

# Religion and IR Section Newsletter

March 2023



*As a section of the International Studies Association, the religion & International Relations Section promotes the exchange of ideas among religion-interested scholars across both disciplinary and international boundaries; supports a scholarly community and promotes religion-related studies; facilitates networking and cooperation among scholars and students working on Religion and International Relations; and strengthens research and teaching in the field; and attracts talented new scholars to it.*

For more information about the Religion and IR section see our website: <http://www.religion-ir.org/>

Members have the opportunity to write for our blog:  
<http://www.religion-ir.org/blog>

Scroll down for instructions on how to submit your blog.

Keep up with Religion and IR news and views via our very active Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/336226026577855>) and Twitter (@religion\_ir)

## Chair's Welcome

Dear REL members,

*As the 2023 ISA conference is fast approaching, I would like to share some exciting news with you.*

*As you will see in this newsletter, we have a stimulating program ahead of us. We also welcome two new members in our executive committee as well as others in the executive committee taking on new functions. We also have recruited a graduate student who will serve as our communication officer to increase our visibility on social media and substantially update our website (<https://religion-ir.org/>).*

*We particularly welcome proposals from you to write blogs on any topic of your choice related to religion and IR and/or associated with current international events. Please send us suggestions for sessions for 2023 and to propose other types of activities that the ISA virtual programming will help us to implement.*

*A reminder that our business meeting in Montreal will take place on **Thursday March 16 at 12:30 pm**.*

*Like last year, our reception will be held in partnership with the Diplomatic Studies, English School and Interdisciplinary Studies sections on **Thursday March 16 at 8 pm**.*

*I look forward to seeing you in Montreal.*

*Our booktalk series under the auspices of the ISA virtual programming has garnered attention on religion and IR beyond our section with three sessions in 2022 and more to come in 2023.*

Best wishes,

Jocelyne Cesari

Chair of the Religion and International Relations Section

## Update on REL section – March 2023

- REL currently has 256 members. Up from 239 in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 7%.
- REL will have 10 panels and five roundtables at the 2023 Toronto convention. [Find schedule here](#)
- At the end of 2022, membership voted on all Executive Committee positions other than Chair and Vice Chair (which, for continuity, are elected in opposite years from the rest of the committee).

### Continuing

**Chair** Jocelyne Cesari  
**Vice Chair** Erdi Oztürk

### Newly Elected

**Awards Chair** Anita Weiss  
**Secretary** Stenly Djatah  
**Members at Large** Marcelline Babicz  
 Emmanuel Karagiannis  
 Durgesh Kasbekar  
 George Soroka

## ISA 2023 Religion and IR-Sponsored Panels and Roundtables

Session	Title	Date
<b>WA71</b>	Same Blame Game? Retaliatory Violence and Diversionary Identity Conflict	Wednesday, Mar 15, 8:15 AM
<b>WB56</b>	Is a Post-Secular Age Post-Liberal?	Wednesday, Mar 15, 8:30 AM
<b>WD46</b>	GIRS “Situation Room” – How Cultures, Religions, Civilizations and their Narratives Influence Major World Crises	Wednesday, Mar 15, 4:00 PM
<b>WD68</b>	Quantitative Approaches to Religion in International	Wednesday, Mar 15, 4:00 PM
<b>TA40</b>	The Ritual Moment in International Relations	Thursday, Mar 16, 8:15 AM
<b>TC14</b>	Religion & IR 2023 Distinguished Scholar Award Panel Honoring Ron Hassner	Thursday, Mar 16, 1:45 PM
<b>FC67</b>	Progress in the study of religion and IR: the view from the trenches	Friday, Mar 17, 4:45 PM
<b>FD37</b>	Islamic Extremism Tracking Past to Present	Friday, Mar 17, 7:00 PM
<b>FD29</b>	Quantitative Approaches to Religion in International Studies 1: Database-based Studies	Friday, Mar 17, 4:00 PM
<b>SA44</b>	International Relations of Islam: Ethics of Peace and Conflict	Saturday, Mar 18, 8:15 AM
<b>SB08</b>	Colonialisms and Queer Politics: Sexualities, Genders and Unsettling Colonialities	Saturday, Mar 18, 10:30 AM
<b>SB70</b>	Politics of Religion and Religion of Politics in Turkey	Saturday, Mar 18, 10:30 AM
<b>SB60</b>	Beyond Belief: provocative ways belief provokes social action	Saturday, Mar 18, 10:30 AM
<b>SC67</b>	Global Authoritarianism and Religion	Saturday, Mar 18, 1:45 PM
<b>SD68</b>	Formations of the theologico-political	Saturday, Mar 18, 4:00 PM



## Religion and International Relations Book Club

**“Those who believe that politics and religion do not mix, understand neither”**

*Albert Einstein*

In 2022, under the auspices of ISA virtual programming, the Religion and IR section launched a book talk series to discuss scholarship at the intersection of religion and international politics. Each session presents a book or publication from the last two years that touches on the relationship between religion and politics from a comparative and international perspectives.

Its goal is to foster greater exchange between scholars of religion and politics and scholars of international relations theory.

Details for joining the events will be emailed to members, posted in the [REL Facebook group](#), and posted on the section website: [www.religion-ir.org](http://www.religion-ir.org) closer to the event date.

### ***Upcoming--Save the Date:***

#### ***Sikh Nationalism – May 11, 2023, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (US Eastern Time)***

*Sikh Nationalism* provides a clear, concise and comprehensive guide to the history of Sikh nationalism from the late nineteenth century to the present. Drawing on A. D. Smith's ethno-symbolic approach, **Gurharpal Singh** and **Giorgio Shani** use a new integrated methodology to understanding the historical and sociological development of modern Sikh nationalism. By emphasizing the importance of studying Sikh nationalism from the perspective of the nation-building projects of India and Pakistan, the recent literature on religious nationalism and the need to integrate the study of the diaspora with the Sikhs in South Asia, they provide a fresh approach to a complex subject. Singh and Shani evaluate the current condition of Sikh nationalism in a globalized world and consider the lessons the Sikh case offers for the comparative study of ethnicity, nations and nationalism.

Co-authors **Giorgio Shani** and **Gurharpal Singh** will discuss the book, in conversation with **Jocelyne Cesari**. [Click here for session details and registration.](https://isanet.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K1cfmGwAQOqDxRMQkrPXiw) ([https://isanet.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_K1cfmGwAQOqDxRMQkrPXiw](https://isanet.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K1cfmGwAQOqDxRMQkrPXiw))

### ***Recordings of Previous Sessions:***

#### ***Geopolitics, Religion and Soft Power (January 19, 2023)***

Recording available soon via this link on the ISA website:  
<https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Virtual-Programs/Archive>

Since Joseph Nye introduced the concept of soft power in 1990, there has been a growing interest, especially after 9/11 to address the reality and dimensions of religious soft power. This

session will discuss the work of **Jeffrey Haynes**, **Peter Mandaville**, **Peter Henne** in conversation with **Jocelyn Cesari**, and **Ahmet Ozturk**.

### **Uncertainties and Its Discontents: Worldviews in World Politics** (*December 8, 2022*)

Watch on ISA's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UraebFH0ta0>

Editor (**Peter Katzenstein**) and co-authors **Tim Byrnes** and **Michael Barnett** will discuss the relevance of religious worldviews in the shaping of international affairs, in conversation with **Jocelyne Cesari** and **Dan Philpott**.

### **We God's People: Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in the World of Nations** (*October 27, 2022*)

Watch on ISA's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my51AQf6RVQ>

This session discussed the relevance of the national framework to understand today's role of religion in politics.

Panelists: **Jocelyne Cesari**, in conversation with **Mustapha Kamal Pacha**, **Scott Thomas**, **Vendulka Kubalkova** and **Siba Growgui**.

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## **Calls for papers**

### **Special Issue of Religions: Jeffrey Haynes (ed.), "Peace, Politics, and Religion: Volume II"**

Details: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/RCG337R51E?fbclid=IwAR3DDmVHaN7Ri6rHvJO\\_v6viGTDiVvXCgF\\_9mCOHS0Y984XB\\_28nV5OJBNw](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/RCG337R51E?fbclid=IwAR3DDmVHaN7Ri6rHvJO_v6viGTDiVvXCgF_9mCOHS0Y984XB_28nV5OJBNw)

Religion has made a remarkable return to prominence in sociology, political science and international relations, confounding the expectations of secularisation theorists and secularists. We know that religion is a core source of identity for billions of people around the world. What is the relationship between peace, politics and religion? Religion is frequently involved in conflict and also as a tool of conflict resolution, peace-making and peacebuilding. Recent years have seen various kinds of religious hatred and differences as central to many political conflicts especially, but not only, in the Global South. It is widely accepted that religious leaders and faith-based organisations can play constructive roles in helping to end violence and, in some cases, build peace via early warnings of conflict, good offices once conflict has erupted, as well as advocacy, mediation and reconciliation. Papers are welcomed on the relationships between peace, politics and religion, given that religion can encourage both conflict and peace, via the activities of people individually and collectively imbued with religious ideas and ideals.

This is the second volume of a special issue of Religions, which Jeffrey Haynes edited in 2020. The first volume included 13 papers plus the editor's introduction and was also published as a hard copy book. Religions asked the editor to edit a second volume because of the interest that the first volume generated. Deadline for manuscript submissions: **30 October 2023**.

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### **Politics in the Name of God**

Series Editor: Jocelyne Cesari, University of Birmingham and Georgetown University

When, in 1935, Joseph Stalin asked “How many troops?” to gauge the relevance of the Vatican on the international scene, he encapsulated the disdain of state rulers of the time for religion as a significant component of world affairs. The events of September 11, 2001 dramatically changed that view; no one would dare say today that religion does not matter. Just how it matters, however, is still very much subject to debate. The Politics in the Name of God series seeks to contribute constructively to that debate, publishing scholarship that offers empirical evidence and/or innovative methods and theories.

The series has three main goals:

- To broaden the scope of research beyond Islam, typically the religion of choice when it comes to scholarship on religion and international affairs. Books in the series will shed light on the political role(s) of numerous religious traditions in various contexts around the world.
- To likewise broaden the scope of research beyond security/terrorism. While we are interested in work on security-related issues, books in the series will also address the societal and civic roles of religious organizations in multiple domains.
- To privilege an interdisciplinary approach, mobilizing the scholarship of history, anthropology, religious studies, etc., to contextualize traditionally political issues.

We welcome proposals for monographs, as well as carefully constructed edited collections, to be included in the series.

Please contact Professor Jocelyne Cesari at [jcesari@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:jcesari@hds.harvard.edu).

(For proposal guidelines, see “Publish with Us” on the Lynne Rienner Publishers website, [www.rienner.com](http://www.rienner.com).)

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### **Send Us Your Blogs!**

The REL section has an active blog on our website: <https://religion-ir.org/blog>

The opportunity to author a blog post is now open to our members. If you’ve got something you want to “put out there” and it’s too long for a Tweet, the Religion and IR blog could be a great vehicle for your voice. Optimal length for our blogs is 1,000-2,500 words.

If you are interested in posting a blog, send your blog idea to [Blogs@religion-ir.org](mailto:Blogs@religion-ir.org). Depending on demand, we may develop a schedule of blogs out into the future.

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## **Tell Us Your News!**

By publicizing section members' research, outreach, or other news, we hope to increase connections among members and help to grow our field. Tell us about your:

- Participation in or organization of workshops and conferences
- New publications – Both academic and non-academic
- Awards, career moves, new initiatives
- Policy engagement activities
- Any other initiatives

We aim to include member news in our periodic newsletters.

If you also wish your news to be published on the religion-ir.org website, please note that in your email and submit news for the website according to these guidelines:

- Maximum 75-word announcement (60 words if you also submit an image and/or link)
- Link (optional)
- Image (optional)

We invite all members to submit news to: [News@religion-ir.org](mailto:News@religion-ir.org).

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