

IAPR

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

Newsletter of the IAPR – January 2012

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Announcements*

* Whoever wants to bring announcements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the text to the editor of the Newsletter.

Information about the 'Archive for the Psychology of Religion'

In the years between 2009 and today, the 'Archive for the Psychology of Religion' has made further progress to fulfill its role as official journal of the 'International Association for the Psychology of Religion' (IAPR). There is progress in consolidating a truly international, inter-disciplinary and inter-religious communication platform among psychologists interested in the scientific study of religious phenomena in all religious traditions. The change to a three-issues-per-year publication mode has not hindered, but rather accelerated this progress.

In June 2011, the 'Archive for the Psychology of Religion' has been selected for coverage in Thomson Reuter's products and services. The 'Archive' will be indexed and abstracted in the Social Sciences Citation Index, the Journal Citation Reports/Social Sciences Edition, the Current Contents/Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Arts and Humanities Citation Index, and the Current Contents/Arts & Humanities. This is a significant step for our relatively young journal which now completes its third year as three-issue-per-year publication – after an almost century-long tradition of publication as a yearbook (one volume per year publication). Listing in Thomson Reuter's services indicates the possibility that there will be the calculation of an impact factor in the near future.

The unique profile of the 'Archive' is, besides the publication of research reports and research notes from excellent quantitative investigation, its openness to qualitative and other methodological approaches, and especially its openness to submission and publication of conceptual and historical texts. In this light, and in view of the numbers of submissions we are now receiving, as well as the three issues published per year, the Editorial Team therefore plans to compile thematically focused issues – at least one issue per year.

In its last business meeting (3-4 December 2011) the IAPR Board has decided on the composition of the Editorial Team for the coming years:

- Heinz Streib will be reappointed as Editor for another 3 years starting from January 2012.
- James M. Day and Michael Nielsen will be reappointed and members of the Editorial Team for a period of 3 years starting from January 2012.
- The social psychologist Wade Rowatt will be appointed for 3 years as a new member of the Editorial Team starting from January 2012.

The Editorial team will compose the Editorial board.

Vassilis Saroglou & Heinz Streib

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Privilege rate for 'Mental Health, Religion & Culture' to IAPR members

Taylor & Francis has decided that due to the increasing number of high quality submissions to 'Mental Health, Religion & Culture' since publication began in 1998, it is now publishing 10 issues per year. Because of this development, the new privilege rate to IAPR members will be \$100 (USD)/£60 (GBP)/80 EUR per volume. When subscribing to the journal, IAPR members will receive 10 issues containing the latest advances in the field. A personal subscription rate ordinarily would be priced for 2012 at \$552 (USD)/£331 GBP/441 EUR.

Jennie Atkinson

Master Course 'Psychology of Religion' (MSc Psychology of Religion by e-learning) at Glyndŵr University, Wrexham/Wales

The Division of Psychology at Glyndŵr University (Wrexham/Wales) has recently developed a Master of Science for Psychology of Religion by e-learning. The first cohort has commenced in September 2011. The course consists of six taught modules (20 credits each), plus a 20,000 dissertation (60 credits). For the academic year 2011/12 the course will be part-time only. In 2012/13 the course will be available on both a part-time and full-time basis.

Modules include:

- Psychology of Religion: An Introduction
- Mental Health, Religion and Culture
- Research Methods
- Individual Differences and Religion
- The Social Psychology of Religious Experience, Belief and Behaviour
- Positive Psychology and Religion
- Dissertation

Our Psychology of Religion staff team:

- Professor Christopher Alan Lewis (mental health, religion and culture)
- Dr. Mandy Robbins (personality, clergy studies)
- Dr. Emyr Williams (spirituality, personality and wellbeing)
- Professor William K. Kay (Pentecostal studies, personality)
- Dr. Tania ap Siôn (psychology of prayer, religious education)

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Mandy Robbins, Emyr Williams & Christopher Alan Lewis

Call for book proposals on Theology and Religious Studies for Versita and De Gruyter Publishing Houses

The Publishing house Versita invites authors from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to submit book proposals for joining the Versita and De Gruyter book program on Theology, Judaism and Religious Studies.

For more details please visit:

http://www.versita.com/Book_Author/Theology_&_Religious_Studies/

or contact Managing Editor of the program Dr. Katarzyna Tempczyk:

ktempczyk@versita.com

Katarzyna Tempczyk

Job Advertisements*

* Whoever wants to bring job advertisements under attention of the IAPR members, please email the information to the editor of the Newsletter.

Program Officer for Character Development at John Templeton Foundation

The John Templeton Foundation is recruiting for a Program Officer in Character Development. The Director of the Character Development Department at the Foundation is Craig Joseph, Ph.D. To find out more about the work on this topic that the Foundation funds, please visit:

<http://www.templeton.org/what-we-fund/core-funding-areas/character-development>

Position Summary

Reporting to the Director of Character Development, the Program Officer is responsible for the development of new funding initiatives and the management of the full life cycle of the grant process within the area of Character Development. The Program Officer works with a team to oversee and coordinate the activities of the Foundation's grant-making within this program area, including supporting the development of new projects,

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communicating with applicants and grantees, and helping to lead the assessment of grant outcomes and impact.

The ideal candidate for this role is a highly organized person with superior writing skills and substantial expertise and interest in the area of character development, character education, and/or moral psychology. A strong background in social science research methods is highly desirable. A master's degree in psychology, education, sociology, or other relevant field is required; a Ph.D. is preferred

It is essential for the successful candidate to understand and support the Foundation's mission as a whole as well as Sir John Templeton's specific philanthropic intentions with regard to the area of character development.

The John Templeton Foundation provides support for research and the dissemination of research in a variety of areas. Typically, projects involving research and dissemination do so in the context of different, specific Big Questions that lie within and at the intersection of multiple disciplines. More specifically, the Foundation supports work that seeks to uncover the fundamental nature of reality, including work in physics, biology, philosophy, theology, mathematics, and the social and human sciences. In addition, the Foundation supports research and programs in areas such as Freedom and Free Enterprise, Genetics, and the discovery and nurturing of Exceptional Cognitive Talent and Creativity.

To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, please visit:

http://www.templetoncareers.org/job_details/program_officer_character.html

Nicholas J. S. Gibson

Conferences*

* Whoever wants to bring conference information under attention of the IAPR members, please email the data to the editor of the Newsletter.

'3rd European Conference on Religion, Spirituality, and Health' Pre-Conference Research Workshop on 'Religion, Spirituality and Health' with Prof. Dr. Harold G. Koenig

Date: May 13-16, 2012

Location: Clinic SGM Langenthal, Langenthal, Switzerland

Preceding the '3rd European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health' in Bern (www.ecrsh.eu) we invite you to participate in the Pre-Conference Research Workshop with Prof. Dr. Harold Koenig. The workshop is open to all interested in doing research on religion, spirituality and health (accepting participants of any educational level or degree, including theologians, chaplains, physicians, nurses, psychologists, pastoral counsellors, public health specialists, epidemiologists, or other potential researchers). Professor Harold Koenig is currently ranked #1 in the world among research scientists in religion, spirituality and health by Biomed Experts (<http://www.biomedexperts.com/Concept.bme/>)

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[18754/Religion](#)). He holds a university teaching position as full professor at Duke University Medical Center (Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Behavioral Sciences). Furthermore he is director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health. This center has offered a 2-year post-doc program in religion and health, which Dr. Koenig has compressed into 4-day workshops like the one being offered here.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Previous research on religion, spirituality and health
- Importance of definitions
- Understanding mechanisms and pathways
- Highest priority studies for future research
- Strengths and weaknesses of religion/spirituality measures
- Designing different types of research projects
- Statistics and statistical modeling
- Funding your research, Writing a grant
- Managing a research project
- Writing a research paper for publication; getting it published
- Developing an academic career in this area

Individual mentorship meetings with Prof. Harold Koenig will allow participants to discuss their specific questions and own research projects.

The workshop is organized by the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health (www.rish.ch) in collaboration with the Clinic SGM Langenthal (www.klinik-sgm.ch) offering infrastructure and lunch. René Hefti, M.D., head of the psychosomatic department and the research institute, is responsible for the workshop.

In terms of accommodation we suggest the “Parkhotel Langenthal” which is very close to the clinic (www.parkhotel-langenthal.ch). Participants are, of course, very welcome to organize their own accommodation (www.langenthal.ch → Verkehr und Tourismus → Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten). Lunch is offered by the clinic.

The workshop fees are as follows:

- Regular Fee: € 850.

The fee includes lectures, mentorship meetings, coffee breaks and lunch. If you also participate in the European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health in Bern, May 13-15th, 2012, the fees are reduced as follows:

- Workshop and Conference: € 850 Workshop + € 290 Conference = € 1140, reduced € 1050.

The workshop is limited to 12 participants, so early registration is strongly encouraged to ensure a place, since these workshops fill quickly.

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René Hefti

'3rd European Conference on Religion, Spirituality, and Health' in Bern/Switzerland

Date: May 17-19th, 2012

Location: Bern, Switzerland

Conference Website: <http://www.ecrsh.eu/>

General Information:

The 3rd European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health will focus on 'Spiritual Care'. The keynote speakers approach the topic from their specific professional background, aiming to enhance the interdisciplinary dialogue between medicine, neuroscience and theology. The *Bern Lecture* is offered by Prof. Eckhard Frick, Professor for Spiritual Care at Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich. Symposia covering a broad range of topics invite discussion. Free communications allow research groups to present their research projects either orally or as posters. The best presentation given by a young researcher will be honoured by the *Young Researchers Award*.

The conference aims to strengthen the network among researchers in the field and to promote scientific projects. A public lecture will be given by Prof. Traugott Roser.

Keynote Speakers & Main Topics:

- Franco Bonaguidi, Dr. phil.
Institute of Clinical Physiology of the CNR, Pisa/Italy
'Role of Religion in Patients undergoing Liver Transplantation'
- Lars Danbolt, Dr. theol., Adj. Prof.
Norwegian School of Theology, Head of Center for Psychology of Religion,
Oslo/Norway
'Disasters, Ritual and Mental Health'
- Sheila Furness, Senior Lecturer
Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford, UK
'Impact and Significance of Religion and Belief in Social Work'

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- Eckhard Frick, Prof. Dr. med.
Professorship of Spiritual Care, Medical Faculty, University of Munich, Germany
'Spiritual Care – How Does it Work?'
- Pehr Granqvist, Assoc. Prof.
Department of Psychology, Stockholm University, Sweden
'Attachment, Spirituality and Mental Health'
- René Hefti, Dr. med., Lecturer
Medical Faculty, University of Bern, Switzerland
'Cardiovascular Medicine and Spirituality – State of the Art and Consequences for Care?'
- Harold Koenig, Prof. Dr. med.
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC/USA
'Spiritual Care in the United States – Research, Understanding and Practice'
- Wilfred McSherry, Prof.
Faculty of Health, Staffordshire University, UK
'Definition of Spirituality in the Context of Elderly Care'
- Peter Verhagen, MD
Dutch Foundation for Psychiatry and Religion, Netherlands
'Spiritual Care in Psychiatry-Future Perspectives'
- Fraser Watts, Prof.
Director, Psychology and Religion Research Group, University of Cambridge, UK
'Cognitive Processes and Religion: A Two-Systems Approach'

Public Lecture:

- Traugott Roser, Prof. Dr. theol.
Professorship of Spiritual Care, Munich, Germany
'Spiritual Care – Modewort, Trend oder echte Notwendigkeit?' (in German language)

Call for Abstracts:

We invite the submission for oral or poster presentations until January 20, 2012 (www.ecrsh.eu – see abstracts)

René Hefti

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Key Publications*

* Whoever wants to bring key publications under attention of the IAPR members, please email the bibliography to the editor of the Newsletter.

- Saroglou, V. & Cohen, A. B. (Eds.). (2011). Religion and Culture: Perspectives from Cultural and Cross-Cultural Psychology [Special Issue]. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 42 (see <http://jcc.sagepub.com/content/42/8.toc>).
 - Arnold, M. (2010). *Das religiöse Selbst in der Mission: Eine kulturpsychologische Analyse missionarischen Handelns deutscher Protestanten* [The Religious Self in Mission: Cultural Psychological Analysis of Missionary Action of German Protestants]. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač.
- ⇒ It seems obvious that the Christian religion is intrinsically intertwined with the missionary assignment and that the gradual and strategic alterations of the others initiated by missionaries are based on a long tradition of historical experiences. Despite this matter the missionaries' experiences of cultural difference, foreignness, alterity in intercultural contexts combined with the transformation of personal self and the interwoven learning processes have scarcely been the subject of empirical studies. This empirical research at hand links scientific perspectives on the psychology of religion with the interest in intercultural communication by specifically concentrating on the intercultural actions and learning behavior of German Protestant missionaries before, during and after their mission activities. The underlying research approach is located within a hermeneutical, interpretive framework of the psychology of religion empirically grounded on the action theory and the science of experience. Between 2004 and 2005 five German Protestant missionaries were interrogated by means of the narrative-biographical interview method on their furlough (each for approximately 2 up to 4 hours). The autobiographical narratives of the interview partners supplied a rich fund of substantial experiences, events and themes ranging from motivational factors for their religious mission over experiences during their activities to postmission reflections. The evaluation of these autobiographical narratives is based on an interpretative, comparative analysis and draws on action-theoretical and culture-psychological orientated textual interpretation, the documentary method and finally the grounded theory. The meaningful actions and orientations, experiences and expectations, which are 'pragmasemantically' (pragmasemantisch; Straub, 1999) interwoven with the religious mission of spreading one's own religious beliefs, are culture-specific and at the same time characterized by one's own personal biography. This research aims at differentiating certain types of missionary action and religious practice of everyday. Possible differentiations within these types are as well as concern of this empirical study. The results of the interpretive analysis illustrate how the German Protestants' mission activities and their modes of experience are intertwined with the aspiration of (religious) self-realization. These are on the one hand portrayed in a narrative form as psychical activity and

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creativity. On the other hand they strive for an individual way of life which is best depicted as a discrepancy between their self-abandonment in their charity service for others and the realization of their strategic missionary goals. Despite some restrictions concerning the practical implementation of this research, the cultural-comparative investigation of missionary actions based on the interpretative, action-theoretical and experience-theoretical orientated, empirical psychology of religion reveals a promising research perspective. This theoretical and methodological framework facilitates the sensitization for the complexity and diversity of individual religiosity and spirituality. Besides that it counteracts research deficiencies regarding posited cultural differences and cultural conflicts.

At last...

Thanks and Good Luck

Dear IAPR members,

after two years editing the IAPR newsletter and hosting the IAPR webpage, new challenges (in particular managing a big research project on interreligious xenophobia and xenosophia in Germany, but also a couple of further projects) demand my attention. The new projects are stimulating and fulfilling but, however, very time-consuming, too. Therefore, I need to quit my editorship and to hand it over to someone else. I am deeply grateful that Patty Van Cappellen from Louvain-la-Neuve/Belgium will undertake the task to edit the newsletter and that Emyr Williams from Glyndŵr University, Wrexham/Wales, will take over the responsibility for the homepage. Many thanks to both of them and good luck for their work!

I would also like to thank all of you who have provided me with information for the newsletter during the last two years. Best wishes, yours

Constantin Klein

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