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:**

**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:

Dr. Patty Van Cappellen
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Email address: pattyv@unc.edu

This newsletter was written with the help of Taylor Smith, undergraduate student at UNC
New Website

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!
8th International Society for Empirical Research in Theology Conference  
“The Future of/and Religious Communities”

Location: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Dates: June 1-3, 2016
Abstract submission by 15 March 2016

More Information and Registration: [http://www.isert.info](http://www.isert.info)

This conference will concentrate on the question of how religion is influenced by the changing dynamics of the religious community’s functioning. How do contextual (and thus contextually different) factors like (de)traditionalization, (trans)nationalization, and (de)politization affect the shaping of and reflection on religious communities and how should that affect our research methodologies in terms of conceptualization, operationalization, and empirical-theological reflection? The weekend will include three keynote lectures and a variety of paper and panel sessions.

Call for papers: Interested members or other scholars are invited to submit a proposal for a paper or panel session. Priority will be given to papers that connect to the conference theme. The proposal and registration form is available on the official website, and may be sent to the organizers through r.r.ganzevoort@vu.nl.

International Conference of Interfaculty Department of Religious Studies  
International Conference of Psychology of Religion 2016

“Self-narratives, storytelling, and the construction of religious identities”

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland

Dates: May 26-27, 2016


Aim of this conference is to compare and confront different uses of narratives produced in religious context for the identity construction of the individual. The two days conference will cover different types of texts (myths, exemplary stories (e.g. lives of saints), fictions used for teaching (e.g. parables, visions), and autobiographical stories (e.g. testimonials of experiences)), which participate in the construction of narrative identity (Ricœur) by weaving personal history with the materials provided by the religious environment in the form of stories. Each half day will focus on one of these types. The lectures will be given partly in English, partly in French.
New Book Announcement!


*Psychology and Spiritual Transformation in a Substance Abuse Program: The Lazarus Project* presents the results of an independent five-year study on spiritual transformation at a twelve-month residential program called the Lazarus Project, created by an agency that takes a Pentecostal faith-based approach to dealing with substance abuse. Residents who completed the program experienced psychological and spiritual transformation within six months that continued one year after graduation. Resident descriptions derived from phenomenological interviews revealed that Pentecostal factors were significant facilitators of change and recovery from substance addiction. The authors conclude that Pentecostal faith-based approaches to dealing with substance addiction may be more effective than secular and even non-Pentecostal faith-based approaches. The unique and exhilarating Pentecostal experience — as an alternative to a drug-induced high leading to meaningless addiction and self-destruction — is contextualized within a religious and spiritual ontology that offers purpose and meaning to victims of substance addiction.
Joint PhD in the Cognitive Science of Religion

Application Deadline: April 29th, 2016

A PhD position (2016-2019) is available for prospective candidates from the UK and EU only, for those interested in studying atheism, nonreligion, secularity (etc.) from a cognitive perspective. The studentship is for joint PhD in the Cognitive Science of Religion, offered by the Institute of Cognition and Culture at Queen’s University Belfast in cooperation with Aarhus University, two key institutions in the growing field of CSR and in looking at atheism and nonreligion with the tools of the cognitive and evolutionary sciences.

The studentship would cover all fees and a maintenance grant for UK residents and fees-only for non-UK but EU residents. Unfortunately, the studentship is not available to non-EU residents.

For additional details on application procedure, applicants should contact Dr. Paulo Sousa (paulo.sousa@qub.ac.uk)