

# 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*

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## Announcements



### The IAPR Early Career Award nominations

The Early Career Award is intended to reward promising junior researchers in the field of the Psychology of Religion. It is awarded once every two years at the IAPR conference, for outstanding quality of research.

#### Criteria

Eligible for the Early Career Award are young scholars at the postdoctoral or early career academic level (holding a Ph.D. since 0-5 years maximum). Excellence in the quality of research (as reflected in the publications) in the field of the Psychology of Religion is required.

Members of the jury are: Jessie Dezutter (President, KU Leuven, Belgium), Adam B. Cohen (Arizona State University, USA), Kate Loewenthal (Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom), Valerie DeMarinis (Uppsala University, Sweden), Uffe Schjødt (Aarhus University, Denmark).

#### Prize

The Early Career Award is endowed with 1000 euros. The happy winner is expected to give a keynote lecture at the next IAPR conference, in 2019 in Gdansk, Poland (August 31 – September 3).

#### Nomination

Suitable candidates should be nominated, however self-nominations are also possible. The application for the Early Career Award should include the candidate's CV and the list of his/her publications. The document for the Early Career Award 2019 should be sent to [jessie.dezutter@kuleuven.be](mailto:jessie.dezutter@kuleuven.be) by **February 1, 2019** at the latest.

### Awards announcement

IAPR-member **Vassilis Saroglou** (Université catholique de Louvain) received the 2018 mid-career award of the European Association for Personality Psychology. This award's purpose is "to promote personality psychology in Europe and to increase the visibility of outstanding personality psychologists both to the scientific community and to the general public". It is given biannually to a personality psychologist who, 12-25 after the PhD, "has a mature, influential record of research".

According to the award's jury, Vassilis Saroglou "has been the main driving force in integrating personality and the psychology of religion, producing high calibre and impactful work, and thus broadening the scope and visibility of personality psychology both in Europe and beyond". During the awards ceremony in the last conference of the EAPP (July 2018, Zadar), the recipient gave an address entitled "Believer or atheist: Costs and benefits from a personality psychology perspective".



## New Developments in the Cognitive Science of Religion

### *The Rationality of Religious Belief*

**Editors:** Van Eyghen, Hans, Peels, Rik, Van den Brink, Gijsbert (Eds.)

It is widely thought that the cognitive science of religion (CSR) may have a bearing on the epistemic status of religious beliefs and on other topics in philosophy of religion. Epistemologists have used theories from CSR to argue both for and against the rationality of religious beliefs, or they have claimed that CSR is neutral *vis-à-vis* the epistemic status of religious belief. However, since CSR is a rapidly evolving discipline, a great deal of earlier research on the topic has become dated. Furthermore, most of the debate on the epistemic consequences of CSR has not taken into account insights from the philosophy of science, such as explanatory pluralism and explanatory levels. This volume overcomes these deficiencies.

This volume brings together new philosophical reflection on CSR. It examines the influence of CSR theories on the epistemic status of religious beliefs; it discusses its impact on philosophy of religion; and it offers new insights for CSR. The book addresses the question of whether or not the plurality of theories in CSR makes epistemic conclusions about religious belief unwarranted. It also explores the impact of CSR on other topics in philosophy of religion like the cognitive consequences of sin and naturalism. Finally, the book investigates what the main theories in CSR aim to explain, and addresses the strengths and weaknesses of CSR.

- Presents new insights on the (alleged) implications of new scientific theories on the rationality of religious belief
- Connects perspectives from epistemology, philosophy of science and philosophy of religion
- Goes beyond an introduction to the subject matter and moves the debate further

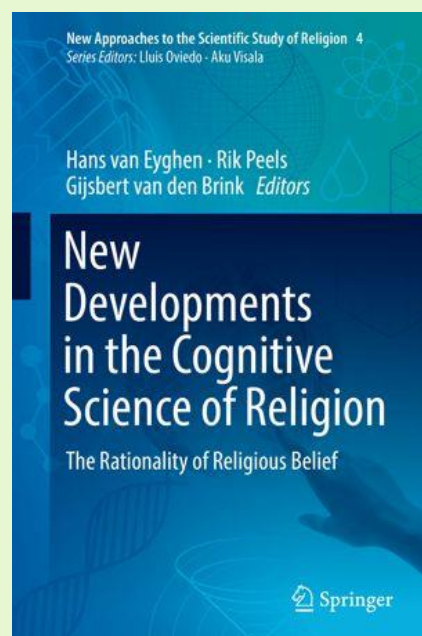
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For more information, see:

<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319902388>



## Conferences



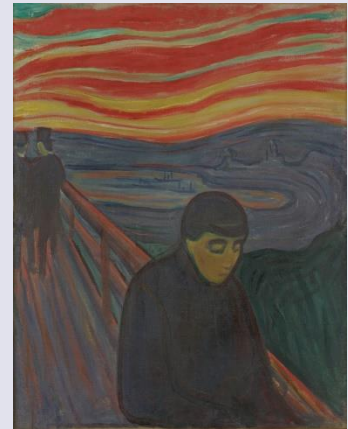
### Nordic Conference in Psychology of Religion

#### *Addressing existential issues in health care*

Location: Honne Hotel and Conference center, Biri, Norway

Date: 22-23 Oct 2018

Questions and issues related to the existential domain are often central for patients struggling with mental and physical health problems. Clinicians in different parts of the health care system experience the importance of this domain for how patients understand and handle their life situation. Still, the knowledge concerning how to address existential questions and assist patients in this area has proven to be quite limited. The focus at this conference is to clarify the concept of existential questions, to provide some experiences in small groups on the topic, and to learn some techniques to work with these issues.



Five existential issues will be highlighted: *death and loss*, *loneliness*, *suffering*, *meaning*, and *responsibility*. The conference is highly relevant for clinicians, researchers, and professionals working with pastoral care.

Center for Psychology of Religion at Innlandet Hospital Trust host this conference. The center conducts research on existential and cultural issues related to health and treatment. We are pleased that the conference has become a gathering place for professionals, researchers, and students with different academic backgrounds, sharing a common interest in psychology of religion.

Keynote speakers:

- Sebastian Murken, clinical psychologist, licensed psychotherapist, group analyst in private practice, and honorary professor in the psychology of religion at the University of Marburg, Germany.
- Gry Stålsett, clinical psychologist and consultant at Kildehuset, Modum Bad, and associate professor at MF Norwegian School of Theology, Norway.

More information: <http://religionspsykologi.no/>

Call for papers deadline: **12 Sept 2018**

## Conferences



### **2019 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference** *Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) convention*

Location: Portland, OR, USA

Date: February 7, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the 2019 Psychology of Religion and Spirituality Preconference at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) convention. The preconference will take place on February 7, 2019, before the annual SPSP convention (February 8-9, 2019) in Portland, OR.

This preconference features a great line-up of speakers, two data blitzes, a poster session, a speed mentoring lunch, and a keynote address by Clay Routledge. We'll also enjoy a happy hour immediately following the preconference.

Our scheduled speakers are:

- Adam Green
- Paul A. Djupe
- Elizabeth Minton
- Keisha Cutright
- Clay Routledge (Keynote Address)

Our data blitz presenters are:

- Sarah Ward
- Laura E. Wallace
- Jordan Moon
- Allon Vishkin

We reserved slots in the schedule for additional speakers and data blitz presenters. For more information regarding registration and proposal submission, please visit our website at: <http://meeting.spsp.org/preconferences/religion>. Those interested in presenting research can submit proposals for (a) an individual talk, (b) a data blitz presentation, or (c) a poster, by **October 31**, using the online portal.

Thanks to generous support from The John Templeton Foundation, we are pleased to offer complimentary preconference registration to a limited number of undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in attending. Because funds are limited, interested students should register immediately, using the comp code **19ReIStu** while funds are still available.

We hope to see you in Portland,

Daryl Van Tongeren, Patty Van Cappellen, and Kathryn Johnson



## Conferences



### Religiosity in East and West – Conceptual and Methodological Challenges

*International Conference - Call for Papers*

Location: Munster (Westphalia), Germany

Date: 25-27 June, 2019

The concept of religiosity as a highly individual aspect of religion and its research was shaped in Protestant circles in the Western context (Belzen, 2015). It inspired a huge body of research and further developments in the psychology of religion, the sociology of religion, and theology. In non-Western contexts, however, this concept has been proven only partially effective for the description and measuring of religiosity. This observation raises the question if research on religiosity is a science of Western Christianity (Cutting & Walsh 2008; Hill & Hood, 1999). The Munster conference discusses the established concepts of religiosity and aims to expand them by alternative concepts where appropriate.

The Munster conference wants to create an interdisciplinary scientific forum with scholars from diverse religious and cultural contexts. It aims to stimulate an international and intercultural scientific discourse on concepts and measures of individual religiosity and induce further conceptual developments in this kind of research. We, therefore, encourage scholars...

- ... to share both empirical insights in and theoretical reflections on non-individualized religiosity within and outside Western contexts,
- ... to critically assess the applicability of existing instruments in both non-Western and orthodox Western contexts, and
- ... to present and discuss alternative instruments to measure individual religiosity without an individualization bias

Confirmed speakers: Ann Taves (University of California, USA) / Assist.-Prof. Dr. Zuhal Ağılkaya-Şahin (Turkey, Medeniyet University) / Prof. Dr. Aryeh Lazar (Israel, Ariel University) / Dr. Sabrina Müller (Switzerland, University Zurich)

We welcome contributions with a scope on the psychology of religion, the sociology of religion as well as on theology. Additionally, we would be glad to attract scholars from different cultural backgrounds.

Please submit a paper abstract (250 – 300 words) to Sarah Demmrich ([kabogan@uni-muenster.de](mailto:kabogan@uni-muenster.de)) by **January 15, 2019**.

For further details on the conference, including information on registration, please check: [https://www.uni-muenster.de/Soziologie/organisation/religiosity\\_east\\_and\\_west.shtml](https://www.uni-muenster.de/Soziologie/organisation/religiosity_east_and_west.shtml)

Dr. Sarah Demmrich (University of Munster) & Prof. Dr. Ulrich Riegel (University of Siegen)

## Conferences



### 16th International Pragmatics Conference

#### *Panel: Interfaces of Religion, Language and Cognition*

Location: Hong Kong

Date: 9-14 June 2019

This panel explores the interface between religion, language and social cognition -- a rich site for pragmatic and cognitive phenomena that are inseparable from language as. There are few in-depth studies of the way in which religious language operates in practice, and our aim is to begin to remedy this lack in a way that will connect to neighbouring disciplines, e.g., Cognitive Science of Religion and Sociology of Religion..

Starting from the assumption that religion exists on the one hand as bodily and linguistic practices and on the other as experiences, mental operations, and emotions in the mind-brain, we are interested in language as situated at the crossroads of these processes and phenomena. Even though some forms of religious practice seek silence and the absence of words, religions are largely dependent on language use in various genres.

We are also interested in the ways in which language affects the mind, and in how it is both constituted by and constitutive for particular spatial and social settings in which religious practices are embedded. Religious rituals are a case in point, a specific multi-modal genre in which language is integrated, but other religious genres will be included in the panel presentations.

The motivation for the current panel comes from a cross-disciplinary, cross-religious, and cross-cultural volume (Chilton and Kopytowska 2018) which surveys the development of modern studies of religious language, and, examining this language along with other modalities, including ritual, religious art, and religious electronic media, presents religion as contingent on embodied cognition.

The panel aims to cover various religious faiths and traditions, and bring together various approaches to the language-mind-religion interface, including those stemming from linguistics, theology and religious studies, as well as cognitive science and neuroscience.

Possible topics include:

- pragmatics of religious practice and belief
- cognitive dimension of religious experience
- the role of metaphorical language and thought across religious traditions
- language of religious rituals, prayer and holy books across religious traditions
- multimodal phenomena in religious practices
- mediatization of religion

Conference website: <https://pragmatics.international/page/HongKong>

Contact: Paul Chilton, [P.Chilton@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:P.Chilton@warwick.ac.uk)



## Job Openings & Grants



### Postdoctoral position – Moralizing God Concepts *Columbia University*

The Social and Moral Cognition Lab at Columbia University (PI: Larisa Heiphetz) invites applications for a post-doctoral fellow to work on a project entitled “The Development and Consequences of Moralizing God Concepts” funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

This position is initially for one year with the strong expectation of renewal for a second year contingent on satisfactory performance. The lab provides support for post-doctoral fellows to develop their own research projects consistent with the aims of the grant, present their work at conferences, co-author articles, and participate in the intellectual life of Columbia and the broader New York area.

Start date can be arranged with the PI and is expected to be sometime between June 1st and September 1st, 2019, although an earlier start date is possible for excellent candidates who graduate prior to Spring 2019. Review of applications will begin on **November 15th, 2018**, and will continue until the position is filled.

#### Compensation/benefits:

Salary will be commensurate with Columbia University’s guidelines. The fellow will also be eligible for benefits; see <http://hr.columbia.edu/benefits>.

#### Application instructions:

Please submit applications via e-mail to Larisa Heiphetz at [lah2201@columbia.edu](mailto:lah2201@columbia.edu). Applications should include the following components, compiled into a single PDF and sent as an attachment: (1) cover letter (2-3 pages) describing past research and future research plans; (2) CV; (3) names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three professional references.

Columbia University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.