

## Letter from the President

Since January 2020, the world has experienced profound disruptions and unprecedented dislocations. The last several months were exceptionally challenging. The global COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to adjust or change our lives to a “new normal,” ways we could never have imagined. This is manifest in our families, local communities and in our own lives in myriad ways. The pandemic crisis has had deleterious effects on the ISA/RC22 body, members, and programs. Our hearts and prayers are with those who lost family members, loved ones, and those who are in critical health condition at this time. The pandemic also led to the cancellation of the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, Brazil in August 2020 and its subsequent change to a virtual Forum in February 23-28, 2021.

Alas! The Fourth ISA Virtual Forum on Sociology is now upon us. In spite of any teething logistical and technical problems faced by the ISA Executive and Secretariat in the planning stages, the good news is that they have managed to pull through a robust academic program, albeit virtually. We cannot escape to mention the immense role and dedication of Mar Griera (RC22 Vice President), Eloisa Martin and Juan Esquivel (as Program Coordinators) in providing us with an RC22 academic program drawn out with exciting themes in numerous inviting sessions.

These are also difficult times financially, dwindling economies that would have hampered some members’ participation at the Forum, especially from the global South. The ISA Solidarity Fund Initiative and RC22 Grants were added impetus to cushion registration and membership fees for some members. Our profound appreciation goes to the ISA Executive, but in particular, Geoffrey Pleyers (Vice-President for Research) for his timely support and magnanimity. For those who are attending and presenting papers at the Forum, we look forward to your participation in daily RC22 sessions as well as attendance at the RC22 Business meeting on February 26 (see program as listed on page 2-3).

Our warm appreciation goes to the Board who have continued to work with RC22 officers during these challenging times in furthering our collective goals and visions. We are excited and look forward to working together to serving you better, and in moving RC22 to even greater academic heights.

Please look out for further information and save the dates for our future events including the RC22 midterm conference in Lithuania (November 11-14, 2021), and the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia (July 24-30, 2022) respectively. Thanks to you all for supporting ISA/RC22 events and programs. Looking forward to seeing you at the virtual Forum.

Collegially,

Afe Adogame, Princeton, NJ. USA.  
[president@isa-rc22.org](mailto:president@isa-rc22.org)



[International Sociological Association](#)

[RC22 – Sociology of Religion](#)

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## IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 23-28, 2021

### “Challenges of the 21st Century”

Dear RC22 Colleagues and participants at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Despite the pandemic context, we are looking forward to our virtual meeting in a few days, from Tuesday 23rd to Sunday 28th of February. A few matters for your information.

#### 1. The ISA Forum website

Please look at the ISA Forum Website before the 23rd to orientate yourself.

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2021>

You may create your own schedule for the Forum.

[https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/meeting\\_app.cgi](https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/meeting_app.cgi)

OR

From the landing page, scroll down and click on the “Online Program 2021” at the bottom right of the page.

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2021>

To avoid confusions with the time zones, at the bottom of the page you can choose between having all times in Brazilian time or your own time.

#### 2. Your paper and session

The **Speaker Centre page** is very informative and gives you detailed instructions about your presentation, and some tips for Zoom if you are not familiar with it.

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/speakercenter.cgi>

Also, the **"Meeting resources" page** is quite useful to better use Zoom:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/meetingapp.cgi/ModuleMeetingInfo/0>

A few summarized **points to remember**:

- Please click on the Zoom link 20 minutes before the session is due to start.
- Please ensure you know how to share your screen if you have a presentation.
- If you are presenting in a language other than English, please ensure your PowerPoint is in English.

#### 3. The RC22 Business meeting

The RC22 Business meeting will take place on **Friday, 26 February at 10.45 AM (Porto Alegre time)**.

We are looking forward to engaging in a few days.

Best regards

*Mar Griera, Eloísa Martin, Juan Cruz Esquivel (RC22 Program coordinators)*



#### Why your RC Membership Matters

1. Membership in the ISA as a whole (\$35-\$225 for 4 years, depending on your country; half that for students)
2. Membership on the Research Committees. (\$10-\$30, depending on your country)

Joining RC-22 accomplishes two things:

- First, the number of members we have determines how many sessions we get at the World Congress and at other conferences. Your RC membership gives more people a chance to participate in these events.
- Second, we use the money from dues to fund interim-conferences, special events at the main conferences, and the Varga Prize for New Generation Scholars. This helps build our discipline and makes our get-togethers more fun.

**If you are not an RC- 22 Member, please join!**

**If your membership has lapsed, please renew it asap!**

## IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 23-28, 2021

"Challenges of the 21st Century"

**RC22 sessions are on the following themes:**

***All times are set to Porto Alegre local time zone***

### **Tuesday, 23 February 2021**

- 07:00 - 08:30 [252 Religion, Spirituality and Morality in a Post-Secular Age](#)  
 08:45 - 10:15 [253 Religiosity in Transition; Change of Roles Over the Time](#)  
 14:00 - 15:30 [254 Religion and Practical Ethics: Bioethics, Environmental Ethics and Legal Ethics](#)  
 15:45 - 17:15 [255 Wtf? \("What the Faith?"\) - Peering Anew into the Conceptual Domains of "Religion", "God", "Spirituality", "Faith" and Related Constructs](#)

### **Wednesday, 24**

- 07:00 - 08:30 [256 Religion, Spirituality and Morality in a Post-Secular Age II](#)  
 08:45 - 10:15 [257 Entanglements among science, religion and spirituality in COVID times](#)  
 12:15 - 13:45 [258 Religious, Spiritual and/or Non-Religious Young People](#)  
 14:00 - 15:30 [259 Overlapping Trajectories: Religion, Migration, and Health Paths](#)

### **Thursday, 25**

- 07:00 - 08:30 [260 Early Career Sociologists of Religion Session II](#)  
 08:45 - 10:15 [261 Religion on the Edge: Transversalities, Hybrids and the Presence of Religion in Different Social Spheres](#)  
 12:15 - 13:45 [JS-34 Religion, Environment, and Social Movements](#)  
 14:00 - 15:30 [JS-39 Culture, Religion, and Gender Inequality](#)

### **Friday, 26**

- 07:00 - 08:30 [262 Revisiting 'religion' from a Gender Perspective](#)  
 08:45 - 10:15 [263 RC22 Business Meeting](#)  
 12:15 - 13:45 [264 The Public Role of Religion](#)  
 14:00 - 15:30 [JS-62 Religions, Social Movements and Politics Circulation, Production and Politics of Knowledge in the "Christianisms of Liberation" and Its Adversaries](#)

### **Saturday, 27**

- 07:00 - 08:30 [265 Early Career Sociologists of Religion Session](#)  
 08:45 - 10:15 [266 Beyond Western Centrism of Religion: To Study Africa Inspired Religions in the 21st Century](#)  
 12:15 - 13:45 [267 Civil Society and Religion](#)



### **Visit the RC22 Website**

RC22 has its own website at [www.isa-rc22.org](http://www.isa-rc22.org)

It contains:

- an overview of the Research Committee,
- past and present newsletters,
- notice of ISA and RC conferences,
- funding opportunities,
- and an extensive news and events blog world.

Visit us online!

## Conference Announcement

### [The 36th Conference of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion](#)

“Religion in Global/Local Perspective: Diffusion, Migration, Transformation”

12 - 15 July 2021, Online

The content, boundaries and role of religion vary across the globe. Globalization brings about the encounter and transfiguration of worldviews and ways of life and yet religion, like much else, is a glocal phenomenon, as the local context is still determinative. Migration, labor mobility and travel lead to the diffusion of religion, but also to the questioning of religious boundaries and their potential transformation. The difference between religion, spirituality, culture, and nonreligion become themselves diffuse and even blurred. People feel, rediscover and redefine their religious and non-religious horizons in new ways through their everyday lives. This conference highlights the transnational, global and local character of these issues and aims to explore the nature of religious diffusion, encounters, and transformation.

- [Submit a paper proposal](#) : deadline **28 February 2021**
- This year, due to the special conditions of an online conference, you will be asked to register as a member or renew your membership **before 1 March 2021** to confirm your submission (in the eventuality of your paper being rejected by the conference, your membership fees will be reimbursed).
- **50% Digital Conference fees!**
  - Ordinary members: 70 Euros (to benefit from this preferential rate, it is indispensable to become a member)
  - Reduced fee: 35 Euros
  - Non-members: 85 Euros

#### Call for the ISSR Best Article Award

The ISSR invites nominations for an award for the best article in the sociology of religion. Journal articles published in 2019 or in 2020 in French or English may be nominated by the author(s) or ISSR members by sending a nomination letter and the article in electronic format to the Chair of the ISSR Best Article Award Committee, Yannick Fer: [yannik.fer@ens.fr](mailto:yannik.fer@ens.fr)

#### Call for the ISSR Student Paper Award:

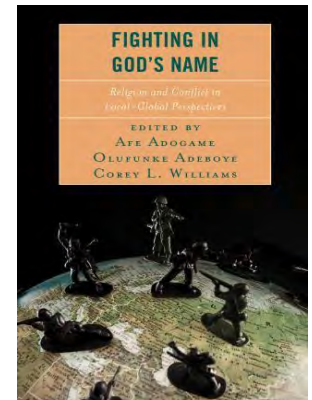
The ISSR invites nominations for an award for the best first published paper by a graduate student or candidate who has received their doctorate in the last five years. Papers published in 2019 or in 2020 in French or English may be nominated by the author(s) or ISSR members by sending a nomination letter and the article in electronic format to the Chair of the ISSR Student Paper Award Committee, Jörg Stolz: [joerg.stolz@unil.ch](mailto:joerg.stolz@unil.ch)

The new deadline for both article awards is now **28 February 2021**.

The winner or winners will receive their awards at the 2021 ISSR Conference. They will be reimbursed their registration fees and receive a 500 Euro reward. Candidates must be in good standing for the current membership period



### New Book



#### **FIGHTING IN GOD'S NAME: RELIGION AND CONFLICT IN LOCAL-GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

**Edited by Afe Adogame,  
Olufunke Adeboye, and  
Corey L. Williams**

**Lexington, 2020**

Fighting in God's Name: Religion and Conflict in Local-Global Perspectives provides a critical, inter-disciplinary exploration of the relationship between religion, conflict, violence, and tolerance from local-global perspectives. It focuses mainly on theoretical issues and approaches with contrasting case studies drawn from Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America, and South Asia.

More Information:

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498539944/Fighting-in-God's-Name-Religion-and-Conflict-in-Local-Global-Perspectives>

## Conference Announcement

### 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

#### “Communicating Religion’s Relevance”

- **Location: A specially designed virtual conference platform**
- **Dates: 3 days between August 7 – August 10**

Although scholars of religion are keenly aware of the relevance of religion in today’s world, too many social elites and academics diminish religion’s importance. Even scholars who know better sometimes fail to explain how religion permeates nearly every aspect of contemporary life. As sociologists of religion, we understand religion’s relevance to individuals and its consequences in the social, cultural, political, and economic spheres. This year’s conference invites scholars to reflect on religion’s continuing – and in some areas increasing – relevance to society.

We invite session and paper proposals on several key topics:

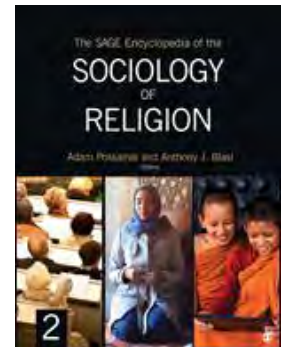
- What can sociologists of religion do to communicate religion’s relevance to their (our) fellow academics and to the broader public?
- Are there ways that various sectors of our society have misunderstood, or failed to fully understand, religion? How can sociologists of religion speak to this problem?
- How do social and political elites, as well as ordinary citizens, employ religion when communicating about, or working to address, issues of local, national, or international concern?
- How do social actors, including social movement leaders, draw upon religion and religious narratives to frame social problems and/or appeal to human cognition, emotion, and morality?
- What are religion’s unique features that distinguish it from other social phenomenon and help explain its distinct capacity to influence human and social life?
- How, and under what circumstances, does religion contribute to new forms of identity, community, meaning, expression, moral conviction, and social control? How do we, as sociologists of religion, communicate religion’s relevance in these facets of our lives, to others?

Paper and session proposals may speak to these themes, **or they may engage with any topic relevant to the sociology of religion.** We especially encourage proposals that pursue and stimulate new avenues of research and/or innovative theoretical and/or methodological approaches. Specialty sessions are also welcome, including book salons, teaching and professional development, and discussions that focus on a particular question of interest. We are very excited about our upcoming conference and the opportunities it will provide for intellectual interchange. Indeed, if people are interested in developing and structuring sessions in an especially creative manner, we are open to different (but feasible) approaches. Please email Program Chair Brian Starks ([starksasr@gmail.com](mailto:starksasr@gmail.com)) to discuss any ideas you have and how we might accommodate them.

- **DEADLINES - Session proposals: March 31, 2021**  
**Paper abstract submissions: April 30, 2021**
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** All session and abstract submissions should be made through your membership portal on the [ASR website](#)
- Membership in the ASR is required for organizing or convening a session, presenting a paper, serving as a panelist, or holding another role in the program. All are expected to register for the meeting by July 1, 2021. For questions, contact Brian Starks ([bstarks3@kennesaw.edu](mailto:bstarks3@kennesaw.edu)) James Cavendish ([jcavendi@usf.edu](mailto:jcavendi@usf.edu)), or Rachel Kraus ([ASREO@bsu.edu](mailto:ASREO@bsu.edu)).



## New Book



### The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion

Edited by Adam Possamai, and Anthony J. Blasi

Sage, 2020

The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion takes a three-pronged look at this, namely investigating the role of religion in society; unpacking and evaluating the significance of religion in and on human history; and tracing and outlining the social forces and influences that shape religion.

More Information:

<https://au.sagepub.com/en-gb/ocw/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-the-sociology-of-religion/book245093#description>

## Conference Announcement

### [A virtual symposium celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Michigan State University's African Atlantic Research Team](#)

**"African Diaspora Religion in Human Knowledge: Traditions, Horizons, Transcendence"**

**October 15 - 17, 2021, East Lansing, Michigan**

Sacred ideas and practices of members of the African Diaspora's Western expansion have shaped fundamental knowledge about religion in the Americas' varied, ever-evolving religious landscape since the earliest days of European conquest and empire. Yet academic research and scholarship affords only peripheral recognition and episodic theoretical significances related to "black lives matter." The African Atlantic Research Team (AART) of Michigan State University has worked to elevate this religion discourse while mentoring generations of scholars of color and marks its 25th Anniversary by convening a multi-disciplinary symposium on "African Diaspora Religion in Human Knowledge: Traditions, Horizons, Transcendence."

AART's virtual Symposium, slated for October 2021, invites senior, junior, and emerging scholar-researchers to a cross-discipline dialogue on new horizons of research and scholarship about religious traditions forged to transcend material, spiritual, and knowledge impositions of western hemispheric modernity. We honor the trailblazing scholarship of Roger Bastide, Irene Diggs, W.E.B. Du Bois, Melville Herskovits, Benjamin Mays, Don Fernando Ortiz, William H. Pipes, Hortense Powdermaker, Newbell N. Puckett and Carter G. Woodson among others who pioneered a foundation of expanded academic discourse for such fields as anthropology, folklore, history, religion and sociology. In so honoring, we seek to chart new directions of research scholarship that engage African Diaspora sacred activities as related to theoretical and conceptual significance for human knowledge.

The AART Symposium gives focused attention to religious practices operating within distinctive modalities of time and space that render the traditions opaque within and transcendent of normative boundaries of familiarity. Our objective is to engage religion in the Americas by revealing the African Diaspora as an enduring global social phenomenon with important contributions to humankind's sacred and religious expressions.

Our Symposium will also honor the profound legacy of the late, pre-eminent Historian of Religions, Professor Charles Houston Long, who inspired AART's intellectual passion for deciphering African descendants' meaning and knowledge production in global conditions of prolonged duress, as well as for addressing innovative strategies for teaching and mentoring in the field. Please share this [SAVE THE DATE announcement](#) with researchers, scholars, educators, and serious others who may wish to attend this historic event.

To receive further updates, complete the online Response Form <https://forms.gle/xH5Dh18kT3AAnMT86>

Contact Us at: [aart.symposium@gmail.com](mailto:aart.symposium@gmail.com)



## New Book



### **RELIGION AND PRISON: An Overview of Contemporary Europe**

**Edited by Julia Martínez-Ariño,  
Anne-Laure Zwillig**

**Springer, 2020**

This volume offers a European overview of the management of religious diversity in prisons and provides readers with rich empirical material and a comparative perspective. The chapters combine both legal and sociological approaches. Coverage for each country includes historical background, current penitentiary organization, and recent changes or trends. In their exploration of legal aspects, the contributors look at such factors as the status of prison chaplains and regulations concerning religious practice and religious freedom. These include meals, prayers, and visits. The sociological analysis examines religious discrimination in prison, church-prison relations, conversion and proselytism, and more.

More Information:

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030368333>

## Conference Announcement

### [15<sup>th</sup> The European Sociological Association conference](#)

#### “Sociological Knowledges for Alternative Futures”

31. Aug – 3 Sep. 2021, Barcelona / Spain

ESA is an academic association of sociologists and a non-profit Europe-wide association made up of 2800 members.

It was established in 1994-95, following deliberations and consultations among sociologists from a diverse range of countries.

**The Abstract submission deadline is on 15 February 2021.**

[Submit your abstract via ConfTool 2021](#)

## Call for Papers

### [Transformations of Latin American Catholicism since the mid-20th Century for \*International Journal of Latin American Religions\*](#)

The International Journal of Latin American Religions (IJLAR) invites researchers to submit manuscripts to a thematic section focused on considerable relatively recent changes in Latin American Catholicism. The pluralization of the religious field that has marked most Latin American countries and the new social dynamic that has led to new political experiences and ideological spectrums both present themselves as important ingredients of the analytical background in Latin American Catholicism transformations. Under the impact of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and countless socio-economic transformations, Catholicism in the region has also experienced significant mutations, presenting new amalgamations and social expressions. The thematic section will gather articles presenting research results from various disciplines and academic perspectives dealing with many contemporary expressions of Catholicism in the Latin American region since the mid-20th century.

This thematic section will be part of the second issue of volume 5, to be published in December 2021, and will have as guest editors Dr. Renata Siuda-Ambroziak, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Poland, and Dr. Rodrigo Coppe Caldeira, Pontifical University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

**Submissions are due by June 30, 2021.**



## Book Launch Series

[The Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalization](#) is proud to launch a book forum series!

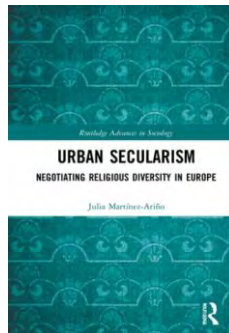
[More Information](#)



## New Book

### URBAN SECULARISM: Negotiating Religious Diversity in Europe

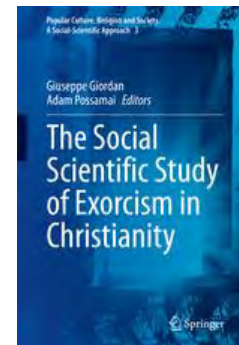
By Julia Martínez-Ariño  
Routledge, 2020



While French *laïcité* is often considered something fixed, its daily deployment is rather messy. What might we learn if we study the governance of religion from a dynamic bottom-up perspective? Using an ethnographic approach, this book examines everyday secularism *in the making*. How do city actors understand, frame and govern religious diversity? Which local factors play a role in those processes? In *Urban Secularism: Negotiating Religious Diversity in Europe*, Julia Martínez-Ariño brings the reader closer to the entrails of *laïcité*. She provides detailed accounts of the ways religious groups, city officials, municipal employees, secularist actors and other civil-society organisations negotiate concrete public expressions of religion. Drawing on rich empirical material, the book demonstrates that urban actors draw and (re-)produce dichotomies of inclusion and exclusion, and challenge static conceptions of *laïcité* and the nation. Illustrating how urban, national and international contexts interact with one another, the book provides researchers with a deeper understanding of the multilevel governance of religious diversity.

More Information:  
<https://www.routledge.com/Urban-Secularism-Negotiating-Religious-Diversity-in-Europe/Martinez-Ariño/p/book/9780367335670>

## New Book



### The Social Scientific Study of Exorcism in Christianity

Edited by Adam Possamai, and  
Giuseppe Giordan  
Springer Nature, 2020

This book presents an academic analysis of exorcism in Christianity. It not only explores the crisis and drama of a single individual in a fight against demonic possession but also looks at the broader implications for the society in which the possessed lives. In recognition of this, coverage includes case studies from various geographical areas in Europe, North and South America, and Oceania.

More Information:  
<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030431723>



## Officers, Board, and other Leadership, 2018-2022

The RC22 leadership team consists of three Officers and ten Board Members, plus appointees for special projects. The Board and Officers serve for four-year terms, beginning and ending with the [ISA World Congresses](#). Each major world region is represented. The Past President serves on the Board *ex officio*.



**President:** Afe ADOGAME, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA

**Vice-President :** Mar GRIERA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Secretary/Treasurer:** *vacant*

### Board Members

#### Africa

Lovemore NDLOVU, Zimbabwe

Michael OKYEREFU, University of Ghana, Ghana

#### Asia/Australia/Pacific

Hossein GODAZGAR, University of Warwick, UK SAKURAI

Yoshihide, Hokkaido University, Japan

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Juan Cruz ESQUIVEL, National Research Council, Argentina

#### North America

Jualynne DODSON, Michigan State University, USA

Conrad HACKETT, Pew Research Center, USA

Past President: Jim SPICKARD, University of Redlands, USA

### Contribute to Our Next Newsletter or Blog

1) Tell us about the sociology of religion in your part of the world: We'll publish short pieces in future newsletters of 500-750 words from members. Please send them to [newsletter@isa-rc22.org](mailto:newsletter@isa-rc22.org)

2) Write a think-piece about the sociology of religion. What direction do you think our discipline needs to go? What are the cutting-edge issues? What projects do you find most exciting? We'd like short pieces (up to 750 words) that are scholarly but also provocative. Please send them to [newsletter@isa-rc22.org](mailto:newsletter@isa-rc22.org)

3) Tell us about your books and awards. We'll publish significant news from members as space allows, and will post such news on our blog.

Send material to: [newsletter@isa-rc22.org](mailto:newsletter@isa-rc22.org)