

The Sixth International Congress of Religious Studies
Belief – Imagination – Knowledge. New Paths of Religious Studies in
the 21st Century

Polish Society for the Study of Religions & Institute for the Study of Religions, Jagiellonian
University

Kraków, 29th June – 1st July 2020

Confirmed Keynote Speaker: **Tim Jensen**, University of Southern Denmark, President of International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

At the end of the second decade of the 21st century religion remains a vital object of empirical and theoretical research. Among the disciplines investigating religion, religious studies – in Polish, *religioznawstwo* – occupy a special place. The aim of this discipline is to provide intellectual tools to understand or explain how various religious systems have functioned in past and present socio-cultural contexts.

Contemporary religious studies engage in a dialogue with other disciplines: anthropology, ethnology, sociology, history, psychology, archaeology, culture studies, performance studies, literature studies, cognitive science, political science – to name just a few of them. We would like the Sixth International Congress of Religious Studies to become a meeting place where academics representing various perspectives within social sciences and humanities can exchange ideas and experiences.

The motto of the Sixth International Congress of Religious Studies delimits three areas of discussion:

1. **Belief:** For representatives of religious studies, religion is not a personal credo, but an intellectual and research challenge. What psychological, social, and cultural mechanisms make people create and transmit concepts of supernatural beings or powers? In what way do religious beliefs shape individual and collective behaviours, both in ritual and everyday context?
2. **Imagination:** Religion may be a pivotal element of social imagination, shaping systems of meanings and values. In what way do religious ideas shape social practices, notions of affiliation and identity, and visions of past and present?
3. **Knowledge:** What is the place of religious concepts of allegedly non-human origin in human cognitive patterns?

We invite you to present papers reflecting on the foregoing and other questions contributing to a better understanding of religious phenomena in social and cultural contexts.

We wish to remind you that, according to the mandate of the International Association for the History of Religions – shared by the Polish Society for the Study of Religions – our objective is „to promote the activities of all scholars, member and affiliate associations and societies contributing to the historical, social, and comparative study of religion”. As such, the Congress is not a forum for confessional or apologetical presentations.

Papers will be delivered in Polish or in English.

The organizers welcome individual paper submissions as well as proposals for full panels and roundtables. Panel and roundtable proposals should list all speakers (as a general rule, 4–5 per panel/roundtable), along with abstracts and information about the chair and the discussant.

Individual Papers should not exceed 20-25 minutes. Proposals including paper title, abstract (up to 250 words), name, and affiliation of the candidate should be submitted (preferably in .doc, .docx or .pdf format) by **31st January 2020**.

All proposals will undergo rigorous selection by the Academic Programme Committee. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by email by **28th February**. Accepted participants will be expected to register by **1st April** and pay a **registration fee** of 100 euro.

Please send all abstracts to: kongres.ptr@uj.edu.pl

Academic Programme Comitee:

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