

# Newsletter of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion

May 2008

In this Newsletter you find information on:

- Notes from the IAPR board meeting, including news on the next IAPR Conference, 23.-27. August 2009, Vienna.
- Conference in Psychology of Religion, Hamar (Norway) 11.-12. September 2008.
- Call for submission: "Religiosity: Perspectives from Social and Personality Psychology".
- Key publications.

## *1. Notes from the IAPR board meeting:*

On April 25th the board of the IAPR, consisting of Mario Aletti, Hans Alma, Jozef Corveleyn, Susanne Heine, James Jones, Sebastian Murken and Marinus van Uden, held its yearly board meeting in Vienna. A main issue was the preparation of the next conference in Vienna.

Here come some of the decisions taken, and relevant information:

- The preparation of the next IAPR conference in Vienna (August 23rd to 27th, 2009) is well in progress. Susanne Heine und Herman Westerink as the local organizing team have reserved nice rooms at the University of Vienna, right in the centre of the city.
- The call for papers will reach you in October 2008 and the deadline for paper submission will be end of February 2009.
- After a long debate the board decided to propose to the next general assembly a two-year rhythm for the conferences from 2009 on.
- The IAPR has now (April 2008) 158 paying members. 43 members that did not respond to any correspondence will be taken off the list.
- Starting this summer it will be possible to pay membership dues via credit card number.
- After a long debate the board agreed to the suggestion of Brill and the editors of the Archive to increase the publication of the Archive from one to three issues per year from 2009 on. In 2009 members will get all three issues as a hardcopy per mail. How things will work from 2010 onwards, still has to be decided upon.

## *2. Conference Hamar 11.-12. September 2008: call for papers*

“Aldring Religiøsitet Helse”

Organized by: Religionspsykologisk senter i samarbeid med Norsk Religionspsykologisk Fagforum  
Program:

Thursday 11. September (language: English):

10.00-11.00 Registrering, kaffe; 11.00-11.30 Åpning.

11.30-12.30 Religious Coping. Links with Health and Well-Being, Kenneth I. Pargament

12.30-13.30 Lunsj  
13.30-15.00 Assessing Religious Coping among the Elderly, consequences for psychiatric treatment, Kenneth I. Pargament  
15.00-15.15 Kaffepause  
15.15-16.00 Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy, Kenneth I. Pargament  
16.00-16.30 Kaffepause  
16.30-17.15 Discussions. Questions related to Pargament's presentations  
17.30-18.30 Parallele sesjoner  
20.00- Middag

Fryday 12. September (Språk: Norsk/skandinavisk)

0830-1045 «Vad fort allt har gått!» Om åldrande, tid och evighet. Religionspsykologiske perspektiver på aldring og helse, Owe Wikström

10.45-11.30 Kaffepause

11.30-12.30 Aldring, modenhet og gudsbilder – kliniske aspekter, Susanne Sønderbo

12.30-13.30 Avslutning, oppsummering, evaluering

13.30- Lunsj

14.30- Årsmøte Norsk Religionspsykologisk Fagforum (åpent for alle)

Det tas forbehold om endringer i programmet

### Papers

Invitasjon til å legge frem egne paper på parallele sesjoner. Abstract på max. 1 side sendes:

[monica.stolt.pedersen@sykehuset-innlandet.no](mailto:monica.stolt.pedersen@sykehuset-innlandet.no)

En fagkomité vil vurdere innkomne papers og sette opp en plan for presentasjon.

Frist for papers: 1. juni 2008

Konferansen arrangeres av: Religionspsykologisk senter

Sykehuset Innlandet HF, Divisjon Psykisk helsevern, Sanderud

[lars.danbolt@sykehuset-innlandet.no](mailto:lars.danbolt@sykehuset-innlandet.no)

I samarbeid med: Norsk religionspsykologisk fagforum

v/leder Hans Stifoss-Hanssen

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### 3. Call for Submissions

Special Issue of Personality and Social Psychology Review, "Religiosity: Perspectives from Social and Personality Psychology"

Religiosity has received only limited attention from social and personality psychologists, but recent world events have generated new interest in the role of religion in personal and social functioning. An increasing number of researchers is now conducting cutting-edge research on the topic. The special issue will attempt to capture the Zeitgeist of this explosion of interest in religiosity by providing a vibrant forum for an exchange of ideas and greater participation of our field in an ongoing and societally relevant debate. The special issue will explore the potential of social and personality psychology theories to account for the phenomenon of religiosity (including but not limited to belief in supernatural agency). The objective of the special issue will be to use theory, coupled with supportive empirical evidence, in an attempt to explain the phenomenon of religiosity in all its complexity and heterogeneity. The special issue will emphasize processoriented explanations of religiosity that may also take into account individual differences. All aspects of religiosity (e.g., different religions as practiced by different cultures) will be considered relevant for theoretical analysis, debate, and inclusion. It is hoped that the special issue will not only elucidate the phenomenon of religiosity per se but also challenge and expand social and personality psychology theories in novel ways. The hope is that each article will provide a stimulus for future empirical discoveries and theoretical refinements.

In particular, each contribution to the special issue will do the following:

1. Ask "why" questions. Why is religiosity so important to so many people? Why is religiosity important to some people and not to others? What are the functions that religiosity serves? These questions will be approached in a dispassionate manner, with the purpose of understanding and explaining.
2. Take a theoretical approach. Contributions will rely on established social and personality psychology theories to understand and explain religiosity or propose more novel theoretical ideas that nevertheless have some established empirical warrant.
3. Try to accomplish four specific tasks: (a) Outline the theory that underlies the argument; (b) provide selected empirical demonstrations of the theory's veracity from the social/personality psychological literature; (c) importantly, review and discuss empirical findings that are directly linked to the phenomenon of religiosity (this will be the largest section of the manuscript); and (d) draw implications for future empirical pursuits. Thus, each contribution will be empirically anchored rather than speculative.

Short proposals (e.g., 300 to 500 words) outlining the authors' plan for a full manuscript should be sent to Constantine Sedikides ([cs2@soton.ac.uk](mailto:cs2@soton.ac.uk)) by August 1, 2008. Authors of successful proposals will be invited in September 2008 to submit a full-scale manuscript (text of approximately 6,000 words), to be received by April 1, 2009. All submissions will be peer reviewed. For more information, please contact the Guest Editor at the e-mail address above.

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#### *4. Key Publication*

James Jones, *Blood That Cries Out From the Earth. The Psychology of Religious Terrorism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. (208 pp.)

(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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