



IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement December
2020

Introduction

To Officers and Individual Members of IAHR Member Societies and Affiliates

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all well despite the difficult circumstances the world has been facing.

Since my email communication to you on August 26, which notified members of the results of the election of the IAHR Executive Committee (EC) 2020-2025, the new EC has had several online meetings. The aim of the meetings has been two-fold: to strengthen the academic profile and enrich the academic activities of the IAHR, and to address the challenges posed by pandemics, climate change, travel restrictions and ethical issues concerning flights.

The first outcome of our discussions was the establishment of and call for IAHR webinars. We also invited you to send links to videos of plenaries and keynotes delivered at your recent conferences that you would like shared with the entire IAHR membership via the IAHR website. This e-Bulletin Supplement includes another initiative to share the information of your association's prizes and awards (#2).

In addition, this e-Bulletin Supplement brings you a variety of our latest news: the notification of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2020-2025; news from the General Assembly of the CIPSH; a report on the IAHR Women Scholars Network webinar series; and recent IAHR publications.

As for our quinquennial World Congress 2025, we have not yet received a formal bid, possibly because the future is extremely uncertain for everyone at this time. Nevertheless, the IAHR EC has approached the leadership of several associations that might be able to offer ideal venues for 2025.

Last but not least, I have tried to update the design of our e-Bulletin Supplement. It not only looks more "modern" but also has modern functions: it is interactive, it automatically adjusts itself to different devices, and it even enables me to count how many of you have viewed it. It also allows me to share IAHR-related photos and pictures, both new and archival, with you. I hope many of you will find this design more accessible. A regular, pdf version is also available on the IAHR website.

Let me wish you all happy holidays. Let me also wish we will have chances to meet again face-to-face in 2021.

Respectfully yours,

Satoko Fujiwara, IAHR Secretary General

Tokyo, December 30, 2020



1. Notification of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2020-2025

The IAHR Rules say: “The International Committee, at its meeting during a quinquennial congress, appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members.” As the 2020 International Committee meeting was canceled along with the 2020 World Congress, there was no chance to appoint a new Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee. Therefore, the Executive Committee has discussed and decided to appoint the following three honorary life members as the Membership Advisory Committee members on behalf of the International Committee.

Prof. Brian Bocking

Prof. Morny Joy

Prof. Akio Tsukimoto

All three colleagues have already, and willingly, agreed to be on the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2020-2025.

A call for suggestions of new Honorary Life Member candidates will be sent to officers of all member associations and societies one year before the next International Committee meeting.



1 - Prof. Brian Bocking



2 - Prof. Morny Joy



3 - Prof. Akio Tsukimoto

2. Invitation to Share the Best Outcomes of Your Association

COVID-19 has not only led us to cancel our World Congress but also hindered regular academic exchanges. The IAHR Executive Committee (EC) discussed how to enable dialogues and other interactions between IAHR member associations and societies under unprecedented travel restrictions. As a result of this discussion, on October 20, I invited officers of all IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates to 1) propose IAHR Webinars and/or 2) showcase the videos of their plenaries and keynotes on the IAHR website.

Since then, the EC has had a further discussion and decided to invite member associations and societies to share information of any of their recent award recipients. The EC assumes that many associations have their own award or prize programs in order to acknowledge the distinguished accomplishments of their members. The EC will turn the IAHR website into a hub of information of such awards and prizes, so that all of you will be able to view the achievements produced from each local association.

In sum, the IAHR would like to invite you to use the IAHR website to publicize your associations in three ways:

1) IAHR Webinar Series

The IAHR would like to encourage member associations to consider arranging an IAHR webinar with a panel of speakers and with a focus on, for example, the history and the current state of the study of religion in your country/region. Likewise, we would like to encourage affiliates to arrange an IAHR webinar that introduces particular subject fields or areas of interest that your society or association focuses upon. Proposals should be submitted to the IAHR Secretary General.

2) Use the IAHR website/SNS to publicize your plenaries

The IAHR invites members and affiliates to submit noteworthy recordings or videos of plenary or keynote lectures delivered during your physical or online meetings that you would like shared with the entire IAHR membership via the IAHR website and via announcements on the IAHR Facebook page. Proposals (i.e. descriptions of events or abstracts) and links to the recordings/videos should be submitted to the IAHR Secretary General.

3) Use the IAHR website to publicize your awardees

The IAHR invites members and affiliates to submit a list of your recent award/prize recipients and the English abstracts of their awarded works, if applicable. The list will be presented on the IAHR website. It should also be submitted to the IAHR General Secretary.

For an example of 1), please see the following first IAHR webinar of the New Zealand Association:

[“Reflections on the Study of Religion in Aotearoa/New Zealand: Past, Present, and Prospect”](#) (Sep 16, 2020)

Roundtable participants: Profs. Paul Morris, Will Sweetman, John Shaver, Ben Schonthal

Chair: Prof. Ann Taves (IAHR Vice-President)

For 2), the British Association has submitted two panels of their 2020 online conference:

[BASR 2020 | Teaching and Learning Panel](#)

Description: The opening panel from BASR 2020 focused on Teaching and Learning. First is a presentation from 2020 Teaching Award recipient Melanie Prideaux, together with her student Natasha Jones (both University of Leeds). This is followed by an open discussion on the COVID-19 pivot to online delivery, with contributions from Dawn Llewellyn (2019 Teaching Award recipient, University of Chester), Stefanie Sinclair (BASR T&L rep, Open University), Paul-Francois Tremlett (Open University), BASR President Bettina Schmidt, Melanie Prideaux and Natasha Jones.

[BASR 2020 | Worldviews in RS and RE Panel](#)

Description: This panel, curated by Wendy Dossett (University of Chester), discusses the Commission for Religious Education's proposal for a shift towards studying "Religion and Worldviews" in Secondary Religious Education. Contributions from Wendy Dossett, Rudi Elliott Lockhart (former CEO of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales), Suzanne Owen (Leeds Trinity University), Paul-Francois Tremlett (Open University) and Malory Nye (Independent Academic affiliated to University of Glasgow).



3. Report on IAHR Women Scholars Network Webinar Series

With thanks to its coordinators, the IAHR Women Scholars Network has already hosted three webinars, one each month since September. Please visit the site if you have not done so already.

Webinar 1 [“Comparing Notes: Women in the Field”](#) (Sep 21, 2020)

Speakers: Profs. Rosalind Hackett, Morny Joy (WSN founders), Milda Ališauskienė, Amy Allocco (incoming coordinators)

Chair: Prof. Jenny Berglund (outgoing coordinator)

The first in the IAHR-WSN Series honors the WSN’s founders, offers a brief overview of the history of the organization, includes remarks by the current coordinators, introduces the incoming coordinators, and discusses upcoming activities and events.

Webinar 2 [“Senior Women Scholars of Religion Reflect on their Academic Journeys”](#) (Oct 22, 2020)

Speakers: Profs. Rosalind Hackett, Catherine Wessinger, Eileen Barker

Chairs: Profs. Milda Ališauskienė, Amy Allocco

The second webinar hosts three well know women scholars of religion who reflect upon their academic journeys. Presenters discuss their choices of becoming scholars of religion, opportunities of career as a woman scholar of religion, their research interests and gender and provides recommendations for future women scholars of religion.

Webinar 3 [“Scholarly Pathways and Research Projects across Global Contexts”](#) (Nov 20, 2020)

Speakers: Profs. Corinne Dempsey, Oyeronke Olademo, Mo Mo Thant

Chairs: Profs. Milda Ališauskienė, Amy Allocco

The third webinar includes presentations from three respected women scholars of religion. In the opening segment each professor offers sustained reflections about their scholarly pathways and provides an overview of their current research projects. Presenters then discuss their perspectives on the way that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently affecting women scholars’ professional lives and speculate about what may lie ahead for scholars of religion.



4. A Report on the General Assembly of the CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies)

The General Assembly of the CIPSH took place online on December 14 and 15, 2020. It was originally planned to be held in Odense, Denmark, together with a conference. An extraordinary General Assembly as well as the academic program is now scheduled for June 2021.

The CIPSH is an umbrella organization of major international associations of different disciplines/fields in the humanities established in 1949, at the request of UNESCO and under its auspices. Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, an IAHR former President became CIPSH's Vice-President in 2014. She made admirable efforts to revive the CIPSH for two terms and finally stepped down from its board on the second day of the 2020 General Assembly, when elections were held.

At the elections new Board and Executive Committee members were appointed. The new President is an archaeologist, Prof. Luiz Oosterbeek, and the new Secretary General is a historian, Prof. Hsiung Ping-Chen.

Our President Tim Jensen, who has been a CIPSH Executive Committee member from 2015 to 2020, was appointed Deputy Secretary General. The IAHR Secretary General, Satoko Fujiwara, was elected to the Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen and I will thus work together to strengthen collaborations between the IAHR and the CIPSH while engaging in discussions on the roles and values of the humanities with the representatives of other CIPSH member organizations.

Here are CIPSH projects and new developments that may be of interest to IAHR members.

CIPSH Chairs

"CIPSH Chairs" is a program modelled after UNESCO Chairs, with the purpose to "to highlight and encourage existing research networks of centres of research in the humanities and to attract greater attention to the humanities worldwide and enhanced recognition of their importance in contemporary society" ("[CIPSH Chairs programme](#)"). There are currently four CIPSH Chairs:

- Ethnolinguistic Vitality and Diversity in the World (chairholder's institution: Leiden University)
- New Humanities (chairholder's institution: University of California, Irvine)
- Digital Humanities in Education (chairholder's institution: NOVA University of Lisbon)
- Global Studies (chairholder's institution: Alberta University)

Since this program is expected to be interdisciplinary and to be mainly based at universities or research institutions in different countries, it is difficult for an international federation of academic societies in a specific field such as the IAHR to coordinate a Chair. However, if your university or institution is searching for public recognition for an academic network it is involved in, CIPSH Chairs would be a suitable program. The deadline of application for 2021 will be late April. If you are interested, please ask the IAHR Secretary General for more information.

European Humanities Conference

The CIPSH will sponsor the European Humanities Conference, online, on May 5-7, 2021. Its main theme is "European Humanities and Beyond" and its subthemes are "Multidisciplinary dynamics as education and R&D strategies for meaningful problem solving," "Heritage, mobility and identities," "Influence and impact of the humanities in society," and "New humanities". The CIPSH President who will host the conference encourages European as well as non-European scholars in all fields to participate in one way or another. The CIPSH President considers the conference a rare opportunity for the humanities and the CIPSH to establish influential connections to the most important and relevant transnational European and EU institutions. Updates will be provided via the Facebook site of the organizers.

Network of European Humanities

Network of European Humanities (NEH21.net), a network associated to the CIPSH, has been established. Its first president is Prof. Rosi Braidotti, and its headquarters are located at the Institute for Intercultural German Studies, Faculty of the Humanities, the University of Göttingen, Germany. According to its

mission statement,

"NEH21.net will serve as a regional network of individual researchers in the Humanities, associated to universities or research institutions across the European Union and the European region at large.

The mission of NEH21.net is to gather and share resources, contacts and projects in the Humanities in Europe, with special attention to the next generations of humanities scholars. It also aims at enhancing academic and research excellence in the field by promoting international collaborative projects among European universities and research institutes.

NEH21.net pays special attention to emerging new fields and trends in the Humanities in Europe and wants to contribute to the development of new perspectives in the Humanities in the contemporary world."

World Philology Association

Several board members of the UAI (Union Académique Internationale/International Union of Academies) have recently asked the CIPSH to endorse their initiative to establish a World Philology Association. According to its coordinator, Prof. Jens Braarvig (a scholar of religion well known to many colleagues) at the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages at the University of Oslo,

"In recent decades, a number of institutional developments at major universities and colleges all over the world have led to a situation where the philological study of classical texts –traditionally the very core of the humanities –is either completely marginalized within departments at universities or excised altogether from the overall policies of higher education. While there is ample reason to lament this collapse of the discipline, one must still also take action to ensure the preservation and flourishing of academic traditions within the different fields of philology. "

The association intends to encourage global membership and promote philological research projects involving international collaboration. I will keep you posted about this new initiative which may be seen as in line with the IAHR efforts to - in collaboration with the SBL - safeguard and promote up-to-date historical-philological competences related to the study of religion past and present.



5. News on IAHR Publications

Forthcoming Titles in the IAHR Book Series

Although COVID-19 has also affected the publication industry and caused delays in the publication process, we are happy to announce new titles in the IAHR Book Series.

- *Translocal Lives and Religion: Connections between Asia and Europe in the Late Modern World*

Edited by Philippe Bornet Expected publication date: Feb/2021

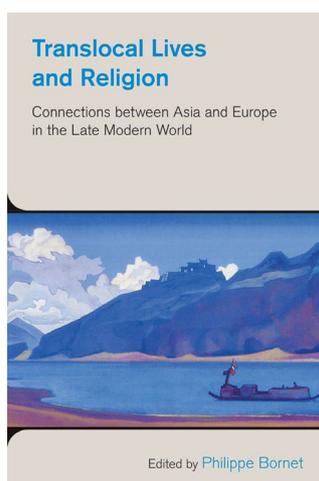
This volume examines the intellectual trajectories of remarkable individuals who interacted with religious discourses, doctrines or practices in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Inspired by S. Subrahmanyam and S. Gruzinski's historiographical model of "connected histories", this book introduces the approach of "connected religion" and invites the study of cross-cultural and "translocal" encounters by bringing together documents that represent diverse aspects of the story and reconstructing a narrative from diverse standpoints, with analytical potential. Testing this approach through specific cases of interactions between Asia and Europe, the volume explores the little-known stories of actors such as migrants or expatriates interacting with religious discourses, and of religious leaders producing and propagating beliefs and practices. The cases pose questions that can be applied to further contexts, such as: the significance of improved travels and communications for the diffusion of religious content across national, cultural and institutional boundaries; the impact of specific individuals, charismatic or not, well-established or subaltern in the reconfiguration of institutional forms of religion; and the role of the South Asian referent in legitimating the propagation of specific religious views. Offering both an innovative methodological framework and original cases based on new research, the book will be of interest to scholars of religion, to specialists of South Asia in late modernity and to the broader public.

- *Global Phenomenologies of Religion: An Oral History in Interviews*

Edited by Satoko Fujiwara, David Thurfjell, Steven Engler Expected publication date: March/2021

- *Religion as Relation: Studying Religion in Context*

Edited by Peter Berger, Marjo Buitelaar, Kim Knibbe Expected publication date: Oct/2021

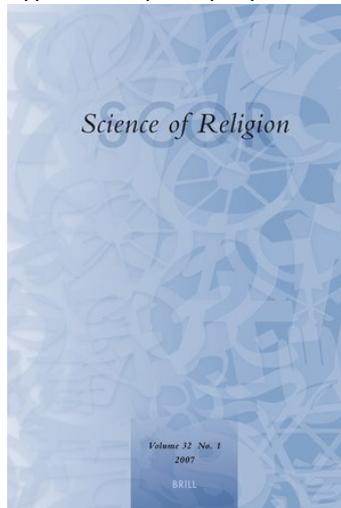


SOR Announcement

Index to the Study of Religions Online – A Cross-searchable Database and Bibliography of Journal Articles

The bi-annual bibliographical Brill journal *Science of Religion* with abstracts and index of recent journal articles relevant to the study of religions, ceases publication in print format, but continues as *Index to the Study of Religions Online*. *Science of Religion* will cease publication in print format on completion of Volume 43 (2020). *Index to the Study of Religions Online*, the online version of *Science of Religion*,

includes entries from all 43 volumes of *Science of Religion*, and will continue to be available after this time. The English language abstracts published in the *Index to the Study of Religions Online* are drawn from a wide range of journals in various languages and reflect an array of complementary disciplines. The *Index* is available on the Brill bibliographic databases platform. It is published under the auspices of the IAHR. For more information, please see <https://brill.com/view/db/isro>



4 - Science of Religion