

European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)

Report of the General Secretary

Presented at the General Assembly, 17 September 2009

University of Messina

Membership status and issues

EASR Member Associations 16 September, 2008 with names of appointed delegates/representatives to the EASR Executive Committee

- APER, Portuguese Association for the Study of Religion (Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Religiões) (Steffen Dix)
- BASR, British Association for the Study of Religions (Graham Harvey)
- Ceska Spolecnost Pro Studium Nabozenstvi (The Czech Society for the Study of Religion) (Bretislav Horyna)
- DAHR, Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie (Danish Association for the History of Religions) (Annika Hvithamar)
- DVRG, Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte (German Association for the History of Religions) (Hubert Seiwert)
- ESSR, Eesti Akadeemilise Usundiloo Seltsi (Estonian Society for the Study of Religion) (Ülo Valk)
- GSSCR Greek Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (Panayotis Pachis)
- Magyar Vallástudományi Tarsaság (Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions) (Mihály Hoppál)
- NGG, Nederlands Genootschap van Godsdiensthistorici (Dutch Association for the History of Religions) (Gerard Wieggers)
- NRF, Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening (Norwegian Association for the History of Religions) (Knut A. Jacobsen)
- Polskie Towarzystwo Religioznawcze (Polish Association for the Science of Religions) (Halina Grzymala-Moscinska)
- ÖGRW, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft (Austrian Association for The Science of Religion) (Johann Figl)
- RAHR, Asociația română de istorie a religiilor (Romanian Association for the History of Religions) (Eugen Ciurtin)
- SECR, Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones (Spanish Association for the Science of Religions) (Santiago Montero)
- SGR/SSSR, Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions (Swiss Association for the Science of Religions) (Maya Burger)
- Società italiana di storia delle religioni (Italian Association for the History of Religions) (Giovanni Casadio)
- Société Ernest-Renan. Société Française d'Histoire des Religions (French Association for the History of Religions) (Charles Guittard)
- Société Belgo-Luxembourgeoise d'histoire des religions (Association for the History of Religions of Belgium-Luxembourg) (André Motte)
- SSRF, Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning (Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion) (Susanne Olsson; Olof Sundqvist)

- Suomen Uskontotieteellinen Seura (Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion) (Tiina Mahlamaki)
- TAHR, Türkiye Dinler Tarihi Derneği (Turkish Association for the History of Religions) (Mehmet Aydin)

Individual members

Gustavo Benavides
 Olga Breskaya
 Gilani Fawzia
 Ivar Matsukov
 Ivan Miroshnikov
 Janis Priede
 Michiaki Okuyama
 Anita Stasulane
 Galina Rousseva- Sokolova
 Hrvoje Cargonja

Maya Babkova
 Pavel Kostylev
 Igor Krupnik
 Anna Sokolova
 Ksenia Trofimova
 Anna Yudkina
 Elena Sergeeva

IAHR representative

Rosalind Hackett/Tim Jensen

Membership

Before the General Assembly the number of EASR-affiliated national associations was twenty one, with seventeen individual members (seven of which were new), and one IAHR member (jointly held post).

In 2009 there was one request for membership from a new national association, from Latvia (see Minutes). At the EASR Executive Committee meeting it had been noted that our customary practice of accepting new member associations prior to their acceptance by IAHR was not in right ordering according to our constitution. We agreed to continue with our customary practice in this case, but to discuss with IAHR an appropriate way forward.

The Executive Committee, following advice from its Working Group on Honorary Membership, was not recommending any new Honorary Members this year.

Regular business

a) EASR bursary information and application form were circulated and posted on the website in April (with closing date of end of June). Applications were considered by the President, General Secretary and Treasurer.

b) Member associations and individual members were reminded of the need to pay subscriptions (or make an arrangement with the Treasurer) by 31 May.

c) The call for this year's General Assembly was made by email more than 90 days in advance as required by the constitution. It was posted on the e-lists of EASR.

d) A pre-conference visit was made by the EASR President to Messina to meet members of the Conference Organising Committee, to discuss arrangements, see the venue, and set dates for EASR meetings.

f) Following last year's discussion about the 2007 nominations and election process, the General Secretary had prepared draft documents: Nominating Committee: role and job description; a timetable for the nominations/election process; a revised nomination form; a statement of intent form (for completion by nominated candidates).

The nominations and election process for 2010, and the draft documents were discussed and amended at the Executive Committee meeting on 14 September. These will be placed on the website. A Nominating Committee for the 2010 election was established (Mar Marcos, Ülo Valk, Susanne Olsson, Wim Hofstee, Bretislav Horyna, Kim Knott). They will appoint a Chair and nominate candidates for vacant positions, with forms to be completed by 1 May 2010 when the nominations process will be opened up to national associations (only officers and delegates able to nominate) and individual members of EASR who are fully paid up. A timetable for the process had been agreed.

Discussion lists and website

The Internet Officer gave a report to the Executive Committee on the changes that had been made to the website and other matters. She noted that, in addition to easr.eu and easr.org the domain name easr.de had now been acquired in order to protect the association's identity.

The e-lists continued to be active (Candide 56 members, Dolmen 179, Most 74, Synkron 122, Tonantzin 92, Yggdrasill 616), with small fluctuations from year to year and a large increase in participation on Yggdrasill from graduate students.

Associations were asked to notify the Internet Officer of any changes to the names and contact details of their officers so that the website could be regularly updated.

A proposal for the redevelopment of the new EASR website had been accepted during the year, following the acquisition of three quotations.

Publications

Two volumes of proceedings of the Bucharest conference in 2006 had been published (*Archævs XI-XII*; *Les Etudes Classiques* 76:1).

IAHR report

At the EASR Executive Committee meeting we heard a report from the General Secretary of IAHR. Key items included the issue of membership and the new category of affiliate status, subscriptions and finance, development discussions with Slovenian, Russian and Bulgarian scholars of religion, the 2010 IAHR Congress in Toronto, AAR membership and the principle of global distribution of IAHR special conferences. IAHR website redesign and re-launch was announced.

Working groups and EASR

A proposal had been received to form a Working Group on religion and the media, but discussion and a decision had been postponed until the proposer could be present at a meeting of the Executive Committee to answer questions.

Future conferences

No EASR conference would be held in 2010 because of the IAHR Quinquennial Congress in Toronto, at which the General Assembly and Executive Committee Meeting would take place.

As agreed last year, the 2011 EASR conference would be hosted by the Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religion in Budapest.

Requests had been received from four other associations to host future conferences, three requests for 2012 and 2014. The Executive Committee had agreed to bring forward two proposals (see Minutes).

Conclusions

Professor Giulia Gasparro and members of the conference organising committee, with representatives from the Italian Association and staff from the University of Messina, were warmly thanked for their hard work in planning and running the conference so successfully.

Kim Knott
EASR General Secretary
16 September 2009

Proposals:

1. Acceptance into membership of the Latvian Society for the Study of Religion (Latvijas Reliģiju pētniecības biedrība, LRPB).
2. of the Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion to host the 2012 EASR conference at Sodertorn (Stockholm), Sweden.
3. and of the Dutch Association for the History of Religions to host the 2014 EASR conference in Groningen, Netherlands.

No proposal yet for 2013.