



Sociology
of Religion

**Research Committee Sociology of Religion of International Sociological Association
Mid-Term Conference**

University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

Dates: November 14-18, 2019

Abstracts: February 28, 2019

Rethinking Religion in the Public Sphere in 21st century Global South

The politics of knowledge that seeks to posit it as a preserve of the West has exacerbated a criticism against the dominance of Euro-American Scholarship in the sociology of religion, particularly in its interpretation of religious reality in Africa, and the global South more generally. In advancing the changing dominant pattern of knowledge production and consumption, which reflects a very stratified global division of intellectual labour, this conference draws on historical and methodological trajectories to explore innovative ways in which the sociology of religion can employ both theoretical and epistemological insights into sociological understanding of religion in the global South and its diaspora. What are the current trends and trajectories within the sociology of religion in the global South? What knowledges are being produced by sociologists of religion in the global South? How and to what extent do they contribute to global sociology of religion scholarship? How is religion located in private and/or public spheres? To what extent is religion engaged in the public sphere? How is religion even defined and negotiated in the global South within wider processes of secularization? Also important is the distinction between secular and sacred domains in public life.

The conference draws on ethnographic data of researchers in the field to demonstrate how religious forms, expressions and experiences in the global South either reinforce or transcend socio-political, ethnic, regional, class, age and gender identities and boundaries. Paper and panel proposals are invited from scholars of religion, sociologists of religion and others engaged in interdisciplinary research that extend debates on these and related questions.

Abstract proposals of not more than 150 words should reach the organizers by **February 28, 2019** through the following email address: UG-ISA-RC22-Conference@ug.edu.gh

Sub-themes:

- Religion in private and public spheres
- Public reason, public religion and the public sphere
- South-south transnational networks
- Religion and global South publics
- Global South, secularism and post-secularism

- Religion, migration and the public sphere
- Controversies, religious transformation and innovation
- Religion, environment and sustainable development
- Religion and the political economy
- Religion, governance and politics
- Religion, leadership and public accountability
- Religion, gender, sexuality
- Religion, culture and media
- Religion, conflict and violence
- Sacred places and spaces

Organizers:

Host and local organizing committee:

1. Michael P.K. Okyerefo, School of Arts, University of Ghana & Board Member, Africa Rep.
2. Rose Mary Amenga-Etego, Department of Religions, University of Ghana
3. Genevieve Nrenzah, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

With the support of:

4. Afe Adogame, Princeton Theological Seminary & RC 22 President
5. Anna Halaloff, Deakin University, Australia, RC22 Secretary General/Treasurer