

# Newsletter of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion

January 2009

In this Newsletter you find information on:

- Call for Papers and Registration: IAPR Congress, 23.-27. August 2009, Vienna.
- Discount The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion.
- “Meaning in Religion, Cognition and Culture”. A working conference, May 28-29, 2009 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark-
- Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN)
- Key publications.

## *1. IAPR Congress, 23.-27. August 2009, Vienna, Austria*

The next IAPR congress will be held in Vienna, Austria, from Sunday 23 August until Thursday 27 August, 2009.

Call for Papers and Registration have started, see [www.iapr.at.vu](http://www.iapr.at.vu)

**For those who live in the Euro-zone payment by bank transfer is now possible. See homepage.**

Important dates:

1 October 2008	Start of Call for Papers and of Registration
1 March 2009	Deadline Call for Papers
1 May 2009	Notification of Acceptance of Papers, Panels and Posters
1 July 2009	Deadline for Registration
23 August 2009	Conference begins
27 August 2009	Departure

Local organizing committee: Susanne Heine and Herman Westerink (Department for Practical Theology and Psychology of Religion, Protestant Theological Faculty)

Scientific committee: Herman Westerink and Susanne Heine; Jos Corveleyn, James Jones, Rien van Uden.

## *2. Discount The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*

Since 2008 The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, edited by Ray Paloutzian, is no longer published by Lawrence Erlbaum, but by Taylor & Francis. The new publisher's special discount for IAPR members is 30% off the list price. Instead of 49 EUR / 62 USD / 37 GBP IAPR members pay only 34 EUR / 43 USD / 26 GBP for a personal subscription. For more information on the journal, see here:

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1050-8619&linktype=1>

### *3. Meaning in Religion, Cognition and Culture*

*A working conference, May 28-29, 2009 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark*

Invitation and call for papers:

“Meaning in Religion, Cognition and Culture”

A working conference, May 28-29, 2009 at the University of Aarhus, Denmark

Hosted by the main research area Religion, Cognition and Culture (RCC) at the Department of the Study of Religion in collaboration with the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion ([www.iacsr.com](http://www.iacsr.com)).

The cognitive science of religion has made heady progress over the last few decades, and it continues to create new insights. There is now a growing awareness that human cognition is more than in the individual and in the head.. Human cognition is distributed as well as situated. It is also externalized and exploits the capacities of extended minds in language, symbols, practices and objects. Thus, as a program statement of the RCC emphasizes: We analyze religion by studying the functional organization of the human brain, its interaction with the social and cultural worlds that it inhabits and modifies, and its developmental constraints and flexibility. Humans are mental creatures as well as embodied agents, who interact with the world. Core features of cognition . for example our moral intuitions and epistemic hunger. are powered by interpersonal dynamics. Cognition happens not only inside heads, but between heads, among heads and without heads (i.e. in cultural artifacts and systems). It is our firm conviction that such interactions and interpersonal dynamics take place in modes of communication that include and depend on meaning here broadly conceived as the contents of communication (any dictionary shows that .meaning. is a taxing term in the English language).

This conference concentrates on problems concerning the relations between individual and collective linguistic and non-linguistic meaning and cognition in religion and religious practices, be that in mind, body, text, ritual, institutions, and/or objects. The issues of meaning and cognition converge on questions of individual and collective intentionality as well as on normative cognition, i.e. the capacity of human cognition to conform to socio-cultural expectations and pressures. Such unique human abilities depend on the exchange of meaning. As meaning is inter-subjective and most of the cognitive science methodologies are inherently individualistic and mentalistic, we expect creative and critical presentations and discussions. This being a working conference we welcome work in progress. Selected proceedings will be published with an acclaimed international publisher.

A presentation can be either short, i.e. 10 + 5 minutes or long, i.e. 30 + 15 minutes. Final date for submission of preliminary proposals including a 200 word abstract is March 2, 2009.

Further inquiries are to be addressed to:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phil. Jeppe Sinding Jensen (organizer) or Professor

Dr. Phil. Armin W. Geertz (co-organizer), e-mail: [jsj@teo.au.dk](mailto:jsj@teo.au.dk) and

[awg@teo.au.dk](mailto:awg@teo.au.dk)

Further info on the RCC: [www.teo.au.dk/en/research/current/cognition](http://www.teo.au.dk/en/research/current/cognition)

### *4. Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN)*

The Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) is an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers interested in non-religion and secularity -- or, in other

words, in positions which are defined in reference to religion but which are considered to be somehow other than religious.

This research agenda is inclusive, concerned with a range of perspectives and experiences, including the atheistic, agnostic, religiously indifferent or areligious, as well as some forms of or aspects of secularism, humanism and, indeed, religion itself. It also addresses the theoretical and empirical relationships between non-religion, religion and secularity.

The network was set up recently (November 2008) and its current activity involves advertising for researchers working in this area, compiling a researcher directory and making that available to all members. An email list has also been set up for circulating information and resources (new publications, conferences and projects, etc.) and as a point of contact for anyone requiring specialist advice or discussion. The NSRN website is in production.

If you would like more information about the NSRN, or are researching in this area and would like to be involved, please email Lois Lee (Faculty of Politics, Psychology, Sociology, and International Studies, University of Cambridge) at [l1317@cam.ac.uk](mailto:l1317@cam.ac.uk).

## *5. Key Publications*

Cassibba, R., & Granqvist, P., Costantini, A. & Gatto, S. (2008). Attachment and God representations among lay Catholics, priests, and religious: A matched comparison study based on the Adult Attachment Interview. *Developmental Psychology*, 44, 1753-1763.

Granqvist, P., Ivarsson, T., Broberg, A.G. & Hagekull, B. (2007). Examining relations between attachment, religiosity, and New Age spirituality using the Adult Attachment Interview. *Developmental Psychology*, 43, 590-601.

Granqvist, P., & Kirkpatrick, L.A. (2008). Attachment and religious representations and behavior. In J Cassidy & P.R. Shaver (Eds.), *Handbook of attachment: Theory, research, and clinical applications*. (2nd ed.) (pp.906-933). New York: Guilford.

Granqvist, P., Ljungdahl, C. & Dickie, J.R. (2007). God is nowhere, God is now here: Attachment activation, security of attachment (SAT), and God proximity among 5-7 year-old children. *Attachment & Human Development*, 9, 55-71.

Wiech, K., Farias, M., Kahane, G., Shackel, N., Tiede, W., & Tracey, I. (2008). An fMRI study measuring analgesia enhanced by religion as a belief system. *PAIN*, 139(2), 467-476.

Farias, M. & Hense, E. (2008). Concepts and misconceptions in the scientific study of spirituality. *Religion, Spirituality and Social Sciences: Challenging marginalization*, edited by B. Spalek and A. Imtoul (pp. 163-176). Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

Farias, M. & Lalljee, M. (2008). Holistic individualism in the Age of Aquarius: Measuring individualism/collectivism in New Age, Catholic and atheist/agnostic groups. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 47(2), 277-289.

Farias, M. & Granqvist, P. (2007). The psychology of the New Age. In Handbook of New Age, edited by D. Kemp & J. Lewis (pp. 123-150). Leiden & Boston: Brill.

(Whoever wants to bring a key publication under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.)

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