

International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association

and

European Sociological Association Research Network 34 (Sociology of Religion)

in cooperation with

Department of Sociology University of Zadar and

Croatian Sociological Association

CALL FOR PAPERS

12th ISORECEA conference & ESA RN34 mid-term conference

RELIGION AND NON-RELIGION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

Theoretical, Empirical and Methodological Challenges for Research in Central and Eastern Europe and Beyond

Zadar, Croatia, April 21-24, 2016

Both religion and non-religion are subjected to remarkable changes in today's world. Interplay between historical, cultural, and political occurrences and religion and non-religion challenge theoretical considerations of ongoing processes. Faced with different empirical data around the world secularisation theses have been contested for decades; theoretical debates about religious changes have occupied sociologists of religion. They have sought to better and more accurately understand and explain religious changes in different parts of the globe contemporary. Their points of view differ: privatization thesis, de-privatization thesis, religious economies thesis, religious bricolage, multiple secularities thesis. One angle, non-religion as religious counterpart, has been neglected in sociological research. Indeed, until the end of the 20th century, it was only Campbell (1971) who gave a comprehensive insight into the sociology of non-religion, while many scholars wrote and published within the strand of the sociology of religion.

Non-religion started to occupy attention of sociologists since the beginning of this century especially in UK and USA influenced by different appearances in Western world: the rise of declared non-religious people, the appearance of so-called a New atheism movement (inspired by books by R. Dawkins, S. Harris, D. Dennett, and C. Hitchens), numerous organizations and associations of non-religious people and their enhanced activities as an alternative to religious conservatism, growing influence of religion in public sphere and fundamentalist expressions of religion connected to terrorism. Researchers mostly based their work on theories of subcultural identities, identity politics and new social movements; yet, some authors also drew on the theory of religious economies. In spite of this strands, non-religion remains theoretically underdeveloped and under-researched. Interesting is the fact that this particularly refers to former communist countries where atheism was enforced as part of the official ideology; more research would have been expected on non-religiosity and atheism there.

Independently of the exact geopolitical context, non-religion and in particular the interplay between religion and non-religion in different dimensions seem to be a key for understanding contemporary religious changes.

This international conference would like to encourage scholars from various parts of the world to share their theoretical, empirical and methodological considerations on religion and non-religion and take part in discussion on different related topics, like:

- Social theory of religion and non-religion
- Comparative empirical data on religion and non-religion
- Methodological challenges of research on religion and non-religion
- Historical development of religion and non-religion
- Non/religious minority and majority
- Human rights, religion and non-religion
- Religion, non-religion and State
- Religion, non-religion and social inclusion/exclusion
- Religion and non-religion in the intersectional perspective (involving gender, age, socio-economic aspects, etc.)
- Religion and non-religion in everyday life
- Religious and non-religious activism

Please submit a **200-300 words abstract** of your presentation by e-mail to: isorecea2016@idi.hr **by November 15, 2015**.

If you are interested in a specific topic related to the study of religion and/or non-religion, we encourage you to organize a session/panel. In this case, please submit a 300-400 words proposal with full session details (names and affiliation of contributors, titles of their presentations) **by November 15, 2015** to the same email address.

Key dates

Submission of paper and session/panel proposals - **November 15, 2015**.
Notification of acceptance and opening of the registration – **December 15, 2015**.
The final date of the registration for the conference – **January 31, 2016**.

Final program – **February 20, 2016**.

Fees **Membership fees**

Please note that in order to present a paper you need to be a member of ISORECEA for the years 2016-2017 or a member of ESA in the year 2016.

The conference fees are as follows (in EURO):

For members of ISORECEA

List of Countries*	A	B	C
Regular members	80	60	40
Students and unemployed	30	18	12
Retired	40	30	20

* This is according to the Table of Economies used by the International Sociological Association:
http://www.isa-sociology.org/table_c.htm

For members of ESA

List of countries*	Band 1	Band 2	
		Country falling under A or B category of ISA**	Country falling under C category of ISA**
Regular members	80	60	40
Early career scholars***	60	60	40
Students and unemployed	30	18	12
Retired	40	30	20

* Band 1 and Band 2 are defined by ESA at: <http://www.europeansociology.org/member/>

** This is according to the Table of Economies used by the International Sociological Association:
http://www.isa-sociology.org/table_c.htm

*** As defined by ESA at: <http://www.europeansociology.org/membership.html>

For those who are not members of ISORECEA or ESA*

List of Countries**	A	B	C
Regular participants	160	120	80
Students and unemployed	80	60	40
Retired	80	60	40
Conference fee paid on the spot	25% higher (each category)		

* Only those who do not present a paper can participate in the conference as non-members.

** This is according to the Table of Economies used by the International Sociological Association:
http://www.isa-sociology.org/table_c.htm

Those accepted for the conference will be asked to pay their fees through the PayPal system at the ISORECEA website. For the information on how to become a member of ISORECEA or ESA, or renew the membership, please visit these organisations' websites: <http://isorecea.net/> or <http://www.europeansociology.org/>. The information about accommodation and the conference venue will be given in the second half of December 2015. In case of any earlier questions, please send an email to: isorecea2016@idi.hr.

