

# IAPR

International Association for the Psychology of Religion

## Newsletter of the IAPR – May 2011

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### Announcements\*

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

#### **IAPR Board nominations: Announcements and call**

According to the procedure of the IAPR general meeting (Art. 6.3.4. and 6.3.5. of By-laws) the IAPR Board herewith announces that the next General Assembly will be held at the IAPR Congress in Bari, **August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Any proposals to the General Assembly should be send to the General Secretary Herman Westerink ([herman.westerink@univie.ac.at](mailto:herman.westerink@univie.ac.at)) at least two months before the General Assembly, that is **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

As regards the issue of the (re-)election of Board members the Board announces that three of its members who were elected at the Leuven conference in 2006 will withdraw from the Board, without nominating for re-election. These members are:

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- Jozef Corveleyn (President, University of Leuven, Belgium)
- James W. Jones (Rutgers University, New Jersey USA)
- Rien van Uden (University of Tilburg, Netherlands)

Two Board members who were elected at the Leuven conference in 2006 nominate for re-election for a period of four years (Art. 4.3. of Constitution). These are:

- Mario Aletti (Milan, Italy)
- Hans Alma (University for Humanistics Utrecht, Netherlands)

The IAPR Board herewith announces the names of its three candidates for the new Board (Art. 4.3. of By-laws):

- Pierre-Yves Brandt (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Kevin Ladd (University South Bend, Indiana USA)
- Chris Lewis (Glyndwr University, United Kingdom)

All members may nominate additional candidates (Art. 4.3. of By-laws). These candidates can only be voted for when these persons have been formally announced in advance by means of a circulated agenda (Art. 4.5. of By-laws). Hence, the Board herewith calls for nominations. The deadline of submission of candidates is set at two months before the General Assembly, that is **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011** (Art. 6.3.5. of By-laws). Proposals should be sent to the General Secretary ([herman.westerink@univie.ac.at](mailto:herman.westerink@univie.ac.at)).

*Jozef Corveleyn*  
*President of the IAPR*

*Herman Westerink*  
*General Secretary of the IAPR*

### **IAPR Godin Prize and IAPR Early Career Award for the Scientific Psychology of Religion: Announcements and call**

The Godin Price is an honorary price to be awarded to senior scholars for their excellence in the scientific study of the psychology of religion. The Godin price will be given every second IAPR conference, that is to say, once in every 4 years. The price winner will be honoured by a substantial laudatio, and the invitation to present a keynote lecture at the conference.

New is the IAPR Early Career Award for promising junior scholars. It applies to young scholars at the postdoctoral or early career academic level. This award will be given at every IAPR conference. Attached to the award is a financial reward of 1000 EURO.

Suggestions for suitable candidates for both the Godin Price and the Early Career Award are most welcome. As regards the Price and the Award self-nomination is also possible. Applications or suggestions should include the list of publications and the CV of the candidate, and should be sent in electronic form (pdf) to Prof. Vassilis Saroglou ([Vassilis.Saroglou@uclouvain.be](mailto:Vassilis.Saroglou@uclouvain.be)).

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Submissions for the 2011 Early Career Award are to be made by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

Submissions for the Godin Prize will open at early 2013.

The jury will also actively search for suitable candidates.

The Godin Prize and the Early Career Award are incorporated in the IAPR and will be awarded at the IAPR's congresses. The members of the present jury are: Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Jagellonian University Krakow, Poland), Ray Paloutzian (Editor of the International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, USA), Sebastian Murken (University of Trier, Germany), Vassilis Saroglou (University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) and Pehr Granqvist (University of Stockholm, Sweden).

*Jozef Corveleyn*  
*President of the IAPR*

*Herman Westerink*  
*General Secretary of the IAPR*

### Job Advertisements\*

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

#### **Junior Professor for Empirical Religious Studies at the Faculty of Theology, Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald/Germany**

The Theology Faculty of the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald plans by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to hire a Junior Professor for Empirical Religious Studies. While the Junior Professor should have an independent research profile in Religious Studies, s/he is also expected to cooperate on a theoretical and methodological level with the other fields of the faculty on current and planned individual and group research projects. The teaching load is approximately four to six hours per week per semester in the field of Empirical Religious Studies. Teaching in English is permitted in the first year. Readiness for cooperation in the context of existing and planned interdisciplinary research projects on "Regional Religion" (e.g. the Baltic Sea region, Central/Eastern Europe) and "Empirical Ethics" is desired.

Job Requirements are based on § 62, Sec. 1 of the State Higher Education Law of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (SHE M-V): completed graduate study, pedagogical aptitude, and exceptional ability for academic endeavors, as typically confirmed by the completion of an outstanding dissertation.

In accordance with § 62 of the SHE M-V, Junior Professors are appointed as temporary officers for three years. Successful fulfillment of work duties will result in the extension of the work contract for an additional three years.

Article 4.2 of the agreement between the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the Lutheran State Church of Mecklenburg and Pomerania from January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1994 (the Güstrower Accord) should also be kept in mind.

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For further information, please contact Prof. Dr. Heinrich Assel, Dean of the Theology Faculty ([assel@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:assel@uni-greifswald.de)).

The University seeks to increase the representation of women in areas in which they are under-represented. Therefore, applications from women are especially welcome and will receive preference in cases of equal qualifications, provided that there are no other outweighing qualities in the person of the competing applicant.

Handicapped persons will receive special preference in cases of equal professional and personal qualifications.

Application costs will not be borne by the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Applications containing the customary documents (Academic Curriculum vitae, list of publications and courses, academic certificates, proof of teaching experience) are to be submitted by **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011** to:

Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald  
Dean of the Faculty for Theology, Prof. Dr. Heinrich Assel  
Am Rubenowplatz 2/3, 17487 Greifswald  
Tel.: +49 (0) 3834 86-2501  
Fax: +49 (0) 3834 86-2502

*Heinrich Assel*

### **Research position for a graduate/Ph. D. student at the Catholic University of Louvain/Belgium, Centre for Psychology of Religion**

A research position for a graduate/Ph. D. student is open at the Catholic University of Louvain, Centre for Psychology of Religion ([www.uclouvain.be/psyreli](http://www.uclouvain.be/psyreli)). The position is full time (fellowship + social security), lasts two years (1+1), starts September 2011, and implies working in Louvain-la-Neuve (University's town).

The research focuses on the understanding of moral and emotional characteristics of ideological (including religious) radicalism and will use methodology from social/moral psychology and psychology of emotions. It is integrated into a broader interdisciplinary project (Research Coordinated Action) on religious fundamentalism and ideological radicalism, a project funded by the Belgian Community of Brussels-Wallonia and the University.

Applications (CV and letter of motivation) are to be sent to Prof. Vassilis Saroglou ([vassilis.saroglou@uclouvain.be](mailto:vassilis.saroglou@uclouvain.be)) by **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Please use the same email address for more information.

*Vassilis Saroglou*

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### Conferences\*

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

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Society for Cultural Psychology "Anthropology and Cultural Psychology of Religion(s): Hermeneutics – Practices – Life Contexts"**

*Date:* 11<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

*Location:* Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg/Germany

*Abstract:* At the moment we experience a vivid renaissance of religion(s). The occidental secularization led not to the loss of multiple functions by religion as well as not to the take-over of institutions or subsystems by the nation state. Rationality is not triumphing over faith: Religion in its multiple facets not disappeared, but was and is pluralized – and especially in the case of Christendom – mostly privatized. In many cases Religion has become a personal concern.

Not least by the continuing integration debates and their permanent presence in the media the mobilization of religion received a boost in recent times. The ubiquitous images lead to new attention and visibility. A partial new language articulates differences that in the past did not play a similar role. This is especially valid for the relationship between Christendom and Islam.

The significance of religion for everyday practice, for self- and worldview of individuals and groups and their dynamic relations are important themes of contemporary psychology, especially of the interdisciplinary cultural psychology. Notwithstanding, contemporary psychology of religion struggles for existence and recognition. In spite of remarkable developments, especially in recent years, psychology of religion is still in the shadows. The meeting of the Society for Cultural Psychology aims to contribute to the renewal of psychology of religion. The meeting directs attention on current issues of vivid religious life and focuses genuine psychological questions.

These include cultural meanings of transcendence and their relevance to the social and individual life; the (cognitive) function of exculpation and other functions of faith, like "positive" and "negative", "productive" and "destructive", "salutogenic" and "pathogenic" etc.; the function of faith and its importance; the function of religious practices and community for identity formation; as well as subjective-functional aspects of religious rituals.

Beside empirical questions the meeting will provide a forum for theoretical questions of contemporary psychology of religion too. Over the last two or three decades especially representatives of the international cultural psychology have made significant contributions to differentiate the psychological research on religion and contributions to theory development and the development of methods. Notwithstanding questions remained unanswered that should be discussed at the meeting. Especially the relationship of religious and cultural action remains to clarify as well as the relationship between culture and religion in general.

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The meeting should focus all facets and issues in the relationship between psychology and religion. Desired are empirical, historical and theoretical contributions and research reports, which help to shed light on or deepen the conceptions and understandings of religious motives, religious activity and faith.

It is possible to submit individual papers and posters; also moderated group formats, such as symposia, are possible. Artistic and aesthetic approaches to the fields of religion and psychology are desired, to enrich the scientific environment in breaks and at the evenings. For planning and scheduling of the conference please send an abstract in maximum length of one page that describes your contribution in form and content (title, author(s), type of contribution, required time frame, necessary tools for visualization and realization) till **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011** to [lan@plattform-anthropologie.de](mailto:lan@plattform-anthropologie.de).

The conference is jointly organized with the Center for "Anthropology of Religion(s)" that is part of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. The center announces its own call for papers which can be found online at <http://www.zar.uni-erlangen.de/aktuelles.shtml>. The final meeting schedule will provide an integration of all contributions received on both calls.

*Submission of abstracts:* Please send contributions to [lan@plattform-anthropologie.de](mailto:lan@plattform-anthropologie.de)

Lars Allolio-Näcke

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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.

- **Büssing, A. & Kohls, N. (Eds.) (2011): *Spiritualität transdisziplinär: Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen im Zusammenhang mit Gesundheit und Krankheit* [Spirituality transdisciplinary: Scientific principles in relation to health and illness]. Heidelberg: Springer.**
  - ⇒ Online available at: [http://www.amazon.de/gp/product/364213064X/ref=s9\\_simh\\_gw\\_p14\\_d3\\_i2?pf\\_rd\\_m=A3JWKAKR8XB7XF&pf\\_rd\\_s=center-2&pf\\_rd\\_r=11BTRFCBP6TS40P569VH&pf\\_rd\\_t=101&pf\\_rd\\_p=463375173&pf\\_rd\\_i=301128](http://www.amazon.de/gp/product/364213064X/ref=s9_simh_gw_p14_d3_i2?pf_rd_m=A3JWKAKR8XB7XF&pf_rd_s=center-2&pf_rd_r=11BTRFCBP6TS40P569VH&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=463375173&pf_rd_i=301128).

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## Contact

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Please feel free to contact me or to email all information of interest to me:

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Center for Biographical Research in Contemporary Religion

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personen/klein.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/theologie/forschung/religionsforschung/personen/klein.html)