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: [http://psychology-of-religion.com/](http://psychology-of-religion.com/)

Become a member or renew your membership: [http://psychology-of-religion.com/about-the-iapr/membership/](http://psychology-of-religion.com/about-the-iapr/membership/)

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:
   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.
Dear IAPR members,

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!

Patty Van Cappellen,
Editor of the IAPR newsletter.

Contact information:

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This newsletter was prepared with the help of Cody DuBois, undergrad student at UNC-CH.
Important reminder for all members:

New website for the IAPR!

At the meeting in Istanbul, IAPR announced that Kyle Messick (Indiana University South Bend) would develop a new website for the association. That site is now active: IAPRweb.org

In order to help with the transition and move this site up the internet rankings, it will be very helpful if over the next few months, every member visits the site at least once or twice a day. There will not be new content that often, however, the number of visits is influential to move our site higher up the search results.

Refinements will continue to be made based on member suggestions, so if you have some ideas, please feel free to forward them to Kyle via the “contact” button in the lower right corner of the homepage.

Please note that the old site will soon go inactive, so remember to bookmark the new site!
Hello, my name is Agnes – Agnieszka Krzysztof-Świderska.

I obtained the Master’s Degree in Psychology at the Psychology Institute, Department of Philosophy, Jagiellonian University in 2005 and my career ran in two parallel ways. I worked at the J. Babinski General Psychiatric Hospital in Cracow and I began doctoral studies at my Alma Mater. From the very beginning, my work at the hospital inspired my academic interests and scientific research. It also gave me a broad understanding of normal and pathological mechanisms of the human psyche.

I wanted to deepen this view and I began to attend the Cracovian Psychodynamic Centre to complete Postgraduate Training and obtain the Certificate of a Psychotherapist in 2005. Thanks to that course I was able to structure my investigations in the field of clinical psychoanalysis of religion and human creativity. Among others, the work of Donald Winnicott and Otto F. Kernberg on the concept of personality organisation allowed me to see mental illnesses and psychological disturbances as a kind of obstacles in the process of actualization of human religiosity and broadly understood creation. During my PhD, I tried to understand how pathology in personality organisation influences religious experiences. Hence my PhD Thesis was “God Image and Borderline Personality Organisation”. To complete my research, I first translated a book by Ana-Maria Rizzuto, Argentinian psychoanalyst titled “The birth of the Living God. Psychoanalytic Study”. I then adapted Rizzuto’s God and Family Questionnaire and the Personality Organisation Diagnostic Form (Diguer, Hébert, Gamache et all, 2006). I had also started to work in the Department of Psychotherapy in the University Hospital in Krakow and slowly gathered patients with Borderline Personality Organization who became a sample for my Doctoral Thesis. I found that impaired Personality Organization results quite uncomplicated and few dimensional God representation, based almost entirely on dyadic relation with mother/caregiver. Paradoxically, institutional religion, if it is anyhow present in God Image construction, is a source of support and safety feelings, usually not integrated with God representation at all. That stage of my career was culminated in the Phd degree in Social Sciences in the field of Psychology under the supervision of Professor Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska in 2012. Then, in 2013, I became interested in the people who are extremely creative and generally active in so-called transitional space. The project “Religious attitudes and creativity” was conducted among art students, art teachers and professional artists and funded by MB Grabowski Fund, UK. I explored not only the generally recognised creative attitudes, but also creativity styles and their mutual influences with ideological stances in the same “transitionally active” group. I discovered that these groups were more multidimensional and far more complicated than anticipated and quantitative methods could not fully capture and explain the phenomenon. Coming back to the psychoanalytical way of understanding human psyche, I’m planning to expand my project to explore death anxiety and death fascination in connection with creativity. I try to understand whether the subject becomes truly aware of its own mortality and capability of experiencing loss, and whether such awareness will be the beginning of any human transitional activity, both religious and artistic. I would like to make the exploration of the religious life within the artistic milieu the subject of my habilitation work. I am currently pursuing this work at the Pedagogical University, Cracow as an Assistant Professor.

To contact me about my research projects, please email me at agnesswiderska@gmail.com or agneskrzysztof@gmail.com.
5th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health

“Religion and Spirituality in Health Care: Risk or Benefit for the Patient?”

Location: Gdansk, Poland

Dates: May 12-14, 2016

May 8-11, 2016, Pre-Conference Research Workshop with Prof Harold G. Koenig (Duke University, Durham, USA)

More information and Registration: [www.ecrsh.eu](http://www.ecrsh.eu)

The 5th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health will focus on the integration of religion and spirituality into health care and its implications for patients. Keynote speakers approach the topic from their specific professional background. The Gdansk Lecture will be held by Prof. Dr. Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska (Poland). Symposia invite for discussion and free communications allow research groups to present their research projects. Please submit your abstracts for oral or poster presentations until January 15th, 2016: [www.ecrsh.eu/abstract](http://www.ecrsh.eu/abstract)

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Sixth International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society

Location: The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C., USA

Dates: 22-23 March 2016


Founded in 2011, the International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society brings together scholars, teachers, and practitioners together to reflect on the relationships of religion and spirituality to society. The conference aims to provide a space for careful, scholarly reflection and open dialogue. We invite proposals for paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, or colloquia.

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APA Division 36: Annual Midyear Conference

Psychology of Religion and Spirituality

Location: St. Joseph College in Brooklyn, New York

Dates: Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, 2016


The conference provides a supportive academic forum where professionals discuss the latest research findings and scientific advances in the field. In addition to the paper and poster sessions, this year's conference will include keynote addresses by Paul Bloom (Yale) and Sheldon Solomon (Skidmore College).

Submit proposals for papers, symposia and posters online. The deadline for submissions is [Jan. 4, 2016](http://www.apadivisions.org/division-36/news-events/midyear-conference/).
EASR 2016: Open Session on Psychology of religion and current religious change

Location: Helsinki

Dates: June 28th-July 1st, 2016


This panel, chaired by Göran Ståhle, Tuija Hovi and Peter Nynäs addresses the relevance of the theories and methods in the subfield of Psychology of religion for the broader discussion on current religious change in the field of the Study of religions.

The growing interest today for themes such as everyday religiosity, emotions, subjectivity, values etc. clearly indicate the relevance of contributions from the Psychology of religion. In this field there is, further, a long history of conceptual and methodological reflections of relevance also for current discussions on the complex relationship between categories such as religion, spirituality, and worldviews – including also secular positions. Therefore, to re-consider and scrutinize the possible contributions from the Psychology of religion for central research themes in the study of religions is of relevance.

This panel will include papers that address the intersection between the Psychology of religion and the broader discussion on religious change in the field of Religious studies. How, and in what ways, do perspectives and approaches from the psychology of religion provide opportunities for a better understanding of central aspects and topics in this discussion? How, and in what ways, do observations from the broader discussion on religious change mean a challenge to received theoretical assumptions and positions within the Psychology of religion?

The call for individual papers is now closed by registration will open February 15th, 2016.
Announcement of New Book Releases

When people in the USA and in Germany say that they are “spiritual” or “more spiritual than religious” – what is their understanding of “spirituality”? What are the strongest psychological correlates for “spirituality”? In what ways is “spirituality” related to biographical context? These have been key research questions of the cross-cultural study on the semantics and psychology of “spirituality” based at Bielefeld University (Germany) and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (USA). Under the supervision of Heinz Streib and Ralph Hood research teams in Chattanooga and Bielefeld were highly active for three years. Research has included an online-questionnaire filled out by 773 respondents in Germany and 1113 in the US, personal interviews with a selected group of more than 100 persons, and an experiment. In the meantime two books report results of this study.

The most comprehensive report is included in the recent volume:


Major foci of this volume are: different analytic perspectives on the semantics of “spirituality” (four chapters), the relation of “spirituality” to mysticism, personality and religious styles (three chapters), five chapters of case studies (covering almost half of the volume), and finally the question about the outcomes of “spirituality” in regard to positive adult development and psychological crisis.

Findings for Germany were published by Streib and Barbara Keller in another book that came out simultaneously:


Further information is available on the Internet:

www.springer.com/jp/book/9783319212449
www.v-r.de/de/was_bedeutet_spiritualitaet/t-624/1037751/
www.uni-bielefeld.de/spirituality-research
The Experience Project Fellowships

The Experience Project invites applications for non-residential fellowships as part of our "Aspects of Religious Experience" funding initiative for projects beginning Fall 2016. These awards will fund one-year projects. Funding requests up to $100,000 are allowable. We expect to fund up to 3 projects for AY2016-2017 on the topic of religious experience in philosophy of religion, theology, and/or religious studies.

For further details, including eligibility requirements and application instructions, please visit the project website at: the-experience-project.org<http://the-experience-project.org/>. Applications deadline is February 15, 2016.

Three positions at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands:

**Assistant Professor Philosophy of Religion**

The appointee will teach and conduct research in the philosophy of religion and fulfill his/her share in the administration of department and faculty (ratio: 50% teaching, 40% research and 10% administration). The appointee will do systematic work in philosophy of religion, but will also have genuine historical awareness. The immediate context of the position is the department of Christianity and the History of Ideas, a multidisciplinary department with a strong focus on cultural heritage. The successful candidate should demonstrate his/her ability to contribute effectively to the department’s ongoing research projects (https://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/christianity-philosophy-culture/) and enhance the faculty’s presence in the university-wide research network ‘Sustainable Society’ (https://www.rug.nl/research/sustainable-society/).

**Associate Professor Cross-Cultural Psychology of Religion**

The label Cross-Cultural Psychology of Religion is here understood as a broad term covering an interdisciplinary field that includes the Psychology of Religion proper, but also such disciplines as Cultural Psychology and Multicultural Psychology, Trans-Cultural Psychiatry, and Medical Anthropology. The position will be located within the Department of Comparative Study of Religion, which is characterized by its inter-disciplinary profile and academic exchange across disciplines in the study of religion. The position will involve 50% teaching, 40% research and 10% administration. The candidate will contribute to the teaching programme in psychology of religion on introductory and advanced levels. International staff members will teach in English. The candidate’s research expertise should fit with the profile of the department. Furthermore, the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies intends to establish a Centre for Religion, Health, and Well-Being. The candidate will play an important role in the planning and setting up of this centre.

**Assistant Professor (non-denominational) Spiritual Care (description in Dutch)**

De functie omvat 50% onderwijs, 40% onderzoek en 10% bestuurlijke taken. De kandidaat levert een belangrijke bijdrage aan het onderwijsprogramma in de Master Geestelijke Verzorging op zowel inleidend als gevorderd niveau. Onder geestelijke verzorging verstaan wij (de uitoefening van) een beroep in de publieke sfeer (bijv. gezondheidszorg, defensie en justitie), gericht op zingeving, levensvragen en levensovertuiging. De voertaal voor het onderwijs is Nederlands. De functie valt binnen de vakgroep Vergelijkende Religiewetenschap, die zich kenmerkt door zijn interdisciplinaire profiel.