

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

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The International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR) is an international organization promoting the scientific research and exchange within the field of the psychology of religion. The Association is not partial to any particular trend but aspires to provide a platform for the entire spectrum of the scientific-psychological study of religion for psychologists of religion from all over the world.

Website: www.iaprweb.org

Become a member or renew your membership :

<http://www.iaprweb.org/membership.html>

Benefits of membership:

1. Regular membership with the IAPR includes the subscription to the *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*. For regular members, print and online version are free.
2. Members of the IAPR pay reduced conference fees for the organization's conferences.
3. IAPR members receive special discounts for their subscriptions to:
 - a) *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*: \$43/£26/€34 instead of \$62/£37/€49.
 - b) *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*: \$100/£60/€80 instead of \$386/£231/€441.
4. IAPR members receive the Association's e-mail newsletters which keep you in touch with the scientific community and inform you about conferences, job advertisements, funding opportunities, key publications, and the Association's latest developments and activities.

Announcements



Dear IAPR members,

Happy New Year! After a break over the holidays, we are back with a newsletter full PhD advertisements and conference announcements.

If you would like to add information in future newsletters please e-mail me the text! This may concern general announcements, conferences (future and report from past ones), job opportunities, key publications, or any other information you think IAPR members might be interested in.

If you are an early career researcher (PhD student or postdoc) and would like to see your work featured in the newsletter, contact me!
Thanks,

Valerie van Mulukom

Editor of the IAPR newsletter.

Contact information:

Dr Valerie van Mulukom
Coventry University
Centre for Research in Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement
Brain, Belief and Behaviour Lab

Research



Society for Phenomenology of Religious Experience (SOPHERE)

Dear Colleagues,

If you are interested in phenomenological research of religious experience and related matters in psychology, philosophy and theology, please join SOPHERE at www.sophere.org.

SOPHERE

The Society for Phenomenology of Religious Experience (SPRE) is a membership-supported international organization for coordinating philosophical, scientific, social, and clinical research and conferences. It serves the world community by advancing knowledge in the phenomenology of religious experiencing, including different cultural traditions. It addresses the phenomenology of religious experience in its various aspects, historical, theological, sociological, philosophical, psychological, and other. SPRE does not present the views of any particular theological school nor of a particular religious organization, but draws upon the broad spectrum of phenomenological approaches.

The task of the Society is to clarify religious experience, to seek to understand its significance for individuals, groups, and societies, and to explore its epistemological and ontological implications. It invites intellectual contributions by researchers who represent different religious views, and authors who research both older and newer religious movements. The Society also seeks to provide researchers, pastors, artists and other interested persons with the fruits of academic studies.

Among our activities is an ongoing webinar in Phenomenology of Religious Experience. In Spring 2017, we will be reading:

Taipale, Joonas. Phenomenology and Embodiment: Husserl and the Constitution of Subjectivity. Northwestern University Studies in Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 2014.

Guest lectures will be by Sam Mickey (University of San Francisco), Jingjing Li (McGill University), Peter Costello (Providence College), and Joonas Taipale (University of Jyväskylä). Syllabus is available on:

<http://sophere.org/activities/seminars/>

Contact info@sophere.org or Olga Louchakova-Schwartz if you have questions.

Conferences



IAPR conference 2017 in Hamar, Norway
Psychology of Religion: Culture, Context and Existential Challenges

****Registration is now open!****

Location: Hamar, Norway

Dates: August 21-24, 2017

Submission deadline: March 1st, 2017

Registration deadline: April 1st, 2017

There will be continuous updates about the program, keynotes, pre-conferences, workshops, conference fees, accommodation, on the website <http://www.norway2017.iaprweb.org/>.

Among the keynote speakers are professor **Valerie DeMarinis** (Sweden), professor **Kenneth I. Pargament** (USA), dr. **Tatjana Schnell** (Austria), and Dr. **Mohammad Khodayarifard** (Iran). We will also have lectures by the winners of the Godin Prize and the Early Career Award.

For researchers, this is a great opportunity to present their work in panels and symposia, and receive responses from fellow researchers from all over the world. For professionals in health care, education, religious institutions, etc., the conference will provide new insights of relevance for their practices. For us all, this is an opportunity for meeting old and new colleagues and to become updated on the research front in a huge and growing field.

Hamar is situated 125 km north of Oslo by lake Mjøsa, 55 min by train from Oslo Airport (Gardermoen). The conference will be at the Scandic Conference Hotel: (<https://www.scandichotels.com/hotels/norway/hamar/scandic-hamar>).

Welcome to Hamar in August 2017!



Conferences

**AAR Annual Meeting**

Location: Boston, MA, United States

Dates: November 18-21, 2017

Deadline: Wednesday, March 1 (5:00 PM EST)

Call for Proposals: The Call for Papers for the 2017 AAR Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, is now online. Proposals may be submitted to the Cognitive Science of Religion Group through the Program Administration Proposal, Evaluation, Review, and Submission (PAPERS) System:

<https://papers.aarweb.org/content/welcome>

There already is a great line-up of speakers, including an invited panel discussion on Paul Bloom's book "Against Empathy" and the IACSR is hosting a panel to discuss how to teach CSR, with panelists Claire White, Ted Slingerland, Dimitris Xygalatas and Jason Slone.

This year, the theme for the Cognitive Science of Religion group is "Current theories and applications of the Cognitive Science of Religion" and IACSR seek individual papers and paper sessions on this broad topic:

<https://papers.aarweb.org/content/cognitive-science-religion-unit>



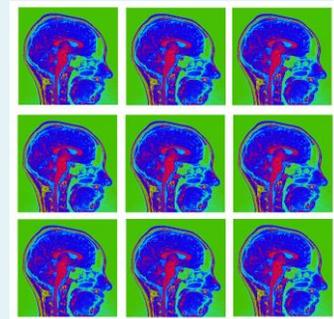
Job Openings
& Grants

PhD Studentship in Psychobiology of Religion and the Social Brain

Brain, Belief, and Behaviour Lab, Coventry University (UK)

Project: How do religious rituals bring people together? The cohesion of religious groups that perform rituals together is outstanding and has been documented by anthropologists and sociologists for decades. However, the psychobiological mechanisms by which this happens are not yet fully understood. The aim of this PhD project is to apply Robin Dunbar's Social Brain Hypothesis to religious rituals and beliefs. The PhD candidate will investigate a variety of religious rituals, their relationship to social bonding, and the psychological and biological mechanisms that mediate this relationship.

The PhD candidate is expected to conduct observational and experimental studies, analyse, write up, and publish the research during the course of the PhD. This work will contribute to a larger project, 'Religion and the Social Brain', funded by the Templeton Religious Trust. The PhD applicant will be primarily supervised by Dr Miguel Farias and Dr Valerie van Mulukom. Other supervisors are Dr Jonathan Jong, Dr Gavin Sullivan, and Prof. Robin Dunbar (University of Oxford).



Application deadline: May 21st (to start in September)

Requirements: A minimum of a 2:1 first degree in Psychology with a minimum 60% mark in the Project element or equivalent with a minimum 60% overall module average. In the event of a first degree classification of less than 2:1, a Masters Degree in Psychology will be considered as an equivalent (see [website](#) for further requirements).

About the Centre: The Centre for Research in Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement is vibrant research community for researchers with interests in a broad range of psychological and social topics. Our work is captured by five main themes: literacy, violence and interpersonal aggression, identity and resilience in communities and organisations, atypical development, and brain, belief and behaviour. More detail on these themes can be found at www.coventry.ac.uk/crpba. The research will be supervised by experienced staff located in the Centre for Research in Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement.

Contact: If you have any questions about this PhD project, or would like to have an informal discussion, please contact Dr Valerie van Mulukom at ac2492@coventry.ac.uk.

More information: <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-students/research-studentships/psychobiology-of-religion-and-the-social-brain/>



PhD Fellowship in Psychology of Belief, Religion, Science and Morality

Supervisor: Dr Jesse L. Preston (The University of Warwick, UK)

Religion and science are sometimes described as conflicting and sometimes complementary. The dual nature of their relationship may be because the two share a core goal of understanding the big questions about the nature of life and the Universe, but rely on different paths to that knowledge. That is, religion and science may be "two sides of the same coin" in that they provide meaningful systems of belief and organized knowledge into a coherent worldview. Religion and science therefore share important psychological features, and may be important sources of meaning and morality.

Broadly, this project will examine the psychology of belief, with particular emphasis on religion, science, and morality. Some general research questions include: can science be spiritual? What are effects of science on meaning and subjective well-being? How do beliefs become moralized? How do science and religion impact moral attitudes? How do religious beliefs impact environmental attitudes? What happens when scientific explanations do not fully explain?

Requirements: We seek a highly motivated student with strong interest in research in psychology of belief, religion, and morality. Experience with statistics, computer programming, and research methods are assets. Applicants should have either a good Upper Second Class degree plus a Masters Distinction OR a First Class degree in Psychology, Neuroscience, Economics, Philosophy, or a related field.

If you have any questions related to this PhD project or would like more details, please contact Dr Jesse L. Preston at j.preston@warwick.ac.uk

Related Publications:

Preston, J., & Epley, N. (2005). Explanations versus applications: The explanatory power of valuable beliefs. *Psychological Science*, 16, 826-832

Preston, J., & Epley, N. (2009). Science and God: An automatic opposition between ultimate explanations. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45, 238-241.

Preston, J. L., Ritter, R. S., & Hepler, J. (2013). Neuroscience and the soul: Competing explanations for the human experience. *Cognition*, 127, 31-37.

Online ad: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/psych/research/lifespan/fellowship2/>



Mind and Development Lab Summer Internship Program

2017 Yale University

The **Yale Mind and Development Lab**, under the direction of Dr. Paul Bloom, is accepting applications for our annual Summer Internship Program. Our research explores how children and adults understand the physical and social world, including topics such as morality, religion, free will, and the nature of the self. For more information, please see <http://minddevlab.yale.edu/>.

This internship will provide interns with the opportunity to work with graduate students and postdocs on both ongoing and new studies. Because projects are at various stages of completion (from pre-design to post-data collection), interns will be able to be involved with a wide range of activities over the course of the internship. Activities may include developing new project ideas, designing new experiments, recruiting participants, running experiments, analyzing data, and presenting results.

The internship runs full-time from June 1 to August 15, 2017, and application materials are due **March 1, 2017**.

Who can apply? The internship is open to all undergraduate students, including those graduating in 2017. It is particularly suited for students considering graduate school in experimental psychology or cognitive science.

How can I apply? For more information and to apply, see <http://minddevlab.yale.edu/join-us>.