**ESA RN 34 – Sociology of Religion**
2017-2019 - Final report


**BOARD 2017-2019**
Roberta Ricucci – coordinator
Siniša Zrinščak – vice-coordinator

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Gladys Ganiel
Vladimir Kmec
Alexandre Piettre
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Heidemarie Winkel


**Mid-term conference – Turin 2018**
The Mid-Term Conference *Religions and Identities in the European Migration Crisis* of the ESA
Sociology of Religion Research Network 34 was held in Turin, at the Campus Luigi Einaudi, from
the 29th of August to the 1st of September 2018.
The Conference hosted twenty-four sessions, within which eighty-four papers were presented. In
addition, there were two special sessions: the workshop *Managing the differences. Researchers
meet practitioners, social workers and migration operators*, addressed to operators who work in
reception services was held at the first day, and the event was fully booked up, with more than three
hundred people present. A documentary session focussed on *Borders, Intercultural Relations and
Religious Identities* was held also with a great success, even in terms of audience attendance.
Likewise, two Semi-Plenaries were held, inviting various experts to debate on the Conference topic:
one entitled *Roundtable on religions, migrations and human rights*, and the other focussing on
visualizing research with specific regard to migration, religion and social representations. During
the first day's workshop and the Opening Ceremony the Prefect of Turin and the Regional Minister
of Piedmont for Equal Opportunities, Civil Rights and Immigration were present to offer
institutional welcome on behalf of the City of Turin and the Piedmont Region.
147 people attended the whole Conference. The conference ended with a guided city tour organised
on the last day of the event: a "multi-religious walk", in order to discover Turin's religious diversity
through contemporary places of worship (28 attendees joined the tour). Among the conference
participants, there were scholars from various disciplines (anthropology, political science,
geography, law) who improved discussions and enriched perspectives contributing to fruitful
conversations The conference gathered participants (we received around 200 abstract proposals),
who were not ESA members at that time but some of them, after the Mid-Term Conference, decided
in subsequent months to send an abstract for the ESA Conference in Manchester.

**Publication opportunities**
After the conference in Turin, a call for papers was distributed among conference participants We
got 12 answers and now we are in the process of double-blind reviewing (several of you have been
contacted to serve as referees). The output will be a special issue of one of the leading sociological
journals 'Quaderni di sociologia', an Italian review which publishes both in Italian and in English.
The special issue is edited by Sinisa Zrinščak, Giulia Marroccoli (a young scholar who was
involved in the conference organizational team) and Roberta Ricucci.
Another possibility developed from the mid-term conference, a call for papers concerning a special

issue dealing with the conference topic has been approved by the bilingual journal 'Mondi Migranti': the issue will be edited by myself and Maurizio Ambrosini, an internationally well-known scholar, working on migration and, for the past few years, religion.

In this framework, another opportunity is recently opened in Social Compass, thanks to Heidemarie and Marta, but which should be discussed further.

## Communication & social media

Intersection with other Associations
During my term, we've tried to participate (without using the RN budget) in the most important networks dealing with our topic in order to present the RN and to try to develop connections and further possibilities of research and opportunities, mainly for PhD students and scholars at their early career stages.
We've presented the RN34 in the following international councils/assemblies network
- ASR, AAA-SAR cluster, ASA, ECER, IMISCOE, SSSR
Of course, all of us are involved in the SISR/ISSR network, where also we tried to improve our RN visibility.

## Financial Report
Our budget at the end of July 2019 is 2,190 euros.

## ESA Conference in Manchester
In order to give more visibility to our RN, during my term as leader, Sinisa and I have worked to create space in the semi-plenary programme. It was a challenging competition. We had the chance last summer to develop two proposals, together with RN 27 and 32.
The general ESA office has received 27 proposals, accepting and funding 14 of them. One of our proposals (submitted together with the RN 27) is among those approved:
Negotiation, Boundary-Making and Social Relationships in Migration Processes: Cultural, Ethnic and Religious Challenges in Southern European Societies.

During the conference we elected the new **BOARD 2019-2021**:

Coordinator: **Sinisa Zrinscak,** Zagreb - sinisa.zrinscak@pravo.hr

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