

Statutes of Research Committee 22: Sociology of Religion

Approved at the RC22 Business Meeting in Durban, South Africa, July 2006.

1. The Research Committee 22 was established by the International Sociological Association in order to open up a broader range of opportunities in the activities of the Association in the field of sociology of religion. To this end the Research Committee 22 shall undertake measures:

- a) to serve and develop personal and institutional contacts amongst sociologists of religion throughout the world;
- b) to encourage the international dissemination and exchange of information on significant developments in sociology of religion world-wide;
- c) to facilitate and promote international meetings and research in the field of sociology of religion;
- d) to help non-represented countries to use the Research Committee 22 resources and its facilities.

2. The Research Committee 22 shall consist of a Board and members. Members are individuals active in research and/or teaching in the field of sociology of religion. All decisions of the Research Committee 22 as a whole are accepted by a simple majority except the following. In the year of the elections the Board presents all proposals regarding modification of the statutes to the Committee which shall vote on each of them. In order to be passed a proposal concerning modification to the statutes shall obtain a two-thirds majority of the members present at the General Assembly.

3. The Board of the Research Committee 22 consists of the President, Secretary-Treasurer, ten members and *ex officio* members. The President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the members are elected by the Research Committee 22. After two consecutive terms on the RC22 Board no member is eligible for a further consecutive term, except as President. In these circumstances, the President will normally serve for one term only.

4. The Research Committee 22 convenes every four years, during the World Congress of Sociology. The date and venue of the meeting shall be included in the programme of the World Congress. The agenda of the Research Committee 22 meeting shall include the reports of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer as well as the verification of the results of the election to the Board.

5. Election procedures for the Board:

- a) all members of the Research Committee 22 have voting rights;
- b) the organization of the voting is the responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer;
- c) elections shall be organized by ballot.

Not later than nine (9) months before the election date members of the Research Committee 22 shall receive notice of election, together with a nomination form for the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and for members of the Board, and a list of Board members and their status of eligibility for re-election. Members of the Research Committee 22 can choose from the eligible Board members; they also have the right to add new candidates and/or to delete names from the list of eligible Board members. Members of the Research Committee 22 shall return the nomination form within three (3) months from the date of mailing. (The meaning of "mail" and "mailing" includes electronic mailing.)

The ballot list for the second stage of the election shall include the names of four (4) persons who received the largest number of nominations from each of the geographic areas. If more than one

person received the same number, all of them shall be listed. Not later than four (4) months before the election the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail to the members of the Research Committee 22 the ballot list. Members of the Research Committee 22 shall vote for the President, the Secretary-Treasurer and two (2) persons from each geographic area. Persons who have obtained the largest percentage of the vote shall be declared elected. If two persons receive the same number of votes, a vote shall be organized at the General Assembly of the Research Committee 22. It is the responsibility of the members of the Research Committee 22 to return the ballot list to the Secretary-Treasurer not later than one (1) month before the election date;

d) if the need arises, the Research Committee 22 can decide on an alternative procedure.

6. In order to enhance equitable representation of the various regions of the world, two (2) members of the Board shall be elected from each of the following geographic areas: Europe, North America, Latin-America, Asia and Australia, Africa.

7. Candidates for President, for the Secretary-Treasurer and for the Board shall agree to their nomination.

8. At its first meeting the Board elects a Vice-President. The Board directs all activities of the Research Committee 22 with the exception of those regulated by the statutes of the ISA. In case of a tie in voting at the Board's meeting the President shall have the casting vote.

9. The new President and Secretary-Treasurer will take up office at the end of the General Assembly.

10. The Board shall report on its activities and the use of its funds to the quadrennial meeting of the Research Committee 22. The Board has the power to solicit proposals for using the available funds and to establish the criteria for their acceptance.

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