

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS**

**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS**

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For more information on the IAHR see <https://www.iahrweb.org/>

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Tokyo July 25, 2020

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1. Preface

Dear Colleagues
Officers and Individual Members of
IAHR Member Associations/Societies and Affiliates

According to a decision taken by the IAHR Executive Committee 2005-2010, a paper version of an IAHR Bulletin may be distributed only on the occasion of a quinquennial World Congress. Since the 2020 World Congress has been cancelled, the 2020 Bulletin is appearing in an electronic version only. It includes the Acting Secretary General's and the Treasurer's full reports on IAHR activities and finances from 2015-2020. In addition, it not only reproduces the list of nominees for the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025 that I emailed you on May 30 but also adds their statements of candidacy. It also includes a report and recommendation on IAHR Honorary Life Membership from the HLM Advisory Committee, which would have been read at the Otago International Committee meeting, had the World Congress have taken place. On the other hand, unlike regular World Congress editions, it does not include the provisional minutes of the 2018 International Committee meeting (published in the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019*](#)) and of the 2015 General Assembly (published in the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017*](#)) because they will not be formally adopted until the next meetings of the IC and GA.

It was with great regret and sorrow that we had to cancel the 2020 World Congress, but it is my duty to start looking for a host association for the IAHR XXII World Congress 2025. Considering the difficulties caused by COVID-19 in the first half of this year, I have extended the deadline of letters of interest for hosting the Congress to September 1st, 2020. Please check the invitation if you have ever thought of the possibility and do not hesitate to ask me if you have any questions.

Additional items include reports of a variety of IAHR Special/Regional Conferences written by their respective hosts and a proposal for membership from the newly established Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR). I would also like to share with you an announcement from the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) as to the conferment of an Honorary Chieftaincy in Nigeria on Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, a former IAHR President and Honorary Life Member.

I have a few more announcements in this preface:

- As announced on May 30, the officers of the IAHR member associations are kindly asked to inform me of the names and email addresses of (up to) two representatives who will vote on behalf of their associations by **July 31, 2020**. (The IAHR affiliates have no voting rights.)
- In place of a book exhibition at the site of the World Congress, we will feature an online book fair at the IAHR website in late August. It will come with documentation from the Congress and will appear on an entirely redesigned and updated IAHR website.
- Over this summer, I will explore a few possibilities for online activities for the IAHR by issuing a questionnaire and testing a webinar, giving consideration not only to the long-term impact of the pandemic but also to increased ecological concerns.

Please share this *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, July 2020* with the members of your respective national or regional IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates. Wide circulation of these Bulletins to individual members of your organization as well as to officers helps ensure that our membership is continuously being informed and updated on IAHR-related matters.

Last but not least, let me sincerely wish all the members of your organizations health and safety.

Respectfully yours,

Satoko Fujiwara

IAHR Acting Secretary General
Tokyo, July 25, 2020

2. IAHR Acting Secretary General's Report 2015-2020

Initially, it is my sad duty to announce the passing away of IAHR Honorary Life Members, Professors Jonathan Z. Smith († December 30, 2017) and Kurt Rudolph († May 13, 2020), and a past managing editor of *NVMEN*, Professor Michel Despland († July 31, 2018).

We honor the memory of these colleagues and friends and extend our condolences to their families. Obituaries have been or will be published in *NVMEN*.

1. Executive Committee and International Committee

1.1 Meetings and Meeting Locations

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 5, the IAHR Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. In addition to its Incoming meeting in Erfurt, 2015, the IAHR Executive Committee held annual meetings in Helsinki, June 26-27, 2016, in Ho Chi Minh City, July 8-9, 2017, in Bern, June 16-17, 2018, and in Delphi, September 15-17, 2019. The meetings took place in connection with IAHR Regional Conferences except for the one in Delphi, which was held right after an Extended Executive Committee meeting, September 13-15, (see below for more details of this special meeting) with a special opening session of the Greek Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (GSSCR). Due to the cancellation of the 2020 World Congress, the Executive Committee will hold its outgoing and incoming meetings online in August 2020. The International Committee had its intermediary (i.e., between two quinquennial World Congresses) meeting in Bern, June 19, 2018, during the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), which was also an IAHR Regional Conference.

On behalf of the Executive Committee allow me to take this opportunity to thank the Helsinki, Ho Chi Minh City, and Bern organizing committees for having hosted our Executive Committee meetings. The Executive is also sincerely grateful to Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions (SGR/SSSR) and the EASR for having hosted the International Committee meeting 2018. The Executive is well aware of the extra planning and efforts it takes to accommodate such a meeting. As for the Delphi meetings, the Executive is thankful to Prof. Panayotis Pachis, President of GSSCR, for having greatly helped us to arrange the meetings.

1.2 Outcomes and Follow-ups of the Extended Executive Committee Meeting on the Future of the IAHR

The abovementioned special, Extended Executive Committee meeting was held in order to discuss the future of the IAHR in a concerted and strategic manner, taking stock of the whereabouts of the IAHR: where are “we,” how did “we” get there, how are “we” doing, and where are “we” going? It took place at the European Cultural Centre of Delphi. To contribute to the discussion, former Presidents, former Secretary Generals, World Congress organizers, Presidents of African and Latin American associations and *NVMEN* managing editors were invited to this meeting. The meeting was followed by a regular Executive Committee meeting, during which the current members of the Committee further discussed issues and reached conclusions as to what to propose to the International Committee meeting in Otago, 2020.

In the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2019*, I wrote: “I will give you a more detailed report on the outcomes of the meetings and the reasons and rationales of the proposals, first in an email in the beginning of 2020, then in the Otago edition of the e-Bulletin, as well

as in my oral presentation during the International Committee meeting in August.” However, due to the cancellation of the 2020 World Congress and of the 2020 International Committee meeting caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (See 3.2. below), we have to postpone discussions on the proposals till the next intermediary International Committee meeting, which will be held either in 2022 or in 2023. Moreover, it will be left to the discretion of the incoming Executive Committee whether or not to submit the same proposals to the International Committee. Therefore, in this report I restrict myself to reproducing the essential parts of the proposals, my previous message to inform you of the Online Folder of related documents from the Extended Executive Committee meeting, and an outline of what else the Executive Committee discussed for the future of the IAHR, all for the purpose of record.

1.2.1 The Proposals

1. Proposal to change the name of the IAHR

The Executive Committee was going to recommend to the Otago International Committee that the IAHR change its name from the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) to the International Association for the Study of Religions (IASR).

It is true that it was only five years ago that the proposal to change the name given by Prof. Donald Wiebe and Prof. Luther Martin was rejected by a majority of the members of the International Committee in Erfurt. However, the situation surrounding the IAHR has been changing more rapidly than was imagined in 2015, and the term “history of religions,” formerly often seen as an apt umbrella term, nowadays more and more tends to be seen as one of many approaches in the study of religions. Therefore, even Executive Committee members who voted against the name change in 2015 have decided to support the change.

The name “study” was once rejected by the IAHR International Committee in 1992 because it was considered to be too generic and amorphous. Nevertheless, since then many of the IAHR member societies and associations have adopted “study of religion(s)” for their official names or their English translations. Therefore, the proposed change to the “International Association for the Study of Religions” will hopefully function as an up-to-date umbrella term in the same way as the “history of religions” did in the past. In addition, the plural of “religions” is intended to signal some continuity with the current name.

2. Proposal to insert “scientific” into the IAHR Constitution

While recommending the name “study of religions”, the Executive Committee also found it necessary to signal in even more explicit ways its commitment to a non-confessional, scientific approach. Discussions in Delphi, continued afterwards online, resulted in unanimous agreement to signal a wish to tighten up the academic, scientific profile of the IAHR in various ways, and one of these was by way of a proposal to insert the word “scientific” in Article 1 of the IAHR Constitution:

Original Article 1

“[...] The IAHR is a nonprofit worldwide organization which has as its objective the promotion of **the academic study of religions** through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.”

Proposal

“Article 1

[...] The IAHR is a nonprofit worldwide organization which has as its objective the promotion of **the scientific study of religions** (“**Religionswissenschaft**”) through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.”

In order to avoid giving the impression that the word “scientific” refers only to the natural sciences, the Executive Committee also suggested adding “Religionswissenschaft.”

3. Proposal to change Rules for hosting an IAHR Special and Regional Conference

Closely related to the second proposal and its rationale, the Executive Committee was going to propose that organizing committees for conferences that request and receive the IAHR Special or Regional Conference designation shall include one or more Executive Committee members in their committees. This would bring regional practice in line with that of the IAHR World Congresses, for which the IAHR Deputy Secretary General functions as the co-chair of the Academic Program Committee, and other officers, e.g. the President and the Secretary General, function as co-chairs of other World Congress committees.

The above three proposals were intended to update, enhance, and maintain the profile and status of the IAHR as the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion past and present.”

1.2.2 The IAHR Online Folder (Dossier)

On February 14, 2020, the Acting Secretary General emailed a link to the IAHR Online Folder to all officers of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates and to Honorary Life Members. The Folder contained documents from the Extended Executive Committee (EEC) meeting and was meant to enable well-informed discussions at the International Committee meeting in Otago. The documents were:

1. Invitation Letter (issued in January 2018)
2. “Themes & Resources” with a list of EEC members (issued in February 2019)
3. Program of the EEC Meeting
4. Opening Talks: Reflections and observations on the globalization of the IAHR, past and present with reference to the core themes outlined in the document on Themes & Resources
 - 4.1 Prof. Michael Pye, “Some Opening Reflections”
 - 4.2 Prof. Armin W. Geertz, “Reflections and observations”
5. Pre-circulated Papers
 - 5.1 Prof. Donald Wiebe, “What’s in a Name?: For the IAHR – Just about Everything!”
 - 5.2 Prof. Donald Wiebe, “Globalization – Expansion and Demise of the IAHR”
 - 5.3 Prof. Ann Taves, “The Future of the Study of Religion”
 - 5.4 Dr. Leonardo Ambasciano, “The Sisyphean Discipline” (The paper is not included in this folder due to copyright restrictions. It is available in *Religio: Revue pro religionistiku*)

1/2020)

6. Scheduled Short Remarks Presented during the Meeting, in the order of presentation
 - 6.1 Prof. Wiebe, Read Written Paper (see “Know thyself: Delphi 2019 and the Future of the IAHR”)
 - 6.2 Prof. Taves, Made Impromptu Comments on Pre-circulated Papers in Light of Discussion (see “Notes for a statement”)
 - 6.3 Prof. Yolotl Gonzalez Torres, Reported on SMER (see “Extended Executive Committee Meeting”)

7. Inputs from Absentees and Others that were shared during the meeting

- 7.1 Prof. Laura Feldt’s input
- 7.2 Prof. Marion Maddox’s input
- 7.3 Prof. Peter Nynäs’s input

(Profs. Feldt and Maddox were EEC members but were unable to attend the meeting. Prof. Nynäs sent me his personal suggestion as the then President of the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion, shortly after I called for suggestions as to matters to be discussed in the EEC meeting by the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February, 2019.*)

8. Other Documents shared during the meeting

- 8.1 “IAHR Scenarios: 2020 and Beyond” with a new introduction to Otago International Committee members

9. Communications after the EEC meeting (all circulated among EEC members)

- 9.1 Prof. Wiebe, “An Open Letter”
- 9.2 President Jensen’s response
- 9.3 Prof. Wiebe’s rejoinder
- 9.4 President Jensen’s final response
- 9.5 Emails between Prof. Peter Antes and Prof. Wiebe

10. Key Outcomes of the Executive Committee meeting, including proposals for the Otago International Committee meeting

(The EEC meeting was followed by a regular Executive Committee meeting, during which the current members of the Committee further discussed issues and reached conclusions as to what to propose to the International Committee meeting.)

- 10.1 “Outcomes of the Extended Executive Committee Meeting on the Future of the IAHR” (Published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2019*)

The link to the folder:

<http://www.iahrweb.org/dossier/>

PW: iahrdossier

All the documents are copyrighted and thus cannot be reproduced or be uploaded outside the IAHR’s website without permission.

Many of these documents were originally supposed to be limited to the Extended Executive Committee. However, following the meeting, Prof. Donald Wiebe, who was a member of the

Committee, resigned his IAHR Honorary Life Membership in protest and started a debate about the intentions of the current Executive Committee. He argued that the meeting had a hidden agenda which was to promote “a ‘study of religion’ that is open to much more than simply scientific knowledge of religious phenomena.” In an attempt to clear misunderstandings, the current Executive Committee decided to make all the documents used during and related to the meeting accessible to IAHR members so that they would be able to see and judge for themselves whether the meeting had such an agenda.

Around the same time, Prof. Wiebe contributed a paper that summarized his criticism of the meeting and the Executive Committee to the *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*. The editors of the journal kindly invited the IAHR President and Acting Secretary General to contribute a response. The two papers, which recap the differences in views between Prof. Wiebe and the leadership of the Executive Committee, are freely accessible online, owing to the generosity of Brill.

Donald Wiebe, “[A Report on the Special Executive Committee Meeting of the International Association for the History of Religions in Delphi](#),” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, 32/2, 2020, pp. 150–158.

Tim Jensen and Satoko Fujiwara, “[What’s in a \(Change of\) Name? Much—but Not That Much—and Not What Wiebe Claims](#),” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*, 32/2, 2020, pp. 159–184.

Our special thanks are extended to the Editors of the *MTSR* and Brill.

1.2.3 Other Planned Proposals and Suggestions

While the Executive Committee thus intends to maintain and further tighten up the academic profile and quality of the IAHR, it is also true that an international academic body that merely regulates its members’ performances might not be able to prosper. It should also reach out and help its members when needed or wanted. Therefore, during the meeting in Delphi the Committee discussed what would benefit individual members of IAHR member associations/societies and came up with the following ideas.

- IAHR Awards for excellent papers, books and dissertations. Also awards for good practices in education, in connections with the IAHR Religion and Public Education Working Group (see below).
- Support young scholars by introducing abstracts of new Ph.D. theses on the IAHR website, as well as giving information on summer schools in the advanced study of religions.
- Let summer schools and programs for young scholars apply for IAHR’s recognition and support (following IAHR Special/Regional Conferences, they will be named “IAHR Summer Schools”)
- Workshops on research design to be held at IAHR-related conferences.

Although these remain as suggestions for the incoming Executive Committee, it is worth mentioning that the Otago Academic Programme Committee did receive an email with a similar idea from a Committee member who had reviewed abstracts for the World Congress. He asked the IAHR to possibly explore a sub-track or pre-conference e-workshop on research skills, academic presentations, etc. in the field of the study of religions, targeted at young scholars and doctoral students who do not have enough access to professional education.

2. Communications

The *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, together with the IAHR website and occasional email letters with important pieces of information sent to the officers and members at large of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates, constitute the main means of communication from and about the IAHR.

The *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* are normally edited and (for the most part) written by the Secretary General on behalf of the IAHR Executive and International Committee. Though some of the contents may be of most immediate and direct use to the officers and delegates of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates, the *IAHR Bulletin* and *e-Bulletin Supplement* are addressed to *all* of their members. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to the wellbeing and functioning of the IAHR that the officers of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates forward the digital version of the *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to their membership. The *IAHR Bulletin* and *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* can be found on the IAHR website at:
<http://www.iahrweb.org/index.php>.

2.1 The IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements, and Email Letters of Information: 2015- 2020

The list below shows the email letters and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements* that have been sent to the officers of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates.

- January 6, 2016, an invitation for bids for hosting the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in 2020 was emailed to all officers.
- November 27, 2016, an email message announced that the Executive Committee's decision to gratefully accept the bid from the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR) to host the IAHR XXII World Congress 2020 in Dunedin (later renamed as Otago), Aotearoa, New Zealand.
- December 1, 2016, the Open Access version of the [Erfurt Congress Proceedings](#) was published by De Gruyter. The news was posted to the IAHR website.
- June 7, 2017, an email message with a letter from Deputy Secretary General was sent to announce the resignation of the Secretary General on June 5.
- August 22, 2017, the [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017](#) was issued.

This *e-Bulletin Supplement* included:

- ✧ the appointment of Publications Officer Satoko Fujiwara as the IAHR Acting Secretary General during the Executive Committee meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, July 8
- ✧ call for suggestions regarding Honorary Life Membership from the IAHR constituent member associations
- ✧ the developments of the IAHR XXII World Congress 2020 in Dunedin (Otago)
- ✧ reference to an EASR-IAHR joint-statement on the European Academy of Religion
- ✧ the announcements of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (EASR Leuven 2017; AASR Lusaka 2018)
- ✧ a report on the outcomes of the World Humanities Conference in Liège, Belgium during August 6-12, 2017, co-organized by UNESCO, the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) and the World Humanities Conference-Liège 2017 Foundation

The *Supplement* also included

- ✧ provisional minutes from the IAHR International Committee meeting, Erfurt 2015
- ✧ provisional minutes from the IAHR General Assembly, Erfurt 2015
- December 3, 2017, an email message was sent to remind key officers of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates of the 2018 IAHR International Committee meeting in Bern.
- May 3, 2018, an email message that conveyed practical information regarding the IAHR International Committee meeting in Bern was sent to all key officers as well as representatives to the meeting.
- May 19, 2018, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, May 2018* was issued. This *e-Bulletin Supplement* included documents and information specifically linked to the International Committee meeting in Bern, June 19, 2018:
 - ✧ final call and provisional agenda for the meeting
 - ✧ provisional minutes from the IAHR International Committee meeting, Erfurt, 2015
 - ✧ IAHR Acting Secretary General's report, 2015-2018
 - ✧ IAHR Treasurer's report, 2015- 2018
 - ✧ call for papers for the IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress 2020 in Dunedin (Otago)
 - ✧ recommendation of changes to the nomination and election process of the IAHR Executive Committee
 - ✧ a report on the 7th SSEASR Conference, Ho Chi Minh City, 2013
 - ✧ 2015 Election manager's suggestions as to the election process of the IAHR Executive Committee
 - ✧ Revised rules for IAHR Special & Regional Conferences

Let me also add that, as seen on the cover page of this *e-Bulletin Supplement*, the IAHR logo was refreshed as a high-resolution image, owing to the great help of Ms. Megumi Inamura, a graduate student of the U. of Tokyo.
- September 3, 2018, an email message was sent to the five members of the IAHR 2020 Nominating Committee to confirm the establishment of the committee, to thank the members for the service of the IAHR, and to ask them to agree on a chairperson.
- February 5, 2019, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019* was issued. This *e-Bulletin Supplement* included:
 - ✧ provisional minutes from the IAHR International Committee meeting, Bern, 2018
 - ✧ call for papers for the IAHR XXII World Congress 2020 in Otago
 - ✧ call for suggestions as to matters to be discussed for the future of the IAHR, during the Extended Executive Committee meeting, September 2019
 - ✧ the appointment and establishment of the IAHR 2020 Nominating Committee
 - ✧ the announcements of IAHR Special & Regional Conferences (SSEASR Dhaka 2019; ISSRNC Cork 2019; EASR Tartu 2019; DVRW Hannover 2019)
 - ✧ a report on the 16th Annual Conference (IAHR Regional Conference) of EASR
 - ✧ a report on the 13th Conference (IAHR Special Conference) of ISORECEA
 - ✧ a report and recommendation on IAHR Honorary Life Membership, given by the Chair of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee
- February 21, 2019, a newsletter from the CIPSH was forwarded to all key officers, with a call for suggestions regarding “new UNESCO global programmes focused on the Humanities.”
- February, 2019, email messages were sent from the Acting Secretary General, on behalf of the IAHR President, who was going to chair the Congress Advisory Committee of the

2020 World Congress, as well as the Congress Director, to invite several IAHR Honorary Life Members and others to become members of the Otago 2020 World Congress Advisory Committee.

- November 20, 2019, the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2019*](#) was issued. This *e-Bulletin Supplement* included:
 - ✧ the announcement of travel grants for the IAHR 2020 World Congress
 - ✧ the notification of nominations for the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025
 - ✧ a report on the outcomes of the Extended Executive Committee meeting on the future of the IAHR
 - ✧ call for suggestions for IAHR Honorary Life Membership
 - ✧ an invitation for letters of interest for hosting the IAHR XXIII World Congress 2025
- December 31, 2019, an email message from the Otago host of the IAHR 2020 World Congress was forwarded to all key officers, which announced the extension of the deadline on call for papers.
- January 9, 2020, an email message was sent to the Chair of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2015-2020 with a list of nominations for Life Members suggested by the IAHR Executive Committee as well as that suggested and sent to the Acting Secretary General by IAHR member associations.
- February 14, 2020, an email message was sent to all key officers, which introduced an online folder containing documents from the IAHR Extended Executive Committee meeting. The documents were meant to form a basis for several of the proposals that were to be presented and discussed at the Otago International Committee meeting. The message also reminded that the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee was looking forward to hearing more suggestions for HLM candidates.
- March 26, 2020, an email message from the Chairs of the Organizing Committee of the IAHR 2020 World Congress was forwarded to all key officers, which announced the cancellation of the Congress due to COVID-19.
- April 25, 2020, an email message was sent to Prof. Armin Geertz to thank him for having agreed to take over the task of the Chair of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee from Prof. Jan Platvoet. Prof. Platvoet, who was the Chair of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2015-2020, resigned unexpectedly from the Committee due to personal difficulties caused by the spread of COVID-19. After consulting with the other two members of the Advisory Committee, the IAHR President and the Acting Secretary General approached Prof. Geertz, who was the Chair of the Committee 2010-2015, and asked him if he could once again take on this role in light of the emergency. The Acting Secretary General also emailed Prof. Platvoet and thanked him for his hard work as the Chair of the Committee.
- May 2, 2020, an email message following up on the cancellation of the World Congress was sent to all key officers. It said:
 - ✧ The Chairs of the Otago Congress Committees (Advisory Committee, Organizing Committee and, above all, Academic Program Committee) will produce documentation for the planned Congress, to be uploaded to the IAHR website.
 - ✧ The Managing Editors of *NVMEN*, the Series Editors of the IAHR Book Series, the Director of the Otago Congress and the Acting Secretary General of the IAHR will invite the organizers of planned panels to send proposals to *NVMEN* and the Book Series.
 - ✧ With the cancellation of the World Congress, the meetings of the IAHR International

Committee and General Assembly have also to be cancelled.

- ✧ The election of the Executive Committee 2020-2025 will take place in August 2020 by using an e-voting service. The deadline for alternative nominations will be (as already announced) May 22, 2020.
- ✧ The recommendations of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership will be included on the ballot along with the EC candidates in August 2020.
- May 4, 2020, an email message was sent to the nominees of the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025, with information about the May 2, 2020 email message to all key officers, that is, the IAHR International Committee. It also asked them to reconfirm their willingness to serve on the Executive Committee.
- May 11, 2020, a special call for proposals for the IAHR Book Series and *NVMEN*, addressed to the organizers of panels planned for the cancelled World Congress, was sent to the Congress participants.
- May 30, 2020, an email message which announced the total and final nominations for the 2020-2025 IAHR Executive Committee was sent to all key officers. The message was also sent to the Chair of the IAHR 2020 Nominating Committee and to all the nominees.

In addition to the communications above, several postings have also been uploaded to the IAHR website. And the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Philippe Bornet, has sent annual notifications of annual membership fees to the relevant officers of member associations/societies and affiliates.

Let me add that email messages from the desk of the Acting Secretary General to the officers of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates are explicitly addressed to their email accounts (that is, all recipients are disclosed) in order to avoid being recognized as spam. As a result, the officers have to receive over 100 email addresses of the other officers each time. But it has a good, practical side-effect. Looking through the addresses, the officers can check who in their association/society are on the IAHR mailing list and help me update it. Therefore, I hope that the officers can continue tolerating my emails with a long list of recipients.

2.2 EASR-IAHR Joint-Statement on the European Academy of Religion

The EASR-IAHR joint-statement on the European Academy of Religion must be well-known among European members but probably not much outside Europe. The European Academy of Religion (EuARE) is an organization newly established in 2016. There is a shared concern over its development among the members of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Ever since its establishment, the EuARE has been trying to compete with the EASR with no respect for the association that has been serving as the main academic umbrella association for scholars in of religion Europe. Moreover, the growing media presence of the EuARE may give the public the impression that confessional and/or applied studies form the main stream of the study of religions and thus potentially marginalize scholars in philological and other non-confessional and not directly socially relevant studies. As it is an obligation of the IAHR to support its regional members such as the EASR, President of the IAHR, Prof. Jensen joined (the then) President of the EASR, Prof. Einar Thomassen to issue [statement](#) of concern on May 24, 2017.

2.3 IAHR Website

April 2018, the URL of the IAHR website was changed from <http://www.iahr.dk/> to one

without a particular national indicator, <http://www.iahrweb.org>.

August 2020, the IAHR website will be redesigned, in order to carry information to visitors more effectively.

Our former President Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett kindly advised us as to the renewal of the website. Allow me to thank her and also our webmaster, Mr. Jeremy Hughes, for his always prompt work in updating the IAHR website as well as for his work on redesigning it.

2.4 IAHR Women Scholars Network

The IAHR Women Scholars Network (WSN), which was founded in 2006 by IAHR past President Rosalind Hackett and former IAHR Executive Committee member Morny Joy, has expanded in 2015-2020 under the leadership of WSN Coordinators, Profs Jenny Berglund and Jay Johnston, to include new members from diverse regions. As of July 2020, its Facebook has 550 members, who constantly exchange info on conferences, publications, job postings and data related to gender equality. The WSN has been holding a meeting every year in global contexts: during the 2015 IAHR World Congress in Erfurt, at the 2016 AAR (American Academy of Religion) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, at the 2017 SSEASR Conference in HCM City, the 2018 EASR Conference in Bern, and the 2019 EASR Conference in Tartu. In 2020, a WSN symposium was planned for the Otago World Congress, which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled with the Congress.

Profs Berglund and Johnston also planned to step down from the WSN Coordinators at the WSN meeting in Otago. Due to its cancellation, they have started looking for new coordinators. Please contact them if you have recommendations or questions as to WSN Coordinators.

Prof. Jenny Berglund: jenny.berglund@hsd.su.se

Prof. Jay Johnston: jay.johnston@sydney.edu.au

Let me thank Profs Berglund and Johnston for their great work to promote academic dialogues and friendly conversations among IAHR women scholars over the world.

2.5 IAHR Facebook

The IAHR Facebook group has been growing almost every day and has nearly 2300 members as of July 2020. All members of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates are welcome to post about conferences, workshops, research projects and publications which are internationally relevant and strictly related to the academic and non-confessional study of religions. Thanks are extended to the group moderators, Profs. Jenny Berglund and David Thurfjell.

During this term, the Executive Committee also attempted to create a Wikipedia page for the IAHR. Although Wikipedia does not always carry reliable information, it is often the first website that people access when they want to know about the IAHR. While there is a German Wikipedia page on the IAHR, there is no English equivalent. (The English IAHR page is for the “International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research”!) We, therefore, attempted to create a new English entry for the IAHR, but a first version was unfortunately rejected for insufficient external references to the IAHR. A new attempt will be made.

3. IAHR Congresses and Conferences

3.1 IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress, Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29, 2015

The key documentation for the Erfurt 2015 IAHR World Congress, *[Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present. Proceedings of the XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions](#)*, is freely available at De Gruyter's website in a digital version. A printed copy can also be purchased from the same website. Thanks are once again extended to Congress Directors, Prof. Dr. Christoph Bochinger and Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke, and Congress Coordinator, Dr. Elisabeth Begemann.

The *[IAHR Bulletin 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015](#)*, a print edition of which was distributed to participants during the Erfurt Congress, is also available to all IAHR members on the IAHR website.

The minutes from the meetings of the IAHR International Committee and General Assembly in Erfurt have been sent to all IAHR officers with the *[IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017](#)*, and have also been made available on the IAHR website.

3.2 IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress, Otago, New Zealand, August 23-29, 2020

The preparation for the 2020 World Congress began before the Erfurt World Congress with the invitation for "letters of interest" for hosting the World Congress included in the *[IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014](#)*. The Executive Committee received two notices of interest, one from the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR) and another from the Brazilian Association for the History of Religions (ABHR). By the deadline for bids on May 31st, 2016, a full application was received from the NZASR. The Executive Committee discussed the issue during their annual business meeting in Helsinki, July 2016. After thorough discussion, the Executive unanimously agreed to accept the bid from the NZASR. The then Secretary General of the IAHR notified the NZASR of the decision, and formally announced the decision to all member associations/societies and affiliates in an email sent out on November 27, 2016. The announcement offered heartfelt thanks to all the institutions, organizations, and people (e.g. Dunedin City Council, University of Otago, Tourism New Zealand, Enterprise Dunedin, the other Study of Religions programs in the country, and the Australian Association for the Study of Religions) for the support, collaboration and cooperation they were prepared to offer with regard to the planning and execution of the 2020 IAHR World Congress. The decision was also announced on the IAHR website.

Since then, the IAHR President, Prof. Jensen and the IAHR Acting Secretary General, Prof. Fujiwara have been in continuous contact with the New Zealand host, Prof. Will Sweetman, Congress Director of the 2020 World Congress on relevant matters. Prof. Fujiwara served as a member of the Congress Organizing Committee and Prof. Jensen as a member of its Advisory Committee. Prof. Jensen visited Dunedin at the end of January and beginning of February 2017 and had constructive and promising meetings with the local hosts, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Mayor of Dunedin and local tourism agents. Prof. Sweetman was in turn invited to the IAHR Executive Committee meeting in Ho Chi Minh City in July 2017 in order to discuss, *inter alia*, the theme and subthemes of the Congress and the budget plan. In addition to these, the IAHR Deputy Secretary General, Prof. Ann Taves, as a co-chair of the Academic Programme Committee, was engaged in the planning process with Profs. John Shaver and Ben Schonthal, the two other co-chairs of APC and was in residence in New Zealand to work on the program, when the pandemic broke out. Profs. Sweetman, Shaver and Schonthal also had a business meeting with Profs. Jensen and Fujiwara during the annual

meeting of the American Academy of Religion, both in 2018 and in 2019.

A first circular about the Congress with Call for Papers was included in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, May 2018* and also released on the Congress website (<https://www.iahr2020.kiwi/>). Call for Papers was then reprinted in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019* and an announcement of travel grants for the Congress was included in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2019*.

After the extended deadline of submissions in early January 2020, the Academic Programme Committee carefully reviewed over 600 abstracts. By that time, keynote speakers with a variety of specializations and backgrounds had been introduced on the Congress website. Scholars of the IAHR member associations and societies had started registering for the Congress, many also for the Congress dinner and excursions.

Therefore, it was with greatest regret that Chairs of the Organizing Committee of the Congress, Profs. Sweetman and Fujiwara, announced the cancellation of the Congress on March 26, 2020, due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. We had considered a postponement, but it was not at all clear when we might begin to be able to plan with any certainty for a large international gathering in the near future. (It is still unclear as of summer 2020.) We had also considered the possibility of holding a virtual Congress online, but New Zealand's time zone and limited IT infrastructure made that option difficult.

Following the announcement of the cancellation of the Otago World Congress, the IAHR Executive Committee discussed several issues regarding the Congress and associated business meetings, consulting with Prof. Sweetman. Conclusions were conveyed to officers of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates by an email message on May 2 (the entire message is reproduced in Appendix 1 of this e-Bulletin). To summarize the conclusions:

- ✧ The Chairs of the Otago Congress Committees will produce documentation (mainly consisting of paper titles and participant names, the Congress theme and structure, and the list of the members of the Congress Committees) for the planned Congress, to be uploaded to the IAHR website.
- ✧ The Managing Editors of *NVMEN*, the Series Editors of the IAHR Book Series, the Director of the Otago Congress and the Acting Secretary General of the IAHR will directly contact the organizers of planned panels and invite them to send proposals to *NVMEN* and the Book Series. (This special call was then delivered on May 11, 2020.)
- ✧ With the cancellation of the 2020 Quinquennial World Congress, the meetings of the IAHR International Committee and General Assembly, have to be cancelled, too, *along with* discussions and decisions as to the proposals of the Executive Committee of the IAHR to change the name of our Association and to insert a new term in the Article 1 of the Constitution (See 1.2 for the details of these proposals). The incoming Executive Committee will continue discussing the issues and decide whether or not to bring the same proposals to the next International Committee meeting.
- ✧ The election of the Executive Committee 2020-2025 will take place in August 2020 by using an e-voting service.

Allow me to extend heartfelt thanks to Congress Director, Prof. Will Sweetman, Chairs of the Academic Programme Committee, Profs. John Shaver, Ben Schonthal and Ann Taves and the other members of the Committee. Since Dynamics, the PCO of the Otago Congress, declared bankruptcy and had to stop all its activities in March 2020, Prof. Sweetman had to refund registration fees to the Congress participants by himself. Even with the help of the IAHR Treasurer and the Acting Secretary General, this was an exhausting extra-task for Prof.

Sweetman, especially when he had online teaching obligations at his institution. Moreover, he has also agreed to compile the abovementioned documentation of the Congress with the IAHR Acting Secretary General. Therefore, additional thanks go to Prof. Sweetman.

3.3 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences 2010-2015

Upon application, the IAHR Executive Committee has granted the status of an IAHR Special or Regional Conference to the following conferences:

IAHR Special Conferences

- *Finnish Society for the Study of Religion* (SUS), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & Study of Religions at the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with Comparative Religion at the Åbo Akademi University and the Donner Institute, Turku, Finland: “Relocating Religion,” 16th EASR Conference, June 28-July 1, 2016, Helsinki, Finland.

The IAHR Executive Committee held its annual business meeting in the context of the conference. IAHR President, Prof. Tim Jensen gave an opening speech for the Special Conference, paying tribute to the contribution to the study of religion in Finland by the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion, its international and renowned journal *Temenos*, and a long list of outstanding and IAHR-dedicated Finnish scholars.

- *Belgian Association for the Study of Religions* (BABEL), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Leuven, Belgium: “Communicating Religion,” 15th EASR Conference, September 18-21, 2017, Leuven, Belgium.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen and Deputy Secretary General Ann Taves. Prof. Jensen gave an opening speech, expressing his gratitude to the younger as well older Belgian scholars who had contributed to meeting the challenges created by the demise of the former association, and he directed special thanks to Prof. Jos Verheyden for his contribution and for hosting this Conference in Leuven. Prof. Taves delivered a keynote lecture, “Communicating about Religion/s and Other Worldviews in the Classroom.”

- *International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association* (ISORECEA) & the University of Szeged: “Un(b)locking Religion: Studying Religion in Today’s Central and Eastern Europe,” 13th ISORECEA Conference, May 24-26, 2018, Szeged, Hungary.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen and Prof. Milda Ališauskienė. President Jensen delivered a talk on the IAHR as well as words of welcome. The report of the conference is included in [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019*](#).

- *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* (ISSRNC) & University College Cork: “Religion/Water/Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes,” June 13-16, 2019, Cork, Ireland.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen and Prof. David Thurfjell. President Jensen gave an opening talk that included reflections on the IAHR, ISSRNC and his own past research on religion and the environment. See Appendix 2 for the report.

- *German Association for the Study of Religions (DVRW) & the University of Hannover: “Conceptualising Religion,” 33rd DVRW Biannual Conference, September 3-6, 2019, Hannover, Germany.*

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen, Acting Secretary General Fujiwara and Deputy Treasurer Marion Maddox. Prof. Jensen gave a speech at the opening session. On the following day the three members gave papers at two consecutive sessions, “Perspectives on worldwide cooperation on the study of religion and religion in public education.” The sessions were organized by the Conference Director, Prof. Wanda Alberts in collaboration with Prof. Fujiwara as the first substantial activity of the IAHR Network on Religion in Public Education (See 6 for this network). See Appendix 2 for the report.

IAHR Regional Conferences

- *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) & Vietnam Buddhist University in collaboration with Vietnam Buddhist Research Institute: “ASEAN Region’s Culture and Religion by the end of 21st Century: A Dialogue of Past with Present?,” 7th SSEASR Conference, July 09-12, 2017, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.*

The IAHR Executive Committee had its annual business meeting in the context of the conference. The IAHR President, Prof. Jensen gave both an opening and a closing speech sharing with the audience reflections on the academic aims and means of the IAHR, and expressing his thanks to the SSEASR Secretary General, Sophana Srichampa, the SSEASR President, Amarjiva Lochan, and the local organizers. Prof. Jensen, on a personal note, expressed his sympathy and respect for the Vietnamese people and their struggle to overcome the sufferings of the past. The speeches were simultaneously translated into Vietnamese and broadcasted. In addition, Prof. Morny Joy, ex-IAHR Publications Officer and the Series Editor of the IAHR Book Series, gave a keynote speech. The report of the conference is included in [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, May 2018*](#).

- *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions (SGR/SSSR), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & the University of Bern, Institute for the Science of Religion: “Multiple Religious Identities – Individuals, Communities, Traditions,” 16th EASR Conference, June 17-21, 2018, Bern, Switzerland.*

President Jensen gave a speech at the opening session. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the EASR and its member associations for their continuous efforts to promote and strengthen the historical, social, and comparative study of religion, and he extended special thanks to the EASR President and General Secretary, Profs. Einar Thomassen and Marco Pasi, also for the

recent collaboration with regard to the response to the European Academy of Religion. Having thanked the local host and the Swiss Society for the Study of Religions, the President paid tribute to the work of the large number of eminent past and present Swiss scholars. The IAHR Executive Committee held its annual business meeting in the context of the conference. The IAHR International Committee also had its intermediary meeting in conjunction with the conference. The report of the conference is included in [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019*](#).

- *African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) & the University of Zambia and Justo Mwale University*: “Revisiting Religion, Politics, and the State in Africa and the African Diaspora,” 8th AASR Conference, August 1-4, 2018, Lusaka, Zambia.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen and Acting Secretary General Fujiwara. President Jensen gave a speech at the opening session. With reference to the 1992 Harare IAHR conference, the first conference of the IAHR on the continent of Africa, with the founding of the AASR at the closing, the President took the opportunity to pay tribute to the AASR as well as to some individuals who had been dedicated to the AASR and the IAHR. After looking back to Harare and past achievements, he extended sincere thanks to the current AASR leadership and the local hosts, and expressed his wish that the IAHR-AASR cooperation would be as strong and fruitful in the future as it had been in the past. Both President and Acting Secretary General were also present at the AASR business meeting. See Appendix 2 for the report.

- *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) & Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh*: “Rivers and Religion: Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia,” 8th SSEASR Conference, June 13-16, 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by Acting Secretary General Fujiwara and Prof. Amarjiva Lochan, who is also the President of the SSEASR. It was the first SSEASR conference that took place in a country of Muslim majority. During the conference, the Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR) was established and expressed a plan to apply for the IAHR membership. See Appendix 2 for the report.

- *Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (EAUS/ESSR), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & the University of Tartu*: “Religion – Continuations and Disruptions,” 17th EASR Conference, June 25-29, 2019, Tartu, Estonia.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by President Jensen and its other European members. Prof. Jensen gave a speech at the opening session, congratulating the EAUS’s achievement and thanking the EASR leadership. He then gave a brief yet steadfast defense for the IAHR and EASR against a most recent charge of being unscientific, quoting the [EASR-IAHR Joint Statement on the European Academy of Religion](#). Prof. David Thurfjell gave a keynote speech, “On Secularity, Muslim Immigrants and the Post-Lutheran Mindset.” The recordings of both speeches are [available online](#). See Appendix 2 for the report.

The IAHR Executive Committee thanks all colleagues whose engagement and hard work have

made these conferences possible and successful, and thanks are extended to all those engaged in accommodating and hosting the annual meetings of the Executive Committee.

3.4 Future IAHR Special and Regional Conferences

At the moment, the IAHR Executive Committee has awarded the status of IAHR Special/Regional Conferences to the conferences of the following associations.

IAHR Special Conferences

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE) & University College Cork: “Esotericism, Art and Creativity,” 8th ESSWE Conference, July 5-7, 2021, Cork, Ireland.

British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR) & the University of Edinburgh: “From Religious Studies to the Study of Religion/s: Disciplinary Futures for the 21st century,” annual BASR Conference, September 6-8, 2021, Edinburgh, U.K.

IAHR Regional Conferences

- *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) & University of Yangon: “Indigenous Civilisations and Peoples in South and Southeast Asia Connecting Past with Present and Beyond,” 9th SSEASR Conference, July 13-19, 2021, Yangon, Myanmar. See the [conference website](#).*

- *Italian Society for the History of religions/Società Italiana di Storia delle Religioni (SISR), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & the University of Pisa: “Resilient Religion,” 18th EASR Conference, August 30-September 3, 2021, Pisa, Italy. (Note: The conference has recently been rescheduled.) See the [conference website](#).*

In addition to these, the North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR) is planning to hold an IAHR-NAASR conference in Atlanta, USA, August, 2021, and the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) has applied for a Regional Conference status for its postponed conference in Dakar, Senegal, summer 2021.

The IAHR Executive Committee currently receives more than a few applications for IAHR Special/Regional Conferences from a variety of IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates every year. The Executive Committee is delighted with this wonderful development, which has been furthering the global character of the IAHR. Nevertheless, if there are more than five IAHR Conferences every year, they would no longer be so special. In addition, an adequate presence of IAHR EC members would be difficult to guarantee. The incoming Executive Committee will discuss whether there should be a limit to the number of IAHR Conferences.

4. Membership Developments

4.1 Admission of Members and Affiliates, and Applications and Recommendations for Membership 2015-2020

At the International Committee meeting in Bern, June 19, 2018, the International Committee

unanimously agreed, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly (meeting in Otago 2020) to adopt the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) as an affiliate of the IAHR.

Due to the cancellation of the International Committee meeting in Otago, 2020, the SBL has to remain a provisional affiliate for five more years (See Constitution Article 3B). However, provisional affiliates can already be engaged in IAHR-related projects and activities. In the case of the SBL, two roundtables titled “IAHR/SBL Conversation” were organized for its International Meeting in Rome, July 4, 2019. The IAHR President, Prof. Jensen presided at the roundtables, which aimed to enhance historical-philological approaches to the study of religion through the collaboration between the IAHR and the SBL.

Since the International Committee meeting in 2018, the IAHR Executive Committee has received one application for membership from a national association, the Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR). As mentioned, the BSSCR was newly established during the SSEASR Conference in Dhaka. Having received the application and exchanged several emails with the representative of the BSSCR, the IAHR Executive Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the IAHR International Committee the adoption of the BSSCR as a national member of the IAHR. As an International Committee meeting will not be held in 2020, nor will a General Assembly, the BSSCR will have to stay as a provisional member till 2025. It will, nevertheless, be able to be engaged in IAHR activities just as other IAHR members are, upon paying their membership fee. See Appendix 3 for BSSCR’s application and its Constitution.

In addition, the IAHR Executive Committee members have been in contact with some of the newly joined associations, recently revitalized associations and future possible applicants in order to assist them in fostering the academic study of religion in various regions of the world.

Furthermore, the IAHR President, Acting Secretary General, and Deputy Secretary General had business meetings with the American Academy of Religion (AAR) leadership during its annual meetings in 2017-2019. The outcomes of the meetings include:

- the launching of an IAHR-AAR’s International Connections Committee roundtable as a regular joint session for AAR’s annual meetings. For 2019, the session, titled “Making the Most of International Collaboration: 2020 IAHR Otago and Beyond,” encouraged AAR members to develop and submit proposals for IAHR World Congress in Otago that involve international collaboration.

- the installment of an IAHR booth in AAR’s book exhibition during its annual meetings 2018 and 2019 to advertise the 2020 World Congress as well as the presentation of the Congress by the Congress Organizers during AAR’s program unit chairs breakfast.

In addition, the former Secretary General and the Acting Secretary General attended the business meetings of AAR’s International Connections Committee between 2015-2019 as IAHR liaison officers. One major task of the ICC is the selection and awarding of Collaborative International Research Grants (CIRG). The ICC makes sure that all grantees are members of AAR and/or IAHR member associations and societies.

4.2 Membership Declared Lapsed

After the 2015 World Congress, no association has had its membership declared lapsed although one member association has not paid its fees since 2017.

5. Financial Situation

With reference to the Treasurer's Report for 2015-2020 included in this *Bulletin*, I am happy to say that the financial situation of the IAHR remains healthy. However, I hasten to add that maintaining our financial health depends on a strict policy in regard to expenses related to the performance of the work of the Executive Committee members, as well as on the capability of most of the members to finance almost all of their IAHR expenses themselves. In addition, it is difficult to foresee how things and prices will change in the post COVID-19 world.

Therefore, I sincerely ask you to consider donating to the IAHR in order to support and ensure the continuous development of the academic study of religion. We believe that readers of this *e-Bulletin Supplement* are dedicated scholars who appreciate the distinguished value of the study of religion and care for the future of the IAHR. Your contribution to the IAHR finances would be most appreciated and would go toward helping scholars from weaker currency countries to attend IAHR-related events. Even if participating to conferences at a distance with video-conferencing tools becomes more common, travels will still be necessary and institutional resources might become more scarce in the post COVID-19 world.

Allow me to direct special thanks to the outgoing IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Philippe Borne for his truly excellent managing of the IAHR finances 2015-2020, as well as for his close, often almost daily cooperation with the IAHR President and Acting Secretary General.

6. CIPSH

Another reason why donations to the IAHR would be particularly welcome is that, due to the impact of the financial crisis on its parent body, UNESCO, the CIPSH, the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines) no longer allocates grants to its member organizations, of which the IAHR is one of the oldest. The CIPSH itself has resumed functioning since 2015 due to the efforts of board members including the former IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, now Vice-President of the CIPSH. The CIPSH has launched a variety of projects, which include:

- ✧ the CIPSH Chairs program (which aims to endorse and publicize the establishment of academic humanities chairs of international research networks)
- ✧ the Global Humanities Report project (The Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), a member of the CIPSH, has undertaken the coordination of the report)
- ✧ the Global History of Humankind project (The IAHR Acting Secretary General has been asked to join its working group)

As reported in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, May 2018*, the IAHR Executive Committee has been giving serious consideration to these CIPSH initiatives. We are concerned about the feasibility of the projects as well as the overall social innovation- and public policy-based agenda of the revived CIPSH. Therefore, the Committee has planned to set up two IAHR working groups, "Religion and Public Education" and "World History of Religions" working group, which are both related to and independent of the CIPSH's new projects. They will be able to stand on their own no matter what happens to the CIPSH. The Religion and Public Education Working Group aims to promote study-of-religions based religious education and also to exchange empirical research results on religion in public education in different national contexts. (See Appendix 4 for the proposal submitted by the coordinator of the group, Prof. Wanda Alberts.) Seven scholars who share the same vision gathered and had a discussion

during the abovementioned IAHR Special Conference in Hannover, 2019. As for the World History of Religions Working Group, the Acting Secretary General has approached several international scholars and explored possibilities. It aims to form a network of scholars who feel the need for an updated macro history of religions, which is based on critical reflections on the so-called World Religions paradigm, discussions of multiple modernities, and developments in the cognitive and evolutionary science of religion.

Despite the above concern, or, rather, because of it, the IAHR Executive Committee has actively been engaged in shaping and supporting the CIPSH. The IAHR President, Prof. Jensen was nominated by the IAHR EC and elected by the CIPSH GA to serve as a member of the CIPSH Executive Committee (up to 2020). He and the IAHR are thus in a position to have a say with respect to CIPSH policies. He has attended several CIPSH conferences and even drafted proposals to revise the CIPSH constitution. Moreover, he and his university are going to host the next CIPSH General Assembly in December 2020. The IAHR EC has nominated Acting Secretary General Satoko Fujiwara to represent the IAHR (starting in 2020) on the CIPSH EC, pending her election at the upcoming General Assembly.

7. IAHR Related Publications

7.1 *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*

The IAHR Executive Committee appoints, and normally constitutes, the *NVMEN* Editorial Board. It also recommends to the publisher, Brill, the appointment of Managing and Book Reviews Editor(s). During 2015-2020 Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Laura Feldt served as Managing Editors and Prof. Carole Cusack and Dr. Rose Mary Amenga-Etego as Review Editors. Prof. Alles will step down in December 2020 and be succeeded by Prof. Ülo Valk, who has already started working in order to enable a smooth transition. The Review Editors were succeeded by Dr. Jenny Butler in December 2019.

The IAHR Acting Secretary General who is also its Publications Officer is in continuous email contact with the publisher Brill, normally represented by an Acquisitions Editor, currently Ms. Laura Morris, as well as with the *NVMEN* Managing Editors. As stated in the [“Procedures Concerning *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*,”](#) the IAHR Executive Committee considers *NVMEN* as the flagship journal of the IAHR, with “a proud tradition of quality and international coverage, and the editorial board is very keen on improving it in tune with current developments in the subject and in the IAHR organization.”

Consequently, the IAHR Executive Committee discusses *NVMEN* and its future during annual *NVMEN* Editorial Board meetings, normally held in conjunction with the annual business meeting of the Executive Committee. When the Brill Acquisitions Editor finds it difficult to attend the meeting, she calls for a meeting in another context. Thus, the 2018 Editorial Board meeting was held during the Executive Committee meeting in Bern. The 2019 meeting was replaced by a meeting of the IAHR President, Acting Secretary General (also Publications Officer) with the Acquisitions Editor during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion because the Acquisitions Editor could not attend the earlier Executive Committee meeting that took place in Delphi.

The Acquisitions Editor has provided some facts and figures about *NVMEN*'s current performance. In 2019, *NVMEN* articles were downloaded more than 36,000 times. This is, indeed, double of the number of downloads in 2017. As things stand, the five most downloaded *NVMEN* articles are:

1. “Scientology: Sect, Science, or Scam?” – James R. Lewis, Volume 62 (2015)
2. “The Significance of Rituals in Scientology: A Brief Overview and a Few Examples” – Mikael Rothstein, Volume 63 (2016)
3. “Roman Religion in the Time of Augustus” – Nelson de Paiva Bondioli, Volume 64 (2011)
4. “Introduction: Religion and Terrorism” – James R. Lewis and Lorne L. Dawson, Volume 65 (2016)
5. “Scientology: Religious Studies Approaches” – James R. Lewis, Volume 63 (2016)

In 2019, the acceptance rate stood at approximately 14%.

Allow me to express thanks to the Managing Editors, Profs. Alles and Feldt, for their meticulous work on behalf of the IAHR and Brill, to the benefit of all IAHR members and affiliates, and all scholars dedicated to the academic study of religions. A special thank you is extended to the equally dedicated and hardworking Reviews Editor, Prof. Cusack. I would also like to extend thanks to Brill Acquisitions Editor for fruitful and effective collaboration with regard to *NVMEN*.

Lastly, we would like to ask you to help to increase the visibility of *NVMEN* in your local/international networks. We can no longer expect university libraries to renew their contracts with *NVMEN* automatically without your encouragement and support.

7.2 IAHR Book Series with Equinox

[The new IAHR Book Series, “The Study of Religion in a Global Context”](#) was launched in 2015, with Prof. Morny Joy as its Series Editor, Prof. Katja Triplett as Managing Editor and Prof. Tim Jensen as Executive Editor. As five years have passed, its editorial board has been reorganized, with some newly appointed members and Publications Fujiwara as new Executive Editor.

Former Editorial Board members

- Morny Joy, University of Calgary, Series Editor
- Katja Triplett, University of Göttingen, Managing Editor
- Tim Jensen, University of Southern Denmark, Executive Editor
- Maya Burger, University of Lausanne
- Denzil Chetty, University of South Africa
- Jakob De Roover, University of Ghent
- Florence Pasche Guignard, University of Toronto
- Peter Jackson, University of Stockholm
- Jay Johnston, University of Sydney
- Sylvia Marcos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
- Steven Sutcliffe, Edinburgh University
- Terhi Utriainen, University of Helsinki
- Satoko Fujiwara, University of Tokyo (IAHR Publications Officer)

New Editorial Board members

- Katja Triplett, Leipzig University, Series Editor
- Alexandra Grieser, Trinity College Dublin, Managing Editor
- Denzil Chetty, University of South Africa
- Jakob de Roover, Ghent University

- Sylvia Marcos, Independent Scholar
- Peter Jackson, Stockholm University
- Philippe Bornet, University of Lausanne
- Erin Prophet, University of Florida

Published volumes

- *Philosophy and the End of Sacrifice: Disengaging Ritual in Ancient India, Greece and Beyond*

Edited by Peter Jackson and Anna-Pya Sjödin

- *The Relational Dynamics of Enchantment and Sacralization: Changing the Terms of the Religion Versus Secularity Debate*

Edited by Peik Ingman, Terhi Utriainen, Tuija Hovi and Måns Broo

Forthcoming volumes

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

Edited by Philippe Bornet

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

Edited by Satoko Fujiwara, David Thurfjell and Steven Engler

Some of you may have noticed that all of the above four volumes have one former or new Editorial Board member as its editor. This is not accidental: as it takes time for a new book series to gain recognition in IAHR circles, the Editorial Board as well as the IAHR Executive Committee worked to contribute to it. The Board has received several proposals from different groups by summer 2019, but we expect more from IAHR members. Single-authored books and young scholars' books are also welcome. Please inform the individual members of your organization of the series, which is an ideal publication venue not only for established scholars but also for junior scholars, and not only for historical and comparative studies but also for multi-disciplinary studies.

Heartfelt thanks are due to Profs. Joy and Triplett for their hard work as Series/Managing Editor as well as to the former Editorial Board members who together laid the foundation of this series.

7.3 IAHR and IAHR-Related Proceedings

Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present. Proceedings of the XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions was, as reported earlier, published and uploaded to the De Gruyter's website. For the XXII World Congress, the abovementioned simple documentation for record will be published on the IAHR website.

Allow me to ask all of you once again to send me information regarding publications that have developed from the Erfurt Congress. In addition, I would like to ask the organizers of former IAHR Special and Regional Congresses to send me web-links to their proceedings or any other outcome documents. I have been unable to update [the IAHR webpage on IAHR Special and Regional Congresses](#) after Brno 2008.

7.4 NVMEN 60th Anniversary Publication

The special volume, *NVMEN, the Academic Study of Religion, and the IAHR: Past, Present and Prospects*, edited by former General Secretaries Profs. Armin W. Geertz and Tim Jensen to celebrate the occasion of the 60th anniversary of *NVMEN* was published from Brill in November, 2015.

8. IAHR Archives

The IAHR Archives, created by former General Secretary Prof. Michael Pye at the University of Marburg, is a collection of IAHR business documents and letters compiled by past General Secretaries. In March 2019, President Jensen, Acting Secretary General Fujiwara and Executive Committee member Prof. Katja Triplett visited the Archives in order to thoroughly organize the documents, put them in 55 boxes of acid-free paper and relocate them from the *Religionskundliche Sammlung* (a museum founded by Rudolf Otto in 1927) to a perfectly air-conditioned special room of the new University Library. Our next task is to have some of the historical documents digitized and make them available on the IAHR website.

I would like to thank Ms. Renate Stegerhoff-Raab, the Deputy Director of the Marburg University Library (and Prof. Pye's former student) who has been looking after the Archives and given us helpful advice many times and Mr. Nikolas Magin, who greatly helped us organize the Archives. We also greatly owe to the University of Marburg for generously sparing the space for our Archives.

In addition, Dr. Valerio Severino (Rome) has been planning to create an online IAHR archive. We expect to see its development after COVID-19 becomes manageable.

Concluding Remarks

From my report above it would look that the IAHR functioned quite well between 2015-2020. It is true that the IAHR leadership, i.e., the Executive Committee and the International Committee, has:

- assisted the establishment of new associations for the academic study of religion(s)
- adopted as national members such new associations (while fortunately not having had to declare any membership lapsed)
- adopted (in accordance with the Constitution § 3B) affiliates, i.e. international associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religion, and thus linking them to and including them in the work of the IAHR
- made proposals to amend the Constitution and By-Laws meant to further clarify and tighten up the academic profile of the IAHR
- held IAHR Regional/Special conferences every year between two World Congresses with success
- enabled communication among individual members of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates via Women Scholars Network and the IAHR Facebook
- increased the IAHR's presence in the CIPSH (the abovementioned umbrella organization in the humanities of which the IAHR has been a long-standing member) by actively participating in its improvement in collaboration with the former IAHR President, Prof. Hackett

However, the road to 2020 did have big bumps. The Executive Committee Election in 2015 was the most competitive among recent EC elections, and yet with a notable result of electing the first non-European Secretary General in the IAHR history. However, after one and a half year the elected SG resigned. Out of the blue I was appointed Acting Secretary General. Although it was my second term as an EC member, it was extremely challenging to take over the tasks of the SG. The language barrier is high for native East Asians, much higher than European and American members of the IAHR probably can imagine. Therefore, I needed a special support in that respect from the President, the Treasurer and, above all, the Deputy Secretary General. Owing to these colleagues, I eventually managed things, even visited the IAHR Archives in Marburg three times to organize them thoroughly and planned the Extended Executive Committee meeting with its proposer, the President, and the EC. Then during the special meeting, Prof. Wiebe (as earlier mentioned) expressed sharp criticism and suspicion as to the (hidden) agenda and intentions of the EC in relation to the meeting and the issues discussed. Moreover, he later resigned from his Honorary Life Membership as a sign of protest. A series of communications between him and the EC leadership are included in the abovementioned online folder (1.2.2.). Meanwhile, the EC and I worked hard to make the upcoming World Congress successful, with meaningful discussions at the International Committee meeting. However, the goal was never achieved due to the pandemic that spread rapidly after February 2020.

As written in the “Themes & Resources” document included in the online folder, the current EC has summarized the major problems the IAHR has been facing as “the globalization of the IAHR” and “the IAHR and globalization,” while wondering, at the same time, whether “globalization” is an appropriate term to frame the problems. And as in many sectors in society, COVID-19 has made the challenges only more urgent. What is the role of an international, umbrella academic association when scholars with similar interests and minds can connect easily online? Is there anything that only the IAHR can do for the promotion of the academic study of religion? The outgoing EC will think hard about questions like these till the last day of their term. Then the incoming EC will implement some ideas, but probably with some trials and errors in order to find a most sustainable way. We will always appreciate any suggestions or ideas from you, not only officers but also individual members of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my colleagues in the outgoing Executive Committee for their dedication and commitment. Your support whenever the IAHR faced big and small difficulties meant so much to me, and probably even more so to the President, who, I believe, should deserve much more than what he has got in these five years. My wholehearted thanks go to the President Prof. Jensen for mentoring me as a former SG and at the same time for placing trust in what I do on my own initiative. I also greatly owe to the outgoing Treasurer Prof. Bornet, who has always done an excellent job with no delay and even arranged all accommodations and meals for the Extended Executive Committee meeting. Special thanks are extended to the Deputy Secretary General Prof. Taves who encouraged me to take over the role of the SG and then kindly helped me with my clumsy English. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with all of you almost daily for the IAHR.

Up until three years ago, I could not really see why IAHR Bulletins and minutes should be so lengthy. However, while working in the IAHR Archives in Marburg, I came to realize the importance of recording the details of the IAHR. It was actually “fun” for me to go through all those business documents, occasionally hitting upon, for example, Prof. Annemarie

Schimmel's improvised poetry on the 1960 Marburg Congress, Mrs. Bianchi's handwritten letter, Prof. Gary Lease's almost cursing letter and a picture of Prof. Kurt Rudolph with large sideburns. That said, I will try, in my next term as elected Secretary General, to create both a long, serious version and a shorter, more reader-friendly version for Bulletins and minutes.

Satoko Fujiwara
Acting Secretary General
Tokyo, July 15, 2020

3. IAHR Treasurer's Report 2015-2020

1. Introduction

The IAHR's finances are in a healthy state, with a balance of approximately US\$ 93'000 by the end of the year 2019, and a predicted balance of US\$ 115'000 available to the incoming Executive committee in September 2020, to compare with about US\$ 85'000 available to the incoming Executive committee after the 2015 Congress expenses.

Note: The IAHR's financial year is now the calendar year (1/1 to 31/12). The 5-year period to which this report refers runs from 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2019 and thus includes all of 2015, the year of the Erfurt Congress, as well as expenses related to the cancelled Otago 2020 Congress. The table at the end of this report also includes a brief update on the current year's income/outgoings to 31 May 2020.

1.1 New account

The major change at the beginning of the term has been the move of the IAHR account from Ireland to Switzerland, a complex process that was successfully completed thanks to the precious help of the previous IAHR Treasurer, Prof. B. Bocking. The newly formulated art. 3a of the Constitution, amended in Erfurt, stipulates that the IAHR's "primary location" is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer. This was a crucial condition for opening a new bank account and it might prove useful again in the future, in the case a new Treasurer is located in a different country than Switzerland.

The IAHR was formerly maintaining two accounts: one in euros, the other in US\$. Due to the move of the bank account, the IAHR holds now its finances in euros exclusively. While having a limited impact on the operations, since most of the transactions were already executed in currencies other than the US\$, the move also facilitated the Treasurer's work. The transfer from the former US\$ account to the new euro account was done in early 2016, when the US\$ was relatively high against the euro (\$1 = €0.92). To keep up with previous reports, however, the accounts are reported in US\$. Consequently, the rise of the euro in 2017 (\$1 = €0.83 by the end of 2017) created an artificial income of about \$15'000 that year, and conversely, its decline in 2018 and 2019 led to an artificial loss of about \$7'500 for both years.

1.2 Dues rates

A related effect concerns the publication of IAHR dues rates. Up to 2015, the IAHR had published its rates in both euros and US\$. In 2014, because the IAHR had tripled the dues rate from US\$1 to US\$3 per national association member, and then late in 2014 the dollar went up against the euro from around €0.75 to €0.90 to US\$1, the EC agreed for 2015 an artificially low 'IAHR' exchange rate, for dues purposes, of \$1=€0.80, so that the many associations paying in €do not experience a further (artificial) rise in their dues based on the value of the dollar.

From 2016 on, dues rate are published in euros only, starting at the existing 2015 'IAHR' rate of €0.80 per member (formerly \$1) which means the dues rates are now: minimum €80 (was \$100), for associations of more than 33 members €2.40 (was \$3) per member, and for associations of 500 or more members (currently only two: USA and Japan) €1'600 (was \$2'000). Fees for affiliates have been slightly adjusted in 2018, to have more consistent rates

across the whole membership. The new rates for affiliates are: Membership of up to 50: €80; between 51 and 100: €1.6 / member; more than 100: flat rate of €160 (earlier: flat rate of €80 for all affiliates, without regard to the size).

1.3 Audit

An external company has audited the IAHR accounts two times during the period 2015-2019, in preparation of the IC meeting in Bern (2015-2017) and for the end of the present cycle (2015-2019). The audit has been conducted by the same service used by the International Association for Buddhist Studies¹.

2. 2015-2019 Summary

Income

Average annual income in the period 2015-2019 was approximately \$24,000. There are now two reliable income streams; income from Brill for NVMEN (currently €10,295 p.a., paid in euro and equivalent to \$11,000-14,000 USD p.a. depending on exchange rate) and member and affiliate associations' annual dues (now ca. \$10,000 p.a. following a modest rise in dues for members in 2014 and for affiliates in 2019). In addition, the IAHR received donations in 2015 and 2019, for a total of about \$5'000.

Expenditure

Average annual expenditure during the period 2015-2019 has averaged \$25'000. The largest items of expenditure have been the Erfurt Congress in 2015 (about \$24'000, but with an important refund of \$10'000 in 2016 – see below) and the Otago 2020 Congress with significant expenses in 2018 and 2019 (a total of about \$39'000, with a refund of about \$20'000 yet to be processed in 2020 – see below). Apart from quinquennial Congress subventions, an amount of about \$13'000 was spent for the Delphi Extended Executive Committee which happened in fall 2019 and which involved the partial subvention of expenses related to the travels and accommodation of 13 specially invited guests (in addition to the 12 Executive Committee members).

A recurring item of expenditure is for travel and subsistence for the Executive Committee, principally to enable attendance at the annual EC meeting and also for some of the travel on IAHR business undertaken mainly by the President and Secretary General. The total per year as averaged a total of \$7'200 / year, or less than \$600 / person / year. This is a low amount, considering both the international composition of the Executive Committee and the various destinations of the meetings, from Finland to Vietnam, Greece and Switzerland. This situation is related to the fact that all subsidies have been granted as “partial subsidies” and that many EC members have been relying on institutional and personal resources at their disposal to fund their participation to IAHR-related meetings. As noted in past reports from former IAHR Treasurers, this reveals the crucial but hidden source of funding of IAHR activities: institutional and personal resources of IAHR officers.

Other expenditure items are discussed further below.

¹ Full contact information is Laurence Parent, Société Fiduciaire Interfico SA, Chemin de la Gravière 6, Les Acacias, Case Postale, 1211 Genève 8.

3. 2015-2019 Detailed reporting

Income

200 and 210² Annual dues to the IAHR

One of the two main sources of revenue is the annual dues paid by both national member associations and IAHR affiliates. The amount collected under this line averages \$11'000/year. While some associations paid right away, to the great pleasure of the Treasurer, others needed a little reminder. Most associations are paid-up – with some experiencing a small delay, possibly related to the global COVID-19 situation.

Member association dues 2015-2020, updated to 24 June 2020

Categories: 1 = fewer than 34 members; 2 = 34-499 members; 3 = 500 or more members (according to last payment). For affiliates: 1 = fewer than 50 members; 2 = 50-99 members; 3 = 100 or more.

| Country | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Category |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Australia | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Austria | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Belgium | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Brazil | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | | 1 |
| Canada (CSSR) | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Canada (SQER) | 2015 | 2016 | | | | | 1 |
| China | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Denmark | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Estonia | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Finland | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| France | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Germany | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Greece | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Hungary | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| India | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Ireland | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Italy | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Japan | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 3 |
| Latvia | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Lithuania | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Mexico | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Netherlands | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| New Zealand | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Nigeria | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |

² The numbers refer to the corresponding line on the table at the end of this report

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Norway | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Philippines | n/a | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Poland | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Romania | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Russia | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Slovakia | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 1 |
| Southern Africa | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 2 |
| South Korea | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Spain | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Sweden | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| Turkey | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| United Kingdom | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| USA (AAR) | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 3 |
| ESSWE | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 3 |
| IACSR | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| ISORECEA | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| ISSRNC | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | | 2 |
| SAMR | n/a | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2 |
| SBL | n/a | n/a | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 3 |

220 NVMEN

The second main source of income is NVMEN. The IAHR currently receives €10'295 p.a., paid in 6 installments of €1'715, an equivalent of \$11'300-\$14'000 p.a. depending on the exchange rate. The payments are adjusted annually according to the annual Netherlands inflation rate, so that the income maintains its value.

230 CIPSH

Formerly offering grants for conference support, CIPSH does no longer provide any kind of financial support. The last entry in this line was in 2011.

240 Other and donations

The IAHR received two donations in 2015: one from Dorothea Ditchfield for the Gary Lease lecture in Erfurt (\$2'400) and one from P. Brodeur for the Société Québécoise pour l'Etude de la Religion (€400) that was for the payment of missing dues if the society resumes its activity – which it actually did in 2016. In addition, the IAHR received a donation of \$2'200 from an anonymous donator, to be spent towards contributing to the travel expenses of scholars in need of funding to attend IAHR-related events.

The relatively low figures in this line show that there is room for improvement. So far, the IAHR is not registered officially as a charity in the US or Canada, meaning that donations do not qualify as tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, there are possibilities to donate and to get tax benefits for citizen of several European countries

through “Transnational Giving Europe” (TGE). The present Treasurer recommends an affiliation to TGE, but it will need a change in the IAHR Constitution – namely, a statement specifying what would happen with the IAHR’s assets in the unlikely case of a dissolution – to be voted at the next General Assembly.

2.2 Expenditure

110 African Trust Fund

In 2015, the IAHR finished spending the amount of the “African trust fund” (a legacy of the 2000 Durban congress), paying subsidies to awardees. As it had been planned from the very beginning, the fund is now (since the Erfurt congress) officially closed.

120 Bank charges and audit

Back when the IAHR had its account in Ireland, the bank charged about \$310 / year for various bank fees. The Swiss bank charges about the same for a non-personal account, with an average of \$350 / year. This includes account management fees (\$60 / year) and relatively pricy international bank transfers. Whenever possible, the present Treasurer has used alternative ways to make payments, notably “Transferwise” which was used to process refunds of the registration fees of the 2020 IAHR Congress. In addition, this category of spending includes costs of about \$1’600 in 2018 and \$800 in 2020 for the auditing of the accounting.

130 CIPSH subscription

The CIPSH subscription is still at the same rate of €600 p.a. The amount paid in 2015 corresponds to 2014 arrears, and the amount paid in 2016 represents the 2015 arrears and the 2016 membership.

140 2015 & 2020 Congress support

Erfurt

In 2015, the largest item of expenditure was the Erfurt congress. The Executive Committee had agreed in 2013 to make a subvention to the Erfurt Congress equivalent to \$15’000 plus an “IAHR Endowment” amount of \$8’695, a total of \$23’695 or €17’297. In October 2015, it appeared that the Erfurt conference closed with a significant surplus. The organizers kindly proposed to refund some of the IAHR subsidy. In the end, about \$10’000 could be refunded. As decided in 2016, Helsinki, that amount was earmarked and deposited on an account in Swiss francs, at the same bank as the other euro account, labelled “CHF account Special Fund”.

Otago

A first installment of the IAHR subsidy to the Otago congress was paid in March 2018, for covering the initial payment of the Professional Conference Organizers fee (NZ\$ 3’750) and the website (NZ\$ 9’500), a total of US\$10’259. A second installment of the subsidy was paid in 2019 (NZ\$ 23’250 = about \$15’500, including a refundable \$6’000, as a caution to be paid to conference hotels). Finally, the “Special Fund” and a donation made that year (US\$ 12’500) were transferred in December 2019 to the organizers of the 2020 Congress, in order to enable them to attribute travel subsidies to scholars needing it to attend the Congress. When the cancellation of the Congress became inevitable, the New Zealand organizers managed to get a refund of NZ\$ 91’000 from the PCO, representing the various IAHR subsidies and

registrations fees, deduction made of the costs already engaged, such as registration fees processing as well as website creation and management. In collaboration with the present Treasurer and the Japanese Federation of Societies for the Study of Religion, the New Zealand organizers organized the refund of the registration fees (and accommodation, tours, booked at the time of registration) for 77 participants in June 2020. The refunds took some time to be entirely processed, because the amount had to be transferred from a university account to the NZASR's account, allowing us to process the transfers with minimal bank fees. When all the last expenses will be processed, it can be anticipated that about US\$ 16'000 will be returned to the IAHR, so that the actual cost of the Congress' cancellation can be estimated to US\$22'000 (= US\$ 38'259 minus US\$ 16'000). However, since no refund was expected from whatever the IAHR spent for the congress (to the exception of the US\$ 6'000 for booking the accommodation), the returned amount can be considered as a "surplus", enabling the incoming EC committee to fund further events or measures. Four colleagues (Prof. Laurie Maffly-Kipp, Prof. Andrea Rota and two anonymous colleagues) generously donated the amount equivalent to their registration costs: the IAHR is very grateful for this and the donated amount will be earmarked so as to help scholars to attend IAHR-related events – a contribution that might be particularly important in the post COVID-19 world.

141 Conference support

Since 2010, and initially with support from CIPSH, IAHR has provided smaller sums for conferences in non-Congress years, for an average of \$1'700 / year. In the period 2015-2019, it has been amounts for the 2017 SSEASR conference in Ho Chi Minh City (IAHR Regional Conference), the 2018 ISORECEA conference in Szeged (IAHR Special Conference), the 2018 AASR conference in Lusaka (IAHR Regional Conference), the 2018 SSEASR conference in Dhaka (IAHR Regional Conference) and the 2019 ISSRNC conference in Cork (IAHR Special Conference).

This line also comprises the expenses related to the 2019 Extended Executive Committee meeting in Delphi, from September 14 to 17, 2019. An amount of about \$13'000 includes accommodation for 13 guests for 3 days, partial travel subsidies, and the rental of premises at the European Cultural Center of Delphi. Considering the number of participants (13 guests and 12 EC members), this amount is very reasonable, reflecting the fact that both EC members (whose accommodation / travel costs were NOT covered by the IAHR) and invited participants have relied on their institutional sources of funding to attend the meeting.

160 Website and publications

Payments under this line include the management of the IAHR website by Jeremy Hughes, the registration of the internet domains <http://www.iahr.dk> and <http://www.iahrweb.org> (a new domain name, considered as conveying a better sense of the international character of the IAHR), small gifts of gratitude to former NVMEN officers, and a yearly contribution to the Religious Studies Project (\$250). The negative figure (\$ -1'600) appearing under this line for 2019 reflects a contribution of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for work done on the IAHR archives in Marburg in the previous years (2017-2018).

170 EC Travel and expenses

This line comprises subsidies for enabling members of the EC to attend meetings in Erfurt,

Helsinki, Ho Chi Minh City, Bern and Delphi. It also includes partial subsidies to cover the travels of the Secretary General and the President for participating and representing the Association to different events, such as the 2016 and 2018 CIPSH meetings in Beijing and Xiamen, the 2016 European Academy of Religion meeting in Bologna, or the 2018 African Association for the Study of Religion meeting in Lusaka.

It must be emphasized once again that the yearly expense under this category of spending is very low, considering the 12 members of the EC and the extra expenses incurred by the role of representation associated with the functions of President and Secretary General. Dividing the amount spent by the number EC members amounts to a figure of about \$660 / person and year, revealing an important “hidden subsidy” to the IAHR: namely the EC members’ own resources and academic funding from their respective institutions. If the IAHR had to fully cover the travel and stay of 12 persons, in addition to at least 3 travels of representation for its President and / or Secretary General, it would be an estimated total (depending on the destinations) of at least \$18’000 p.a.

3. Conclusion

I would like to thank warmly the former IAHR treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking, for not only introducing me into the intricacies of the IAHR accounting in Erfurt, but also for continuing to work “behind the scenes” until the setting up of a new account was secured, and for still providing me with extremely helpful advice whenever needed. I would also like to thank Dr. Elisabeth Begemann from Erfurt, who has been extremely helpful in the process to get the money refunded on the IAHR account in 2016, as well as Prof. Will Sweetman for a pleasant and efficient collaboration on the rather unpleasant tasks related to the 2020 Congress cancellation.

I also thank my colleagues, treasurers and officers of the IAHR member associations, who – for the large majority of them – have been collaborating in a very efficient way, taking due notice of the new bank information or adjusted dues. Last but not least, I would like to thank the President, Secretary General and the colleagues of the EC for their patience and cooperation during these five years.

Lausanne, June 2020
Philippe Bornet

All figures in USD

| | 2015 USD | 2016 USD | 2017 USD | 2018 USD | 2019 USD | 2020 USD (up to 31.05.20) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | | |
| 200 Dues national assoc. | 11 230,67 | 10 962,15 | 10 719,34 | 11 548,45 | 11 025,95 | 7 199,24 |
| 210 Dues affiliates | 270,50 | 743,06 | 471,67 | 443,16 | 795,45 | 583,32 |
| 220 NVMEN | 7 549,74 | 14 482,31 | 12 557,52 | 12 141,00 | 12 163,20 | 6 193,80 |
| 240 Other (e.g. legacies and donations) | 2 890,00 | 21,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 2 239,10 | 0,00 |
| 260 Bank transfers | | | | 231,11 | | 0,00 |
| Total Income | 21 940,91 | 26 208,53 | 23 748,53 | 24 132,61 | 26 223,70 | 13 976,35 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| 110 African Trust Fund awards | 3 049,56 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 120 Bank charges + audit | 312,46 | 136,27 | 476,54 | 2 100,28 | 352,47 | 873,07 |
| 130 CIPSH subscription | 660,00 | 1 260,00 | 720,00 | 684,00 | 672,00 | 666,00 |
| 140 2015 & 2020 Congress support | 23 787,93 | -9 838,30 | 0,00 | 10 259,13 | 28 847,37 | 0,00 |
| 141 Conference support | 0,00 | 0,00 | 5 853,41 | 4 581,43 | 15 637,23 | 0,00 |
| 160 Website/publications | 0,00 | 1 682,78 | 2 253,52 | 1 085,86 | -1 600,03 | 303,61 |
| 170 EC Travel and Expenses | 7 933,59 | 7 975,58 | 7 475,16 | 7 444,45 | 5 519,73 | 3 935,38 |
| 191 To Gary Lease Lecture Fund | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 190 Bank transfers | | | | 230,92 | | 0,00 |
| Total Expenditure | 35 743,54 | 1 216,33 | 16 778,63 | 26 155,16 | 49 428,77 | 5 778,06 |
| Surplus(+)/ Deficit (-) | -13 802,64 | 24 992,20 | 6 969,90 | -2 022,54 | -23 205,07 | 8 198,29 |
| Opening balance | 105 302,00 | 84 506,72 | 105 371,03 | 126 115,97 | 118 221,81 | 93 339,87 |
| Foreign Exchange gain (+)/loss (-) on opening balance | -6 992,64 | -2 615,65 | 15 053,00 | -5 874,73 | -1 677,58 | -834,30 |
| Foreign Exchange gain (+)/loss (-) on transfers | 0,00 | -1 512,24 | -1 277,96 | 3,11 | 0,70 | 2,75 |
| Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-) | -13 802,64 | 24 992,20 | 6 969,90 | -2 022,54 | -23 205,07 | 8 198,29 |
| Closing balance | 84 506,72 | 105 371,03 | 126 115,97 | 118 221,81 | 93 339,87 | 100 706,61 |
| US\$ account | 26 962,27 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| € accounts | 52 313,14 | 100 351,69 | 96 159,94 | 94 390,44 | 83 429,57 | 90 723,68 |
| € accounts in US\$ | 57 544,45 | 105 371,03 | 115 391,93 | 107 605,11 | 93 441,12 | 100 706,61 |
| CHF accounts Special Fund | | | 10 513,76 | 10 511,58 | | 0,00 |
| CHF accounts Special Fund in US\$ | | | 10 724,04 | 10 616,70 | -102,94 | |
| Cash in wallet in EUR | | | | 0,00 | 1,69 | 0,00 |
| Cash in wallet in US\$ | | | | 0,00 | | |
| | 84 506,72 | 105 371,03 | 126 115,97 | 118 221,81 | 93 339,87 | 100 706,61 |

SOCIETE FIDUCIAIRE INTERFICO SA

Ch. de la Gravière 6 – Case Postale – 1211 Genève 8 Tél. : 022.735.85.44

Dr Philippe Bornet
IAHR Treasurer

18 May 2020

Dear Prof Bornet,

As requested, I have reviewed the accounts of the

International **A**ssociation for the **H**istory of **R**eligions

I am satisfied that the accounts present a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the five year period ended 31st December 2019 and of the financial position of the Association as at 31st December 2019.

SOCIETE FIDUCIAIRE
INTERFICO S.A.



LAURENCE PARENT

4. Nominations & Candidates for the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025

1. Nominations from the IAHR 2020 Nominating Committee

In the document submitted to the Acting Secretary General, September 26, 2019, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett stated that the Nominating Committee had taken “into account requirements for geographical and gender balances,” and that all the nominees had accepted the nomination.

The nominees for the 12 positions were:

President (one position)

Tim Jensen (Denmark)

Vice President (two positions)

In alphabetical order:

Amarjiva Lochan (India)

Ann Taves (USA)

Secretary General (one position)

Satoko Fujiwara (Japan)

Deputy Secretary General (one position)

Anna Halafoff (Australia)

Treasurer (one position)

Andrea Rota (Switzerland)

Deputy Treasurer (one position)

Milda Ališauskienė (Lithuania)

Publications Officer (one position)

Katja Triplett (Germany)

Further Members (four positions)

In alphabetical order:

Juan Cruz Esquivel (Argentina)

James Kapalo (Ireland)

Danoye Oguntola-Laguda (Nigeria)

David Thurfjell (Sweden)

None of the nominees has withdrawn from candidacy as of May 22, 2020.

2. Alternative Nominations Submitted by Members of the International Committee

The Acting Secretary General has, in due time (deadline May 22, 2020), received one

alternative nomination from a member association of the IAHR International Committee. The nominee has sent a letter confirming that she has accepted the nomination.

Further Member

Blanca Solares Altamirano (Mexico)

Nominated by the Sociedad Mexicana para el Estudio de las Religiones/Mexican Society for the Study of Religions

3. Election for the position of Further Members

Accordingly, there will be an election for the position of Further Members. The election will take place between August 20 and August 23, using an online e-voting system.

Further Members (four positions)

In alphabetical order:

Blanca Solares Altamirano (Mexico)

Juan Cruz Esquivel (Argentina)

James Kapalo (Ireland)

Danoye Oguntola-Laguda (Nigeria)

David Thurfjell (Sweden)

All other nominees shall be declared “elected unopposed” (see Rule 16g) as their candidacies are unopposed.

5. Statements of Candidacy for the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025

According to the “Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR”, 3.d: “The candidates will be invited to give a brief statement of candidacy in the IAHR Bulletin.” Below, please find the statements from the candidates for the IAHR Executive Committee 2020-2025.

Nominee for the position of **PRESIDENT**

To be declared elected

Tim Jensen

Educated a classical history of religions and comparative religion scholar, specializing in religion in the Homeric epics and cross-cultural religious phenomena, I later turned to contemporary religion, public and political discourse on religion (in regard to the notion of religion, religion education, and religion in human rights), religion and applied ethics, religion and the environment, and theoretical and methodological issues.

Much of my [career](#) has been devoted to serving national, regional and international learned societies: DASR President (1997-2005), EASR General Secretary (2000-2004), IAHR General Secretary (2005-2015), and IAHR President 2015-2020.

During my tenure, the IAHR has continued to develop its global profile in terms of membership, geographic representation, cultural diversity, and gender equality. While pursuing this process of ‘globalization’ and expansion, the IAHR has not wavered from its commitment to a strict history of religions approach. On the contrary, this stance has been spelt out in many ways, most noticeably in Article 1 of the Constitution stressing that the ‘IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetic or other similar concerns.’ Only by holding firm to this can the IAHR continue to be what it proudly claims to be, namely the ‘preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present’.

I was honored to be elected IAHR President in 2015. I am humbled to be nominated President 2020-2025. My hope is that the nomination indicates that I have managed, at least to some degree, to fulfil some of the functions pertaining to the office: to be a resource for advice and consultation, to provide a sense of continuity, and to help the IAHR bridge past, present and future. I shall do my utmost to continue to perform accordingly and to thus honor the trust shown by the IAHR members and the IAHR Nominating Committee.



Nominees for the positions of **VICE-PRESIDENT** (2 positions)
To be declared elected
(in alphabetical order)

Amarjiva Lochan

Born in Gaya, the city associated with the Enlightenment of the Buddha, I teach History and Religions of India with special reference to the Indic elements in Southeast Asia. With 12 books/monographs and 48 research articles I conduct research on the syncretic nature of the religions in Southeast Asia, the role of the Brahmin priests in Thailand (for which I received Ford scholarship), Hindu-Buddhist art and the changing faces of Buddhism. I am also part of the Editorial Board of 6 international Journals on culture and religion. At present, I am involved in creating curricula for newly established Departments of Comparative Religions in Indian universities and research Institutes.



I have been the President of SSEASR (South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion), the Regional Association of the IAHR. I have represented it at the International Committee's meetings. In my two terms as the Further Member of the IAHR Executive Committee, I have worked to expand the academic network of IAHR in the regions of Asia and was involved in the successful establishment of two National Associations at Philippines (PASCHR) and Bangladesh (BASCR). Given an opportunity to serve as Vice President, I shall take up any challenge entrusted by IAHR to see larger academic cooperation between the national associations and work for the establishment of newer Associations. I would also attempt to get young scholars from developing Asian nations connected with the eminent scholars from the areas of their research interest. It would result in intensive research collaborations and meaningful publications to promote the study of religions through various academic disciplines. I am also committed to go all out for developing and strengthening of religious studies in the newer regions.

Ann Taves

Ann Taves (BA Pomona College, 1974; MA, PhD University of Chicago, 1983) is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara and, as of July 2020, Research Professor at UCSB. Until July 2005, she held faculty appointments at the Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University. She is a past president of the American Academy of Religion (2010) and the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (2016-18), and served on the Council of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (2011-14). She held a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford in 2008-2009 and was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011. Her academic interests include the historical and scientific study of unusual experiences particularly as they have shaped the



Christian tradition and the formation of new religious movements. She has published several books and numerous articles on these topics including *Fits, Trances, and Visions* (1999), *Religious Experience Reconsidered* (2009), and *Revelatory Events* (2016). She supervises the interdisciplinary Religion, Experience, and Mind Lab Group at UCSB, which includes faculty and graduate students from psychology and various subfields within religious studies.

As Deputy General Secretary, I served as co-chair of the Program Committee for the Otago World Congress and worked closely with the EC officers when called upon. If elected for a term as Vice President, I would be particularly interested in working on two issues: (1) developing workshops that help scholars distinguish between scientific and theological approaches to the study of religion and (2) figuring out how we can most effectively move forward as an international organization in the context of pandemics and climate change.

Nominee for the position of **SECRETARY GENERAL**

To be declared elected

Satoko Fujiwara

Born in Tokyo in 1963, I received a B.A. and an M.A. in the study of religion from the University of Tokyo and a Ph.D. in the history of religions from the University of Chicago. After teaching at a Buddhist university in Tokyo, since 2011 I have been working for the University of Tokyo and am currently a Professor and the Chair of its Department of Religious Studies. I was the Vice-Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Section of the Science Council of Japan from 2017-19. I have been serving as an IAHR Executive Committee member since 2010 (since 2017 as Acting Secretary General). Regardless of where I have been or what I have done, my view on the study of religion has not changed since I was a student. To quote from the postscript of my first single-authored book (originally in Japanese), “I agree with the idea that ‘religion’ is a reflective category of modernity. Therefore, its study, the study of religion(s), is an endless attempt of the self-understanding of modernity (though this expression risks reifying ‘modernity’). In other words, if anyone asks me what the study of religion(s) is for, I will immediately answer that it is, above all, one of the academic fields/disciplines that contribute to our understanding of ‘why we are what we are now.’ The role of scholars is limited to providing such understanding, and it is entirely up to individual recipients to explore what to do next.” I wrote this in 2004 as a reaction to some of my Japanese colleagues who had started arguing that the study of religion(s) should be socially relevant, working to increase people’s happiness and create positive values, and distinguishing good religions from bad religions. (Now members of the natural scientific sections of the Science Council of Japan pressure me in the same way.) Compared with them, I might be a purist, but I believe an important task of the IAHR Secretary General is to attentively listen to various voices from different corners of the world and start with complexities. An equally important task is to take over traditions (which are also complex) and face new challenges caused by expected and unexpected changes in the world, as all our former Secretary Generals did in the past. I am ready to do my best to carry out these tasks.



Nominee for the position of **DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**
To be declared elected

Anna Halafoff

PhD Monash University, MLitt University of New England, BA University of Melbourne

I am an Associate Professor in Sociology and a member of the Alfred Deakin Institute at Deakin University. I am also a Research Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific at Monash University, and was a Research Associate of the Religion and Diversity Project at the University of Ottawa. In 2011, I was named a United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' Global Expert in the fields of interfaith relations and religion, conflict and peacebuilding. My current research interests are religious diversity, interreligious relations, education about religions and worldviews, preventing violent extremism, Buddhism and gender and Buddhism in Australia. I have published widely in these fields and am regularly called to comment on them in the media. My research has also had a demonstrable impact on policy and curricula pertaining to religious diversity in Australia. My recent books include *The Multifaith Movement: Global Risks and Cosmopolitan Solutions* (Springer 2013) and *Education about Religions and Worldviews: Promoting Intercultural and Interreligious Understanding in Secular Societies* (Routledge, 2016 edited with Elisabeth Arweck and Daniel Boisvert).



It is a great honour to be nominated as Deputy Secretary General of the IAHR. I am currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee 22 (Religion) and was the Program Co-Coordinator for the RC22 2018 XIX ISA World Congress sessions. I have also previously served as the Secretary for the Australian Association for the Study of Religion (AASR) and am currently the Australasian Council Member, of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR). I hope to be elected as the Deputy Secretary General of the IAHR in order to be of further service to the international community of scholars of religion. I would work closely with the Secretary General and the Executive Committee to further strengthen the Association, through international collaboration and events, encouraging global participation and mentorship of emerging scholars.

Nominee for the position of **TREASURER**
To be declared elected

Andrea Rota

Andrea Rota (Ph.D., University of Fribourg, Switzerland; Habil., University of Bern) is Assistant Professor at the Institute for the Science of Religion, University of Bern. Previously, he held research and teaching positions at the Universities of Bayreuth, Fribourg, Zurich, and Bern. His main research interests are the public presence of religion (with particular attention to public schools), the use of media technologies in religious contexts, and theories of collective action applied to religious communities. His current research project



examines the entangled relationships between religious and academic discourses and institutions during the “Long Sixties.” His teaching focuses on method and theory in the study of religion and on new religious movements in local and global perspectives. Recent publications include *La religion à l’école* (2017), *A Matter of Perspective?* (2016, ed. with Till Mostowlansky), and *The Dynamics of Religion, Media, and Community* (2019, ed. with Oliver Krüger). Institutional website:

https://www.relwi.unibe.ch/about_us/personen/ass_prof_dr_rota_andrea/index_eng.html

Since 2011, I have held different positions as a board member for the Swiss Society for the Study of Religion. Working within this multilingual organization, one of my main concerns has been to foster dialogue and cooperation among the different cultures that characterize the Swiss academic landscape. On a larger scale, I see the promotion of a global, critical, and self-reflexive exchange among scholars in the academic study of religion as a fundamental task of the IAHR. Such a task requires not only dedication and determination but also, more pragmatically, a sound financial situation. As Treasurer, I will work to ensure that the IAHR continues to flourish and has the necessary resources to sustain and expand its activities and continue its substantial support for an increasingly international participation in its meetings and congresses. I would be honored to contribute in this capacity to the IAHR mission.

Nominee for the position of **DEPUTY TREASURER**

To be declared elected

Milda Ališauskienė

PhD in Sociology, 2009, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

It is an honour for me to be nominated as Assistant Treasurer of IAHR. I have been serving on IAHR executive committee since 2015 and would be honoured to continue this service.

I hold a position of professor at the Department of Political Science at Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania since 2017. My research interests include religion and politics, religion and gender, religious diversity and new religions. So far have published more than 30 social scientific research articles on religion in contemporary Lithuania and the Baltic States and contributed to collective monographs and studies on social exclusion of minority religions as well as on the process of secularization in Lithuania. In 2011 together with Ingo W. Schroeder co-edited a volume “Religious Diversity in Post-Soviet Society” (Ashgate, since 2016 - Routledge). In 2016 received Fulbright visiting scholarship and worked at the University of California in Santa Barbara. In 2020 was granted Aleksanteri Institute visiting fellowship. I sit on the editorial boards of the following academic journals: *Implicit Religion*, *Numen*, *International Review for the History of Religions*, *Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe (RASCEE)*, *International Journal for the Study of New Religions (IJSNR)*.



I hope to strengthen the representation of Central and Eastern European associations for the study of religions links with IAHR as well as to serve in establishing new links between IAHR

and scholars of religions working in the countries of former Soviet Union, and work together with the Treasurer to continue stabilising and strengthening the association's financial position.

Nominee for the position of **PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**
To be declared elected

Katja Triplett

Leipzig University, Germany

Email: katja.triplett@uni-leipzig.de

Senior researcher in the Study of Religions with a focus on religions in East Asia, religion and medicine, and visual religious culture.

After graduating from the University of Marburg, Germany in the Study of Religions, Japanese Studies and Anthropology she obtained her PhD in the Study of Religions in Marburg and held post-doc positions at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, at University of Marburg and LMU Munich. She also spent some years in Kyoto, Japan. From 2012 to 2016 she was professor for the Study of Religions at the University of Göttingen. She currently holds a research position at Leipzig University.



Katja has been member of the IAHR Executive Committee since 2015. She contributed previously to two IAHR membership associations, the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) and the German Association (DVRW), as an elected officer for several terms.

For a list of publications and more info see: <https://www.multiple-secularities.de/team/dr-katja-triplett/>

Katja would like to support the IAHR as to the further growth of its book series *The Study of Religion in a Global Context* with Equinox Publishing. Since the IAHR book series' launch in 2013 she has been its Managing Editor. She sees it as an important task of the IAHR to keep encouraging innovative academic research in the Study of Religions by facilitating an international publication platform. Katja would also like to contribute to keeping up the present good relationship with Brill, the publisher of the IAHR flagship journal *Numen* and of an IAHR-related publication, the *Index to the Study of Religions Online* (print version *Science of Religion*) of which she has been General Editor for over a decade. The *Index* is a bibliography of journal articles highlighting the journals of the IAHR membership associations. Katja envisions intensifying this focus and thereby supporting the worldwide network of scholars and contributing to the visibility of their work.

Nominees for the positions of **FURTHER MEMBER** (4 positions)
(in alphabetical order)

Blanca Solares Altamirano

I hold a PhD in Sociology and Philosophy awarded by the Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany and by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). I founded *the Imaginary Studies Program: symbol, art and religion* at the Regional Center for

Multidisciplinary Research (UNAM). A program I am currently in charge of. I teach postgraduate courses of Philosophy of Religion at the School of Philosophy and Literature Studies. I have been visiting professor at different world programs such as: the *Eranos Foundation* in Azcona, Switzerland; the *Gaston Bachelard Centre of Imaginary and Rationality*, France; and the *Centre for Imaginary and Rationality Studies Mircea Eliade*, Craiova, Rumania.

For more than a decade my work has focused on the hermeneutics of culture, combining the research of the symbolic imagination with the anthropological study of religion and pre-Columbian mythology. In my book *Madre Terrible* (Anthropos / UNAM, 2007), I make in-depth investigation of the archetype of the Goddess in the thought and cosmovision of Ancient Mexico, taking as its axis the phenomenological analysis formulated by Erich Neumann, a prominent disciple of C. G. Jung and member of the Eranos Circle (M. Eliade, K. Kerényi, G. Durand).



Book author of several volumes: • *El Dios andrógino*. (2004) • *Uixtocíhuatl o el simbolismo sagrado de la Sal*. (2012), and • *Gilbert Durand. Escritos musicales. La estructura musical de lo imaginario* (2018), among others. I have have edited more than 15 collective volumes, the last one: *Homo religious, sociology and anthropology of religions*, (2018). In my aim of promoting the study of religion as key issue of the spiritual crisis of contemporary societies, I am editor of the *Hermeneutics Notebooks Collection*, CRIM-UNAM.

Making the study of religions a component of UNAM curriculum has been one of my personal goals for various years. At present, this area has not been recognized as such. Towards this aim I supervise and organize the work an academic team. My recognition as a member of the EC would undoubtedly contribute to this aim. Becoming a member of the EC would also be an ideal occasion to strengthen the historical ties of Mexico with the IAHR and to link their work to those of other international organizations. The International Network of Imaginary Research Center (*Centres de Recherches Internationales sur l'Imaginaire*) for example, where I am a permanent member of the Academic Board and, The Gilbert Durand International Friends Association (*Association des Amis Gilbert Durand*), where I am both a member of the Administrative Committee and I the academic correspondent in Mexico.

As a member of the Mexican Society for the Study of Religion, founded by Dra. Yolot González, Honorary Life Member of the IAHR, it is my intention to strengthen the presence of its members in the IAHR and to reinforce academic bonds which allow us to support each other in the promotion of new perspectives in the scientific study of religion, specifically in Latin America.

Areas of research: Religious thought of ancient Mexico, Myth and music, Imaginaries of nature, Religion and Ecology.

Juan Cruz Esquivel

Juan Cruz Esquivel, 49 years old, Argentinian.

jesquivel@ceil-conicet.gov.ar

- PhD in Sociology, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- Professor of Methodology of Social Research, University of Buenos Aires.

- Researcher for CONICET (National Council of Scientific and Technical Research), Argentina.
- Undersecretary of Planning and Evaluation, Science and Technology Secretariat, University of Buenos Aires (2019-present).
- Director of the research team ‘State, Laicity and Secularization’ at CONICET.
- President of the Association of Social Scientists of Religion of MERCOSUR (2015-2018).
- Board member of the Research Committee -Sociology of Religion- of the International Sociological Association -ISA- (2018-2022).



- Chief of Staff at the Secretary for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship in Argentina (2006-2007).
- Director of several research projects at national and international level about Religion and politics, relationship between State-Church in Latin America.
- Author of more than 50 publications (books, scientific articles in international journals and book chapters).

Main Publications

Books:

- *Igreja, Estado e Política. Estudo comparado no Brasil e na Argentina*. São Paulo, Editora Santuario, 2013.
- *Cuestión de educación (sexual). Pujas y negociaciones político-religiosas en la Argentina democrática*. Buenos Aires, CLACSO, 2013.
- *Detrás de los muros: La Iglesia Católica en tiempos de Alfonsín y Menem (1983-1999)*. Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, 2004.

Scientific Journal Articles:

- “The Presence of Religion in the Latin American Public Space. Notes for a Debate”. In: *Social Compass Vol. 65, Nº 4*, 2018 (pp. 467-485) -co-author Rodrigo Toniol.
- “Secularization in Argentina”. In: Henri Gooren (comp.). *Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions*. Springer International Publishing, 2017.
- “Laicity in Argentina”. In: Henri Gooren (comp.). *Encyclopedia of Latin American Religions*. Springer International Publishing, 2017.
- “Transformations of Religiosity in Contemporary Latin America. An Approach from Quantitative Data”. In: *International Journal of Latin American Religions Nº 1, Vol. 1*. Springer, 2017 (pp. 5-23).
- “Indicateurs de laïcité dans les démocraties contemporaines: analyse comparative entre le Mexique et l’Argentine”. In: *Archives des sciences sociales des religions Nº 177*, 2017 (pp. 191-236) -co-author Roberto Blancarte.
- “Religious and Politics in Argentina. Religious influence on parliamentary decisions on sexual and reproductive rights”. In: *Latin American Perspectives Vol. 43-3*. Sage Publications, 2016 (pp. 133-143).
- “Religious Beliefs and Practices in Argentina: An Approach from Quantitative Data”. In: Johnson, Todd. *Yearbook of International Religious Demography*. Boston, Brill, 2016 (pp. 97-110) -co-author Fortunato Mallimaci.

James Kapalo

I am Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in the Study of Religions at [University College Cork](#), Ireland and co-Director of the *Marginalised and Endangered Worldviews Study Centre* (MEWSC). I received my training in area studies and history at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), London and have a PhD in the Study of Religions from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

My research interests relate primarily to minority religions and ethno-religious minorities in Eastern Europe in the twentieth century, including questions of identity, politics, and state regulation and



surveillance of religion as well as vernacular and lived religious lifeworlds. I have conducted long term ethnographic fieldwork in Romania and Moldova as well as having undertaken research in Hungary, Ukraine and Turkey. For the past four years I have been Principal Investigator of the European Research Council funded project Hidden Galleries, which explores the visual and material religious legacy of secret police anti-religious operations in communist Eastern Europe. I am the author of two monographs, *Text, Context and Performance: Gagauz Folk Religion in Discourse and Practice* (Leiden: Brill, 2008) and *Inochentism and Orthodox Christianity: Religious Dissent in the Russian and Romanian Borderlands* (Routledge: London, 2019), as well as several articles and book chapters. My recent work has included public exhibitions and the creation of online digital resources for scholars of religions. Through my role as co-director of the *Marginalised and Endangered Worldviews Study Centre* (together with Dr Lidia Guzy), my academic engagement also includes indigenous religions and questions of cultural and environmental sustainability. Through the diverse workshops and winterschools organised by MEWSC, which have brought together scholars from India, Russia, Brazil, Colombia and a number of European countries, I have developed a wide international network of colleagues and have enriched my understanding of the place of the study of religions in the global context.

I am a founding member of the *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions* and having served as Publications Officer of the Society (2012-2015), I was elected President and served from 2015-18. I am also the managing editor of the *Irish Journal for the Academic Study of Religions* (JISASR) (2014-present). In 2016, I was elected onto the board of *Society of Romanian Studies* (2016-present). I am a member of the *International Study of Religions in Central and Eastern Europe Association* (ISORECEA) and from 2010-2018, I served on the Charms, Charmers and Charming Committee of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR). In 2017, I was granted honorary international membership of the Hungarian Ethnographical Society. In 2019, together with Dr Jenny Butler, we headed a bid to host the EASR conference at my home university in Cork. We hope to welcome record numbers of IAHR members to Ireland in the of summer 2022!

I am delighted and honoured to have been nominated for a position on the IAHR executive committee and should I be elected I hope to use this opportunity to continue to support the development of the discipline globally but especially in Eastern Europe as well as to advocate for environmentally sustainable and ethical approaches to research on religions.

Danoye Oguntola-Laguda

I have a PhD in Religious Studies with a specialization in Philosophy of Religion. I am a Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Religions and Peace Studies, Lagos State University, Nigeria, where I teach African Traditional Religion, Sociology of Religion, New Religious Movements and African Christian Theology. My publications include: “Uniting a Divided nation? Nigeria Muslim and Christian Responses to the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act” in Adriaan Van Klinken and Ezra, Chitando 2016, *Public Religion and the Politics of Homosexuality in Africa*, New York: Routledge, “African Religious Movements and Pentecostalism: The Model of Ijo Orunmila, ATO”, in Aderibigbe I.S. and Medine C.M.(ed), 2015 *Contemporary Perspectives on Religion in Africa and The African Diaspora*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, “Religion, Leadership and Struggle for Power in Nigeria: A case study of The 2011 Presidential Election in Nigeria”, in *SHE-Studia Historiae Ecclesiasticae*, Journal of Church History University of South Africa (UNISA) Vol.41, No.2, I have served as the General Secretary of the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religion (NASR). I was the Regional Representative for West Africa for the African Association for the Study of Religion (AASR). I have been a member of the Steering Committee of the African Religions Unit (2006-2012) and Indigenous Religious Traditions Unit (2015-till date) of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). NASR, AASR and AAR are all affiliates of IAHR. I have been a regular participant at various IAHR meetings since 2005. My election into the IAHR Executive Committee (EC) provides me with the opportunity to strengthen the academic study of religion in Africa, notably through the establishment of more member associations, more effective scholarly networking, and improved international participation in the biennial AASR conferences held in various regions of Africa.



David Thurfjell

I am a professor in the study of Religions at Södertörn University in Stockholm, Sweden. I received my doctoral degree in History of Religions from Uppsala University (2003) and have since published widely within the fields of Islamic studies and Secularity studies. My academic interests include secularization and religious change, religion among Romani people, Iranian and Shi'ite studies, Pentecostal studies and the field of religion and nature. I am the author of the monographs *Living Shi'ism* (Brill 2006), *Faith and revivalism in a Nordic Romani Community* (I.B. Tauris 2013), *The godless people: the post-Christian swedes and religion* (Molin & Sorgenfrei 2015) and *People of the spruce woods: how nature became the religion of the Swedes* (Norstedts 2020).



I have a wide interest for international scholarly collaborations, particularly with Middle Eastern countries. Together with a group of Arab scholars I co-

authored the UNESCO guidebook for history textbook authors writing on Europe and the Arabo-Islamic world (UNESCO/ISESCO 2011). I have a wide network of scholarly contacts in the Middle East, especially in Iran, I am a board member of the Swedish research institute in Istanbul and in 2015 I organized a symposium about religion and jurisprudence bringing together scholars from Europe and Iraq.

I have served as the president of the Swedish association for the history of religions (SSRF) and I have been an active part in the struggle to revitalize the Swedish engagement in the international organizations, not least through the organization of two larger IAHR special conferences, Religion on the borders (2007) and Ends and beginnings (2012). I have been a member of the Executive committee of the IAHR since 2015 and I would be honoured to serve for another term in this association and to contribute to strengthening of the bond between the wonderful community of scholars that it organizes.

I am engaged in the promotion of a non-confessional and empirical Study of religion that is strict in its dissociation from apologetic concerns while maintaining an openness to the rich variety of perspectives and methods available in the humanities and social sciences.

6. Report and Recommendation on Honorary Life Members

On June 6, 2020, the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus), Prof. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Susumu Shimazono (Tokyo), submitted a report letter of recommendation to the end that IAHR Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the following three persons all of whom had, in accordance with the related IAHR rules, “distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers, and/or other outstanding contributions”:

Prof. Morny Joy, Calgary, Canada
Prof. Hubert Seiwert, Leipzig, Germany
Prof. Abdulkader Tayob, Cape Town, South Africa

At a regular International Committee meeting, if there is no opposition, the International Committee will simply approve Honorary Life Membership recommendations with applause. Due to the cancellation of the World Congress and the International Committee meeting in August 2020, we cannot make or hear such applause. Therefore, I have to ask the International Committee members to simultaneously endorse the recommendations using the same e-voting system as the one for the Executive Committee election. Below is the report given by the Chair of the Advisory Committee, Prof. Geertz, who has replaced the former Chair Dr. Jan Platvoet who untimely resigned from the Committee due to personal difficulties caused by the pandemic in spring 2020.

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships of the IAHR (2020)

An Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Jan Platvoet (Bunnik), Dr. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Susumu Shimazono (Tokyo) was constituted in accordance with the procedural provisions. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Prof. Platvoet retired from the committee. Acting Secretary General of the IAHR Satoko Fujiwara subsequently appointed Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus) as chair of the committee. The committee has the privilege of reporting as follows.

In accordance with the rules, one IAHR member association responded to the Acting Secretary General’s call for proposals, suggesting two names. The Executive Committee of the IAHR suggested three names. These names were then forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which was asked to choose up to three names. According to the rules, “honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers and/or other outstanding contributions.” The committee was also conscious of various criteria such as academic achievement, global balance and gender balance, as well as contributions to the work of the IAHR. All five candidates are eminently suitable, and after considerable thought, the committee reached unanimous agreement that the following three persons (alphabetical

order) should be put forward to the International Committee for decision:

Prof. Morny Joy, Calgary, Canada

Prof. Hubert Seiwert, Leipzig, Germany

Prof. Abdulkader Tayob, Cape Town, South Africa

Prof. Morny Joy received her doctorate in Religious Studies in Montreal in 1981. She has served as Assistant Professor at Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania (1981-1982), the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point (1984-1985), University of Calgary (1989-1992), Associate Professor at the University of Calgary (1992-1997), and Professor there from 1997-2015 and Faculty Professor from 2017-2019. She was Senior Research Fellow at the Divinity School, University of Chicago (1982-1984) and has served as Visiting Professor in Marburg, Sydney, Yogyakarta, Manoa, and Victoria during the period 2009-2015. She has been recognized with fellowships, honors and awards throughout her career. She has given numerous keynotes and lectures, and has chaired numerous conferences and panels. She is a leading scholar in the philosophy of religion, particularly with regard to Paul Ricoeur, hermeneutics, and narrative theory, and has written extensively on method and theory in the study of religion. Prof. Joy is a leading scholar in the field of women, gender and religion. In the area of women and gender, she has published theoretically and empirically on a wide variety of topics ranging from mysticism, sacrifice, bodies, sainthood, goddesses, and the gift to multiculturalism and human rights in religions, primarily Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Prof. Joy has published 2 books, 13 edited/co-edited books/special issue journal volumes, 38 articles and 50 book chapters. Prof. Joy has served the IAHR eminently as member of the Executive Committee (2005-2015), as Publications Officer (2010-2013) and founder and editor of the new IAHR Book Series (2013-2017). She also co-founded the IAHR Women Scholars Network. She was also on the Program Planning Committee for the World Congress in Durban 2000. Prof. Joy was active as Executive Committee member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (1996-1998) and was its President from 1994-1996.

Prof. Hubert Seiwert received his doctorate in Religionswissenschaft in Bonn in 1978. He served as Assistant Professor (1979-1994) and as Associate Professor (1985-1994) in Religionswissenschaft at Leibniz University, Hannover. From 1994 to 2014, Prof. Seiwert held the chair for Religionswissenschaft at the University of Leipzig. He is a leading scholar in Religionswissenschaft, with regard to method and theory as well as with regard to his special research areas on the history of religions in China, new religious movements and the role of religions in processes of cultural dynamics. He has published widely within these areas (3 books and 4 edited books, and 95 articles and book chapters). He has, moreover, been an active and innovative promoter and moderator of the academic study of religions in Germany as well as in international contexts. He co-founded the *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft*, and served as its chief editor from 1993-2005. From 2001 to 2009, Prof. Seiwert chaired the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), and he played an active role in the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), serving as Vice President from 2008 to 2010. During his presidency of the DVRW, he also played an active role in the International Committee of the IAHR, and, being present at the landmark IAHR meeting in Marburg in 1988, was an important player when the Chinese Association for the Study of Religion (CARS) was adopted as member of the IAHR in 1990, and when

the CARS hosted an IAHR Regional Conference in 1992 in Beijing. Prof. Hubert Seiwert has been a staunch supporter of the IAHR for decades.

Prof. Abdulkader Tayob holds the National Research Foundation Chair in Islam, African Publics, and Religious Values at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. In addition, he has held numerous (Guest) Professorships (University of Cologne, University of Hamburg, University of Bayreuth, Radboud University, and University of Virginia) and Research Fellowships (Oxford University, ZMO Berlin, Academie Tunisienne des Sciences, International Centre for Islam and Pluralism in Jakarta, and American University of Cairo) across North America, Europe, and Africa. Prof. Tayob has published extensively on Islam in South Africa, modern Islamic thought, and Islam and the History of Religions. This has resulted in 5 books, 12 edited books/special issue journal volumes, 36 journal articles, and 40 chapters. This research has also been rewarded by various institutions, including the Humboldt Foundation, National Research Foundation (South Africa), Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, Department of Foreign Affairs (The Netherlands), and the South African Netherlands Development Project. Perhaps most impressive is his South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) on Islam, African Publics, and Religious Values, which has been funded from 2008 through to 2022. Throughout his career, Prof. Tayob has given back to the field through various forms of service. Most notable is that he served as Vice President of the IAHR from 2010-2015. He has also convened many conferences and seminars focused on the study of religion. As a highlight, he was the chair of the local organizing committee for the 2014 AASR Conference, which took place at the University of Cape Town, and was a great success in terms of the quality of academic conversation and high participation.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee
Armin W. Geertz
June 6, 2020

7. IAHR Executive Committee Members 2015-2020

The Executive Committee for the period 2015-2020 was elected by the International Committee at the XXIst World Congress held in Erfurt in 2015

President

Prof. Tim Jensen

Distinguished (MSK) Associate Professor

Head of the Study of Religions, Department of History, University of Southern Denmark

Honorary Professor, Institut für Religionswissenschaft, Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Address: The Study of Religions, Department of History, SDU, DK-5230, Campusvej 55, Odense M, Denmark.

Email: t.jensen@sdu.dk

Website: <http://www.sdu.dk/staff/tjensen>

Vice-Presidents

Prof. Veikko Anttonen

Professor Emeritus of Comparative Religion

School of History, Culture and Arts Studies

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20014 University of Turku

Email: veiant@utu.fi

Prof. M. Mar Marcos

Professor in Ancient History/History of Religions in Antiquity

Departamento de Ciencias Historicas

Universidad de Cantabria

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Email: maria.marcos@unican.es

Acting Secretary General

(Prof. Afe Adogame was Secretary General 2015-2017)

Prof. Satoko Fujiwara

Professor of the Department of Religious Studies

Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology/Faculty of Letters

The University of Tokyo

7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku,

Tokyo 113-0033 JAPAN

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Deputy General Secretary

Prof. Ann Taves

Professor of Religious Studies

Department of Religious Studies
University of California at Santa Barbara
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Treasurer

Dr. Philippe Bornet
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Deputy Treasurer

Prof. Marion Maddox
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Publications Officer

Prof. Satoko Fujiwara

Further Members

Prof.Dr. Milda Ališauskienė
Associate Professor and head of Department of Sociology
Department of Political Sciences
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Email: milda@religija.lt

Prof. Amarjiva Lochan
Dy. Dean, International Relations, University of Delhi
Department of History Shivaji College University of Delhi, India
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Prof.David Thurfjell
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Prof. Dr. Katja Triplett
Professor for the Study of Religions at the Department of East Asian Studies

Center for Modern East Asian Studies (CeMEAS)
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8. Honorary Life Members of the IAHR

The International Committee of the IAHR decided during its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 to honor colleagues who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions. The status of “Honorary Life Member of the IAHR” is conferred in recognition of their scholarship and service to our discipline. Their contributions to the study of religion have brought enlightenment and inspiration, and the International Committee hopes that this small gesture of recognition will serve to encourage them in their future activities. The following is the list of persons currently appearing in this roll of honor.

Current Honorary Life Members

Professor Dr. Peter Antes

Institut für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft, Abt. Religionswissenschaft
Leibniz Universität Hannover Appelstr. 11 A
D-30167 Hannover Germany
e-mail: antes@mbox.rewi.uni-hannover.de

Professor Louise Bäckman

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Professor Brian Bocking

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Professor Giovanni Casadio

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Professor, Director Kong Fan

International Confucian Assoc. No. A-24 Xiao Shi Qiao
Jiu Gu Lou Street Beijing, China

Professor Dr. Giulia Sfamini Gasparro

Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia
Dipartimento di studi tardo-antichi medievali umanistici Università di Messina
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Professor Armin W. Geertz

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Professor Ingvild Sælid Gilhus

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Professor Rosalind I. J. Hackett

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USA
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Professor Gerrie ter Haar

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
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Professor Mihály Hoppál

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Professor Hans Kippenberg

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Professor Luther H. Martin

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Dr. Jan G. Platvoet

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email: jgplatvoet@hetnet.nl

Professor Michael Pye

FG Religionswissenschaft Philipps-Universität Landgraf-Philipp-Strasse 4
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e-mail: pye@mail.uni-marburg.de

Professor Susumu Shimazono

Faculty of Theology, Sophia University
7-1 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
102-8554 Japan

Professor Yolotl González Torres

INAH
Exconvento de El Carmen
Av. Revolución, esq. Monasterio San Ángel 010000 Mexico D.F.
e-mail: gtorres_yolotl@yahoo.com.mx

Professor Dr. Akio Tsukimoto

Faculty of Theology, Sophia University
7-1 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
102-8554 Japan
email: a-tsukimoto-e66@sophia.ac.jp

9. Invitation for Letters of Interest for Hosting the IAHR XXII World Congress 2025

As previously announced, the IAHR Executive Committee would like to invite “letters of interest” for hosting the IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress in 2025. The procedure of issuing a call for bids for hosting an IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, initiated out of a necessity after Tokyo 2005, will be continued. However, the Executive Committee hopes to make the process less burdensome for applicants by way of first issuing an invitation for less demanding “letters of interest” rather than for a full-fledged and time consuming bid or application. Letters of interest will be handed over to the incoming 2020--2025 Executive Committee for its consideration.

Consequently, I herewith ask the officers of the IAHR member societies and associations to consider whether you and your members might be interested in hosting the IAHR World Congress 2025. In case you decide to ponder the matter and maybe even send a letter of interest, I recommend that you take a look at the guidelines for running an IAHR World Congress. You can find the guidelines at the IAHR website under the heading “A Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress” (<http://www.iahrweb.org/congress.php>).

Letters of interest should be sent by e-mail to the Acting Secretary General of the IAHR, Satoko Fujiwara (fujiwara@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp).

Due to the problem of COVID-19, the deadline is extended to: Sept 1st, 2020.

I A H R

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS
Member of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) under UNESCO

www.iahrweb.org

Executive Committee:

President: Prof. T.Jensen (Odense);

Vice-Presidents: Prof. V. Anttonen (Turku) & Prof. M. Marcos (Santander);

Acting Secretary General: Prof. S. Fujiwara (Tokyo); **Deputy Secretary General:** Prof. A. Taves (Santa Barbara);

Treasurer: Prof. P. Bornet (Lausanne); **Deputy Treasurer:** Prof. M. Maddox (Sydney);

Publications Officer: Prof. S. Fujiwara (Tokyo) with Prof. K. Triplett (Göttingen);

Further Members: Prof. M. Alisauksine (Kaunas); Prof. A. Lochan (Delhi);

Prof. D. Thurfjell (Södertörn); Prof. K. Triplett (Göttingen)

May 1, 2020

To: Officers of IAHR Member Associations/Societies and Affiliates,

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message will find you all well.

Following the announcement of the cancellation of the Otago World Congress on March 26, 2020, the IAHR Executive Committee (EC) has discussed several issues regarding the Congress and associated business meetings. The EC has reached some conclusions, which I would like to convey to you in this email.

First, the Chairs of the Otago Congress Committees (Advisory Committee, Organizing Committee and, above all, Academic Program Committee) will produce documentation for the planned Congress, to be uploaded to the IAHR website. This documentation will be different from conference proceedings or a book of abstracts. It will be a simple record of i) paper titles and participant names, including keynote speech titles/speakers, ii) the Congress theme and structure, iii) the list of the members of the Congress Committees, iv) other appropriate matters. In other words, we will NOT publish submitted abstracts because some may not be able to present full papers on the same topics at some other conferences if we publish their abstracts, due to the duplicate publication policy.

Second, in place of proceedings, the Managing Editors of *NVMEN*, the Series Editors of the IAHR Book Series, the Director of the Otago Congress and I will directly contact the organizers of planned panels and invite them to send proposals to *NVMEN* and the Book Series and thereby materialize their plans in another format. This special Call for Proposals will be sent soon after this message.

Third, as for the International Committee Meeting and the General Assembly which were, in accordance with the IAHR Constitution (Articles 4 & 6) and Rules (1de, 2ab, 4ab, 5ac, 10a), going to take place during the Otago IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, the EC has, considering the present state of emergency, decided the following.

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Acting Secretary General: Prof. Satoko Fujiwara, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-0033, Japan. Tel. + 81 9054328112, email: fujiwara@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Treasurer: Prof. Philippe Bornet, Department of South Asian Studies, University of Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne-Dorigny, Switzerland. Tél + 41 216922721, email: philippe.bornet@unil.ch

With the cancellation of the 2020 Quinquennial World Congress, the meetings of the IAHR International Committee (IC) and General Assembly (GA), have to be cancelled, too.

The main issues that the IC was going to discuss were the proposals of the EC to change the name of our Association and to insert a new term in the Article 1 of the Constitution. Both proposals necessarily entail amendments to the Constitution, which can only be decided upon by the GA, upon the recommendation of the IC. However, according to the current Constitution, a General Assembly only meets at a Quinquennial World Congress. That is, without a World Congress, there will be no General Assembly. If we want to change the Constitution in order to hold an online World Congress and/or an online General Assembly some time between 2020 and 2025, that change can only be made by a regular General Assembly because the change requires a modification of the Constitution. Therefore, as long as we strictly follow the Constitution and the Rules, we can neither change the name nor the Article 1 till 2025, even if we all agree to do so.

As five years is a long time, the EC has discussed the possibility of holding the business meetings online even though this possibility is not mentioned in the Constitution and the Rules. However, in light of differences in time and infrastructures across countries, the EC has concluded that it would be impossible to hold a GA and an IC Meeting online, at least for the moment.

As the situation surrounding the IAHR may change rapidly in the near future, we may be forced to take some action before 2025. However, we should also be careful not to modify the Constitution too easily for practical reasons. The incoming Executive Committee will continue discussing the issue while always welcoming and appreciating your frank opinions.

On the other hand, the EC has decided that the election of the next EC, which is solely the business of the IC and also can be conducted fairly easily by electronic means, should be held with no delay, for the sake of the smooth, continued functioning of the IAHR.

Therefore, there will be no IC Meeting but the election. The election will take place in August 2020 by using an e-voting service. (Please see “EC Electoral Procedures” below for more details.)

The recommendations of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership will be included on the ballot along with the EC candidates in August 2020.

Fourth, although we had to cancel planned events and meetings for this year, the EC believes that we should not stop promoting and enhancing international collaborations among scholars of religion. The EC welcomes your suggestions and ideas as to how to do so in the face of pandemics and increased ecological concerns. On top of that, the EC would like to know what you think about the possibility of online meetings in the future. I will send you a questionnaire following this message to find out the feasibility of online gatherings.

Executive Committee Electoral Procedures

Based on the above arguments, the IAHR EC regards the present state of affairs as emergency so that the upcoming EC Election will be conducted electronically, following the planned schedule as below.

- Deadline for alternative nominations– (as already announced) May 22, 2020
- Deadline for the withdrawal of a nominee– May 21, 2020 (if he/she wants to leave a possibility to rescind his/her withdrawal)
- All officers of IAHR member associations and societies will receive an e-Bulletin Supplement in July, 2020, which will contain a brief statement of candidacy of each nominee.
- When the IAHR Secretary General receives information about (up to two) representatives voting on behalf of the member society or association, she will send them a link to an online e-voting system in mid-August.
- The representatives will be asked to vote using the system between August 20 and August 23.
- The results will be announced on August 26, which is the day the International Committee meeting was planned to be held if the Congress took place in Otago.

*At a regular International Committee Meeting as well as during the upcoming electronic Election, nominees whose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared “elected unopposed” (see Rule 16g). All others are elected by secret ballot. Consequently, there will be a need for casting votes only if there are more than one nominee to one or more of the eight officers to be elected or more than four nominees to the four EC members at large.

Honorary Life Membership Recommendation Procedures

All officers of IAHR member associations and societies will receive the statement of HLM recommendations from the HLM Advisory Committee, which will be included in the above-mentioned e-Bulletin Supplement, July, 2020.

All officers of IAHR member associations and societies will receive a link to an online e-voting system in mid-August.

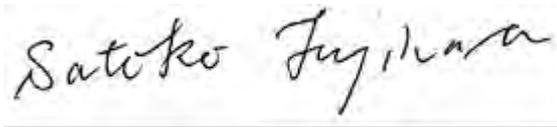
The representatives of IAHR member associations and societies will be asked to vote using the system between August 20 and August 23. Each national and regional association will have two votes.

The results will also be announced on August 26.

*At a regular International Committee Meeting, if there is no opposition, the IC will simply approve HLM recommendations with applause. As we cannot make or hear such applause, I have to ask you to endorse the recommendations using the same e-voting system.

Last but not least, thank you for taking time to read this message. The EC knows you are especially busy these days due to the problems caused by COVID-19. The IAHR has also been experiencing unprecedented misfortunes—none of its World Congresses has been cancelled since its establishment in 1950—but the EC will try to turn them into opportunities for innovations. Your continued support and cooperation would be more than ever appreciated. Please feel absolutely free to ask questions or give suggestions.

With very best wishes for your health and wellness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Satoko Fujiwara". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Satoko Fujiwara

Acting Secretary General of the IAHR

Appendix 2

Report on the 8th AASR Conference, August 1-4, 2018, Lusaka, Zambia

The African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) held their 8th AASR Conference in Africa from 1-4 August 2018. It was recognized as an IAHR regional conference and was co-hosted by the University of Zambia and Justo Mwale University in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of the conferences was 'Revisiting Religion, Politics, and the State in Africa and the African Diaspora'. Supported by the AASR Executive, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) was led by Marja Hinfelaar (Southern African Institute for Policy and Research) and Judith Ziwa (University of Zambia).

At the start of the conference, we were welcomed in festive style by the University of Zambia choir. This set the tone for an invigorating next few days for more than 100 registered participants. The paper sessions that followed featured an extensive array of topics and methodological approaches, with scholars from across the humanities and social sciences engaging in what became very much a multidisciplinary conversation. The theme proved timely, with participants presenting original research on the multidirectional role and influence of religion across politics, governance, development, conflict and peace, law and human rights, education, healthcare, media, activism, and gender and sexualities. Highlights of the programme included a keynote lecture by Professor Muna B. Ndulo (Cornell University) on 'Freedom of Religion: An International Perspective'. This was followed the next day by a plenary lecture by Professor Gerrie ter Haar (Erasmus University Rotterdam) on 'Revisiting the Milingo Affair: A Postcolonial Critique'. Most important for many of the students and early career scholars was a special session led by Professor Afe Adogame (Princeton Theological Seminary) on 'Academic Jobs, Grants, and Publishing' and a Young Scholars session led by Chammah Kaunda (Yonsei University) and Marja Hinfelaar (Southern African Institute for Policy and Research). To get a better perspective on how this conference was experienced by one such young scholar, see the conference review written by King'asia Mamati (Moi University): <http://www.a-asr.org/participant-review-aasr-conference-zambia-2018/>

Importantly, there was also ample time dedicated to socializing and enjoying the delicious food and natural beauty of Zambia. We were treated to Zambian traditional food in the Matebeto style for the conference dinner and many of us had the pleasure of taking an excursion to the nearby Chaminuka Lodge for a game drive and terrace lunch (once again with wonderful Zambian food). Some of us even had the pleasure to enjoy the sights and sounds of Lusaka's night scene, taking in performances from Mukuni Mulundika, aka Kuni, and Becky and the All Tunes. While it may seem peripheral, these cultural encounters greatly enriched the experience and provided some brief engagement with life outside of a university campus.

The AASR is especially grateful to the LOC for their tremendous efforts for putting together this conference on short notice. This conference was originally to be hosted in Cameroon, but ongoing tensions there meant that we needed a new host country. Our colleagues in Zambia stepped up and produced a well-organized and stimulating conference. Special thanks are also due to the IAHR Executive Committee for their promotional and financial support, as well as in-person support and contributions from the President of the IAHR, Professor Tim Jensen (University of Southern Denmark), and Acting Secretary General, Professor Sotoko Fujiwara (University of Tokyo).

Preparations are already underway for the 9th AASR Conference in Africa, which will take place in collaboration with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar, Senegal. See the AASR website for further details:

<http://www.a-asr.org/meetings/>

Corey L. Williams, Ph.D.
AASR General Secretary

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Christianity
Chair of Religious Studies Programmes
Leiden University Centre for the Study of Religion (LUCSoR)

**THE 8TH SSEASR CONFERENCE, DHAKA, BANGLADESH, JUNE
13-16, 2019**

A REPORT

The eighth SSEASR (South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion) Conference with theme of **Rivers and Religion: Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia** was organized and hosted at the Campus of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). Cultural homogeneity that inhabitants of South and Southeast Asia experience today stems from the flow and sacredness of its rivers. In the lush riverine country Bangladesh, how religions and ideals are formed around the rivers was the impressive academic discussion in this three-day Conference(June 13-16,2019). Liberal Arts and Social Sciences scholars from Bangladesh and abroad working on South and Southeast Asia presented their research findings. For the students, the SSEASR Conference offered rare opportunities to learn from archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, social scientists and economists from all around the globe. The Conference was well organized by **Professor Dr Shahnaj Husne Jahan**, who was the Organizing Secretary of this SSEASR Conference and director, Centre for Archaeological Studies, ULAB.

Bangladesh Minister of Education Dr Dipu Moni inaugurated the Conference with lighting traditional lamp. . She said, “This conference will show us the future of Bangladesh and develop cultural ties with countries of South and Southeast Asia”. **High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Ms Riva Ganguly Das** was the Guest of Honour who emphasised on the Indian government’s plans on promoting connectivity and academic linkages by offering several types of scholarships both for students and Faculty members which is to ensure the continuity of a communication of last five thousand years. In his welcome speech, ULAB Pro-Vice Chancellor **Professor Shamsad Mortuza** thanked the participants and said the SSEASR conference has shed light on how religions originated from the rivers and how rivers carried their own religions. SSEASR President **Dr Amarjiva Lochan** also spoke in the Inaugural

ceremony. The keynote speech was delivered by **Dr BR Mani**, the Director General of National Museum and Vice-Chancellor of NMI, India.

The Closing Ceremony featured **Professor Rosalind IJ Hackett**, the Vice President of CIPSH, IAHR Secretary General **Prof Satoko Fujiwara**, **Mr MA Mannan**, Minister of Planning and **His Excellency Mr Kanbar Hossein-Bor**, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh. All the local guest speakers emphasised the need for developing further academic research capabilities of the country. ULAB Vice Chancellor **Professor HM Jahirul Haque** gave the vote of thanks.

Planning Minister M A Mannan, stated that the theme of the Conference was a befitting one as it is necessary to acknowledge that rivers and people cannot be separated whether you study history culture and religion of the nation. Emphasizing on the need to further research capabilities of the country, the minister also assured that he would personally look into possibilities of ensuring more funding for the academia in Bangladesh.

Speaking as the Special Guest, acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Kanbar Hossein-Bor focused on how rivers had contributed to civilizations across the world and continues to bridge different cultures. In her remarks about the eighth SSEASR Conference, Professor Rosalind I J Hackett, the Vice President of the CIPSH, said the event covered a wide variety of academic disciplines which all fall under the theme of religion. She also thanked the organizers for taking a holistic approach in executing the event.

Everybody expressed hopes that professional academic bonds formed during the conference would facilitate future collaborations between Bangladeshi and foreign scholars.

A total of 170 research papers from 30 countries are being presented during the four-day conference in 37 parallel academic sessions under 15 subthemes. The opening day itself saw around 50 scholars presenting their papers in 10 parallel sessions taking place on different subthemes including Major river and their valleys, South and Southeast Asian Diaspora, South and Southeast Asian Art, architecture and archaeology etc. There was a special panel organized for those who wrote research papers on the theme and relevant subthemes in Bangla language. The Conference ended with the creation of a new Association for the scholars of Bangladesh majoring the study of culture and religions. It awaits formal acceptance to be a National Association under the umbrella of the IAHR.

At the end, participants were also taken for a tour of Dhaka's historical sites. They visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhakeshwari Temple, Museum of Independence and Shahid Minar, Lalbagh Fort in old Dhaka and also handicraft markets to pick up some souvenirs. There was a post-Conference tour of 2 nights and three days for all major historical sites of the country which included Buddhist stupa, early medieval Mosques, and archaeological sites.

According to the organizers, the objectives of the 8th SSEASR Conference were bringing together hundreds of scholars from home and abroad such as archaeologists, historians, anthropologists, social scientists and economists working on the several angles of the study of South and Southeast Asia to a common academic platform to share and discuss issues concerning culture and religion for creating a sustainable and healthy academic atmosphere in the region; establishing good relations among the universities of the world; and promoting Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage worldwide through a special session, cultural programmes, and both pre and post conference tours and culinary delicacies.

The financial support extended by the IAHR was utilized in giving one lunch, providing air ticket support for paper presenters from Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan. In addition, 11 students' registration fees were covered. The SSEASR expresses its sincerest gratitude for the financial support which was highly useful. We also thank Prof Satoko Fujiwara for coming from Japan which was a great sign of solidarity and it was essential in the wake of non-conducive socio-political situation in the host country in the recent past.

REPORT PREPARED BY Dr Sophana Srichampa, SSEASR Secretary General and Prof Shahnaj Husne Jahan with the input from Dr Amarjiva Lochan

ISSRNC CORK CONFERENCE REPORT



The International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture's "Religion/Water/Climate: Changing Cultures and Landscapes Conference", which was a Special Conference of the IAHR, took place from the 13 June until 16 June 2019 and was hosted by the Study of Religions Department at University College Cork. It was the first international, interdisciplinary event of its kind to be held in Ireland. Dr Jenny Butler was the local organiser of the conference alongside the ISSRNC Board of Directors, which Dr Butler was subsequently elected to by the ISSRNC membership as a Member-at-Large (to serve from 2019-2022). The ISSRNC organizing and programme committees were composed of Amanda Baugh, Whitney Bauman, Evan Berry, Jenny Butler, Chris Crews, David Haberman, Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Michael Northcott, Sarah Pike, Kelsey Ryan-Simkins, Kristina Tiedje, and Robin Veldman.

This was the first hosting of an ISSRNC conference in Ireland, and significantly for the field of study of religions, also was the first time a Special Conference of the IAHR was held in Ireland. The conference was opened by the President of the IAHR, Professor Tim Jensen and the President of the ISSRNC, Professor Mark Peterson.

One of the most interesting aspects of the conference was its international perspective, bringing together over 120 colleagues from different continents and disciplines for valuable discussions on the theme of religion, water, nature and climate change. Delegates travelled

from the United States, Colombia, the United Kingdom, and Mexico to join their Irish-based colleagues for invigorating and tough-provoking sessions on fundamental issues and crises affecting us all. The keynote speakers were supported by the ISSRNC, UCC Study of Religions Department and UCC's Marginalised and Endangered Worldviews Study Centre (MEWSC). The conference was also generously sponsored by the IAHR and had marketing support from the Fáilte Ireland Conference Ambassador Support Programme and Cork Convention Bureau. The delegates were hosted at Cork City Hall for a reception with Cllr. Fergal Dennehy, Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork. The Forum for Religion and Ecology at Yale sponsored refreshments at the conference and Equinox Publishers sponsored a wine reception in the Aula Maxima on University College Cork's historic campus.

The keynoters brought much to the conference and are each high profile figures in the study of religions and their respective research areas intersect the nexus of religion, nature and culture. Dr Marion Bowman has worked in the Religious Studies department at The Open University since 2000 and is now a Guest Researcher at the University of Oslo, Norway. She is the Vice-President of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Working at the interstices of religious studies and folklore/ethnology, Marion's research interests are rooted in contemporary vernacular religion – the experiences, worldviews, beliefs, practices and material culture of individuals and groups in in specific locations and contexts. Marion has conducted a long term study of the town of Glastonbury. A former president of both the British Association for the Study of Religions and of The Folklore Society, she was a Visiting Professor at the University of Oslo 2016-2018, having also previously been a visiting lecturer/professor at the University of Tartu, Estonia; University of Bayreuth, Germany; University of Pecs, Hungary; Abo Akademi, Finland and University of Bergen, Norway. Marion was Co-Investigator on the AHRC funded project Pilgrimage and England's Cathedrals, Past and Present, 2014-2018 and has recently co-edited with Simon Coleman a special themed issue of the journal *Religion* (Vol 49, Issue 1, 2019) 'Religion in Cathedrals: Pilgrimage, Heritage, Adjacency, and the Politics of Replication in Northern Europe'.

Professor Siv Ellen Kraft is based in the Department of Archaeology, History, Religious Studies and Theology at the University of Tromsø in Norway and her research focuses on indigenous religions and environmental mobilizations. Since 2015 Siv Ellen has been conducting a comparative project called "Indigenous Religion(s), Local Grounds, Global Networks" (INREL).

Her recent publications include “‘Standing Rock Religion(s): Ceremonies, Social Media and Music Videos’” (co-authored with Greg Johnson, *Numen*, 2018), and the *Handbook of Indigenous Religion(s)* (co-edited with Greg Johnson, Brill, 2017).

Professor Marianne Lien is based in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo and her work focuses on questions of consumption, production and marketing, with special focus on food and nutrition. She has published widely on issues related to economic anthropology, globalization, nature, domestication and aquaculture. Professor Lien’s book, *Becoming Salmon: Aquaculture and the Domestication of a Fish* (UC Press, 2015) has become a touchstone publication for animal studies.

The conference was multidisciplinary in focus and divided into a variety of interesting and exciting panels containing an impressive roster of presenters. The array of panels included much thematic diversity along the shared central themes: ‘Green Religions and Spiritual Ecologists: Empirical Insights from the Current Field of Sustainability and Religion’; ‘Religious Implications in Water Management’, ‘Religion and Environmental Resilience in the Anthropocene’, ‘Intersecting Art: Changing Religion, Nature and Culture’; ‘Environmental Ethics’; ‘Holy Wells, Healing Waters, Pilgrimage’; ‘Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change’; ‘Unsettling Narratives of Climate Change: The Poetic, Imaginary, and Spirit of Living & Dying Together’; ‘Resources: Oil and Water’; ‘Pedagogy, Contemplation, and Engagement’; ‘Landscapes and Waterscapes’; ‘Indigenous Responses and Resistance’; ‘Apocalypse: Narrative and Culture’; ‘Art, Myth, and Metaphor’; ‘Rivers’; ‘Blood in the Water: Toxic Water, Toxic Bodies’; ‘Water, Conflict, and the Religious Roots of Resolution: Four Cases in the United States’; ‘Anthropological Understandings of Religion, Environment and Climate Change in the UK’; ‘What does nature love have to do with care for the planet?’; ‘Contemporary Pagan Cosmologies’; ‘Social Texts of Climate Skepticism’; ‘Reconceptualizing Water as Ground’; ‘Fueling and Resisting Petroculture: Christianity and Climate Change’; ‘Rethinking the Environmental Crisis: Textual and Historical Approaches’; ‘Negotiating Religious Participation in Environmental Activism’.

The conference allowed for a juncture of many disciplines and subfields in a way that was inspiring and energizing, fostering discussions that continued long after the event ended. The participation of working groups and research networks enhanced the conference and broadened the connections made both in terms of research interdisciplinarity and scholarly

interaction. The ISSRNC Ecology and Gender Working Group held its own panel on 'Gender, Nature, Religion: Changing Cultures and Water/Land-scapes'. The Religion and Extinction Network (Arts and Humanities Research Council—AHRC funded Network, 2018-2020) participated in the conference and held a Roundtable debate on 'Questioning Extinction, Questioning Religion'. Counterpoint: Navigating Knowledge global research centre held a Roundtable on 'Environmental Activism in a Time of Despair: A Counterpoint Conversation'. The conference included a Meet N'Greet with the editors of the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* (JSRNC), which is the primary platform for publications arising from the ISSRNC's conferences.

Since the themes of the conference related to the environment, climate change, water and sustainability, the choice of University College Cork was significant due to its 'Green Campus' status. UCC was the first institution outside of North America to achieve a gold star rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and UCC then joined Princeton, Cornell and UC Berkeley in receiving the highest standard, Gold 'Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System' (STARS) for excellence in sustainability. In 2007, UCC students instigated a pilot Green Campus program, with the help of An Taisce, which would see the university become the first in the world to be awarded a Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. UCC renewed its Green Flag in 2013 and 2016 and in 2018 became the first university in Europe to be awarded a Gold Star from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The UCC campus has been blazing a sustainability trail for over ten years to develop and achieve world-class Green Campus initiatives. UCC was the world's first university to achieve ISO50001 for Energy Management and has signed the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment. Other proactive environmental initiatives include the Green Library campaign, launching of Ireland's first single-use disposable free café, the introduction of a pollinator strategy and several beehives on campus, a KSG Catering "farm to fork programme", and many other sustainability initiatives. UCC was also the first Higher Education Institution in Ireland to achieve its 2020 public sector energy efficiency targets, three years ahead of schedule. In relation to sustainability and the ISSRNC Cork conference, delegates were advised to bring their own reusable drinks container. In order to be environmentally friendly, delegates were provided with their conference pack (with a mini-programme to save on paper) in a reusable canvas

bag (sponsored by Fáilte Ireland/Meet in Ireland) and twine was used instead of plastic lanyards for the nametags. Delegates also had the option at registration to make a donation in order to offset their carbon footprint in travelling to Cork for this conference, Online sessions were included in the conference to allow virtual participation. Delegates were encouraged to avail of campus accommodation so that there is less transport being used to get to the venue.

The ISSRNC presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the study of religion, nature, and culture jointly to Mary Evelyn Tucker and John A. Grim, two foundational figures within the field of religion and ecology. They co-organised ten conferences on World Religions and Ecology at the Centre for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University in the latter half of the 1990s, a time when “religion” and “ecology” were coalescing into one interdisciplinary field. Ten volumes of collected works drawn from these conferences were published by Harvard University Press in *Religions of the World and Ecology*, a series edited by Tucker and Grim. Tucker and Grim founded the Forum on Religion and Ecology, an international, multireligious project that aims to broaden understanding of the environmental crisis by exploring religious worldviews, texts, and ethics. The Forum hosts conferences, supports publishing projects and hosts a luncheon at the annual American Academy of Religion conference. Both Tucker and Grim currently hold joint appointments at Yale University in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. Together Tucker and Grim have published over twenty books and hundreds of articles, including *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014) and *Thomas Berry: A Biography* (Columbia, 2019). Their award-winning film *Journey of the Universe* (<https://www.journeyoftheuniverse.org/>) was screened at the conference, followed by a Q&A session. Anthropologist Dr Barry Lyons also presented clips from his documentary film project exploring how evangelical Christians from the global north and south view climate change, followed by a Q&A session. The incorporation of audiovisual and artistic content into the conference was one of its major successes, as was its convivial and collegial atmosphere as established scholars, postdoctoral researchers and students mingled and discussed vital topics and sustainable solutions in the face of climate crises. Thanks are due to the IAHR for its support, both financial and collegial, in making this conference happen.

- Dr Jenny Butler, Member-at-Large, ISSRNC Board of Directors

Links:

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC):

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

Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (JSRNC):

<http://www.religionandnature.com/journal/index.htm>

Religion and Extinction Network:

<https://gtr.ukri.org/projects>

The Forum for Religion and Ecology at Yale:

<http://fore.yale.edu/>

Study of Religions Department, University College Cork:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/religion//>

Conference Report

17th Annual Conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) – „Religion – Continuations and Disruptions“. IAHR Regional Conference.

University of Tartu, Estonia

June 25-29, 2019

The annual conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) was organized by the Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (ESSR) in cooperation with the University of Tartu. Although initially nearly 700 people had registered for the conference, in the end 618 people from 49 countries arrived in Tartu. In total, 6 keynote lectures and 584 individual papers were presented. During the conference, the main topic of continuations and disruptions was discussed from the perspective of many different research approaches, from the history of ancient religion to the evolutionary and cognitive science of religion. Keynotes were delivered by Michael Stausberg, David Thurfjell, Timothy Insoll, Sonja Luehrmann, Zvi Bekerman and Lotte Tarkka.

An extensive cultural programme was also part of the conference. This included guided tours in many different museums such as the Estonian National Museum or the Beer Museum as well as all sorts of city tours (for example the Toome Hill Ghost Tour), but also larger opportunities such as going for a bog-hike or visiting Old Believers villages near Tartu. Altogether 209 conference participants registered to a cultural activity.

To organize the conference, ESSR received significant financial help from the University of Tartu, the city of Tartu as well as from Enterprise Estonia. Cooperation with IAHR was also very beneficial for the conference organizers.

Conference website: <https://easr2019.org/>

Detailed conference statistics: <https://easr2019.org/2019/07/23/easr-2019-statistics/>

Video recordings of the opening ceremony and keynote lectures:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEdTKsq-dX2r6ubVflJye2aexYlKDey-G>

ESSR president

Madis Arukask

Appendix 2

Conference Report „Conceptualising Religion“ (Hannover, Germany, Sept 3-6, 2019)

From September 3-6 the Institute for the Study of Religion at Leibniz Universität Hannover in Germany hosted the 33rd Biannual Conference of the *German Association for the Study of Religion* (DVRW) & Special Conference of the *International Association for the History of Religions* (IAHR). The conference theme was „Conceptualising Religion“.

The conference attracted about 300 scholars from 25 different countries.

Keynotes were given by Michael Bergunder, Christopher Cotter & David Robertson, Tomoko Masuzawa and Horst Juninger, Oliver Krüger and Astrid Reuter. The conference involved also a public conversation between Winnifred Sullivan and Heiner Bielefeldt on „Freedom of Religion or Belief: A universal right or an impossibility?“

The conference involved lively discussions about different conceptualisations of religions in various social and cultural contexts, including a de-conferencing session with a spontaneous exchange of ideas.

The cooperation with the IAHR was very beneficial, both with respect to the visibility of the conference and the attraction of scholars from different parts of the world.

Wanda Alberts
(conference director)



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6 May 2020

Dear President and Secretary General,

Greetings from the Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR).

As I have already informed you through my earlier application dated 6 August 2019 that we have established Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR) to promote the academic study of religions in Bangladesh throughout the nation in various universities, colleges and research institutes. We have four meetings from December 2018 to May 2019 prior to the General Assembly meeting on the 15th June 2019. I am also glad to mention that 67 Bangladeshi scholars from public and private universities, colleges and research institutes of all nine divisions (different geographical regions) of Bangladesh attended the General Assembly meeting and passed the clauses of the BSSCR Constitution. The Assembly was held in the august presence and guidance of Professor Amarjiva Lochan, President, SSEASR. We requested Professor Satoko Fujiwara, Secretary General of IAHR to attend the meeting as an observer. We also had words from Professor Rosalind Hackett, former President of IAHR and Vice President of CIPSH.

After receiving comments of Professor Satoko Fujiwara through email dated 23rd July 2019, we organized a meeting on the 3rd August 2019 to discuss the issues raised by her (Professor Satoko Fujiwara) and revised the necessary portions accordingly. I am also pleased to inform you that the BSSCR Executive Committee has a varied academic shape and coming from various parts of my country.

Due to pandemic we cancelled our Annual Meeting that planned in March 2020.

I am again eagerly submitting the request to your office to allow BSSCR as one of the National Associations of the IAHR.

Copy of the Constitution, a list of Executive Committee Members, their CV and a list of Members with Department and Institutions are attached with this email for your ready reference.

Please let me know if any other documents are required.

Looking forward to receiving a positive response from you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Shahnaj Husne Jahan
Secretary General, BSSCR



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CONSTITUTION

Article 1: Name

- i) As accepted and confirmed by the founding members at a meeting held on the 11th April 2019, the Society shall be named as “**Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion**”.
- ii) The official acronym shall be **BSSCR**.

Article 2: Registration

The Society shall be legally registered at Dhaka, Bangladesh according to the Societies Registration Act [Act XXI of 1860] of Bangladesh.

Article 3: Affiliation

Bangladesh Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (BSSCR) shall apply for membership to the International Association for the History of Religions (hereafter IAHR).

Article 4: Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- i) To promote the academic study of religions in Bangladesh through out the nation in various universities, colleges and research insitutes.
- ii) To reach and learn from academic collaboration on such studies both at national and international levels.
- iii) To achieve this academic goal, our Society (BSSCR) would encourage atmosphere through subjects such as (*and not confined only to*) history, art and archaeology, philosophy, geography, geology, linguistics, political science, anthropology, sociology, literature, culture studies, tourism and hospitality managements, cultural heritage management, economics, law, folklore and performing arts. We would also promote cross-cultural studies to encourage better understanding among scholars.
- iv) To promote the academic interpretation of cultural heritage to Bangladesh and its relation with neighboring regions.
- v) To hold BSSCR sponsopred special and regional conferences, semiars, workshops, occasional symposia and colloquia.
- vi) To encourage the publication of the proceedings of such congress, conference, and meetings.
- vii) To encourage and support publications of general interest to the academic study of religions and culture.



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Article 5: Executive Committee and Office Bearers

- i) The Executive Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General, a Deputy Secretary General, a Treasurer, a Publication Secretary, and four Executive Members.
- ii) The officers in particular and the members of the Executive Committee in general, shall be chosen in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the country where the academic study of religions and culture is pursued in its various disciplines.
- iii) The General Assembly is composed of the general members from different regions of Bangladesh where the academic study of religions and culture is pursued in different organizations.
- iv) The Society may be represented formally by any of the designated office bearers in accordance with their specified function or as otherwise delegated by the President or by decision of the members of the Executive Committee.
- v) The Executive Committee shall meet once annually. The meeting is called by the Secretary General with the agreement of the President. A meeting of the Committee requires written notice of not less than 30 days, the attendance of the President or one of the two Vice-Presidents and at least five other members is required. Decisions are to be reached as far as possible by consensus and if necessary, by simple majority vote. Abstentions may be recorded but do not count as "no" votes.
- vi) The President and the Secretary General shall present an oral or written report at each meeting of the General Assembly. The President in office would conduct the General Assembly of the BSSCR and the meetings of the Executive Committee. These functions may be delegated by the President or in the event of serious illness or similar incapacitation by the Committee, to one of the Vice-Presidents.
- vii) Treasurer, BSSCR would present the annual Financial Report before the Executive Committee and thereafter the General Assembly.
- viii) The General Assembly shall be convened once a year. The date may vary, taking account of the Annual Conference programme which provides the context. The Committee shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly at the request of a minimum of two-thirds of the Members. The minimum notice for an extraordinary General Assembly shall be 30 days by postmark. The Assembly is called by the Secretary General with the agreement of the President.
- ix) Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly shall be given by the Secretary General. When notice is given not less than 90 days in advance of the General Assembly a widely available form of communication such as a printed bulletin or an electronic medium is sufficient. If the period of notice is shorter, notice must be sent to all members individually in writing. The minimum period of notice is 30 days by postmark. Non-receipt of notice by one or more members shall not invalidate the decisions of the meeting.
- x) The agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly shall be published in 30 days advance when the meeting is called.



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- xi) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present at a meeting. In the case of simple majority votes, abstentions shall be recorded but are not counted as "no" votes. Additions to the published agenda shall require a two-thirds majority of all those present.
- xii) Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for three-year term and be subjected to re-election. No one member shall serve in the same office for more than two terms and no one member shall serve for more than four terms in total. In the event of the death or resignation of any serving officer of the Executive Committee, a suitable replacement may be nominated after consultation among the remaining officials, and shall serve, subject to the written approval of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, until the next person takes over.
- xiii) For electing the members of the Executive Committee, the right to vote is strictly limited to individuals with valid current membership as registered at the appropriate time with the Secretary General of the BSSCR. The individual member of the Society shall have one vote and it shall be exercised in person and there shall be no proxy voting. Voting can be done only by ballot. In all cases the President or the person presiding over the meeting shall have a tie-breaker vote.

Article 6: Membership

- i) Membership of the BSSCR shall be open to all research students and scholars. The amount of membership fee shall be decided with the Executive Committee of BSSCR, further to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- ii) The first office bearers shall be considered as the founding members.
- iii) There shall be two categories of membership. Members of the Society are divided into:
 - a) General Member

Any person with interest in /research on the subject mentioned above can become a general member of the Society provided S/he must submit an application for membership to the Executive Committee on its approval by the Executive Committee, they would be entered as general member at the General Assembly.

A general member of the Society has rights to

- I. Vote and participate in elections of Executive Committee and become a member of the Executive Committee.
- II. Take part in the General Assembly.
- III. Make statements, submit opinions and postulate to the Executive Committee on every topic related with the activity of the Society.
- IV. Participate in the Society's programs.
- V. Observing the by-laws and other regulations of the Society.
- VI. Pay the enrollment fee and annual subscription of the Society.



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b) Honorary Member

Any person, who worked for an extraordinary contribution to the objectives of the Society, may become an Honorary Member, provided:

- I. S/he has been proposed for the membership by a member of the Executive Committee of the Society
 - II. S/he has expressed his or her will to become an honorary member.
 - III. His/her nomination as honorary member has been approved by the Executive Committee.
 - IV. Honorary members have all rights of general members except voting right and cannot become a member of the Executive Committee.
- iv) Any member may resign from the membership by writing to the President of the Society.
- v) Failure to renew an annual membership shall be considered a 'de facto resignation'.
- vi) A person, whose membership has been canceled, has the right to appeal to Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will conduct the hearing and decide on the fate of the membership based on majority opinion of the committee.

Article 7: Membership Benefits

- i. 20% discount on registration fee for the BSSCR Conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs.
- ii. Preference in grant recommendation for the SSEASR Conferences held in South and Southeast Asia.
- iii. Preference in grant recommendation for the IAHR Congresses held throughout the world
- iv. Opportunity to join Study Tours in various countries at a reasonably low price.
- v. To be part of the database for the exchange of scholars, scholarship and education programs.
- vi. Opportunity to eligible to apply for research grants
- vii. The BSSCR would publish quality research works of the members as monograph and book.
- viii. Manuscripts can be submitted to the BSSCR Secretariat for consideration
- ix. All publications of the BSSCR would be given at a 30% discount to the Members
- x. The BSSCR provides the best academic platform to interact with the scholars from other countries.

Article 8: Quorum

The quorum for any meeting (Annual General Assembly, Extraordinary General Assembly or Executive Committee Meeting) of the members of the Society shall be one-third. If at a



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particular meeting of members quorum is not fulfilled, then the meeting shall be adjourned for twenty four hours. No quorum is necessary for such adjourned meetings as well as venue and time will remain same.

Article 9: Amendments

All proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Society shall first be placed before the Executive Committee and ratified by simple majority. The ratified amendments shall thereafter be placed before the General Assembly for approval. If there is a two-third majority in the voting of annual General Assembly but without the presence of 50% of all members, the changes will not get passed and another follow-up General Assembly will be held after 2 weeks of the annual General Assembly.

Article 10: Dissolution

The BSSCR can be dissolved only at the recommendation of the Executive Committee and by decision of the General Assembly for which a two-third majority is required. In the event of dissolution such assets as remain after the settling of all liabilities shall be transferred to another Society or Foundation with similar objectives as per the decision taken by the votes of two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

April 14, 2018

Proposal for the establishment of an IAHR Working Group on Religion in Public Education

Building on the experience of the *EASR Working Group on Religion in Public Education* (established in 2008), I would like to suggest to establish a *Working Group on Religion in Public Education* also on the IAHR level. This would allow for a truly international exchange on empirical research in that field as well as on the communication of the research results of the Study of Religions beyond the university level, above all, to schools.

The format of a working group would provide institutional support for promoting cooperation on one of the most important concerns of the IAHR, the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion. This is particularly relevant in the field of school religious education, where the border between this kind of approach and confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns is often blurred.

In many countries, religious institutions, promoting their respective approaches to education, are well-established in education systems. This makes it all the more difficult to show the difference between critical scientific research and confessional apologetical concerns. However, in many contexts, particularly in obligatory religion-related classes or alternative subjects to confessional RE, an impartial approach to religion is needed – not least in order to meet human rights standards.

An *IAHR Working Group on Religion in Public Education* could be a forum that enables co-operation about religious studies based approaches to the following fields:

1. Empirical research on various different models of teaching about religion/s in public educational institutions, with a particular focus on schools and higher education. This involves a study of both religious (confessional) and non-religious approaches.
2. The development of didactics of the Study of Religions, applying the principles and recent debates on theory and methodology in the Study of Religions to educational contexts beyond the university, above all, to school contexts.
3. The development of teacher training programmes in the Study of Religions.
4. The communication of research results in that field to various areas of academia, educational institutions and society at large.

Thus, the working group would have both an academic and a political function. Academically, it would provide a platform for exchange within the discipline, which is particularly necessary as the discourse in the field is dominated by confessional perspectives and interests which are not always easily identifiable. Politically, it would support religious studies perspectives within the framework of a well-established institution and thus support the dissemination of research results as well as securing recognition of an impartial scientific perspective in this socially highly relevant field.

The meetings of the working group would take place at conferences and congresses of the IAHR, but also in smaller workshops organised by its members. It may also be a basis

for establishing international cooperative Master programmes, for which, however, the individually involved scholars and universities would take responsibility.

Knowing that there is no tradition of “working groups” within the IAHR, the executive committee may also consider establishing a “network” (comparable to the *Woman Scholars Network*) on religion in public education.

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Appendix 5

Professor Rosalind I.J. Hackett installed Honorary Chief of Erinmoland in Nigeria
By Elias Kifon Bongmba



Professor Hackett
Photo credits: Brent Belnap

The African Association for the Study of Religion congratulates Professor Rosalind I.J. Hackett, University of Tennessee Chancellor's Professor and Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and Religious Studies for receiving an Honorary Chieftaincy in Nigeria. The Honorary Chieftaincy was bestowed by His Royal Majesty Oba (Dr) Michael Odunayo Ajayi when he celebrated the fifth anniversary of his coronation as the Elerinmo of Erinmoland, on August 9-10, 2019. At the ceremony of investiture and the celebrations that followed, Hackett and other honorees received the insignia and formal wear befitting their chieftaincy status. She was granted the title of "Yeye Meye of Erinmoland" (Mother who knows our ways).

Hackett was honored for her research and the work she has done for the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ACLARS) for nearly a decade. Hackett is a founding member of ACLARS and serves on its board, as well as playing an active role in planning the highly successful ACLARS conferences in Africa. These annual conferences have created a vibrant forum for African scholars of various disciplines to address critical contemporary issues at the intersection of law, human rights, and religion.

While Hackett was pleasantly surprised by this honor and told her colleagues at the University of Tennessee: "It comes at a time in my career when I was taking stock of all the research, teaching, mentoring, and conference planning I have conducted in Africa and beyond over the years. It's a delight to get this recognition." Starting from her undergraduate student days in the United Kingdom, Hackett has maintained an abiding presence in Nigeria with more than nine years of research and teaching, making Nigeria her second home. Hackett has done research in more than twelve African countries, spending the most time in Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, and Ghana. Hackett's interdisciplinary research has focused on cutting edge issues on African and Indigenous Religions, New Religious Movements, Religion and Art, Conflict and Peace, Religion and Gender, and Religion and Human Rights. Drawing theoretical insights from anthropology, sociology, religious studies methodologies, Hackett has studied and published

well-received books and essays on religion and the media, religion and sound, and the growing influence of Pentecostalism in Africa.

Many scholars of Africa and the majority world know Hackett as the person to turn as a mentor in scholarship and the many ways of understanding and interpreting the human condition. Hackett's work in Northern Uganda built international collaborations that brought together artists and musicians through the Jazz for Justice project. Hackett has served on numerous committees and editorial boards of scholarly journals boards around the world. She is a Past President and Honorary Life Member of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). She currently serves as Vice-President of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH). As members of the African Association for the Study of Religions, we proudly say Hail to the Chief.



Professor Hackett with His Royal Majesty Oba (Dr) Michael Odunayo Ajayi and other honorees, Professor W. Cole Durham Jr. of Brigham Young University and Professor Mark Hill, Queen's Counsel, of Cardiff University in Wales. Photo Credits Brent Belnap

Credit: Additional information from Brian Canever, and Addie Morton of the University of Tennessee. <https://news.utk.edu/2019/09/16/hackett-receives-honorary-chieftaincy-in-nigeria/>