

NEWSLETTER

ISA RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

■ FORUM

V ISA Forum of Sociology

■ NEWSLETTER

New Publications &
Call for sessions

■ SOCIAL MEDIA

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V ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY RABAT, MOROCCO 6-11 JULY 2025

#ISAforum25 #Morocco

KNOWING JUSTICE IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

The V ISA Forum of Sociology will take place in Rabat, Morocco on July 6-11, 2025. This is the first ISA Forum to be held in the region and specifically in a country that is known for being at the crossroads of civilizations spanning the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa.

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A MESSAGE FROM RC22 PRESIDENT

by Mar Griera



Dear members and friends of the RC22,

Welcome to the latest newsletter from RC22. I have three important updates to share with you.

First, in July 2025, the V ISA Forum will be held in Rabat, Morocco, and the call for sessions is now open. I encourage you to submit proposals to organize sessions that address relevant, interesting, or emerging topics in the sociology of religion. The more session proposals we have, the richer the debate and vitality of the sociology of religion will be.

Second, I am also using this newsletter to introduce you to the new members of the board. Titus Hjelm, Professor at the University of Helsinki and renowned Editor of the journal *Sociology of Religion*, is the association's new Vice-President by decision of the board. Additionally, Olga Olivas Hernández, a researcher at the Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Mexico) and lecturer at UC San Diego, has taken on the role of Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. We appreciate their service. Both are excellent scholars, and it is a pleasure to have them as part of RC22 board.

We must also thank Daniel Valdez Márquez, a postdoctoral researcher at COLEF (Mexico), for accepting the position of Communication Officer of the ISA. Thanks to him, we have this newsletter, and we have also created an Instagram account for the committee @isa_rc22. We are grateful for his work.

Finally, I would like to announce that on July 22nd, we will have our meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, as part of the ACSRAL conference, the Association for the Study of Religion in Latin America. Follow us on social media (twitter/instagram: @isa_rc22) and you'll be updated.

Let's stay in touch,

Very best wishes,

Prof. Mar Griera
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
President@isa-rc22.org

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This unique geographic location, and the campus of Mohammed V University where we will be hosted, is the perfect setting for the intense intellectual debates that are foreseen around the theme "Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene". The dates of the Forum provide us with the opportunity to engage these debates in our Forum and in a sociological film festival that will be open to the public, just before the city will turn its gaze from sociology to football as host of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

TOP NEWS IN THIS MONTH

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The Forum will bring together sociologists from around the world to unpack this complex theme. Our point of departure lies in the recognition of the Anthropocene and the environmental concerns that accompany it. This word entered our lexicon at the turn of the Millennium when geologists first began to identify what they considered to be irreversible geological traces of human societies on the planet. In March 2024, the 'scientists' (according to a New York Times reporter) decided that no, we were not really in a new geological epoch. But the journalist noted that the term had already gained so much importance in anthropology and history that it will most likely stay relevant in societies. This situation of contested knowledges is precisely what we will tackle in Rabat.

What does it mean to "know" in the context of the Anthropocene? Whose knowledge counts? What forms of knowing (understood in its feminist and relational sense) are prioritized, and with what consequences, in societal change? While some sub-disciplines have been actively contributing to academic and public debates, sociology writ large has not been at the center of these debates regarding the conditions of living with and in the Anthropocene. How might engaging the sociological imagination in discussions of the Anthropocene better equip sociologists and citizens to contribute to these public debates about our individual and collective capacities to live together in such an epoch?

This brings us to the question of justice. How do we know what is fair and just? Can we forge new understandings of justice for the Anthropocene? What can sociology contribute to how we know justice among knowledges (ontological and epistemic justice) or about aspects of our social worlds, such as environmental justice, legal justice, transitional justice, land justice, water justice, interspecies justice, racial justice, ethnic justice, or gender justice? What new questions are opened about these types of relations when the conditions of the Anthropocene are taken seriously?

This broad theme provides a space for dialogue within and across ISA's 67 Research Committees (RCs), Working Groups (WGs), and Thematic Groups (TGs). We invite all sociologists from all walks of life and all corners of the earth to join us in Rabat in 2025!

Allison Marie Loconto

VP for Research & V ISA Forum President

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Mark Gould. "Islam, Christianity, and the Development of Machine Capitalism: The Weber Thesis Revisited,"

Max Weber characterized the values constituted in ascetic Protestantism that resulted in an inner-worldly asceticism. Karl Marx elucidated the first stage of manufacture, the first stage of capitalism characterized by precapitalist production processes and a capitalist valorization process, by constant returns to scale, by the formal subsumption of labor under capital. Marx told us that during the first stage of manufacture there were no objective constraints mandating capital accumulation; instead, the motivation, when present, was subjective. When ascetic Protestant values interpenetrated an economy at the first stage of manufacture, they generated the spirit of capitalism, which resulted in systematic and sustained capital accumulation. My reconceptualization of Protestant religious commitments clarifies how they led to the rationalization of the first stage of manufacture and thus resulted in systematic capital accumulation leading to machine capitalism. My characterization of religious commitment in (Sunni) Islam shows that while the economic preconditions for the development of machine capitalism, the first stage of manufacture, were sometimes present in Islamic lands, Islamic religious commitments neither rationalized economic production nor created a tendency toward capital accumulation. In consequence, they did not result in machine capitalism.

Available at:

www.pennpress.org/journals/journal/capitalism/

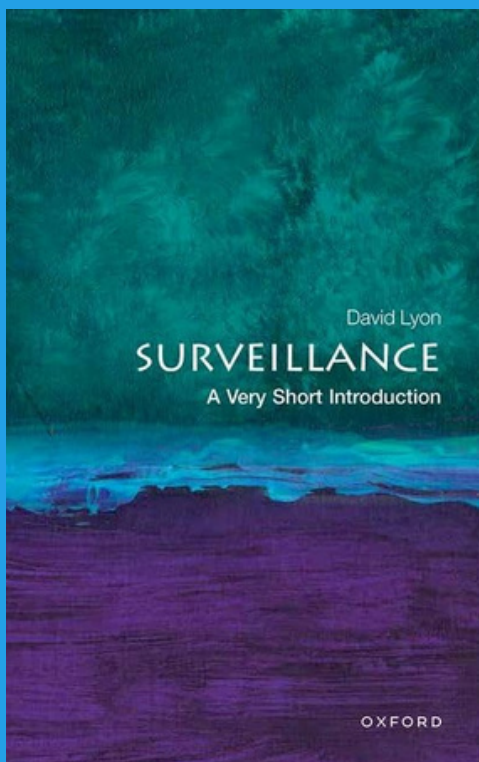


CAPITALISM

A Journal of History and Economics

Volume 4.2 | Summer 2023

Available at: [/www.amazon.co.uk/Surveillance-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0198796846](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Surveillance-Very-Short-Introduction-Introductions/dp/0198796846)



David Lyon

New book project

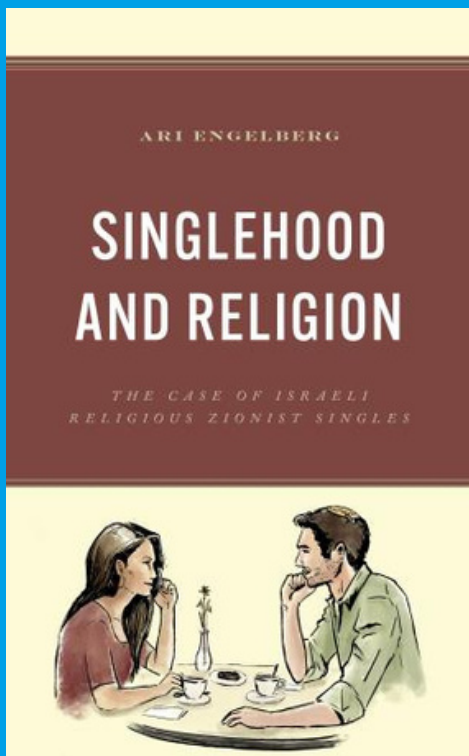
Surveillance and the Eye of God: Medieval Roots, Modern Shoots

Surveillance is sometimes spoken of as a God's eye view of the world. This idea is explored in relation to the 'objective gaze' of disengaged reason in the Enlightenment and its technologically-reinforced modes in the twenty-first century. The rise of the eye-centred viewpoint is coincident with the 'great disembedding' of individuals from the social. This in turn also prompted the self-disciplines of modernity, which are now key aspects of the power-base of modern institutions. A crucial moment in this shift was Bentham's panopticon proposal, in which the knowledge regime of secularism started to shape social imaginaries in relation to surveillance. While secular omniscience was sought through the surveillance gaze, and explored later in the work of Foucault, Debord and others, the eye-centred view is not without critics. We draw upon some biblical resources, notably, the story of Hagar, that query the centrality of 'objective vision'. Instead, an ethic of care is proposed, based in part on a fresh understanding of the 'eye of God'. It is argued that the implications of the care ethic go far deeper than current appeals to privacy, data protection, civil liberties or human rights.

Available at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0953946813509334?icid=int.sj-full-text.similar-articles.2>

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Available at:
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781666920338/Singlehood-and-Religion-The-Case-of-Israeli-Religious-Zionist-Singles>

Ari Engelberg

Singlehood and Religion, The Case of Israeli Religious Zionist Singles

Many Western societies have seen the age of marriage rising in late modern times. While conservative religious denominations often decry gender egalitarianism and liberal society's sexual norms for contributing to this development, many individuals belonging to such denominations are still part of this trend. This book focuses on one such group, Israeli Religious Zionists. Drawing on ethnographic research, Ari Engelberg explains why the numbers of Religious Zionist singles have risen, describes how these adults deal with social marginalization and spiritual challenges, and how the community leadership has responded. On a theoretical level, the book exposes the role that intimacy plays in late modern individualization processes and at the same time offers an in-depth view of Religious Zionist "lived religion".

Roberto Cipriani

Uncertain faith: A multi-method approach

More than 25 years after the previous survey, the state of religion in Italy in 2017 was surveyed. This time a more challenging mixed methodology was used following both quantitative (with 3238 questionnaires administered according to criteria of statistical representativeness) and qualitative (with 164 in-depth interviews, in various Italian locations) criteria. For over half a century, there has been talk of secularization and the end of religion. What is being recorded all this time, actually, is a decline in religious practice. Meanwhile, there has been an expansion of a kind of religious area that goes beyond Church membership. There is also talk of uncertain faith meaning that a troubled and reflexive kind of belief continues to exist. At present, a new conceptual category is emerging more and more, that of Church as religion, meaning that the Church itself has become religion and begun to replace the content of faith.



Available at:
Social Compass, Volume 70, issue 4
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00377686231219801>

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CONTRIBUTIONS BY OUR MEMBERS

XX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, MELBOURNE: A VISTA OF POSSIBILITIES AND DIALOGUE

Sumedha Dutta



The discipline of sociology is all about the interpretive understanding of human societies, and the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, manifested this very ethos of our discipline in all its grandeur, as a massive gathering of delegates hailing from 107 countries, presented papers in multiple panels and RCs, in the home of the Kulin Nation Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, in Melbourne, Australia. The specificities of the culture of the land were highlighted right from the inaugural session itself, as we paid our tributes to the elders and ancestors, while acknowledging their sovereignty.

Interestingly, the performances entitled “Welcome to Country”, deeply resonated with the rituals of the tribes in my own homeland, India, and I was left reflecting on the central premise of all indigenous cultures worldwide, which is about a peaceful and harmonious co-existence with nature, and how imperative it is to go back to these indigenous knowledge systems, to tackle the devastating effects of climate change, that threaten to alter the realities of human and non-human existence on this planet, thanks to the never ending needs of “modern” civilizations.

The welcome reception was a refreshing start to the Congress, as we got to interact with sociologists from across the globe, over some delectable Australian cuisine and wine, which added extra flavors to the already rich texture of conversations that unfolded amongst sociologists of different genres and generations. While navigating through the sea of presenters and panelists, and trying to locate members from my core RC, RC 22, I ran into Cecilia, who was in communication with me, and thus began my journey of discovering the amazing members of this RC, in person. As Cecilia introduced me to Maria, who in turn got me introduced to Geoffrey, Afe, Ana, Rafael, Ruth, Ryan, Joerg, Kris, Roberta, Olga, Paul, Barbara, and the other members and office bearers of our RC, and as we discussed and debated on the various manifestations of religion and non-religion across the globe in the sessions as well as in our business and lunch meetings, I was bowled over at the humility and humaneness of the esteemed members, being more than convinced that this was the place to which I belong.

The most exciting part of the conference, and my association with RC 22, was however reserved for the penultimate day, as we were headed for the Australian football match between Essendon Bombers (Melbourne) and Port Adelaide (The Power), to be witnessed from the prestigious Member’s Pavilion of the Melbourne Cricket Club, at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Thanks to Bob and his amazing team who were coordinating the event, we got to witness how people in Australia construct the idea of entertainment, how they conceptualize football and sportsmanship, and how football in turn defines the Australian identity. This was indeed the perfect finish to my immersive experience, post an exhausting run of four paper presentations in various RCs, elections and connections, and I was only too grateful to have chosen RC 22 as my home RC, and in turn, being chosen by it! Indebted!!

Dr. Sumedha Dutta

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology, Central University of Punjab, India.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ACSRAL AND ITS CONFERENCE

Néstor Da Costa
Universidad Católica de Uruguay



The Latin American Association for the Social Sciences of Religion is an academic organization that brings together researchers studying the religious phenomenon in the region. It was founded in 1994 to promote exchange, reflection, and research on religious phenomena in the region, give visibility to existing production, and encourage young researchers' training.

The research topics developed in the subcontinent are broad and varied due to the vastness of Latin America and its different realities. The existence of the Association has opened up possibilities for academic cooperation between countries and continents, generating the exchange of scholars, researchers invited to give courses and lectures in other countries, master's and doctoral theses addressing these issues globally, bilateral and multilateral research projects, newsletters, and published books, as well as organized competitions, all of which demonstrate the qualitative and quantitative growth of the Association.

It has an academic journal titled "Social Sciences and Religion." Every two years, it hosts a conference titled "Conference in Religious Alternatives in Latin America." The Conference is the main event for reflection on the religious phenomenon from an academic perspective.

The Conferences are interdisciplinary, promoting the analysis of religious phenomena from anthropology, political science, history, and sociology. They are also regional since, from their inception, they have brought together social researchers from various countries in the region. However, they are also international, as they have involved colleagues from various parts of the world since early on.

In 2024, the Association will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in Montevideo, Uruguay, where the XXI Conference in Religious Alternatives in Latin America will take place.

The Conference has established itself as a privileged space for dialogue and academic discussion among religion researchers in/about Latin America. Over its trajectory, it has connected different generations of established and developing scholars, promoted disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, influenced the shaping of regionally scoped research agendas, and worked to showcase specialized production, becoming a reference for what is happening in the Latin American religious field.

For more information visit the webpage of the association:

<https://www.acsral.org/>

<https://www.jornadasacsral2024.org/>



CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND ORGANIZERS

V - ISA Forum of Sociology
Rabat, Morocco 6-11 July 2025

RC22 Sociology
of Religion

**“Knowing Justice
in the
Anthropocene”**



Deadline July 1st 2024



Call

This is a call to propose sessions for Research Committee 22 Sociology of Religion at the International Sociological Association Forum that will take place in Rabat, Morocco, on July 6-11, 2025.

Focus

The theme of the V ISA Forum of Sociology is "Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene". In line with the theme, we welcome sessions that explore topics related to religion and social justice in the context of rapid and planet-wide environmental changes, including topics listed below. We also welcome sessions in other topical themes in the sociology of religion.

Details

We seek proposals for thematic sessions, which can be either closed or open. Closed session proposals include the convener and the speakers. Open sessions proposals are advertised later in an open call for papers. For both types, we encourage diversity and sessions that can potentially attract scholars from across the globe.

Possible themes include

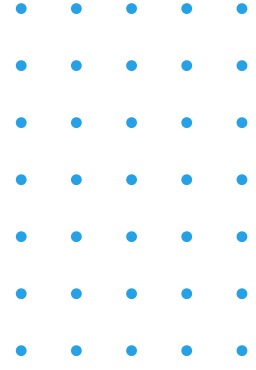
- Climate Change and religion
- Religion and migration
- Interreligious conflict and cooperation
- Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
- Religion and discrimination
- Social movements, politics and religion
- Secularism and non-religion
- Heritage, religion and the uses of the past
- Planetary wellbeing and religion/spirituality
- Moral and religious controversies in the public sphere
- Religious change in Africa
- Religion in the Mediterranean
- Critical theoretical approaches to the study of religion
- Methodological innovations in the social scientific study of religion

Guidelines

- Sessions can be proposed in any of the ISA official languages (English, French or Spanish)
- You need to prepare a Session Title and Session Description (max 250 words)



Sociology
of Religion



Deadlines

- The deadline is July 1st, 24:00 GMT. No extensions.
- This deadline is ONLY for proposing sessions. The call for papers will be open from August 05 - October 15, 2024.

Further Information

- For further information about RC22 Sessions contact any member of the Program Committee.
- Membership fees are based on the country of current residence. Countries are classified into 3 categories, A, B and C, according to the Gross National Income of the economy of countries.
- There are a limited number of registrations grants for participation.
- For further information about the application procedure, contact the ISA RC22 Secretary Olga Olivas, Olivas@colef.mx.

RC 22 Program Committee

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Scan the QR Code to
Summit!

For questions regarding ISA
membership, please contact:
isa@isa-sociology.org

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CALL FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS!

Want your work to get featured in our newsletter?

Share with us your Call for Papers, Job Opportunities, Grants Applications, New Publications, and any relevant information for members and the scientific community.

Send us an email to include it in our webpage & our newsletter:

communications@isa-rc22.org

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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: isa.researchc22@gmail.com Applications, New Publications, and more relevant information for members and the scientific community.

Visit our website regularly and find new Call for Papers, Job Opportunities, Grants Applications, New Publications, and more relevant information for members and the scientific community.



Add our email address to avoid losing our Call for Newsletter and send us your information: Daniel Valdez, ISA RC22 communication manager
communications@isa-rc22.org



BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2026

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.



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