

RC 22 SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI

Mid-term Conference

GLOBAL FLOWS AND RECONFIGURATIONS OF THE SACRED

5, 6 and 7 February 2026

Globalization, the development of transport and communication networks, and the incessant flux of people worldwide have transformed religious and spiritual landscapes across the globe. Beliefs, practices, and sensibilities about the sacred have travelled, adapted, and been reconfigured sometimes supported by states and institutions, sometimes met with resistance or backlash. These processes have given rise to new forms of religious expression and practice, while also reviving or reshaping existing traditions.

Such movements are uneven and deeply contextual. In some cases, they foster a renewed South-North and South-South dialogue and cultural exchange; in others, they generate polarization, marginalization, and moral contestation. Science, technology, and media increasingly mediate these flows, reshaping how sacred knowledge is produced, circulated, and legitimized in contemporary societies.

This conference seeks to explore how mobility, displacement, and globalization are reshaping orientations towards the sacred, and what new social, cultural, and political configurations emerge as a result. We invite session proposals that reflect on these transformations from a sociological perspective.

Themes

- Transnational flows of spiritual practices (e.g. yoga, meditation, pilgrimage)
- Religious diasporas and new ethnoscapes
- Glocalization and the reconfiguration of religious traditions
- Religious diversity and pluralism in a globalized world
- Secularization and its contested trajectories
- Spiritualization of therapies and therapeutization of spiritualities
- Lived religions in cultural contexts
- Religion or spiritual ecology
- Interreligious dialogue and cultural diplomacy
- Media, digital platforms, and the circulation of spiritual knowledge
- Sacred economies and the commodification of religion
- Body, gender, and new spiritual subjectivities
- Science, health, and religion in context
- Moral controversies and religious alliances across the globe

Additional themes proposed by session organizers will also be welcomed and considered.

We welcome contributions from scholars at all career stages. Proposals must be submitted by **10 July 2025, 23:59 IST (Indian Standard Time, UTC +5:30)** and session organizers must be members in good standing with RC22.



CONFERENCE TIMELINE

IMPORTANT DATES



Conference Venue:

**SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
(A SAARC INITIATIVE)
NEW DELHI, INDIA**

To propose a session, please complete the Google Form linked via the icon below and submit the required information.

