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: [http://psychology-of-religion.com/](http://psychology-of-religion.com/)

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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:
   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.
Hello everybody, my name is Anja Visser. I’m on the brink of obtaining my doctorate at Tilburg University, the Netherlands. Although both my master thesis at Tilburg University and my PhD thesis are about the role of spirituality in coping with cancer, I sometimes feel a bit like the ‘odd-one-out’ in the psychology of religion and spirituality, because I’m originally a health psychologist. With this introduction I hope to immerse myself more in this community. In addition, regrettably, I am unable to attend the 2015 congress in Istanbul to tell you about my research personally.

During my PhD research I’ve dedicated myself to getting a firmer grip on how we can separate ‘spirituality’ from ‘well-being’ in order to avoid the trap of tautologous findings that dr. Harold Koenig and others have repeatedly brought to our attention in the past decade (and about which I was given the wonderful opportunity to present at the 2013 IAPR conference), and to investigate how spirituality helps people with cancer to maintain their sense of well-being. My research was supervised by dr. Bert Garssen at the Helen Dowling Institute, dr. Ad Vingerhoets at Tilburg University, and dr. Inne Borel-Rinkes at the University Medical Centre Utrecht.

Regarding the issue of spirituality versus well-being, we concluded from a comparison of the Spiritual Attitude and Involvement List (SAIL; de Jager Meezenbroek et al., 2012) to a well-being scale that especially the experience of trust in one’s ability to cope with negative events in life is more similar to well-being than to spirituality. Regarding the role of spirituality in adjusting to cancer, we found on the basis of a literature review, a cross-sectional study, a one-year prospective study, and a qualitative interview study that spirituality helps when it offers a meaning to the experience of cancer that is congruent with the overall meaning system or experience of the person. Based on the findings from these two lines of study, however, I was left with the question of whether or not the experience of meaning in life should be considered an aspect of spirituality or an outcome of it. I would love to hear your views on this matter!

Currently, Nicoline Uwland, who assisted me during my PhD research, is continuing the analyses on the qualitative interviews that we conducted, to learn more about what spirituality entails for Dutch people with cancer and to form a theoretical model of its role in the adjustment to cancer. We’ll certainly get back to you about that, hopefully at the 2017 IAPR conference!

I currently teach Introduction to Psychology and Health Psychology at University College Roosevelt, Middelburg, the Netherlands. In addition, I am looking for research opportunities to explore how we can assist people with cancer - and/or other chronic illnesses - to ‘activate’ their spirituality during the process of coping with their situation. One avenue I’m exploring (together with dr. Marijke Groot at the University Medical Centre st. Radboud and dr. Annemieke Schep-Akkerman at Viaa) is to introduce nurses to narrative medicine (or narrative nursing in this case). Jan Staal of the School for Imagination in the Netherlands has recently introduced me to his ‘imagination toolkit’, as a method to help cancer patients to explore their emotions about their situation, but which needs further validation. Finally, I’ve been playing with the idea of further developing the SAIL for several years now, to make it an even better measure of spirituality.

I would love to hear from you if you have any questions about meaning in life and/or any research opportunities at avisser27@gmail.com.
2015 IAPR Congress

**Location:** Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey  
**Dates:** August 17-20, 2015  
**More information and Registration:** [http://iapr2015.ikc.edu.tr](http://iapr2015.ikc.edu.tr)

The congress is co-organized by Marmara University Faculty of Theology and Katip Celebi University Department of Psychology. Increasingly, the IAPR Congresses have become an essential place for meeting and dialogue between researchers and scholars from a vast array of countries. We cordially invite you to attend this congress and present your empirical and/or theoretical research on any topic connecting psychology and religious behavior such as religion and mental health, religion and psychological development, religion/spirituality, religious development, cultural perspective, neurosciences. With 4 keynote presentations, 5 invited symposia, and 1 pre-conference workshop, we expect to cover a wide variety of topics. The language of this Congress will be English.

The biannual IAPR congress is among the most important events to promote and exchange the most exciting research in psychology of religion. We hope that Istanbul, the transcontinental city, ideally situated between the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea, will offer a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere for networking with leading experts, emerging scholars, and enthusiastic young students in the psychology of religion.

Duke Spirituality & Health Workshops

**Location:** Durham, North Carolina  
**Dates:** August 10-14, 2015  
**More information and Registration:** [http://www.spiritualityhealthworkshops.org/](http://www.spiritualityhealthworkshops.org/)

**Contact:** Harold G. Koenig, MD  
[Harold.Koenig@duke.edu](mailto:Harold.Koenig@duke.edu)

Now is the time to register for a spot in the 2015 summer research workshop on spirituality & health. The workshop is designed for those interested in conducting research in this area or learning more about the research that is now being done. Those with any level of training or exposure to the topic will benefit from this workshop, from laypersons to graduate students to seasoned researchers and professors at leading academic institutions. Over 700 persons from all over the world have attended this workshop since 2004. Individual mentorship is being provided to those who need help with their research or desire career guidance (early registration required to assure mentorship). Partial tuition scholarships are available for those with strong academic potential and serious financial hardships.
Conference: Trauma and Lived Religion

Hosted by The Amsterdam Center for the Study of Lived Religion

Location: VU University Amsterdam the Netherlands.

Dates: June 3-5, 2015

More information and Registration: www.livedreligion.org

The conference Trauma and Lived Religion takes place from June 3-5, 2015 at VU University Amsterdam. In the past few decades, we have witnessed the emergence of the research fields of both lived religion and trauma. The conference seeks to explore implications of bringing the two together. Granting these scholarly developments in attending to the disrupting power of traumatic experiences, profound reflection on the meaning of trauma for identity, religion, and everyday life is called for. A focus on ‘lived religion’ - as the ethnographic and hermeneutical framework for understanding the performative dimensions of religion as it functions in people’s ordinary lives – will serve to better understand the interface of trauma and religion. Using lived religion as an approach to the interdisciplinary study of trauma allows for a wider interpretation of meaning and also provides an opportunity for better understanding of spirituality, hope, forgiveness, moral injury, resilience, and spiritual transformation.

Areas of interest for this conference include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

* Theories of trauma and lived religion
* Methodological issues at the intersection of trauma and lived religion
* Disciplinary perspectives: (neuro-)psychology, theology, anthropology, philosophy, medicine, law, literature and arts, etc.
* Specific examples of trauma: torture, sexual trauma, displacement and migration, wars and disasters, collective trauma
* Factors involved in the intersection of trauma and lived religion: culture, politics, media, gender, religious traditions
* The practice of theologies at the intersection of trauma and lived religion

The aim of the conference is to bring together people from different areas, disciplines, and interests to share ideas and explore the links between lived religion and trauma studies. The expected outcomes of the conference will be an edited volume on the basis of selected contributions and/or collaboration between participants in developing research grant applications. To stimulate fruitful conversations, we anticipate a combination of papers, panel presentations, open floor discussions, and so on. Innovative presentation styles are encouraged. Based on the proposals submitted, we may ask participants to submit their full text before the conference or to join a panel or other type of presentation.

Organizing Committee: R. Ruard Ganzevoort (VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands), Shelly Rambo (Boston University, USA), David Tombs (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland / University of Otago, New Zealand), Srdjan Sremac (VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands, Centre for the Study of Religion, Politics and Society, Novi Sad, Serbia).

The conference fee amounts 150 euros. This fee includes entrance to the conference, three lunches, coffee, tea, and a conference dinner on the 3th of June. Travel and accommodation costs will be for the participants own expense. In specific cases we may be able to help out with the conference fee, if this is a problem. More information can also be found on www.livedreligion.org.
Religion in a pluralistic society can play a dual role with regard to conflict. It can promote either violence or peace. Religion and Conflict Attribution examines the causes of interreligious conflict as perceived by Christian, Muslim and Hindu college students in Tamil Nadu, India.

Psychology of Religion in Turkey - Edited by Zuhâl Ağıkaya-Şahin (Izmir Katip Çelebi University), Heinz Streib (University of Bielenfeld), Ali Ayten (Marmara University), and Ralph W. Hood, Jr. (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga).

In Psychology of Religion in Turkey, senior and emerging Turkish scholars present critical conceptual analyses and empirical studies devoted to the Psychology of Religion in Turkey. Parts 1 and 2 consist of articles placing the psychology of religion in historical context of an ancient culture undergoing modernization and secularization and articles devoted to the uniqueness of Islam among the great faith traditions. Part 3 is devoted to empirical studies of religion and positive outcomes related to health and virtues while part 4 is devoted to empirical studies on social outcomes of religious commitment in Turkey. Finally, part 5 is devoted to the issues of religiousness and spirituality, including two studies focused upon Turkish Sufism.

The Psychology of Christian Character Formation – 30 Apr 2015 by Joanna Collicutt

The Psychology of Christian Character Formation offers clergy and those preparing for ministry some of the potential riches provided by rapidly developing branches of contemporary scientific psychology of which they might otherwise be unaware. Joanna Collicutt, an experienced psychologist and theological educator, focuses on the psychology of character, virtue and spirituality. Furthermore, the psychology is not used to support training in pastoral ministry to others, but rather to support the reader’s own self-awareness and spiritual growth. Joanna Collicutt understands Christian formation as Christian communities and their members growing up into conformity with the character of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. This is explored in the three parts of the book: first, an exploration of the process of Christian formation that includes a detailed analysis of the character of Jesus of Nazareth; secondly some focused psychology aimed at supporting an informed self-awareness in the reader; finally - and the most lengthy section - a series of chapters devoted to using psychological insights to help cultivate the Christ-like characteristics identified in the first section.
Research Fellow position

The Centre for Research in Psychology, Behaviour and Achievement is recruiting a Research Fellow for the new Brain, Belief and Behaviour research group. This is a permanent senior research academic position. The Research Fellow will work closely with the group leader, Dr Miguel Farias, in developing research, publishing, preparing grant proposals, networking and other activities that will contribute to make Coventry University a leading academic centre for the psychology of belief.

The ideal candidate should have a strong background in experimental psychology, with a track record of publications on the topic of religious or secular beliefs, experience of working with large survey data sets and implicit cognitive tests, and a proven ability of co-leading research grants. Experience of collaborating with academics from other subjects (e.g. anthropology, philosophy) is also highly desirable.

For informal enquiries about this post, please email Dr Miguel Farias at miguel.farias@coventry.ac.uk.

Closing Date: 14 May 2015

Interviews Date: 15th June 2015

For more information:
https://staffrecruitment.coventry.ac.uk/tlive_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC107GF.open?VACANCY_ID=6002159vEZ&WVID=18614201zv&LANG=USA

Ph.D. position

PhD Studentships at Coventry University on the Psychology of Belief, Psychobiology of Intensive Meditation, and Anomalous Experiences.

Main Supervisor: Dr Miguel Farias (Leader of the Brain, Belief and Behaviour Group)

Eligibility: UK/EU/International Students

Award Details: Tuition Fees + Bursary £14057 per year

Duration: 3 years Fixed Term (Studentships are available to commence during academic year 15/16 - start date will be specified to successful candidates)

Application deadline: May 18th 2015

Informal enquiries are essential before application; contact Dr. Miguel Farias to discuss this opportunity.

For further details see: http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-students/research-studentships/the-evolution-of-belief-neuro-cognitive-structures-and-psychological-functions/

http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-students/research-studentships/the-psychobiological-effects-of-intensive-meditation/

http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-students/research-studentships/anomalous-experiences-implications-for-mental-health-and-illness/