CRS - a Centre of Excellence

Uppsala Religion and Society Research Centre (CRS) is an interdisciplinary research centre at Uppsala University, Department of Theology, focusing on religious and social processes of change. The researchers at CRS are also involved in the development and management of academic courses related to the research.

The present major research programme is The Impact of religion – Challenges for Society, Law and Democracy. It runs over ten years 2008-2018 and involves about 50 researchers at several faculties and departments at Uppsala University.

Workshop, Uppsala, June 3rd, 2015

Challenges for Religious Education
How does the changed role of religion in today’s society affect Religious Education in schools? And how do teachers handle the inherent tensions in the subject in school?

Teaching religion in a culturally and religiously diverse society can be both challenging and demanding.

Recent studies show that Religious Education (RE) teachers often avoid sensitive issues concerning values and existential questions, and instead prefer to focus on facts, which in turn leads to pupils losing motivation and interest in the subject.

Previous research has showed that the pupils’ weak interest can be understood by the changing role of religion in society. Religion has mainly been seen as strictly a personal matter. Today it is rather discussed in the public sphere. Few pupils have personal experience of religion.

**Program**

13.15 Welcome, presentation of the program and the speakers.
13.30 Kerstin von Brömssen, Göteborg/Karlstad: Students’ experiences and Religious Education - how compatible are they?
13.45 James Conroy, Glasgow: Religious Education and religious literacy - a professional aspiration?
14.00 Short break
14.30 Judith Everington, Warwick: RE teachers’ personal lives, knowledge and beliefs: a valuable resource or an obstacle to impartial religious education?
14.45 Denise Cush, Bath: Encountering the new religious landscape
15.00 Coffee
15.15 Panel – questions
16.00 Maximilian Broberg, Malin Löfstedt and Anders Sjöborg, Uppsala: First results from the national survey among RE teachers in the project ‘Teaching Religion in Late Modern Sweden - Professionalism on the borders between public and private.’
Questions and discussion
17.00 Dinner reception (buffet)