



**ISORECEA**  
International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association



**ISORECEA in cooperation with  
the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
and the Faculty of Sociology of Warsaw University**

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

15<sup>th</sup> ISORECEA conference

### **Drifting apart or Consolidating? Religious and Secular Organizations in Political Constellations**

Warsaw, Poland, April 28–30, 2022

In Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) as elsewhere, the religious and the secular have long been intertwined. Churches, denominations and other religious and spiritual organizational units, as well as state institutions, NGOs and social movements designed as secular, have formed complex relationships. Furthermore, such constellations have been constantly changing in response to both global and local trends in the wider society.

One of the most vividly debated developments nowadays is the rise of 'illiberal populism'. There are academics worried about what they call 'the great regression' of democracy or 'de-Europeanization'. Some others describe the 'illiberal populism' in more neutral terms, as an anti-neoliberal reaction to the economic crisis of 2008 that downgrades the power of symbolic and economic elites and enables a wide manifestation of alternative formulations. Today's struggles over democracy and its interpretation involve religion, religious organizations and various ways of conceptualizing the social, as exemplified by the antagonistic relationship between promoters of the concept of 'gender ideology' and their opponents who employ the notions of religious extremism and fundamentalism in their critique. The COVID-19 pandemic has further amplified some such tendencies, and created a space where new constellations could emerge.

This conference aims at shedding light on the role of religion in recent political, economic and social processes; it encourages a perception of the situation as dynamic; and asks about the reasons for and consequences of the changing constellations of religious and secular actors. What is the relationship between religion and populist tendencies? Do religious and secular organizations drift apart as a

consequence of today's political struggles, or are there new points of consolidation and convergence emerging between them? How are religious and secular organizations involved in renewing old lines of conflict and creating new ones? Or, to what extent, are they engaged in minimizing political and social tensions? How do the changing organizational landscapes, public debates, concerns over democracy and 'culture wars' translate into the worldviews and practices of individual believers and those of no religious affiliation?

We particularly warmly welcome papers that address these and related issues and focus on Central and Eastern Europe.

The **conference topics** include, but are not limited to:

- theories, methods and approaches to studying the constellations of religious and secular organizations in CEE;
- local constellations of religious and secular actors: in the CEE region (as compared to other geopolitical locations), and in particular countries of the CEE;
- local constellations of religious and secular actors in the context of transnational flow of ideas and transnational organizing;
- the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on religious and secular landscapes and methods for studying them;
- majority and minority religions and their involvement in politics and political struggles;
- religion and identity categories (gender, sexuality, ethnicity, etc.);
- discourses on the religious and the secular;
- individual approaches to religion/spirituality and politics;
- cultivating religion/spirituality in disconnection with political struggles.

## Keynote speakers

**Agnieszka Kościńska**, University of Warsaw, Poland & University of Oxford, UK

**Siniša Zrinščak**, University of Zagreb, Croatia

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We plan to organize the conference in a **hybrid format**: on-site and virtually. Participants will declare their mode of participation at the stage of registration. At the same time, however, we will continue to monitor the situation regarding the coronavirus pandemic and we will comply with any relevant administrative regulations; we will host a fully online conference if that is the best solution.

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Please, submit the **abstract** of your presentation (max. 200 words) using the abstract submission form on <https://www.isorecea.net/conferences/2022-warsaw-conference/warsaw-conference-abstract-submission> **by December 15, 2021**.

If you are interested in a specific topic related to the theme of the conference, you can organize a session composed of 3–5 presentations. In this case, please submit a 200 words proposal followed by full session details (names and affiliation of contributors, titles of their presentations) **by December 15, 2021** to the email address: [isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl). Please, note that participants of your session should individually send their abstracts (like all the other conference participants) through the abstract submission form by December 15, 2021.

## Key dates

Submission of paper and session proposals: **December 15, 2021**

Notification of acceptance and opening of the registration: **January 15, 2022**

Applications for the ISORECEA Solidarity Fund and Miklós Tomka Award (see below): **January 31, 2022**

Announcing beneficiaries of the Solidarity Fund and the winner of the Miklós Tomka Award: **February 12, 2022**

Final date for registration for the conference: **February 15, 2022**

Final program: **March 15, 2022**

## Fees

Please note that in order to present a paper you need to be a member of ISORECEA for the years **2022-2023**. Scholars who are not currently members of ISORECEA are invited to submit a paper/session proposal, however, they must become ISORECEA members (i.e. have paid their membership fee for 2022-2023) by February 15, 2022, which is the final date for registration for the conference. The conference fees and membership fees for two years are as follows (in EURO) for countries falling into the ISA categories, A, B and C\*:

### CONFERENCE FEES

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

\* This is according to the Table of Economies used by the International Sociological Association:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/table-of-economies-by-category>

**Conference fees for online participants will be 50% lower (each category).**

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

List of Countries*	A	B	C
Regular members	60	40	20
Retired, students and unemployed	30	20	10

\* This is according to the Table of Economies used by the International Sociological Association:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/table-of-economies-by-category>

Those whose papers have been accepted for the conference will be asked to pay their fees through the PayPal system at the ISORECEA website <http://isorecea.net> or via the bank transfer.

Practical information (conference venue, transport, etc.) is available at the ISORECEA website <https://www.isorecea.net/conferences/2022-warsaw-conference/warsaw-conference-practical-information>. In case of any questions related to the conference, please send an email to: [isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl).

## ISORECEA Solidarity Fund

The ISORECEA Executive Board has established the Solidarity Fund from money donated by ISORECEA members. The Fund is for subsidizing the costs of participation in ISORECEA conferences for the ISORECEA members seeking financial assistance.

All participants whose abstract proposal has been accepted for the 2022 conference (the decision announced by January 15, 2022) are entitled to apply. Scholars who are not currently members of ISORECEA may apply, but, if successful, they must become ISORECEA members (i.e. have paid their membership fee for 2022-2023) by February 15, 2022, which is the final date for registration for the conference, in order to receive the grant.

The maximum amount that may be granted to each successful applicant is **350 euro**. The money may be spent for expenses incurred for attending the conference (**travel, accommodation, subsistence, conference fee**). The money will be transferred to the successful applicants AFTER the 2022 ISORECEA conference.

### **The applicants should submit the following documents:**

- statement of need for financial support (with a short explanation);
- short version of the paper (700–1,000 words) to be presented at the 2022 conference;
- preliminary budget stating estimated costs (if the costs are lower than 350 euro, the amount of the support will be reduced accordingly).

The documents should be sent to [isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl) by **January 31, 2022**. The title of the email should read: **Solidarity Fund application**

The receivers of the grant will be selected on a competitive basis, based on the evaluation of the short version of the paper. The evaluation will be made by the Solidarity Fund Committee appointed by the ISORECEA Executive Board. The decision will be announced by February 12, 2022.

Members of the Solidarity Fund Committee: Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić, Branko Ančić, Gergely Rosta

## Miklós Tomka Award

The ISORECEA Board has established the Miklós Tomka Award in honour of the memory of Miklós Tomka, the internationally acknowledged and widely esteemed scholar of religion specializing in the Central and Eastern European region, who died unexpectedly in 2010.

The Award is granted on a competitive basis for the best conference paper submitted to the Award Committee appointed by the Executive Board of ISORECEA. The paper should refer to the conference theme. The competition is open to early-career scholars, with a special focus on PhD students, whose abstract proposal has been accepted for the 2022 conference (the decision announced by January 15, 2022). Those who are not currently members of ISORECEA may apply, but, if successful, they must become ISORECEA members (i.e. have paid their membership fee for 2022-2023) by February 15, 2022,

which is the final date for registration for the conference, in order to receive the Award. The Award comprises:

- publication of the paper in the ISORECEA open-access and SCOPUS-indexed journal *Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe*;
- exemption from the conference fee;
- covering accommodation costs during the conference (reimbursed after the conference, based on receipt).

Early-career scholars, interested in entering the competition, are invited to submit their completed papers to the email address [isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl](mailto:isorecea@ifispan.edu.pl) by **January 31, 2022**. The title of the email should read: **MTA application**. The winner will be announced by February 12, 2022. Papers submitted for the Award should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words long (inclusive of footnotes, references, etc.) and should strictly follow the rules applying to papers submitted to the ISORECEA journal *Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe*. For details see:

<http://www.rascee.net/index.php/rascee/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>

Members of the Miklós Tomka Award Committee: Miroslav Tížik, Barbara Thériault, Marta Kołodziejska

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*We are looking forward to receiving your papers!*

## **ISORECEA President**

Dorota Hall

## **Organizing Committee**

Dorota Hall

Marta Kołodziejska

Sławomir Mandes