

**Call for Proposals for a Workshop of the  
EASR Working Group on Religion in Secular Education,  
University of Hanover, March 9-11, 2015**

Eight years after the *Working Group on Religion in Secular Education* of the *European Association for the Study of Religions* (EASR) was founded, we would like to invite scholars in the academic Study of Religions (*Religionswissenschaft*) who work on issues relating to religion education (RE), primarily in public schools, to participate in a workshop on critical perspectives on religion education - with a view to the production and publication of a companion to critical scholarly, non-confessional perspectives on religion education. Proposals may refer to specific material (also from individual countries), but should be sufficiently general (in terms of scope, theory, methodology and didactic reflections) to be relevant to a general companion of religious studies (RS)-perspectives on RE. Papers should reflect attention to the distinction between scholarly analysis and normative perspectives originating from the academic Study of Religions.

Proposals may include topics such as

- key terms
- RS-perspectives on (different models of) confessional RE
- RS-perspectives on (different models of) non-confessional RE, including subjects called "ethics", "values and norms" etc.
- theoretical reflections on "didactics of the Study of Religions", primarily in regard to RE in public schools (elementary, lower and upper secondary)
- the representation of religion(s) in integrative RE, including RE textbooks
- secular worldviews and RS-based RE
- RE and human rights issues
- programmes for teacher education at universities and teacher training colleges.
- other aspects of the relationship between the academic Study of Religions and education about religion outside universities

The language of the workshop is English. If you are interested in participating, please send an abstract of no more than 150 words and up to 3 references to relevant literature to Wanda Alberts ([wanda.alberts@ithrw.uni-hannover.de](mailto:wanda.alberts@ithrw.uni-hannover.de)). The deadline for the submission of abstracts is November 15, 2014.

Proposals will be evaluated by a team of study-of-religions scholars from five different EASR-countries. Accepted paper proposals will be presented and discussed at the workshop. After the workshop, a selection of the (revised) papers may, at the discretion of the abovementioned team of study-of-religions scholars and editors, be considered for inclusion in the planned companion to RS-based RE didactics. Furthermore, papers to be presented at the workshop may be included in a **panel on the same topic at the world congress of the *International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) in Erfurt (August 23-29, 2015)***. Please indicate if you would like to have your proposal evaluated not only for the workshop in Hanover in May 2015, but also maybe for inclusion in a panel at the IAHR congress. Notifications about the acceptance of paper proposals will be sent out by December 12.

The workshop will take place in the unit for the Study of Religions (*Abteilung Religionswissenschaft*) at the University of Hanover. The registration fee is 20 Euros and includes coffee breaks but no meals. Participants will need to find their own funding for participation in the workshop, travel and accommodation. The organisers will help with finding accommodation; a limited number of rooms is reserved in a hotel close by. Scholars whose proposals have been accepted but who do not have the financial means to participate, may apply for being evaluated for a very limited set of partial travel grants.

With kind regards,

Wanda Alberts and Tim Jensen