
Update on REL section – September 2022

- REL currently has **239 members**. Up from 239 in 2021, a year-on-year increase of 13%.
- REL had 17 in-person and three virtual events at the 2022 Nashville convention.
- REL shared a reception with three other ISA sections at the 2022 Nashville convention. It was a major event, with cost free and to-purchase food and drink. At the reception, REL honored its 2022 awardees for Distinguished Scholar (Monica Duffy Toft), Best Book (Emilia Justyna Powell for Islamic Law and International Law), and Best Graduate Paper (Jonathan Brasnett, “Controlling Beliefs and Global Perceptions: Religion in Chinese Foreign Policy”).

Notice of REL Executive Committee Elections and Calls for Nominations

The Religion & International Relations (REL) section of ISA requests nominations for the posts of Secretary, Awards Chair, Communications Chair and four Members-at-Large. These officers will assume office after the ISA Annual Conference in 2023. All REL executive committee members will serve two years, in accordance with the REL Charter. (NOTE: Chair Jocelyne Cesari and Vice Chair Erdi Ozturk assumed office in 2022 and will serve until 2024).

Nominations must be submitted by October 1, 2022. Elections for the posts will be held between October 15 and October 30.

When nominating someone for any of the roles, please include a 200-word statement explaining why the nominee would be suitable for the selected role. Nominees may (and are encouraged to) self-nominate. Please do not nominate someone without their permission, and please note that all nominees must be REL members at the time of nomination, election, and assumption of office.

In view of the 2022 report of the Committee on the Status of Representation and Diversity at the ISA, note that we are strongly encouraging diverse candidates from a variety of backgrounds, geographic locations, and areas of research to be nominated or to self-nominate. In particular, we would like to enhance diversity and pluralism so that East Asian religions are represented on the Executive Committee. We currently have one Member at Large from an East Asian religious background and would like to maintain at least that much representation. This would help continuity as well as broaden and widen the Section’s international scope and reach.

Learn about the current incumbents at: <https://religion-ir.org/leadership>

Direct your submissions to: info@religion-ir.org

Religion and International Relations Book Club

Save the Dates!

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

Albert Einstein

The Religion and IR section is launching a book talk series to discuss scholarship at the intersection of religion and international politics. Each session will present 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 closer to the event date.

Session 1. Thursday October 27 from 12 to 2 pm

We God's People: Christianity, Islam and Hinduism in the World of Nations

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

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

Session 2 Thursday December 8 (Time TBD)

Uncertainties and Its Discontents: Worldviews in World Politics,

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.

PRESENTING A NEW SERIES FROM . . .



LYNNE RIENNER PUBLISHERS

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

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 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.