

# IAPR

**International Association for the Psychology of Religion**

## Newsletter of the IAPR – November 2010

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### Announcements\*

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\* Whoever wants to bring announcements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the text to the editor of the Newsletter.

#### **New IAPR Website**

Since November 2010 the IAPR has a new website which can be found at [www.psychology-of-religion.com](http://www.psychology-of-religion.com). All relevant information about the aims, history, activities, and membership of the IAPR can be found there.

With the installation of the new website the old website ([www.iapr.de](http://www.iapr.de)) has been displaced. We would like to use this opportunity to thank Sebastian Murken and Sussan Namini who have successfully administered the old website for several years.

*Constantin Klein*

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### Job Advertisements\*

\* Whoever wants to bring job advertisements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the text to the editor of the Newsletter.

#### **Full professor or tenure-track position at the level of full professor in the Social Science of Contemporary Religion at the University of Lausanne/Switzerland**

*Ort:* University of Lausanne (Dorigny)

*Start:* August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

*Deadline:* January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

#### *Description:*

- <https://applicationsw.unil.ch/adminpub/?Mlval=PoIntHome&TypeIC=810&Pold=1897> (English)
- <https://applicationsw.unil.ch/adminpub/?Mlval=PoIntHome&TypeIC=810&Pold=1872> (French)

#### *Prerequisites:*

- Doctorate in religious studies, social psychology, sociology, anthropology or a comparable qualification
- Profound knowledge of qualitative and quantitative approaches as well as of the theories of the social religious studies
- Experience in empirical research (observation, data collection, data analysis etc.)
- Experience in comparative research on European and/or non-European research sites
- Profound knowledge of different religious traditions, new spiritualities, personal development, new religious movements
- Excellent research performance and scientific publications in the areas mentioned above
- Good integration into international scientific networks

#### *Duties and responsibilities:*

- Teach courses in religious studies at the BA and MA in different faculties
- Research in the areas mentioned
- Supervise PhD students; participation in PhD courses
- Capacity to direct an institute

The courses are normally taught in French (during the first year, English is possible).

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### *Letter of application:*

Send a letter of interest, a CV, a list of publications and a copy of certificates in ten copies as well as two copies of principal publications to Prof. Pierre Gisel, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Bâtiment Anthropole, Quartier Unil-Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne. A pdf version of the letter of interest, the CV and the list of publications should also be sent to Maritza.Erb@unil.ch.

In keeping with the commitment to gender equality in academia, the University particularly encourages women to apply.

### *Further information:*

- Professor Pierre Gisel, Dean of the FTSR, Pierre.Gisel@unil.ch
- Professor Jörg Stolz, Director of the ISSRC/ORS, Joerg.Stolz@unil.ch
- Maritza Erb, Administrator of the FTSR, Maritza.Erb@unil.ch
- Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies (FTSR; [www.unil.ch/FTSR/](http://www.unil.ch/FTSR/))
- Institute for the Social Science of Contemporary Religion (ISSRC; [www.unil.ch/issrc](http://www.unil.ch/issrc))

*Pierre-Yves Brandt*

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### **Conferences\***

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\* Whoever wants to bring conference information under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.

### **2011 Meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR) in conjunction with the CogSci 2011 meeting: "Expanding the Space of Cognitive Science" in Boston/USA**

*Date:* 20<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2011

*Location:* Boston/MA, USA

*Abstract:* The IACSR, which seeks to advance the naturalistic study of religion, invites members and interested scholars to submit proposals for presentations (lasting no more than 25 minutes) for possible inclusion on the program at its upcoming meeting for 2011 in Boston. Submissions are welcome on any topic in the cognitive science of religion. The IACSR recognizes that the cognitive sciences encompass a wide array of disciplines and methods, including, among others, experimental research in psychology and neuroscience, computational modeling, ethnographic, historical, archaeological, and comparative studies of religious cognition, and the survey techniques of the social sciences. Presentations advancing new cognitive theories of diverse religious phenomena are also welcome.

*Conference Website:* <http://cognitivesciencesociety.org/conference2011/index.html>

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*Proposals* should consist of two pages. The cover page should include the following items only:

- presentation title
- word count of the proposal
- all authors' names
- all authors' email addresses (papers with multiple authors should explicitly indicate which of the addresses should serve as the one to which all subsequent communications about this submission should be sent)

On a subsequent page, the substantive section of the proposal should, again, include the title of the presentation, should not exceed 500 words, and should not contain either footnotes or endnotes or the author's name(s). The author's name(s) should only appear on the cover page.

Proposals should be attached as an MS Word file in emails with 'IACSR submission' in their subject lines to be sent to Joseph Bulbulia at [joseph.bulbulia@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:joseph.bulbulia@vuw.ac.nz).

*Deadline for submission: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Robert N. McCauley, Armin W. Geertz and Joseph Bulbulia*

### **10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Academy of Practical Theology 'City of desires - a place for God?' in Amsterdam/NL**

*Date: 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011*

*Location: Amsterdam, NL*

*Abstract:* Iconic for its apparent facilitation of every desire, the city of Amsterdam is a great location to explore the practical theological meanings of desire. Desire is one of those concepts that runs through many theories and perspectives, yet is seldom addressed by its own name. IAPT's tenth - anniversary - conference (formed in 1991, first meeting in Princeton 1993) will focus on the practical theological understanding of desire. We will develop a critical hermeneutic of desire that takes seriously how desire shapes our lives and may be a symbolic reference to the divine. It will require a hermeneutical interpretation and moral evaluation to understand where desire becomes temptation, where the symbolic reference becomes idolatry.

Following an opening lecture to explore the concepts and locate our discussions in the Amsterdam context, the conference will have three keynote lectures providing building blocks for a practical theology of desire. The first will offer an anthropology of desire, helping us to understand the different shapes and common dynamics of desire and its importance for practical theology. The second will develop a normative ethical theology of desire, distinguishing between salutary and dangerous forms of desire. The third will consider the theological interpretation of the city as location of desire and as city of God. Keynote speakers and respondents will be asked to connect the exploration of concrete

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practices with practical theological interpretations and evaluations. This may lead to constructing interpretative and normative frames of desire.

Research paper presentations in collegial sessions will delve deeper into specific aspects of the theme. Other elements of the conference will be three anniversary roundtable sessions (brief position statements and extensive discussion) in which we explore the state of the art and future challenges for practical theology. Seminars on specific topics, social meetings, excursions, and the presidential address complete the program.

*Call for Papers:* IAPT invites its members and other scholars to propose a contribution to this anniversary conference. We solicit proposals in one of the following formats:

- *Individual research papers (single or joint authors).* This format entails a 45 minute time slot. We encourage you strongly to use presentations styles conducive of interaction and discussion. Rather than reading your entire paper, please focus on the mutual exchange of ideas. We advise to limit the presentation to 20 minutes and leave 25 minutes for discussion. If you have a proposal for this option, submit the title and abstract. We specifically invite papers exploring the different shapes of desire. One shape can be called material desire, focusing on consumerism, and the promises and challenges of our contemporary world governed by the global media and consumption industries and including issues of poverty and marginalization. A second shape is physical desire, focusing on sports and sexualities, and the search for (gender)identity and self-transcending intimacy expressed in it. A third shape is religious desire, focusing on the changing faces of religion and spirituality, offering direct gratification, spiritual events, miracles and experiences. Clearly this is not exhaustive; participants are invited to reflect on other shapes of desire.
- *Seminars on specific topics.* This format will be given a 90 minute time slot. Typically, it will bring together three or four presenters on a closely related topic. Following their brief presentations (10-15 minutes each), a longer discussion may follow among them and with the audience. Proposals for this option will include a theme, three or four participants and their abstracts.
- *Anniversary roundtable sessions.* These sessions celebrate IAPT's tenth conference by exploring the state of the art and future challenges in different dimensions of practical theology (for example: methodology, regional developments, and teaching; but we are open to other suggestions). The sessions will open with a series of five-minute statements by panelists, followed by open discussion. A proposal for this option will indicate an area in need of anniversary consideration and/or suggestions for participants (including yourself).

We look forward to see new and open styles of communicating your research. As we understand that delivering a full research paper may be important, we will provide the facilities to submit full papers in advance (on a restricted access website so that participants may read them before the conference) and/or afterwards. During the conference we will only facilitate photocopying of one-sheet outlines.

*Conference Website (Submission):* [www.ia-pt.org](http://www.ia-pt.org) > Conference 2011

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As decided by the IAPT-membership, we plan to publish a volume on the conference theme, including a number of chapters based on papers presented at the conference. Papers closely linked to the conference theme may be included in the volume.

For further information please contact [conference@ia-pt.org](mailto:conference@ia-pt.org).

Ruard Ganzevoort

### IAPR 2011 Congress in Bari/Italy

*Date:* 21<sup>st</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> August, 2011

*Location:* Bari/Italy

*Abstract:* The next IAPR congress will be held in Bari, Italy, from Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, until Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It is organized by the SIPR – the Italian Society of Psychology of Religion – (<http://www.psicologiadellareligione.it/sipr/>) in cooperation with the Department of Psychology, University of Bari (<http://www.uniba.it/>). The Congress will be arranged in plenary sessions (hold by the invited speakers), parallel sessions and poster sessions. Contributions can take the form of a paper, a panel or a poster. The call for papers will soon be available on the IAPR 2011 Congress homepage (<http://www.iapr2011.org/>). On this homepage you will find ongoing additional information about program, accommodation, contacts and so on. Also, the online submission form could soon be filled in at the website.

*International scientific committee:* Mario Aletti, Hans A. Alma, Rosalinda Cassibba, Jozef Corveleyn, James W. Jones, Vassilis Saroglou, Marinus H.F. van Uden, Herman Westerink

*Local scientific committee:* Mario Aletti, Rosalinda Cassibba, Fabio De Nardi, Germano Rossi, Giuseppe Mininni

*Local organizing committee:* Caterina Balenzano, Germana Castoro, Lucia Elia, Daniela Fagnani, Alessandro Costantini, Carlo Lavermicocca, Amelia Manuti, Rosa Scardigno, Giovanna Sette

*Dates to remember:*

- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010: Start of Call for Papers.
- 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011: Deadline for Abstract Submission.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011: Deadline for Communicating Acceptance of Papers, Panels and Posters
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011: Deadline for Registration.
- 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011 (*in the afternoon*): Opening of the Congress and Welcome Ceremony
- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011: Departure of Participants

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*Further information:*

- As for the submission and the scientific program, please contact Prof. Germano Rossi ([germano.rossi@unimib.it](mailto:germano.rossi@unimib.it)).
- If you need for practical information about Bari, you can write to Rosa Scardigno ([r.scardigno@psico.uniba.it](mailto:r.scardigno@psico.uniba.it)).

*Mario Aletti and Germano Rossi*

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### **Calls for Papers\***

\* Whoever wants to bring calls for papers under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for papers: Book on 'Constructs of Meaning and Religious Transformation'**

*Context:* The book project is embedded in the research platform „Religion and Transformation in Contemporary European Society“. The platform is an interdisciplinary cooperation of the faculties of social sciences and theology at Vienna University, Austria. The book will be published at Vienna University Press (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) in the series „Religion and Transformation“.

*Content:* In the psychology of religion the individual's capacity to construct meaning, or give meaning, and to be influenced by religious meaning systems and social constructs of meaning is generally regarded a key issue. This book aims bringing together various perspectives and approaches present in current discussions on the issue of the individual's capacity to construct meaning, its underlying affective and/or cognitive mechanisms, its well-being or coping advancing or inhibiting purposes or effects, as related to mental condition (mental health) and/or social environment (for example religious minority groups). The book thus aims at contributing to a key topic in the psychology of religion, by collecting papers from the variety of approaches in our field.

The editors call for both theoretical and empirical papers reflecting individual constructs of meaning in relation to transformations in individual religiosity or spirituality. We welcome papers including clinical material and qualified data, as well as contributions that present historical, philosophical, sociological or theological perspectives and analyses.

*Editors:* Susanne Heine and Herman Westerink

*Expected Publication:* 2012

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### Key Dates:

- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011: Deadline for abstract submissions. Please submit your 300-500 word abstract to: [herman.westerink@univie.ac.at](mailto:herman.westerink@univie.ac.at).
- February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Notification of acceptance
- November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011: Deadline of submission of papers (5000-8000 words)
- November 2011: Review of the papers
- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 Deadline of submission of revised papers

Further Information: [herman.westerink@univie.ac.at](mailto:herman.westerink@univie.ac.at)

Susanne Heine and Herman Westerink

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### Key Publications\*

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\* Whoever wants to bring key publications under attention of the IAPR members, please email the bibliography to the editor of the Newsletter.

- Klein, C., Berth, H. & Balck, F. (Eds.): *Gesundheit – Religion – Spiritualität. Konzepte, Befunde und Erklärungsansätze*. Weinheim: Juventa [Health – Religion – Spirituality. Concepts, Findings, and Explanations].

⇒ published in December 2010.

⇒ Editorial of Kenneth I. Pargament (Bowling Green State University, Ohio/USA): When I first began to study religion and health in 1975, keeping up with the research in the field was not particularly difficult. A leisurely day in the library every few months was sufficient to review recent publications. That is no longer possible. The field has grown so dramatically that it is no longer possible for any single researcher to stay abreast of all of the relevant research that is emerging from multiple disciplines, from nursing, medicine, and psychology to sociology, anthropology, and theology. What this burgeoning body of research does make clear is that religion is a salient dimension of health and well-being. Religiousness has been shown to predict mental health, physical health, and even the risk of mortality among patients faced with the full range of illnesses. Many questions remain, however. Perhaps most importantly, because the vast majority of the research in the field has been conducted on people in the United States, we know relatively little about the links between religion and health within people in other countries and cultures.

'*Gesundheit – Religion – Spiritualität*' is a timely and important volume because it addresses this cultural gap in our knowledge. The chapters in the volume reveal that, in contrast to characterizations of the German-speaking countries as highly secularized, Germans, Austrians and Swiss like their counterparts in the United States often intertwine religion in the ways they understand and deal with their illnesses. And, as we find in the United States, religiousness emerges as a

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significant predictor of health and well-being. This is not to say that religion takes identical forms and serves identical functions in Germany and Europe. It is clear that religion is shaped and expressed through the filter of a distinctive culture. Thus, the findings in this volume are anything but simple and straightforward. The picture of religion that emerges here is one of richness and complexity. Avoiding religious stereotypes and oversimplification, the authors of these chapters depict religion as multi-dimensional, capable of producing beneficial or harmful effects, and always embedded in a larger context. They make the point that it is not enough to know *whether* someone is religious, it is necessary to know *how, where, and why* someone is religious. As importantly, these chapters set the stage for efforts to move from research to practice, and attend more fully to the religious dimension of patients in health care settings. Finally, this book invites other researcher and practitioners from diverse cultures to contribute to a deeper global understanding of religion, health and illness.

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### Contact

Please feel free to contact me or to email all information of interest to me:

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personen/klein.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/theologie/forschung/religionsforschung/personen/klein.html)