



Biennial Report of Research Networks – Some criteria

1. Name and Number of RN

Sociology of Religion, RN34

2. Names and email addresses of:

Outgoing Coordinators (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Chair: Gladys Ganiel (Queen's Belfast) G.Ganiel@qub.ac.uk

Vice Chair: Roberta Ricucci (University of Turin) Roberta.ricucci@unito.it

Communication Officer: Marta Kolodziejska (Warsaw) ma.kolodziejska@gmail.com

Board members (past term) Marta Kolodziejska, Christophe Monnot, Siniša Zrinščak, Irene Becci, Alexandre Piettre, Heidemarie Winkel, Dorota Hall.

Incoming Coordinators (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Chair: Roberta Ricucci (Torino) roberta.ricucci@unito.it

Vice Chair: Siniša Zrinščak (Zagreb) sinisa.zrinscak@pravo.hr

Communication Officer: Marta Kolodziejska (Warsaw) ma.kolodziejska@gmail.com

Incoming Board members (elected in Athens 2017)

Anneke Pons de Wit, PhD students coordinator

Ana Burgués, Gladys Ganiel, Vladimir Kmec, Christophe Monnot, Alexandre Piettre
Heidemarie Winkel.

3. Activities

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

In 2016, the RN's mid-term meeting took place 21-23 April in Zadar, Croatia, and was organized in collaboration with ISOCEREA by Roberta Ricucci, as Vice Chair, and Sinisa Zrinscak, as member both of the Conference Local Committee and RN 34, with the title, 'Religion and non-religion in contemporary society.' The conference website is still live: <https://www.isorecea.net/conferences/zadar-conference/>. The conference organization was equally shared: it was an interesting and fruitful opportunity for both graduates and phd students to interact with scholars belonging to the two organizations and for all to benefit from a wider scientific environment.

There were 102 participants with 86 paper presentations, more than the previous mid term conference organized in 2015 in Belfast.

The two keynote speakers were Dr. Lois Lee (University College London), and Prof. Marian Smirke (Ljubana). During the conference Roberto Cipriani and Roberta Ricucci, RN members

presented two journals (Socialization and Religion, 2015 & Annual Review of Sociology of Religion, 2016) focussed on the issues of religious socialization and atheism, including several contributions from RN members. We had good participation from phd students and young scholars at the conference, including several panels comprised entirely of phd students.

The research network has members from a range of European countries, as well as some from further afield, including Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, South Africa; Mexico and the United States.

With regard to our participation at ESA general conference in Athens, our contribution consisted of 41 oral presentations across 10 panels. Three of those panels were joint sessions with RN9 Economic Sociology, RN13 Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives, and RN33 Women's and Gender Studies. We applied with RN9 for a semi-plenary session, but our request was denied.

We discussed, during the Board meeting in Athens, what kind of actions to put in place in order to improve participation in the general ESA conference: in fact, looking at our participation score, visibility in Athens was less than in the previous conferences; 41 papers this year compared with 66 papers in Prague in 2015, 55 in 2013 in Turin, and 57 in 2011 in Geneva – the first year that our RN participated.

We've already strengthened links with members of other RNs (cfr. RN Sociology of Migration, Sociology of Education and Sociology of Health and Illness) for organizing jointly initiatives and with other international networks dealing with sociology of religion and improved our activity on the web in order to disseminate information about our initiatives, research and job opportunities dealing with the various topics of sociology of religion.

Further Activities

Planning is currently under way for our fourth mid-term conference, which will be held in Turin (IT), in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Politics and Society (University of Turin), 30 August -1 September 2018, on the theme "Religions and Identities in the European Migration Crisis". It is already planned a special issue of the journal "Mondi Migranti" focussed on the mid-term conference topic and open to welcome the best papers which will be presented.

Our RN has a dedicated website, www.esareligion.org, which is managed by our Communications Officer Marta Kolodziejska. We also have an email mailing list and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/esareligion/?fref=ts> which has 632 members) for communication purposes.

We have an active postgraduate section. Marta Kolodziejska has been the representative for the ESA PhD Council and she has also developed a dedicated Facebook page for PhD students: <https://web.facebook.com/groups/1654936374775480/>. Now she is replaced by Anneke Pons de Wit. At the Turin conference there will be a dedicated PhD session.

Budget

Our current balance is €1,070.05.

Report completed by Roberta Ricucci, December 2017