

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

Announcements



Research



Conferences



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: www.iaprweb.org

Become a member or renew your membership :

<http://www.iaprweb.org/membership.html>

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:
 - a) The *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*: \$43/£26/€34 instead of \$62/£37/€49.
 - 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.

Announcements



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.

Also, if you are an early career researcher (PhD student or postdoc) and would like to see your work featured in the newsletter, contact me.

Thank you,

Valerie van Mulukom
Editor of the IAPR newsletter

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Call for Papers: Special Issue "Education and Religion in a Secular Age"

The seemingly paradoxical situation of an expected decline of religion in the public domain and the increase of religiousness and spirituality in people's lives, urged Peter Berger to revisit his prophecy regarding secularization. In 1967, in his publication 'The Sacred Canopy', Peter Berger initiated the exploration of religion in today's world. According to Berger, modernity would necessarily bring about a decline of religion. However, in later years and due to encounters with religiosity in other contexts, among others in the third world, Berger changed his line of thought. It turned out, Berger admitted, that modernity did not unavoidably result in a decline of religion. In the decades to follow the publication of 'The Sacred Canopy' secularization instead of a decline of religion, produced a reflective process on people's religious positionality, resulting in pluralization. Nowadays, Berger says, people live in a context of competing beliefs, values and lifestyles (Berger et al., 2017).

An important step forward in the secularization discourse was, and has been even since, Charles Taylor's publication 'A Secular Age' in 2007. Modernity's characteristic of secularity and the proximity of religious and secular alternatives, insert severe doubt concerning one's own positionality regarding one's own and other religions, including its 'strong evaluations'—those values that are 'incommensurably higher than others' (ibid., p. 544). Encounters in a plural society can be disruptive moments (Ter Avest, 2014). Taylor points to different strategies people pursue to create an alternative for the 'sacred canopy', the 'paradise lost'. Pop festivals, football matches and sports activities seem to be a satisfactory substitute for what religion was in earlier days.

As scholars in the field of education we wish to contribute to the ongoing debate on secularization and pluralization, focusing on the meaning thereof for the education of today's youngsters. In this Special Issue we explore different aspects of Education and Religion in the 21st century. Of course we will meet the need for conceptual clearness of core concepts, such as secularization, pluralization, religion, worldview, and education. The different ways of perceiving 'a secular age' in different national and cultural contexts will be explored. The variety of ways responding to modernity's challenges in education will be studied, in relation to the change of religion's position in the different national and cultural contexts. The relation between education and religion will be explored, and its intersectionality with the level of education, the socio-economic status, and gender. A hot item nowadays is the relation of education and religion to the radicalization of Islam, or—to put it differently—Islamization of radicalism; an exploration thereof can not be missed in this Special Issue. The way 'religion' is perceived by youngsters, and how this is materialized in their life world is a 'must' in this Special Issue. Last but not least: the role of the teacher and the classroom context in our view are of pivotal importance. This is not an exhaustive enumeration of possibilities for a contribution to this Special Issue on Education and Religion in a secular age.

Please feel invited to send an abstract to education@mdpi.com. The deadline for abstracts is December 15, 2017.

K. H. (Ina) ter Avest, *Guest Editor*

[Link to full text](#)

Conferences



XIth Seminary on Psychology and Religious Sense

Location: Pontifical Catholic University of RS (PUCRS), Porto Alegre, Brazil

Date: 21-23 November 2017

Submission deadline: 15 August 2017

The Work Group of Psychology and Religion, from the National Association of Postgraduate and Research in Psychology (ANPEPP), has the pleasure to invite you to the eleventh edition of the International Workshop of Psychology and Religious Sense. This is an event that occurs every two years and in 2017 we will be welcoming you to the Pontifical Catholic University of RS (PUCRS) in Brazil, to debate about the religious, spiritual and anomalous experiences and their challenges to the mental health.



The relevance of this Seminary is, in first hand, due to the prevalence of the religious, spiritual and/or anomalous experiences in the whole world, especially in Brazil. According to the 2010 Census, over 90% of the Brazilian population says they have a religious belief and innumerable researches point to the syncretism of the religious manifestations in the country. In this scenario, the objective of this event is to present the Psychological perspective of the religious phenomena, offering a wide view of the researches in this area, in strictly academic approach. To do so, we invited renowned researchers from Brazil and worldwide to show contributions from the Psychology of Religion and from the psychiatric fields.

GOALS

- To promote acknowledgment exchange between researchers from many universities from Brazil and abroad;
- To facilitate the dialog between religion and spiritual studies and its interface with Psychology;
- To update professionals for their praxis, with academic background;
- To inform the general public about the scientific development in this area;
- Point out the contributions of the Psychology of Religion in Brazil;
- To provide models and methods that can be multiplied by professionals and researchers in the future.

For more information, see: <http://www.pucrs.br/eventos/inst/psicologiareligiao-2/>

Conferences



Forgiveness in Health, Medicine and Social Sciences

*6th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health;
5th International Conference of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality*

Location: Coventry, United Kingdom

Date: May 17-19, 2018

Submission deadline: October 31, 2017

The 2018 Conference will be a joint venture of the European Initiative on Religion, Spirituality and Health and the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS). The Conference takes place at the University of Coventry, England. The main topic will be "Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Health, Medicine and Social Sciences". Keynote speakers from a variety of disciplines will provide a comprehensive overview on the topic. Symposia and abstracts are invited to allow researchers to discuss and present their research projects. The conference will be a scientific gathering of researchers, health professionals and other experts from many nations.

For more information and full first announcement, see: <http://www.ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2018>

Organising committee:

- René Hefti, MD International Organising Committee ECRSH, Research Institute (RISH), Switzerland.
- Thomas Wartenweiler, PhD Student, Conference Office ECRSH 2018, Research Institute (RISH), Switzerland
- Prof. Christopher Cook, International Organising Committee BASS, Durham University, UK
- Deborah Lycett, PhD, Local Organising Committee, Coventry University, UK





Assistant Professor Psychology, Culture and Religion

Organisation

Since its foundation in 1614, the University of Groningen has enjoyed an international reputation as a dynamic and innovative centre of higher education offering high-quality teaching and research. The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the University of Groningen is a leading European institution for the study of religion. We are proud to be ranked as the best teaching and research centre for religion in the Netherlands. We are committed to highest standards in critical academic research, and we translate our research into stimulating and cutting-edge teaching programmes. We train students to be independent and critical observers of the place of religion in its cultural and historical context, and we prepare them for the job market. The faculty is flourishing and expanding. In line with a sustained long-term strategy of growth, the faculty seeks to attract a scholar in the field of Psychology, Culture and Religion.

Job description

The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Groningen, seeks to appoint an Assistant Professor (UD) in the field of psychology and culture whose research also includes religion as a factor in (psychological) health and wellbeing (0.8 fte). The position will involve 50% teaching, 40% research, and 10% administration. The position will be located within the Department of Comparative Study of Religion.

The candidate will contribute to the teaching programme (BA, MA, and research master's level), especially in relation to the theme of Religion, health and wellbeing (a MA track with this theme is currently under development). This will include (contribution to) courses such as: 'illness, possession and healing,' 'psychology of religion,' or 'spiritual care,' as well as thesis and placement supervision. We are particularly interested in candidates who have experience in teaching and researching in culturally diverse settings, who are not afraid to question, adapt and develop the basic categories they work with cross-culturally, and who have experience working in a cross-disciplinary setting. Your research will contribute to the Centre for Religion, Health and Wellbeing that will be established in the course of 2018.

Part of the teaching will focus on training and supervising students who will work in the field of spiritual care. For this reason, we will give preference to candidates who have experience in teaching group dynamics and conversational techniques in clinical settings, or who have the ability and motivation to learn how to teach these skills.

Early career scholars are explicitly encouraged to apply.

For more information, please see: <http://www.rug.nl/about-us/work-with-us/job-opportunities/overview?details=00347-02S0005R4P>