

# International Association for the Psychology of Religion

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*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](http://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.

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

Thank you,

Valerie van Mulukom  
*Editor of the IAPR newsletter*

Contact information:

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## Call for Chapters: Religiosity, Secularity and Pluralism in the Global East

Dates: July 3-5 2018

Venue: Singapore Management University, Singapore

Organiser: East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (EASSSR)

Website: <http://www.easssr.org/index.php/call-for-papers/>

The effects of the Global East are felt in many walks of life, but one of the most transformative has to be religion. The religious landscapes of China, Korea, and Japan (including but not limited to state-sponsored atheism, shamanism, Shintoism, resurgent Buddhism/Christianity) are replicated and challenged in their diasporic communities, which, over time, have been shaped by the religious traditions of Southeast Asia, Europe, North America, and beyond. For the diasporic communities located within East Asia, the reverse is also true. These linkages between home country and diasporic community, and between community and host country have led to the circulation and sharing of religion and religious idea(l)s, and to the sharpening or dilution of (anti-)religious sensibilities. Greater religious diversity is an invariable outcome of such processes, yet the extent to which such diversity leads to religious co-operation, competition or conflict within and between individuals, families, communities, organisations and territories still deserves much more research attention.

Accordingly, there is a need for more focussed consideration of the topics of religiosity, secularity and pluralism in the Global East. This conference, to be held on July 3-5 in Singapore at the Singapore Management University, will advance such consideration. It will be the Inaugural Conference of the East Asian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (EASSSR) (see <http://www.easssr.org/index.php/call-for-papers/> for more information). We seek a range of papers that draw on different geographical contexts and (non-)religious traditions, see our website for our main research questions.

### SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Paper presentation proposals are due by February 28, 2018.

Please submit your paper's title, abstract (200 to 500 words) and author biography using the following link: <http://www.easssr.org/index.php/call-for-papers/>

Notification of acceptance of paper presentation proposals will be sent out by March 31, 2018. Meeting Registration will be due between April 1 and 30, 2018.

For questions, please email: [easssr2017@gmail.com](mailto:easssr2017@gmail.com)

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## **New book: Religion, Language, and the Human Mind**

*Edited by Paul Chilton and Edited by Monika Kopytowska*

- Offers a new approach for investigating human religion in which language is crucial
- Brings together findings from linguistics, cognitive science, neuroscience, and religious studies
- Presents studies of Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, and Judaic texts and/or rituals
- Throws light on the interface between the cognitive and the social aspects of religion

What is religion? How does it work? Many natural abilities of the human mind are involved, and crucial among them is the ability to use language. This volume brings together research from linguistics, cognitive science and neuroscience, as well as from religious studies, to understand the phenomena of religion as a distinctly human enterprise.

The book is divided into three parts, each part preceded by a full introductory chapter by the editors that discusses modern scientific approaches to religion and the application of modern linguistics, particularly cognitive linguistics and pragmatics. Part I surveys the development of modern studies of religious language and the diverse disciplinary strands that have emerged. Beginning with descriptive approaches to religious language and the problem of describing religious concepts across languages, chapters introduce the turn to cognition in linguistics and also in theology, and explore the brain's contrasting capacities, in particular its capacity for language and metaphor.

Part II continues the discussion of metaphor - the natural ability by which humans draw on basic knowledge of the world in order to explore abstractions and intangibles. Specialists in particular religions apply conceptual metaphor theory in various ways, covering several major religious traditions-Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Part III seeks to open up new horizons for cognitive-linguistic research on religion, looking beyond written texts to the ways in which language is integrated with other modalities, including ritual, religious art, and religious electronic media. Chapters in Part III introduce readers to a range of technical instruments that have been developed within cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis in recent years. What unfolds ultimately is the idea that the embodied cognition of humans is the basis not only of their languages, but also of their religions.

*Edited by Paul Chilton, Professor Emeritus, Lancaster University, and Monika Kopytowska, Assistant Professor, University of Lodz.*

For more information, go to: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/religion-language-and-the-human-mind-9780190636647?cc=gb&lang=en&>



**New book: Lucrecia the Dreamer  
Prophecy, Cognitive Science, and the Spanish Inquisition**

*Kelly Bulkeley*

"An excellent scholarly work, *Lucrecia the Dreamer* reads like a novel of political and religious intrigue, for the scenes are stranger than fiction—even though they are a matter of historical record. Anyone interested in dreams should read this book."--Patrick McNamara, Boston University and Northcentral University

"Structured like a police procedural and delightful to read, *Lucrecia the Dreamer* employs concepts from psychology, anthropology, and history to situate Lucrecia de León in a broader human story about the power of dreaming. Given the difficulties of crossing disciplinary boundaries while maintaining the integrity of each discipline's rules of analysis, Kelly Bulkeley's achievement is most impressive."--Leslie Tuttle Louisiana State University

Set in late sixteenth-century Spain, this book tells the gripping story of Lucrecia de León, a young woman of modest background who gained a dangerously popular reputation as a prophetic dreamer predicting apocalyptic ruin for her country. When Lucrecia was still a teenager, several Catholic priests took great interest in her prolific dreams and began to record them in detail. But the growing public attention to the dreams eventually became too much for the Spanish king. Stung that Lucrecia had accurately foreseen the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, Philip II ordered the Inquisition to arrest her on charges of heresy and sedition. During Lucrecia's imprisonment, trial, and torture, the carefully collected records of her dreams were preserved and analyzed by the court. The authenticity of these dreams, and their potentially explosive significance, became the focal point of the Church's investigation.

Returning to these records of a dreamer from another era, *Lucrecia the Dreamer* is the first book to examine Lucrecia's dreams as dreams, as accurate reports of psychological experiences with roots in the brain's natural cycles of activity during sleep. Using methods from the cognitive science of religion, dream researcher Kelly Bulkeley finds meaningful patterns in Lucrecia's dreaming prophecies and sheds new light on the infinitely puzzling question at the center of her trial, a question that has vexed all religious traditions throughout history: How can we determine if a dream is, or is not, a true revelation?

**Kelly Bulkeley** is a psychologist of religion and the Director of the Sleep and Dream Database. His most recent book is *Big Dreams: The Science of Dreaming and the Origins of Religion* (2016).

Stanford University Press | Spiritual Phenomena | January 2018 | 256pp  
| 9781503603868 | PB | £17.99\* // <http://www.combinedacademic.co.uk/lucrecia-the-dreamer> **20% discount with this code: CSL18LTD\*** (Free postage to UK customers)

## Research

**Meta-analysis***Religious differences in prosocial behaviour*

Dear colleagues,

Azim Shariff and I are updating a meta-analysis on religious differences in prosocial behavior. In addition to published findings, we are currently seeking unpublished papers and unreported data for inclusion. If you have conducted any study assessing prosocial, normative, or antisocial behaviors/endorsements (e.g. economic games, cheating, charitable donations, altruism scales, etc.) that includes a measure of religiosity, we would like to gather the pertinent details.

If you have such data, please contact me at [jmkelly1@uci.edu](mailto:jmkelly1@uci.edu). If effect sizes and descriptions of measures and samples can be readily discerned from an unpublished (including soon-to-be published) paper, you can simply send the manuscripts directly.

If you know of anyone whose work should be included, we would appreciate your passing this notice on.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

John Michael Kelly

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### Meta-analysis

#### *Religious priming & the Dictator Game*

Dear colleagues,

Michael McCullough and I are seeking experiments for a meta-analysis. Relevant experiments should meet the following criteria:

- 1) they should attempt to manipulate religious cognition, whether through implicit, explicit, subliminal, or contextual primes;
- 2) they should investigate the effects of this priming manipulation specifically on monetary transfers in the Dictator Game;
- 3) and they may be published or unpublished.

We are already aware of all of the experiments that Shariff, Willard, Andersen, & Norenzayan included in their 2016 meta-analysis, so no need to send us information on those.

If you have conducted such an experiment, please email me (Joseph Billingsley) at [wjb16@miami.edu](mailto:wjb16@miami.edu).

Thanks very much in advance.

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## Conferences



## 7th biennial meeting of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion

**Location:** Boston, Massachusetts USA

**Date:** August 12-16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Keynote Speakers:

Catherine Caldwell-Harris, Boston University

Wesley J. Wildman, Center for Mind and Culture & Boston University

Will Gervais, University of Kentucky

To submit a proposal for a paper or poster, please fill out our abstract submission form. Abstracts will be no more than 300 words. All submissions will be peer-reviewed. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2018. Submit an abstract here: <http://www.iacsr.com/iacsr-2017-abstract-submission/>

The Cognitive Science of Religion is an interdisciplinary research area. We therefore encourage empirical and theoretical papers representing the current state-of-the-art research on religion and cognition from all areas of the humanities, social, and natural sciences.

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge Hotel, located at 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA To get the special rates reserved for attendees, go to: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/49472940/owner/371/home>

For general information, registration, and abstract submission follow the links and instructions here: <http://www.iacsr.com/iacsr-2018/>

Please note, when clicking to register, the system will take your payment immediately and then you will be able to access the registration page. Rates for members (\$40) are lower than non-members (\$75)

The IACSR will sponsor two student awards: The John J. McGraw Award for Best Paper and the Award for Best Poster Submitted by a Student will each receive free registration and accommodation.

*\*Sponsored by Grants at the Center for Mind and Culture (CMAC) and the Center for Modeling Social Systems (CMSS)*



## Job Openings & Grants



### **Job opening: PostDoc on Belief Systems (1,0 fte, 2 years)**

This 2-year postdoc position is for a project on the nature and structure of belief systems. The candidate will work with Mark Brandt on the ERC funded Belief Systems Project that aims to understand belief systems as networks of attitudes and beliefs. This is a full time research position where the candidate will help and take the lead analyzing survey data, conducting text analyses, writing papers, and publicizing results. There is room for the project to grow based on the interests and experience of the candidate. In addition, we expect that the candidate will contribute to academic citizenship (e.g., regular office hours, participate in weekly lab meetings, colloquia) in the department.

We are looking for a team player who is highly motivated and wants to understand how belief systems work. The ideal candidate will have a PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g., social psychology, political psychology, political science, sociology, etc.) and some combination of strong analytic skills, experience with network analyses, experience with text analyses, experience with statistical programming languages (e.g., R, Python, MPlus), and experience writing manuscripts.

Start date: between July 2018 – September 2018

#### **Information and application**

Specific questions about the vacancy can be directed to Dr. Mark Brandt, (associate professor of political psychology, [m.j.brandt@uvt.nl](mailto:m.j.brandt@uvt.nl) [www.tbslaboratory.com](http://www.tbslaboratory.com)). A CV, motivation letter, one recent publication or writing sample (e.g., job market paper), and the contact information for 2 references for your academic qualifications should be submitted before **19 February 2018** using the link below. In the motivation letter, the candidate should describe their motivation for applying to the position and why they are a good fit for the position. Because our department values open and reproducible science, candidates are encouraged to address how they have pursued and/or plan to pursue these goals in their work. We encourage applications from scholars who are from underrepresented populations. Interviews with applicants are scheduled in mid-March/early April 2018.

More information and application, [click here](#).