



## The Varga Prize for New Generation Scholars

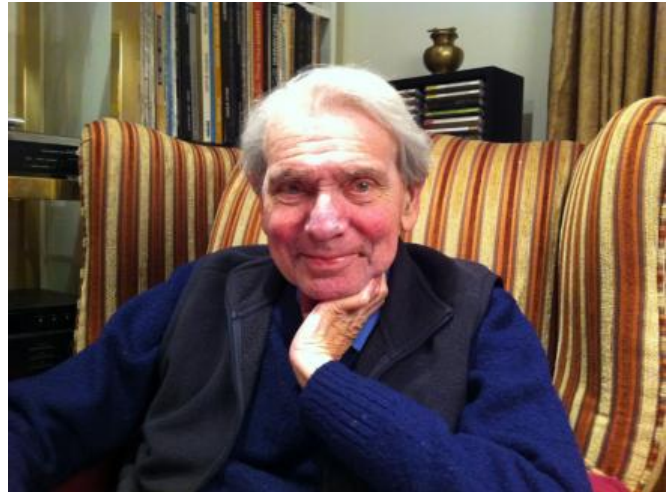
This award recognizes an outstanding new paper by a scholar who is at most three years beyond the PhD. It is named for our late Honorary President, Ivan Varga, who was well-known for supporting scholars just entering the profession.

**This is a monetary award of at least 500 euros.  
The award also covers the winner's unreimbursed travel costs to enable presentation of the paper at the World Congress.**

The prize was established by a gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It has been augmented by a grant from Springer Publishing and a contribution from RC-22 funds.

### Application Procedure:

1. **Submit your paper proposal to one of the RC-22 sessions at the [ISA website](#)** *Deadline is 30 September, 2017, 24:00 GMT*
2. **Send a copy of your abstract and the finished paper e paper to the President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Research Committee, along with a letter describing your work's significance and a curriculum vita.** *Deadline: same as above (30 September, 2017, 24:00 GMT)*
  - [president@isa-rc22.org](mailto:president@isa-rc22.org)
  - [sectreas@isa-rc22.org](mailto:sectreas@isa-rc22.org)



Ivan Varga (1931-2012)

The President will appoint an Evaluation Committee, made up of members of the RC22 Board plus a few other scholars. The Committee will choose the prize winner plus a runner-up, in case the winner is unable to accept the award due to an inability to attend the World Congress. (The runner-up will also receive a monetary award.)

All areas of the sociology of religion are eligible for the Varga Prize. The Committee will base its judgment on its estimate of the winning papers' scholarly worth, its intellectual importance, and its significance for furthering the sociological study of religion.

*There may be an opportunity to publish this paper after the close of the conference.  
The winner does not have to accept this opportunity in order to claim the prize.*

### IVAN VARGA: A REMEMBRANCE

*by Christina Varga*

*from the Globe and Mail, 1/24/2013*

A Hungarian Jew who lived through the Second World War only to come under the thumb of the Soviet Union, Ivan Varga perhaps understandably became a sociologist: a field that seeks to understand how social forces mold our world. Ivan was a boy when he and his family were forced to wear the yellow stars imposed by the Nazis on Jews. Risking being shot, he stood in bread lines without his yellow star in order to get a little more food for the family.

When Hungary was liberated from the Nazis by the Soviet army and the war ended, he worked to rebuild the country filled with youthful socialist ideals. When those beautiful socialist dreams turned to ugly Soviet reality, Ivan became a political dissident and after the Hungarian uprising of 1956 he fled to Poland, knowing he could be arrested or worse. But he was worried about his mother and returned to Hungary a year later. He was briefly arrested and interrogated and was barred from working. He earned money translating texts under the table, but it wasn't until things eased up in the 1960s that he was allowed to work officially as a periodical editor.

He married Eva Launsky, also an editor, in 1961. I was born in 1968, the year he was allowed to leave the country for a four-year stint as a professor at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. It was a taste of Western freedom. Ivan told me that one of the reasons he decided not to return to Hungary was that when he watched advertisements for the British Overseas Airways Corp. he saw young people jetting around the world and wanted that freedom for me.

With nothing but a few suitcases we defected to Germany, where Ivan taught as a professor for a year, before being recruited by Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. From there, he continued his international work as a sociologist of religion. Organizing and addressing conferences from India to Australia and throughout Europe, he also edited books and wrote articles with a global reach.

He remained honorary president of the International Sociological Association's religion research committee until the end of his life.