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/

Become a member or renew your 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.

This newsletter was written with the help of Cody DuBois at UNC.
I’m Alex Uzdavines, a Clinical Psychology graduate student in the Department of Psychological Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, USA and I’m advised by Prof. Julie Exline in my research within the psychology of religion, spirituality, and secularity. Before moving to Cleveland I earned an M.A. from the Demographic and Social Analysis program at the University of California, Irvine where I also got my B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior. While at UCI I was a member and organizer of Atheists, Agnostics, and Rationalists (now SSA@UCI). The experiences I gained talking to other nonbelievers in what was, anecdotally, one of the most religious regions of Southern California planted the seeds of my current research interests.

First, I noticed an interesting thing talking with nonbelievers who had exited a religion: for the most part, they claimed to have exited for purely logical or “rational” reasons, in line with Altemeyer and Hunsberger’s (1997) work. This seemed odd as it would imply that the “why” behind religious exiting differed quite a bit from what was described by religious enterers. I started to look into this during my M.A. project at UCI, which I am currently retrofitting at CWRU. Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 cohort I investigated whether or not cumulative stressful life events would increase the risk of changing religious identification between three different categories of IDs: “Religious,” “None, Personal Philosophy,” and “None, Agnostic/Atheist.” In theory, if what religious exiters often report is true and that their reasons for exiting are purely “rational,” we wouldn’t expect to find an effect. Instead, what I found is that more stressful life events increased the risk of a change in religious identification, regardless of the group respondents exited into. In other words, more events led to more risk of becoming “Agnostic/Atheist”, just like they did for becoming “Personal Philosophy” or “Religious!” This seems to be at odds with the many of narratives surrounding religious exiting and I am looking forward to investigating what causes people to change their (non)religious beliefs and identifications.

I also noticed that nonbelievers did a lot of complaining about surveys. While this would be an odd thing to complain about for most people, university students are involved with surveys through being research participants or researchers themselves. This led me to be interested in survey construction and creating surveys which give valid results for the groups they are meant to be used with. While a scale which uses items like, “How much do you love God? 1 = A Little; 5 = A Lot” to look at well-being might be quite valid for use in theistic populations, it seems less useful to ask this sort of question to atheists and agnostics (Cragun, Hammer, and Nielsen, 2015), yet surveys with items like this seem to be given to nonbelievers quite often. Currently, I’m working on testing the validity of the Religious and Spiritual Struggles Scale when used with nonbelievers, as it seems rather counter-intuitive to look at R/S struggles in a group that is neither R nor S! In the future, I hope to continue leveraging new statistical methods as I learn them for the purpose of developing a toolkit of measures which have been thoroughly validated for use with nonbelievers.

If you’re interested in talking, contacting me about my work or a potential for collaboration, my email is auzdavines@gmail.com You can also look at my likely-out-of-date department page at http://psychsciences.case.edu/student/alex-uzdavines/
The 2015 IAPR was a great success!

The 2015 IAPR conference was in beautiful Istanbul, Turkey. Attendees enjoyed a good combination of science and culture.

The hosting committee did a great job in organizing this conference and we would like to thank them one more time!

If you missed the conference you can find more information on the topics discussed and the attendees on the conference website: http://iapr2015.ikc.edu.tr/index.php

This year the best poster awards went to: 1st day: Fatima Cristina Costa Fontes and Geraldo Jose de Paiva, “Connections Among Group Psychotherapy Practice, Religious Coping Styles And Quality Of Life”; 2nd day: Claire Prade and Vassilis Saroglou, “Awe Implies De-Centration from Both the Individual and The Collective Self”; 3rd day: Gülüşan Göcen, “Forgiveness, Gratitude, and Subjective Well-Being in Juvenile Delinquent Boys”

Vassilis Saroglou passed the torch on to Pierre-Yves Brandt of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland who is now the new IAPR President. The board is now composed of (in alphabetical order) Miguel Farias, Peter LaCour, Kevin Ladd, Germano Rossi, Tatjana Schnell, and Katarzyna Skrzypinska.

Looking forward seeing all of you again in Hamar, Norway in 2017!
Psicologia della religione e-Journal/Psychology of Religion e-Journal

From Mario Aletti:

We are delighted to announce the publication by the SIPR- Società Italiana di Psicologia della Religione, of the new on-line journal Psicologia della religione e-Journal/Psychology of Religion e-Journal, both in Italian and English. You can see the first issue on http://www.psyrel-journal.it This work is also available in print.

Psicologia della Religione e-journal / Psychology of Religion e-Journal" (PRej) is a journal published by the Italian Society of Psychology of Religion (SIPR) – aimed at spreading research and new evidence about topics, phenomena and psychological dynamics concerning religion. Focused on Italian research, it welcomes international contributions and offers papers in both Italian and English. It was first issued in December 2014 and it’s biannual.

Call for Papers: Open Theology Journal Psychotherapy and Religious Values

Open Theology (http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/opth) invites submissions for the topical issue "Psychotherapy and Religious Values", under the general editorship of Prof. P. Scott Richards (Brigham Young University).

In 1980, Allen E. Bergin, published a landmark article “Psychotherapy and religious values” in the Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology. The article, which became a citation classic, produced intense interest, enthusiasm, and controversy in the psychology profession. Ultimately, it helped energize an international movement to bring religious perspectives into mainstream psychology and psychotherapy. Great progress has been made during the past 35 years in this effort, but more work remains to be done. The focus of this special issue of Open Theology is to commemorate the publication of Bergin’s 1980 article by affirming the progress that has been made and exploring directions for the future in the movement to bring religious values and spiritual perspectives into mainstream psychotherapy. Manuscripts with a theoretical, historical, theological, empirical, and/or clinical focus will all be considered for the special issue. For empirical studies, a variety of research methodologies are encouraged, including experimental, practice-based evidence, process, case reports, single-N, and qualitative designs.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submissions are due by December 31, 2015. To submit an article for the special issue of Open Theology, please use the on-line submission system http://www.editorialmanager.com/openth/ choosing as article type: ‘Special Issue Article: Psychotherapy and Religious Values’.

All contributions will undergo a critical review before being accepted for publication.

Further questions about the thematic issue can be sent to P. Scott Richards at scott_richards@byu.edu. In case of technical questions or problems please contact Managing Editor of the journal Dr. Katarzyna Tempczyk at katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyteropen.com.
Book Announcement: Religions-psychologie

Professor Jacob Belzen presents a unique historical analysis of the psychology of religion, as mirrored in the developments of the International Association for the Psychology of Religion (IAPR).

The Springer book (in German language) is available in print or as eBook.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Positions

Wheaton College’s Humanitarian Disaster Institute (Wheaton, IL) is in the process of finalizing a grant contract with the John Templeton Foundation to study how people make meaning, relate to God, and grow (psychologically and spiritually) after disasters. The Institute anticipates hiring for 2 postdoctoral research fellows positions starting as early as Fall 2015. Start date negotiable.

Minimum Qualifications

A doctorate in psychology or related field at the time of appointment. Have experience conducting research studies, including the collection and organization of data. Position 1 should be proficient in quantitative data analysis and Position 2 should be proficient in qualitative data analysis. Be proficient in scientific writing and publication track record or show promise for scholarly publishing.

Compensation

The Fellows will receive a competitive salary and benefit package.

More Information

To learn more about Wheaton College’s Humanitarian Disaster Institute visit: www.wheaton.edu/HDI.

Please direct inquiries about the positions to Dr. Jamie Aten (Jamie.Aten@wheaton.edu) and Dr. Edward Davis (Ward.Davis@wheaton.edu).