

Newsletter of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion

October 2008 (second)

In this Newsletter you find information on:

- Call for Papers and Registration: IAPR Congress, 23.-27. August 2009, Vienna.
- Call for proposals for presentations, International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 29 July 2009, Amsterdam.
- PhD fellowship, Graduate School of Theology and the Study of Religion at the Faculty of Theology, Aarhus.
- 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

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. Call for proposals for presentations, 2009 meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, 29 July 2009, Amsterdam

Call for Proposals for Presentations at the 2009 meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR) on Wednesday, July 29 at the Free University of Amsterdam in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.

The IACSR, which seeks to advance the naturalistic study of religion, invites interested scholars to submit proposals for presentations (lasting no more than 25 minutes) for possible inclusion on the program at its upcoming meeting for 2009 in Amsterdam. Submissions are welcome on any topic in the cognitive science of religion. The IACSR recognizes that the cognitive sciences encompass a wide array of disciplines and methods, including, among

others, experimental research in psychology and neuroscience, computational modeling, ethnographic, historical, archaeological, and comparative studies of religious cognition, and the survey techniques of the social sciences. Presentations advancing new cognitive theories of diverse religious phenomena are also welcome.

NOTE: Scholars interested in dialogue between science and religion, attempts to find religion in science and science in religion, or attempts to validate religious or spiritual doctrines through cognitive science should seek other associations and other forums that better address such concerns.

Proposals should consist of two pages. The cover page should include the following items only:

1. presentation title
2. word count of the proposal
3. author's name
4. author's email address (to which all subsequent communications about this submission should be sent)

On a subsequent page, the substantive section of the proposal should, again, include the title of the presentation, should not exceed 500 words, and should not contain either footnotes or endnotes or the author's name. The author's name should only appear on the cover page.

Proposals should be attached as an MS Word file in emails with "IACSR submission" in their subject lines to be sent to Armin W. Geertz at awg@teo.au.dk. The deadline for submission is December 1, 2008.

See also <http://www.iacsr.com/News.html>

3. PhD fellowship (joint financed), Graduate School of Theology and the Study of Religion at the Faculty of Theology, Aarhus

Pending the availability of funding, the Graduate School of Theology and the Study of Religion at the Faculty of Theology, Aarhus University announces the joint financing, with CFIN (Centre of Functionally Integrative Neuroscience) and DPRC (Danish Pain Research Center), at Aarhus University and Aarhus University Hospital, of a 3-year PhD fellowship to begin on 1 January 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The PhD fellowship is funded through joint financing by the three above-mentioned parties. An application has also been submitted to the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation for financial support.

The topic of the PhD fellowship is: "Pain and Coping in the Religious Mind."

The goal of the project is to explore the neurobiological and cognitive effects of pain and pain coping strategies in religious ritual. The research design should ideally combine fMRI scans, clinical tests, interviews and fieldwork. The expected outcomes of the project should address issues relevant to the cognitive science of religion, neuroscience and pain research.

The project will be conducted in close cooperation between CFIN, DPRC and the Religion, Cognition and Culture Research Group (RCC) at the Department of the Study of Religion, Faculty of Theology.

General

Enrolment as a PhD student at the Graduate School is a prerequisite for receiving the PhD fellowship. For further information, please see [Information for PhD applicants](#), where you will find the Faculty's [PhD regulations](#), or contact the Chair of the Graduate School, Troels Nørager (e-mail tn@teo.au.dk, or tel: +45 8942 2243).

Qualification requirements

Applicants who hold a relevant BA degree of 180 ECTS and have, prior to 1 January 2009, satisfactorily completed a relevant MA degree consisting of at least 120 ECTS may apply for the 3-year PhD fellowship.

Conditions for PhD fellowships

The recipient of the PhD fellowship will be employed as a PhD research fellow for three years and will receive a monthly salary (before tax) of approximately DKK 26,000, including pension contributions. The holder of a fellowship will be expected to carry out duties equivalent to 840 working hours of teaching, communication of research, participation in research projects, etc.

Application procedures

Applications must be submitted electronically through the University's "[self-service](#)" system. This will be available from 15 October 2008. See [Guidelines for Application](#).

Deadline for submissions: Monday 17 November 2008, 12:00 noon (Danish time).

Please mark your application: 2008-218/4-21.

The University of Aarhus has 35,000 students, 8,500 members of staff and a turnover of DKK 4.8 billion in 2008.

The university's strategy and development contract are available at <http://www.au.dk/en/strategy>

4. Key Publications

Murken, S. & Namini, S. (2007). Childhood familial experiences as antecedents of adult membership in new religious movements: A literature review. *Nova Religio*, 10(4), 17-37.

Namini, S. & Murken, S. (2008). Familial antecedents and the choice of a new religious movement. Which person in which religious group? *Nova Religio*, 11(3), 83-103.

Murken, S. & Namini, S. (2007). Himmlische Dienstleister. Religionspsychologische Überlegungen zur Renaissance der Engel. *EZW-Texte* 196.

(http://www.ekd.de/ezw/42714_himmlische_dienstleister.php)

Murken, S. (2008). 'Ohne Gott leben. Wie geht das?' - Ein Fazit. In S. Murken (Hrsg.), *Ohne Gott leben. Religionspsychologische Aspekte des 'Unglaubens'* (S. 249-257). Marburg: Diagonal. (http://www.psychology-of-religion.de/deutsch/aktuelles/neuersch_f.htm)

(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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