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/)

**Become a member or renew your membership:**

**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:
   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.
Dear IAPR members,

In the present edition you will find information concerning the funding competition for religious cognition studies from the John Templeton Foundation, a word on the IAPR conference, and forthcoming conferences. Also, check out our first spreading the news section featuring the work of Carissa Sharp from University of Oregon. This newsletter was written with the help of Rosally Aguilar from UNC.

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 some of your work featured in the newsletter, contact me!

Here is my contact information:

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Hello! My name is Carissa Sharp, and I am a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Oregon with Dr. Azim Shariff. I first discovered my passion for the psychology of religion as an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, during which I developed a research project with Dr. Sara D. Hodges, applying the social cognitive measurement of self/other overlap to people’s relationships with God. We found that people who identify as being more religious feel more self/God overlap, and that overlap is independently predicted by both religious conservatism and awareness of God (Hodges, Sharp, Gibson, & Tipsord, 2012).

After my undergraduate degree, I went on to complete a master’s degree in religion at Harvard Divinity School in 2008. While working on my master’s degree I became particularly interested in studying people’s perceived relationships with supernatural others, or what my professor Dr. Robert Orsi called “relationships between heaven and earth” (Orsi, 2004). This interest led me to pursue a Ph.D. in the psychology of religion at the University of Cambridge.

At the University of Cambridge I joined the Psychology and Religion Research Group, working with Drs. Nicholas Gibson and Jason Rentfrow on my dissertation “An Investigation of Cognitive Representations of the Self and Supernatural Others.” I applied social cognitive findings and techniques to the empirical investigation of cognitive representations of God through three research projects:

1) **Self/God overlap**: I continued my undergraduate work on self/other overlap with God, working in collaboration with Dr. Kathryn Johnson on a new version of the traditional Inclusion of Other in the Self Scale (Aron, Aron, & Smollan, 1992), adapted for use with supernatural others. This Self/God Overlap Scale includes a size dimension as well as the original overlap dimension (Sharp, Johnson, & Gibson, in preparation).

2) **Multiplicity within God representations**: I empirically demonstrated multiplicity within God representations using three studies that assessed participants’ descriptions of and judgment speeds regarding Trinity members (Sharp, Rentfrow, & Gibson, in preparation).

3) **God-complexity and The Multiple God-Aspects Framework**: Expanding the idea of the multiplicity of God representations, I developed a measure of God-complexity based on the self-complexity measurement in the social cognition literature. My research showed that higher God-complexity is related to well-being and emotions towards God (see chapter 4 of Sharp, 2012). Currently, I am using the principles of the Multiple Self-Aspects Framework to develop and test hypotheses regarding the structure and function of God representations (Sharp, 2013 – presentation at the IAPR Congress).

During the final year of my Ph.D., I co-wrote a Templeton Foundation grant with Azim Shariff to fund a 2-year postdoc position focusing on religious complexity and prosociality. This ongoing project investigates the complexity of religious beliefs and the relationship between that complexity and prosocial behavior and attitudes towards outgroup members. Looking forward, I intend to continue to research and teach topics related to the field of psychology of religion.

For copies of my dissertation and published papers, please see my academia.edu page at http://uoregon.academia.edu/CarissaSharp, and please feel free to email me for more information about my research: csharp@uoregon.edu.
Short report from the IAPR conference

Back from the IAPR conference!

The conference was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. Prof. Pierre-Yves Brandt and Liudmila Gamaiunova have given us a perfectly organized conference. The conference culminated (both literally and figuratively) with the social event and everybody will for sure remember the amazing landscapes and the delicious fondue.

The IAPR conference was an intellectually rich event. The first pre-conference on methods was a success and the conference program was very exciting with more than 200 abstracts in many different domains: health/clinical, personality/social, cultural, neuro/cognitive, developmental psychology of religion; a rich poster session and the first student poster award; an attractive line-up of keynotes. The field of psychology of religion is definitely growing! If you missed the conference and want to know more about the research presented there, check out the website and the book of abstracts: http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/iapr2013/congress/program/

As shown by our President Vassilis Saroglou, the conference was also a true international one with participants coming from all around the world. Below are the two maps that he presented during the conference with dots representing the weight of each country (bigger dot means more people from this country attended the conference).

Finally, as always for the IAPR conferences, the atmosphere was great. We very much look forward to seeing you in two years for the next IAPR conference!
2013 AASRI International Conference on Social Services

November 15-16, 2013, Singapore

http://www.icss-conf.org

The forum aims to bring together researchers, developers, and users from around the world in both industry and academia for sharing state-of-art results, for exploring new areas of research and development, and to discuss emerging issues facing Social Sciences.

**PAPER SUBMISSION:** Submission System: [https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icss20132](https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icss20132)


**NOTE:** You are invited to contribute papers either in English or Chinese, which must include English title, abstract and references. All accepted papers will be published by Advanced Social Science Letters of American Applied Sciences Research Institute, USA, and will be indexed by Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index - Social Sciences and Humanities (CPCI-SSH).

Science and Religion Congress

August 2015

http://www.sfu.at/

The Congress is organized by Sigmund Freud University (SFU) in Vienna in collaboration with the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR).

The rapid progress of modern sciences and technology led to remarkable insights into the nature of the universe and human life, thus challenging or transforming the former traditional worldviews and narrations. SFU and ISSR both share the view that the dialogue between religious beliefs and modern sciences remains crucial for the 21st century to thoughtfully and carefully reflect on these changes and challenges.

The conference “Science and Religion” will facilitate a space to discuss the achievements of technology and sciences and their impact on traditional religious beliefs and worldviews.

In invited lectures and discussions, internationally renowned scholars and scientific researchers from various disciplines and different backgrounds will jointly analyze the crucial questions of how sciences and or/religions, can or might contribute to our worldviews, education, morality and life styles as well as politics and economics in the 21st century.

The conference is organized in pre-congress-workshops, plenary and keynote-lectures with paper and poster presentations and roundtable discussions.

Contact: Dr. Shiva Khalili, E-Mail: shiva.khalili@sfu.ac.at
The 4th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health will focus on the integration of religion and spirituality into clinical practice. The keynote speakers approach the topic from their specific professional background. The Malta Lecture will be held by Prof. Harold G. Koenig, an expert in this field. Symposia invite for discussion and free communications allow research groups to present their research projects.

**Keynote Speakers**

- Prof. Dr. Donia Baldacchino University of Malta, Malta **Educating Health Care Professionals on Spiritual Care**
- Prof. Dr. med. Arndt Buessing Universität Witten/Herdecke, Germany **Spiritual Care for Patients with Chronic Illness: What Do They Need and How Do They Get It**
- Rev. Prof. Christopher Cook, MD PhD Dep. of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK **Recommendations for Psychiatrists on Spirituality & Religion: The Royal College of Psychiatrists Position Statement**
- Prof. Farr A. Curlin, MD Program on Medicine and Religion, The University of Chicago, IL, USA **What Has Religion to do with the Practice of Medicine?**
- Prof. George Fitchett DMin, PhD Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Il, USA **Assessing Spiritual Needs in a Clinical Setting**
- Rev. Dr. Ewan Kelly NHS Education for Scotland, National Health Service, Edinburgh, UK **Rituals in Pastoral and Medical Care: Bridging the Gap**
- Dr. Piotr Krakowiak Nicolaus Copernicus University Torun, Poland **Who Should Do What? Improving End-of-Life Care in Poland**
- Prof. Dr. Christina Puchalski George-Washington-University Washington, DC, USA **Curricula on Medicine and Spirituality in the US: Between Aspiration and Reality**
- Rev. Prof. John Swinton King’s College University of Aberdeen, UK **Caring for the Mental Ill - a Holistic Approach**
- Dr. Jackie Watts The Open University, London, UK **Role-Models in Health Care: Should Spiritual Care of the Dying be the Concern of Health Professionals?**

**Call for abstract:** Submit your abstract (oral or poster presentations) before December 15th, 2013. Visit [www.ecrsh.eu/abstract](http://www.ecrsh.eu/abstract)

**Pre-Conference Workshop:** Prof. Harold G. Koenig MD and other experts May 18-21, 2014

Preceding the ECRSH14 we invite you to participate in the 4-day Pre-Conference Research Workshop with Prof. Koenig. The center at Duke University used to offer a 1-year post-doctoral fellowship in religion and health, which Prof. Koenig has now compressed into 4-day work-shops like the one being offered here. Mentorship meetings will allow the participants to discuss individual research projects.

The following topics will be discussed: Historical connections between religion & health; Previous research on religion, spirituality and physical as well as mental health; Strengths and weaknesses of previous research; Theological considerations and concerns; Highest priority studies for future research; Strengths and weaknesses of religion/spirituality measures; Designing different types of research projects; Funding and managing a research project; Writing a research paper for publication, getting it published; Presenting research to public audiences, working with the media; Developing an academic career in this area; Overview on RSH research in Europe.

Combined participation on ECRSH14 and on the preconference workshop is possible. The detailed program and payment information may be downloaded from the institute homepage: [www.rish.ch](http://www.rish.ch)
The John Templeton Foundation is launching a $3m funding competition to advance the scientific study of religious cognition.

**Purpose and scope:** Scientific descriptions of how people think about God and gods are currently fragmented across sub-disciplines of the psychological, cognitive, and social sciences. This competition is designed to promote integration of ten existing lines of research and to generate and test new hypotheses that emerge from this integration. Applicants may request up to $250,000 for empirical or conceptual projects of up to 30 months in duration.

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to researchers worldwide. Proposals are encouraged from—but not limited to—scholars in the disciplines of psychology, cognitive science, anthropology, religious studies, sociology, philosophy, linguistics, and computer science.

**Deadline:** October 1, 2013


Note also that the Fall Funding Cycle for open submission is now open, and that proposals relating to all topics within the Foundation’s core funding areas (covering everything from quantum physics to self-regulation to archaeology) are also welcome; visit [https://portal.templeton.org/login](https://portal.templeton.org/login) to apply. The deadline for core area proposals is also October 1.

- Learn more about JTF’s grant making process here: [http://www.templeton.org/what-we-fund/our-grantmaking-process](http://www.templeton.org/what-we-fund/our-grantmaking-process)
- Learn more about John Templeton’s philanthropic vision here: [http://www.templeton.org/sir-john-templeton/philanthropic-vision](http://www.templeton.org/sir-john-templeton/philanthropic-vision)

Information received from Nicholas J. S. Gibson, Ph.D.  
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