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International Society for the Sociology of Religion

Société Internationale de Sociologie des Religions

Network 42

Réseau

April 2012

Published by: Giuseppe Giordan

32nd ISSR Conference

RETHINKING COMMUNITY
RELIGIOUS CONTINUITIES AND MUTATIONS IN LATE MODERNITY

Turku-Åbo, Finland, 27-30 June, 2013

Please make a note of the date and put it in your diary

Description of the conference theme: page 4-5 of this Network and on our Web Site

Deadlines

June 15th 2012: Proposals for Thematic Sessions and Working Groups to be sent to the General Secretary

Session titles and the conveners' names will be published in the next Network and posted on our web site www.sisr-issr.org by **July 2012**

November 15th 2012: Abstracts of proposed papers for sessions to be sent to the convener of the Session, abstracts of miscellaneous papers to be sent to the General Secretary

January 15th 2013: Provisional Programme of the Conference in the first issue of Network of 2013

February 2013: Definite Programme on the Web Site www.sisr-issr.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As is obvious from the previous page, the main business of this current newsletter is to invite you all to think about and plan for next year's meetings of the society, which will take place in Turku, Finland and for which the conference theme will be *Rethinking Community: Religious Continuities and Mutations in Late Modernity*. Mark the dates of 27-30 June 2013 on your calendars and not only plan to attend, but also to participate in the planning of the conference by submitting proposals for thematic and other types of sessions. The quality of the conference depends on our members. Moreover, the thematic sessions are the structural heart of the conference and formulate the specific topics which will translate the general conference theme. Now is the time to plan sessions and to submit corresponding proposals.

The ISSR now has a new, and properly functioning web site, which I invite you to visit at www.sisr-issr.org. We realize that the website has been a problem in the recent past, and we have done our best to rectify this situation with this new web site. Our heartfelt thanks especially to Jim Spickard, who has put a great deal of his time and effort into this new site and deserves our gratitude for doing such an excellent job. Our thanks also to General Secretary, Giuseppe Giordan, and Treasurer, Olivier Servais, whose contributions to the process were far from minimal. One of the most important functioning features of the web site is the ability to join and renew membership online, complete with the ability to pay the membership fees online. Joining or renewing can still be done the old way, by mail, but we believe that most of our members will be able to take advantage of the quicker and more convenient online capabilities.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to visit the site and renew your membership for 2012-2103 as soon as possible; and this not only because participating in next year's conference depends on being a member of the society, but also because we have some important business to which our members have to attend in the very near future. At its last meeting in February, ISSR Council began a process of regularizing and solidifying the legal status of the ISSR, a matter that has become much more urgent as the membership has increased dramatically over the last decade and as the financial situation of the society has greatly improved. The current legal status of the organization leaves the members of Council personally and individually responsible for financial and legal liabilities that the society might incur. The legal environment in Europe has also changed, leaving the society potentially vulnerable unless we secure a more solid legal status as an organization. Accordingly, Council has decided to pursue an appropriate change in status, a change that requires relatively minor adjustments to our statutes. Since all changes to our statutes and therefore the change in legal status require the approval the General Assembly, namely our membership, we will be presenting the proposed changes to our membership for their approval in the near future. This consultation and the vote on this issue will be conducted by email, and, as dictated by our statutes, only current members are eligible to vote. While this may be a relatively minor reason for renewing your membership at this time, it is an important one, and therefore, again, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Finally, again at its last meetings, Council took additional steps to enhance the functioning of the society so as to serve our members better and in more ways. One of these steps was to set aside a new fund, appropriately called the Enhancement Fund, whose purpose will be to help finance additional ISSR events, fora, and research meetings to be held between the biennial conferences. A subcommittee was also formed to come up with procedures and precise criteria for our members to access this fund; we should have those procedures in place by the end of the Turku conference and will at that time be encouraging you all to plan to take advantage of the possibilities the fund offers.

Peter Beyer
ISSR President

32nd ISSR - CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE THEME

RETHINKING COMMUNITY: RELIGIOUS CONTINUITIES AND MUTATIONS IN LATE MODERNITY

Since the beginning of sociological study of religion the close interactions between religion and community life have been emphasised. For a long time, social scientists have discussed if religious communities are either cohesive, divisive or both - and have thereby taken the notion of "religious community" for granted. In recent research, however, the concept of religious community itself has come into question. Whereas some "classical" forms of parishes and congregations continue to operate, recent studies in sociology of religion have shown important new phenomena arising. On the one hand, seemingly constant forms of congregations change in central ways, e.g. growing into megachurches, resorting to marketing and branding, and operating in new transnational ways. On the other hand, globalisation, mediatization and individualization lead to completely new phenomena, for example liquid, festive, virtual and mediatized religious communities. This international conference will give the opportunity to analyze these continuities and mutations both theoretically and empirically.

Plenary 1

Continuities and mutations in classic and diasporic communities

Plenary 2

Continuities and mutations in spectacular, liquid and virtual communities

Possible topics for thematic sessions and papers

The Local Committee has suggested the following topics for the Thematic Sessions, with reference to the general conference theme, 'Rethinking Community: Religious continuities and mutations in late modernity':

Religion and Social Cohesion
Religion and Social Welfare
Religion and New Media
Religion and Transformation of the public Sphere
New Urban Rituals
Governance of Religion
Religious Conflict
Transnational Religious Communities
Religious Nationalism
Ethno-religious Communities
Parishes and Congregations
"Community" as a Political Concept

Please note: although thematic sessions which relate to the general conference theme are welcome, thematic sessions are not tied to the general conference theme.

EACH CONVENER

MAY ONLY ORGANIZE

ONE THEMATIC SESSION OR ONE WORKING GROUP

Conveners should send to the General Secretary
(generalsecretary.issr@unipd.it)

BEFORE the 15th of JUNE 2012

the title of the proposed session, in English **and** French

and the rationale of the Session

(100 words in each of the two languages of the ISSR)

mentioning also their institutional affiliation and their email address

Structure of the programme

Hours	Thursday 27 th	Friday 28 th	Saturday 29 th	Sunday 30 th
8:45 - 10:30	10:00 – 18:30 Registration	Plenary Session 1	Thematic Sessions 5	Plenary Session 2
11:00 - 12:45	10:00: Council Meeting Free Networking	Thematic Sessions 2	Thematic Sessions 6	Thematic Sessions 8
14:15 – 16:00	Opening Session [Local Committee]	Thematic Sessions 3	Thematic Sessions 7	Thematic Sessions 9
16:15 – 18:00	Thematic Sessions 1	Thematic Sessions 4	Linguistic Groups	Thematic Sessions 10
18:30	Welcome Party	General Assembly	The Karel Dobbelaere Lecture	Council Meeting
			19:30 Dinner	

“Thematic Sessions” is the space reserved for Thematic sessions, New Researchers Forum, Miscellaneous sessions, Working Groups...

The conference will end on Sunday at 18.00, except if we have so many demands for sessions that we will need to organize an 11th session.

Please keep in mind that:

- **to submit a session proposal or a paper you need to be a ISSR member;**
- **no matter what payment method you choose, you will find all information on the ISSR website**

www.sisr-issr.org

Please inform the General Secretariat of changes in address:

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trentin.issr@libero.it

or

Giuseppe Giordan, General Secretary

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HOW TO REACH US ?

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All the NEWS regarding our members, vacant academic positions, books, calls and international meetings are posted in our website

www.sisr-issr.org