

EASR

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS





## Minutes of the General Assembly meeting of the EASR

held at University College Cork, Boole 4

on 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 from 17.00 to 18.45

1. The President welcomes all persons present in the online room and officially opens the meeting. The General Secretary reminds the Assembly about regulations on right to attend and right of vote.
2. The President proposes to approve the agenda. The Assembly agrees.
3. The President presents her report.
4. The General Secretary reads her report.
5. The Deputy Treasurer, reads his report about the financial situation. The report concludes that the financial situation of the EASR is stable, that most associations have paid their fees.
6. The Audit Committee presents their report and thanks the Treasurers for all information and concludes that the finances are in good condition.
7. The Budget for the next financial year is presented and approved.
8. Reports from other designated officers and members:
  - a. Since the Membership secretary is not present, Jenny Berglund reports that there have been no new applications from any individual members and that a group of scholars from the Sakartvelian (Georgia) Association for the Study of Religions has approached the EASR for future membership.
  - b. The Honorary Membership Committee has sent a message that they have received no nominations this year.
  - a. The Internet Officer, Carmen Becker first explains her regular tasks as internet officer: i.e., updating content on the webpage, adjusting website, updating “CMS & plug-ins and checking back up activity. She has also restructured and updated the content under “Publications” and prepared a privacy policy statement in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU. The publication of privacy policy statement is planned in the next period. As for the Facebook group, the internet officer reports that there are three moderators: Jenny Berglund, Jenny Butler and Carmen Becker. They regularly check membership requests and posted content, sometimes also removing content that does not fit the policy of the group. A future task is to formulate membership questions in order to safeguard the academic character of the group. The number of members of the EASR Facebook group has risen dramatically since June 2019. In terms of the mailing lists the internet officer describes her regular tasks that is answering subscription requests, forward posts upon request and answer questions and comments from subscribers. She points out that the email lists are not moderated. Since the provisional code of conduct was put in place in 2021 she also deals with requests and cases failing the provisional code of conduct. Since the last meeting the internet officer initiated a discussion on a reform of the email lists. EASR member



associations and the members of the six EASR mailing lists were asked to send ideas or comments concerning a reform of the mailing lists including the text of the provisional code of conduct. No statements came in from the national associations. Three German colleagues sent individual comments. Discussions on the issue took place on Yggdrasill in January 2022 involving in total 28 people, 11 posted more than twice including the internet officer. Yggdrasill had 1.134 members in January 2022. Conclusion: No active support for a reform in general → EASR will maintain the status quo. Future tasks are 1) updating automated messages and standard texts in order to clarify how the mailing lists are managed; update the privacy policy statement.

- b. The publication officer, Jenny Butler reports that she has been in contact with Laura Morris (Brill) about a possible collaboration between Brill and EASR on the *Journal of Religion in Europe*.
- c. No representative of the Women Scholars Network is present during the meeting but Jenny Berglund reports on the activities. The present coordinators are Amy L. Allovvo and Milda Ališauskienė. 2020 they successfully introduced a series of WSN webinars. Since then they have organized a total of seven webinars. Between 30 and 60 scholars participated live in each webinar. Recordings of the seminars are available on the IAHR official Youtube channel. On average, they have each attracted nearly 60 views.
- d. Wanda Alberts reports that the Working Group on Religion in Secular Education has not been active during the pandemic times, but plan to resume during 2022/2023.
- e. Satoko Fujiwara reports that the IAHR has decided to hold their 2025 congress in Poland.

#### 9. Officers for 2023-2025 are presented.

President:

Kim Knott (UK)

Vice Presidents:

Ábrahám Kovács (Hungary)

Joseph Verheyden (Belgium)

General Secretary:

Jenny Berglund (Sweden)

Deputy General Secretary:

Chiara O. Tommasi (Italy)

Treasurer:

Kim Knibbe (Netherlands)

Deputy Treasurer:

William Arfman (Netherlands)

Membership Officer:

Anne Kubai (Sweden)

Publications Officer:

Jenny Butler (Ireland)

Internet Officer:

Carmen Becker (Germany)

10. Election of new Honorary Membership Committee. The President explains that a new membership committee is needed and that the EC has delegated the issue to the officers.

11. A change of guidelines for the EASR individual membership is presented.

12. Future conferences:

EASR 2023: Due to the war in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion will not be able to organize the EASR conference in Kyiv as planned. The General Secretary has been in regular contact with the Ukrainian Association about how to handle the situation (see General Secretary's report). The following will take place:



- a. EASR 2023a: The Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion will organize an online event on the 24-25<sup>th</sup> of February with the theme Religion and War.
  - b. EASRb: The Lithuanian association has generously offered to organize the 2023 on site conference in 2023. Rasa Pranskeviciute presents the theme Religion and Technologies as well as the venue in Vilnius.
  - a. EASR 2024 will be held in Gothenburg 26-30<sup>th</sup> of August. The theme will be Ecology, Nature and Religious Responses to Climate Changes
13. EASR mailing lists: Code of Conduct for email lists:  
The Internet Officer Carmen Becker presents the code of conduct for email lists were the sentence The six EASR mailing lists are not a forum for the circulation of confessional, interfaith, theological or apologetic material nor for political or other non-academic agendas is changed to The six EASR mailing lists are not a forum for the circulation of apologetic material, political propaganda and other non academic agendas.
14. Further Business:  
No other business is brought up so the president thanks everyone for attending and declares the meeting closed.