

The Impact of Religion International Conference 2018

Short abstracts describing the special sessions

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<i>Session number</i>	<i>Session title / abstract / convener /</i>
11	<p>Religious Engagement to foster Integration in Diaspora: Immigrants Communities as key players?</p> <p>Immigrant religious communities foster both feelings of cultural and religious belonging and offer resources and social services to their members. The aim of the panel is to analyse the various forms of social services and their scope of probably facilitating processes of social integration. In addition the panel will ask why at all immigrant religious communities offer these services and what are the theological, dogmatic and religious reasons to do so.</p> <p>Papers are welcome with an empirical focus on social and religious engagement of immigrant religious communities as well as papers with a theoretical perspective.</p> <p>Convener: Martin Baumann, University of Luzerne</p>
12	<p>Acknowledging diversity, claiming equality: Religion, law and politics in Europe and the Mediterranean</p> <p>Issues of mobility, cohabitation and law have always been intertwined and often studied as such. He who moves – whether migrant or refugee – is embedded in preexisting laws, which are sometimes submitted to revision according to the situation. In these contexts, how does the claim to “legal recognition of religious practice” evolve? In addition, what does this idea itself precisely encompass? Do religious groups seek equality of treatment? Recognition of a specificity? Differentiation? This session will address the question of religious diversity, law and politics in a wide sense. Each research will be based on in-depth ethnographic fieldwork conducted recently in a European or Mediterranean country. But religious diversity is not solely the consequence of migration, thus contributions on multi-confessional societies, such as the Balkans or Middle-East are also welcome for comparison.</p> <p>Convener: Katia Boissevain, CNRS, Idemec Christophe Pons, CNRS, Idemec</p>
13	<p>Refugees and religiosity in integration policies, practices and responses</p> <p>The 2015 Refugee “Crisis” is one of the biggest challenges that the European Union (EU) has faced since its establishment. Mass movements of forced migrants, including the one we are currently witnessing, entail multifaceted economic, political, social, and legal challenges and bring together actors (state institutions, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, host societies and refugees) with unequal power and divergent priorities and interests. Religious institutions and organisations often support social services and facilitate the accommodation, assimilation and/or integration of refugees in transit and destination countries.</p> <p>This session will focus on the link between refugees (from the most recent source countries such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan among others) and integration policies,</p>

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	<p>practices and responses in transit (e.g., Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan) and destination countries (e.g., Scandinavian countries, continental Europe, other Western countries), with the aim to specifically understand the religio-cultural dimension. More precisely we aim at understanding how institutions in receiving societies position themselves, how refugees negotiate their position in a new society, but also how refugees become bearers of knowledge in encounter with a new culture, and how they respond/interact with policies aiming their integration at legal-political, socio-economic, and cultural levels. Several aspects may play an important role for understanding integration outcomes at micro and meso levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. exploring how changes in religious practices change gender roles or v.v.,2. exploring the role of religion, gender, and family ties for affecting conceptions and practices of citizenship,3. understanding the psychosocial functions in negotiating migration and integration processes,4. exploring how religiosity affects political participation and neighbourhood integration,5. understanding vulnerable refugee populations and their perceptions of religio-cultural practices. <p>Convener: Önver Cetrez, Uppsala University Susan Rottman, Özyegin University, Istanbul Katherine Braun, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen</p>
14	<p>Monastic life and development</p> <p>This panel gathers together two related yet distinct areas of scholarly inquiry: contemporary Christian monasticism research, and development studies. Monastic engagement in the development field is translocal, crossing religious boundaries, expanding from Europe to Asia and Africa, and connecting urban and rural communities. Monastic communities aspire to a life separate from society. Yet, in order to survive as a community, they must interact with their environment, develop alternative economic systems, and participate in transnational networks. Monasteries emerge as local and transnational actors, are transformed in the course of these processes, and contribute to social change in the societies they are engaged in. The impact of these interactions will be discussed during the session. We will focus on various contemplative orders (Benedictines, Redemptorists, Carmelites, etc) and their social commitments.</p> <p>Individual Papers are expected to address the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In which contexts do Monastic concepts of development flourish (e.g. in rural societies or in developing nations)?• To what extent is development action a typical monastic activity or enters into conflict with the “world-rejecting asceticism” (Max Weber)?• Which concepts of charity, development, and society underpin the Monastic-inspired aid? Do Monastic communities align with international humanitarian actors? Do they advocate for a different approach to aid that might differ from hegemonic models of development?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the consequences of national and transnational competition or cooperation between Christian and secular versions of development and modes of implementation? • How do Monastic communities interact with the rural communities where they have settled? • Do monasteries engage in sustainable development? • How are the religious actors organized in the field of development? How do they operate, how are they financed? • How do they interact with non-religious institutions, as well as with other religious organizations? • To what extent are local foundations and their economic activities better adapted to the local context than international foundations? <p>Convener: Isabelle Jonveaux, University of Graz, Austria Langewiesche, Katrin, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany</p>
15	<p>‘Forced’ or ‘voluntary’ marriage? ‘Child’ or ‘adult’? Conflicting moral and legal discourses in a transnational world</p> <p>In the last few decades debates about the connections between honor, sexuality, religion, morality and family law have intensified in many countries, not least due to increased transnational migration. Issues of age, consent and gender relations are at the heart of such debates. In this panel we seek contributions analyzing how actors such as transnational migrants, representatives of minority religious groups, lawyers, judges, social workers and journalists, to name a few, discuss and make sense of religious/moral and/or state legal discourses on legitimate and valid marriage.</p> <p>Convener: Annika Rabo, Stockholm University</p>
16	<p>Religion in Prison</p> <p>This session focus research on the presence and practise of religion in prisons. This includes the position of religion in penitentiary institutions, issues in the prison context that relate to church-state relations, the organization of chaplaincy, the representation of religions among the prison population, the freedom to express religion within prison walls, and similar issues. All kinds of disciplinary aspects and methodological aspects are welcome.</p> <p>Convener: Anne-Laure Zwilling, University of Strasbourg</p>
17	<p>Results of research projects on “Religion and Public Politics”</p> <p>This session welcome presentations of accomplished research and its results on how religion and increasing religious diversity appears and is handled in public politics; by politicians, legal authorities, governments, media, public debate etc.</p> <p>Convener: Solange Lefebvre, University of Montréal</p>