



# SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

The ISA RC22 Sociology of Religion's official newsletter

October 2024 | Issue 28

## TOP NEWS IN THIS MONTH

### VISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

Call for abstracts

### URUGUAY NOMA!

On our joint meeting ACSRAL - RC22 ISA 2024 in  
Montevideo 2024

By Hugo H. Rabbia

### SACRED AS SECULAR

Secularization under Theocracy in Iran,

By Abdolmohammad Kazemipur

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

DON'T MISS YOUR  
CHANCE  
TO SUBMIT AN  
ABSTRACT FOR  
#ISAFORUM25!

5<sup>th</sup>

ISA FORUM OF  
SOCIOLOGY

المنتدى  
العالمي الخامس  
للسociology

6-11 July 2025 11-6 يوليو 2025

Call for Abstracts is open!  
August 5 - October 15, 2024

The Call for Abstracts is open until **October 15th**, so you still have time to participate. If you need any help, visit our website for complete details and resources to assist you in preparing for the Forum.



Useful links



[Call for abstracts](#)

[Call for films](#)

[Abstract Submission Tutorial](#)

[FAQ: Find Answers here](#)

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# URUGUAY NOMÁ!- ON OUR JOINT MEETING ACSRAL - RC22 ISA 2024 IN MONTEVIDEO 2024



By Hugo H. Rabbia

Uruguay nomá! is a popular saying in Uruguay that serves as a way of celebrating when something very good happens. And good things happened in Uruguay...

From July 22 to 26, 2024, the Catholic University of Uruguay, in Montevideo, hosted the XXI Conference on Religious Alternatives in Latin America, an event organized by the Association of Social Sciences of Religion in Latin America (ACSRAL). The event coincided with the 30th anniversary of the association, which brings together researchers in the field of religion from across the region.

Under the theme "Religion in the Global South: Contributions and Challenges from Latin America," the academic meeting provided a space for dialogue between South-North and South-South scholars to share challenges and problems in researching religious phenomena and societal changes. In this context, RC22 Sociology of Religion and ACSRAL co-organized a joint meeting, with over 150 participants from most Latin American countries, along with researchers from the United States, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Israel, France, Lithuania, Spain, India, and others. The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) also recognized the event as a Regional Conference.

This first joint meeting, co-organized by RC22 and ACSRAL, was a special space for exchange and the first to allow presentations in English since the conference's inception. It was also a significant effort for many Latin American colleagues, who embraced the initiative to expand the conversation on shared issues, interests, and challenges in the study of religion.

Many members of the research committee participated throughout the meeting, serving as speakers in roundtables, organizing Working Groups (WGs), or presenting their research. After welcoming remarks in the modern Semprún Auditorium, Monday the 22nd, began with the Round Table "Nonreligion Across the Globe: Challenges and Opportunities in South-North Dialogue," featuring Jennifer Selby (Canada), Paula Montero (Brazil), Juan Marco Vaggione (Argentina), and, due to flight issues just before the event, the online participation of Ryan Cragun (USA). Jacqui Frost (USA / RC22 board member) and Hugo H. Rabbia (Argentina / RC22 board member) coordinated this round table. Among the challenges raised, the need to rethink theoretical approaches to non-religion that balance local particularities with broader cross-national and transnational analyses stood out.

Mar Griera (Spain) and Cristina Gutiérrez Zúñiga (Mexico) coordinated the closing round table of the first day, which featured Verónica Giménez Beliveau (Argentina), Sol Prieto (Argentina), Olga Olivas Hernández (Mexico / RC22 board secretary), Sumedha Dutta (India / RC22 board member), and Rodrigo Toniol (Brazil), who also delivered the ACSRAL meeting's opening conference. The speakers discussed various aspects of contemporary studies on spirituality, including its conceptual genealogies and its relationships with health, nationalism, politics, and spiritual care from a gender perspective.

The six WG sessions took place across Monday and Tuesday. WG1 "Diversity Management and Politics in the (In)visibility of Religious Pluralism" was organized by Roberta Ricucci (Italy) and Juan Cruz Esquivel (Argentina), while Hugo José Suárez (Mexico), Juan Martín López Fianza, and María Pilar García Bossio (both from Argentina) coordinated WG2 "New Methodologies for the Study of Religious and Spiritual Phenomena." Mar Griera (Spain / RC22 ISA President) and Geoffrey Pleyers (Belgium / ISA President)—who was absent due to flight problems—led WG3 "Religious Actors, Social Movements, and Politics: Exploring Intersections and Emerging Dynamics."

Discussions continued with WG4 "Exploring Spirituality in Social Science: Southern Contexts, Flows, and Theories," organized by Halafoff (Australia), Cristina Gutiérrez Zúñiga (Mexico), and Verónica Giménez-Beliveau (Argentina); WG5 on "Gender, Religion, and Migration in Contemporary Societies," coordinated by Milda Ališauskienė (Lithuania / RC22 board member); and WG6 "Organized Forms of Nonreligion," led by Jacqui Frost (USA). A total of 31 presentations across the six WG sessions sparked meaningful discussions and exchanges.



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One of the most well-attended activities was the Workshop on "Academic Publication for Young Researchers," held at noon on Monday the 22nd, featuring Caroline Sappia (Belgium) and Miguel Angel Mansilla (Chile). Conducted in Spanish to broaden training opportunities for young Latin American researchers, the workshop offered valuable insights into publishing in international academic journals.

In the days that followed, the ACSRAL conference continued with various round tables (on Evangelicals in Latin America, studies on non-religion in the region, and ecclesiastical abuses) and panel discussions (on religious diversity management, religion and health, religion and the far-right in the region, and Latin American Catholicism), alongside book presentations and numerous presentations in 21 working groups. The association also paid tribute to its presidents from the past 30 years, and the assembly elected new ACSRAL board members. Luis Bahamondes from Chile was elected president of ACSRAL for the next two years.



RC22 would like to extend its gratitude to ACSRAL, the organizing team, and all who participated in the joint activities. As they say in Uruguay when the barbecue is especially delicious: "Un aplauso para el asador!" (A round of applause for the grill master!)

# BOOK PRIZE WINNER

## Sacred as Secular: Secularization under Theocracy in Iran

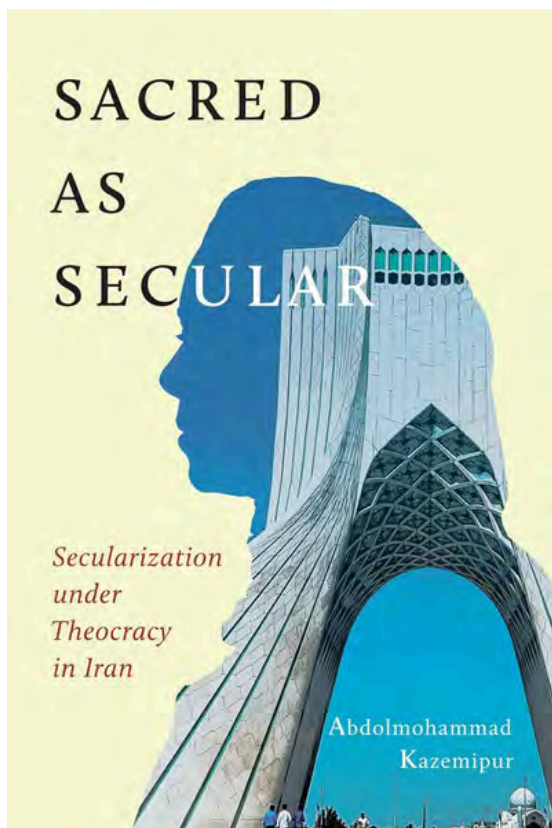
(Volume 11) (Advancing Studies in Religion Series)

## Congratulations to the winner of the 2022 (2024):

Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Book Prize

Abdolmohammad Kazempur, for his book entitled Sacred as Secular: Secularization under Theocracy in Iran (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022).

Debates about Islam and Muslim societies have intensified in the last four decades, triggered by the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and, later, by the events of 9/11. Too often present in these debates are wrongheaded assumptions about the attachment of Muslims to their religion and the impossibility of secularism in the Muslim world. At the heart of these assumptions is the notion of Muslim exceptionalism: the idea that Muslims think, believe, and behave in ways that are fundamentally different from other faith communities. In Sacred as Secular Abdolmohammad Kazempur attempts to debunk this flawed notion of Muslim exceptionalism by looking at religious trends in Iran since 1979. Drawing on a wide range of data and sources, including national social attitudes surveys collected since the 1970s, he examines developments in the spheres of politics and governance, schools and seminaries, contemporary philosophy, and the self-expressed beliefs and behaviours of Iranian men, women, and youth. He reveals that beneath Iran's religious façade is a deep secularization that manifests not only in individual beliefs, but also in Iranian political philosophy, institutional and clerical structures, and intellectual life. Empirically and theoretically rich, Sacred as Secular looks at the place of religion in Iranian society from a sociological perspective, expanding the debate on secularism from a predominantly West-centric domain to the Muslim world.



Book available at: <https://a.co/d/3QsapIK>





# **The Routledge Handbook of Megachurches**

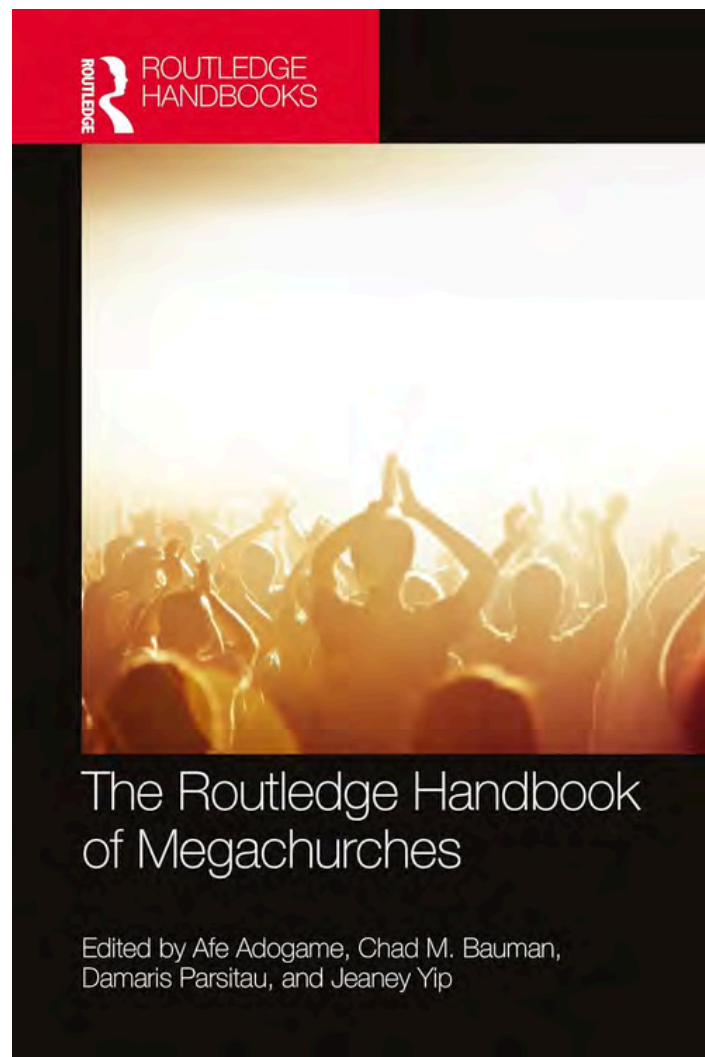
*(Routledge Handbooks in Religion)*

*by Afe Adogame, Chad M. Bauman, Damaris Parsitau, Jeaney Yip*

The Routledge Handbook of Megachurches provides a survey of global megachurch phenomena, with an international slate of authors introducing existing and emerging research on a wide variety of relevant topics. Over the past decade, the field of megachurch studies has matured and become global in its scope and orientation. The Handbook offers 33 chapters by top scholars in the field, focusing in particular on:

- The location, demographic nature, and transnational connections of megachurches.
- Megachurch worship, hermeneutics, and theology (in theory and practice).
- Megachurch institutional dynamics.
- The various ways that megachurches have both influenced and been influenced by their social contexts in terms of class, age, gender, sexuality, and pop culture.

The Handbook's interdisciplinary orientation makes it essential reading for sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, media specialists, pop culture observers, business strategists, leadership consultants, marketing analysts, scholars of religion, and Christian historians, theologians, and missiologists. Experienced scholars of megachurches will gain valuable insight into aspects of megachurch research beyond their own specializations. Scholars new to the field will find the chapters useful as signposts for where to begin their own academic exploration. Christian pastors and laypeople will learn more about this increasingly prominent and influential form of their faith.



Book available at:<https://a.co/d/bWmANBz>

**Part of: Routledge Handbooks in Religion**  
**(22 books)**



# Philippine Association for the Sociology of Religion (PASR) Events and Updates

## PASR Journal

During the PASR Board Meeting held in August 2024, led by President Esmeralda F. Sanchez, Ph.D., and attended by Vice President Philip Fuentes, Ph.D., Secretary Venicris Alonsozana, Ed.D., Treasurer Chito Sawit, Ph.D., and Information Officer Ulysses Parado, Ph.D., exciting developments were shared. The PASR Journal has officially launched online and is now available in the EBSCO Database and GlobalScholar. Looking ahead, PASR aims to have the journal indexed in SCOPUS by 2025. You can access the PASR Journal here: [PASR Journal](#)



**PASR JOURNAL IS OPEN ACCESS AND ALWAYS FREE**



# CALL FOR PAPERS

**Dossier:** "Personas sin afiliación religiosa"

**Editors:** Hugo H. Rabbia & Flávio Serna

We are pleased to invite you to submit manuscripts for the upcoming dossier on "Personas sin afiliación religiosa", coordinated by Dr. Flavio Senra (Brazil) and myself. The dossier will be published in the Journal of the Asociación de Ciencias Sociales de la Religión de América Latina (ACSRAL).

## Submission Guidelines:

- Manuscripts must be written in Spanish or Portuguese.
- Deadline for submissions: 31st October 2024.

Best regards,  
Co-Coordinator  
Dossier "Personas sin afiliación religiosa"

**FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT THE JOURNAL'S WEBSITE:**



Search: <https://periodicos.sbu.unicamp.br/>



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# Uruguayan Journal of Anthropology and Ethnography

Revista uruguaya de antropología y etnografía (RU Ae)

Call for Volume 10, Number 1 / 2025

Health and Religion: Articulations, Tensions, and Challenges

Deadline for article submissions: **October 30, 2024**

**Dossier Editors:**

Juan Scuro

Olga Olivas

Verónica Giménez Béliveau

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE  
VISIT THE JOURNAL'S WEBSITE:**

Search: <https://ojs.fhce.edu.uy/index.php/revantroetno/index>





# RC 22 Board Members

2023 – 2027

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