secretary : karel.dobbelaere@soc.kuleuven.be

before May 31st 2006

the title of their proposed session, in English and French
and
and the rationale of their Session (100 words in each language)

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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

- The quality of the proposed paper must be good. A paper that has already been published in French or English will not be accepted.
- The inability of the applicant to pay for participation in the Conference must be demonstrated.
- The applicant must agree to give a paper at the Conference and remain in residence for the duration of the conference.
- The deadline for submitting applications for financial assistance is 31st October 2006. An Abstract of about 3 pages should accompany each application.
- The application must also contain a short curriculum vitae.
- The application must be accompanied by a letter from the head of the applicant's academic department or research centre certifying that financial assistance cannot be obtained from the applicant's department, research centre or from national and international foundations.
- Other things being equal, priority will be given to those who never received financial assistance.
- Applicants who are informed that their application has been approved in principle must submit the full text of their paper in English or French (between 5,000 and 6,000 words) to the General Secretary no later than 15th March, 2007.
- Successful applicants must become members of the ISSR/SISR and must submit their papers for consideration by the Editorial Committee for publication in Social Compass.
- Payment of financial assistance will be made only when the applicant sends the remaining part of the original ticket (not a photocopy) to the General Secretary after the conference.

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

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for

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May 31st 2006

Taking into account suggestions from the membership, the Council has decided to change the structure of the conference in order to have more Thematic Sessions.

Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 10:30		Plenary Session 1	Thematic Sessions 4	Plenary Session 2	Thematic Sessions 8
11:00 - 13:00	Free Networking	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Session 5	Thematic Sessions 6	Thematic Sessions 9
14:00 – 16:00	16.00 Opening	Thematic Sessions 2	Cultural Afternoon <u>and</u> Free Networking	Thematic Sessions 7	Thematic Sessions 10
16:30 – 18:30	Plenary Session [Local Committee]	Thematic Sessions 3		Linguistic Groups	
19.00 – 20.00		General Assembly			

“Thematic Sessions” is the space reserved for Thematic sessions, New Researchers Forum, Miscellaneous sessions, Working Groups...

Note that we have incorporated time: on Monday from 11-13 and Wednesday from 14-00-18.30 for free networking. Applications to book rooms for such informal meetings should be addressed to the Secretary General.

We have kept the Wednesday afternoon free for Cultural activities, e.g. visits to Leipzig, Dresden...

The General Assembly is moved to Tuesday from 19.00 – 20.00

The conference will end on Friday at 16.00, except if we have so many demands for sessions that we will need to organise an 11th session.

We would like to express our appreciation to all members who have already paid their 2006-07 dues.

Thank you very much!

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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

Symposium Announcement

IBN KHALDUN : FROM PAST TO FUTURE
Revisiting Ibn Khaldun at the Sexcentenary of his Death

Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, 2006
Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM), Istanbul, Turkey

Email: ibnhaldun@isam.org.tr

Call for Papers
International Symposium on

Islamic-Turkish Civilization and Europe (11th-18th Centuries)

Istanbul 24-26 November 2006

Organized by the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey, the Faculty of Theology (Marmara University-Istanbul), and the Center for Islamic Studies (ISAM-Istanbul)

Abstracts not exceeding 300 words should be addressed to avrupa@isam.org.tr with a short CV of the applicant before 15 April 2006.

Please inform the General Secretariat of changes in address:

sisr@soc.kuleuven.be

or

**General Secretariat of the ISSR/SISR, Department of Sociology,
Van Evenstraat 2B, B-3000 Leuven
Belgium**

NEWS OF THE MEMBRES:

CONGRATULATIONS :

Jaak BILLIET, is one of the seven members of the *Central Coordinating Team* of the European Social Survey (ESS) receiving the prestigious **Descartes Research Price**, for radical innovation in cross-national surveys, in December 2005.

Jay DEMERATH was named **Emile Durkheim Distinguished Professor** by the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

PUBLICATIONS (books and chapters in readers):

BECKFORD, J. A.; D. JOLY and F. KHOSROKHAVAR, *Muslims in Prison: challenge and change in Britain and France*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005: 301 p.

PACE, E., *Sociologia do Isola*, Petropolis: Editora Vozes, 2005: 364 p.

PACE, E. and L. VERDI (eds), *Scritti in Onore di Sabino Acquaviva*, with contributions of **R. Cipriani, K. Dobbelaere, G. Guizzardi, M.-I. Macioto, E. Pace, L. Voyé and B. Wilson**. Padova: Cedam, 2005: 151 p.

PROESCHEL, C., *L'Idée de la Laïcité : Une Comparaison franco-espagnole*. Paris : l'Harmattan, 2005 : 262 p.

SENGERS, Erik (ed.). *The Dutch and Their Gods. Secularization and Transformation of Religion in the Netherlands after 1950*. Hilversum: Uitgeverij Verloren, 2005. With contributions of among others **Erik Sengers, A. van Harskamp and Stef Aupers**.

La religion: Unité et diversité, avec contributions de plusieurs membres: **Régine Azria ; Jean-Pierre Bastian ; André M. Corten ; Yves Lambert ; Jean-Paul Willaime**, e.a. Paris : PUF, 2005 : 360 p.

EXCHANGE (35: 1, January 2006) is a **special issue**, devoted entirely to the theme of *Conversion and the Religious Market*. Its contributions were all originally presented at a symposium with the same title at the Free University in Amsterdam on September 24, 2004. The articles often give special attention to Pentecostalism and are written by **Erik Sengers, Anton Houtepen, Henri Gooren, Bernice Martin, David Martin, Allan Anderson, Cecília Mariz and Vitória Peres de Oliveira**.

Exchange is the official international journal of the Center IIMO for Intercultural Theology at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Copies and subscriptions can be obtained by sending an e-mail to cs@brillusa.com (USA, Canada, and Latin America) or to cs@brill.nl (rest of the world).

LA REVUE EN LIGNE DE SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES ETHNOGRAPHIQUES

Laurent **AMIOTTE-SUCHET** (ATER à l'Ecole Pratiques des Hautes Etudes et membre du comité de direction de la revue ethnographiques.org) nous informe que [La revue en ligne de sciences humaines et sociales ethnographiques.org](http://www.ethnographiques.org) vient de publier son huitième numéro. A cette occasion, il en profite pour attirer notre attention sur un certain nombre d'articles publiés depuis la création de la revue et portant de près ou de loin sur les faits religieux.

Il nous invite à nous rendre directement sur le site (www.ethnographiques.org) où nous trouverons les articles et où nous pourrons, grâce à leur moteur de recherche, effectuer nos propres recherches thématiques.

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FIRST RUSSIAN JOURNAL DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The journal «**Study of Religion**» («**Religiovedenie**») is the first Russian journal dedicated to the Religious Studies as scientific and educational subject. The journal is intended for the academic society. It includes articles about history of world and Russian religions, Philosophy of Religion, Sociology of Religion, Psychology of Religion, etc. Much attention is paid to the contemporary religious situation in Russia. If you have any questions or suggestions send them to sciencia@yandex.ru; we are glad to cooperate with Russian and foreign colleagues. The journal's website is www.amursu.ru/religio.

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CONFERENCES and ANNUAL MEETINGS

American Sociological Association: Section 34: Sociology of Religion's 2006 Annual Meeting: August 11-14, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, "Great Divides: Transgressing Boundaries". Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org for more information.

Association for the Sociology of Religion's 2006 Annual Meeting: August 10-12, Hyatt Regency Montréal "Intersection: History meets the sociology of Religion...Again". Program Chair: Peter Kivisto, e-mail: ASR2006@augustana.edu. Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org for more information.

British Sociological Association (BSA), the Sociology of Religion Study Group's Annual Meeting 2006: 3-5 April, University of Manchester, Hulme Hall "Religion and the Individual". Organiser: Davis Voas, e-mail voas@man.ac.uk. Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org for more information.

XXIX Denton Conference on Implicit Religion: 5-7 May 2006 Denton Hall, Ilkley, W Yorkshire, UK. Enquiries: Edward Bailey, e-mail ebailey@csircs.freemove.co.uk or surf to www.implicitreligion.org/denton.htm

Inform Seminar XXXVI: "Spirit Possession and Exorcism", Date: Saturday, 13 May 2006; 9.30am - 4.30pm. Venue: New Theatre at the London School of Economics and Political Science. To register, contact Inform by: Email: inform@lse.ac.uk;| Phone: 020 7955 7654; Post: Inform, LSE, Houghton St, London WC2A 2AE. For further information, see the Inform website: www.inform.ac.

The next **ISORECEA** [International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central European Association] **conference** will meet in Sophia, Bulgaria, 14 -17 December 2006. For more information: <http://rs.as.wvu.edu/sophia.htm>. Contact persons Daniela Kalkandjieva and Ina Merdjanova, Center for Interreligious Dialogue (Sofia University); email: kalkandjieva@yahoo.com

The 18th Nordic Conference in Sociology of Religion is to be held at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, August 10-13 2006. The theme of the conference is 'New Religious Landscapes?' More information can be found on www.teo.au.dk/NCSR

Religious Research Association: 2006 Annual Meeting: October 19-21, Portland Marriott Downtown, Portland, Oregon; "Diversity within religious Organizations". Contact: Michael O. Emerson, e-mail: moeRRA@rice.edu. Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org for more information.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: 2006 Annual Meeting: October 19-22, Portland Marriott Downtown, Portland, Oregon "Religion v. Spirituality". Program Chair Brenda E. Brasher, e-mail bebrasher@abdn.ac.uk. Use the ISSR/SISR link at www.sisr.org for more information.