
Update on REL section – December 2023

- REL currently has 237 members.
- REL shared a reception with three other ISA sections at the 2023 Toronto convention.
- Despite an initial allotment of REL's 14 panels at ISA 2024, the total REL panels have more than doubled through sponsorship.
- ISA 2024 Annual Convention will see REL with 29 panels on the program, 23 of which are cosponsored with at least one other section. 7 of the panels are roundtables.

Notice of REL Executive Committee Elections

REL Executive Committee Elections: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary in December 2023

The Religion & International Relations (REL) section of ISA requests nominations for the post of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, for a term of two years from April 2024. Nominations must be submitted by December 08, 2023. Elections for the posts will be held on December 11-15, 2023.

When nominating someone for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, please include a 200-word statement explaining why the nominee would make a suitable Chair or Vice-Chair of REL. Nominees may self-nominate. Do not nominate someone without their consent. All nominees must be REL members.

Please send names of nominees and 200 word statements to Marcelline Babicz, REL Member-at-large, at ISAReligion@religion-ir.org no later than December 08, 2023.

Responsibilities

The Chair's responsibilities include: call meetings and preside at them, coordinate section activities, oversee the Executive Committee, act as liaison with the ISA and with the REL membership, and be the official spokesperson of the REL.

The Vice Chair/Program Chair's responsibilities include: to assist the Chair in liaison activities and in preparing the Annual Report. The Vice Chair presents the report at the AGM. As Program Chair, she/he is responsible for organising REL-sponsored panels at the ISA annual convention.

Elections for the remaining executive member posts - Awards Chair, Communications Chair, and four Members-at-Large - will take place in 2025.

REL Section Events and News

- **Religion and IR Book Talk Series**

The December webinar of the Religion and IR book talk series of the ISA virtual programs will be held on December 14, 2023, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (US Eastern Time). In this ISA Virtual Book Talk Series on Religion and International Relations, panelists discuss Michael Driessen's new book, *The Global Politics of Interreligious Dialogue: Religious Change, Citizenship and Solidarity in the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2023). For this event and upcoming ones, please visit the ISA website: <https://www.isanet.org/Programs/Virtual-Programs/Events>

- **Want to propose a book talk?**

If you would like to hold a book talk and be featured in the Religion and IR Book Talk Series for 2024 monthly sessions, please contact Dr. Jocelyne Cesari with your proposals at jcesari@hds.harvard.edu

- **Awards Announcement**

Dr. Cesari's book *We God's People: Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in the world of nations* (2022, Cambridge University Press) received special mention of the 2022 Book Award committee of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. (SSSR).

- **Policy Engagement Activities**

Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jews, and Indigenous communities celebrate their Heritage months in Canada. The Buddhists don't have a Heritage month to celebrate. Since March 2023, REL EXCOM member Durgesh Kasbekar has been lobbying the Prime Minister's Office, Minister for Canadian Heritage, and his local Member of Parliament to notify the month of May (Vesak month) as Buddhist Heritage month. He also joined the Board of Buddhist Council of Canada as a Member at large- <https://www.buddhistcouncilcanada.org/board-members>

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. Depending on demand, we may develop a schedule of blogs out into the future.

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

We will 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 their news to: News@religion-ir.org.
