

IACESR
International Association for the
Cognitive and Evolutionary Sciences of Religion

Organized by IACESR committee

**MUNI
ARTS** **LEVYNA**
Laboratory for
the Experimental
Research of Religion

together with LEVYNA, Masaryk University

IAHR special conference

IACESR 2026 PROGRAM

DAY1

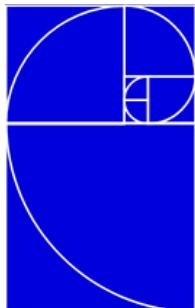
9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-15:00	15:00-16:00	16:00-17:00	17:00-18:00	18:00-19:00
					Museum visit		Opening address	KN 1: Quentin Atkinson	Reception

DAY2

9:00-10:00	10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-15:00	15:00-16:00	16:00-17:00	17:00-18:00	18:00-19:00
Coffee	KN 2: Kathleen Corriveau	Coffee	Parallel 1	Lunch	JMG Award 1	JMG Award 2	Parallel 2	Coffee	KN 3: Will Gervais

DAY3

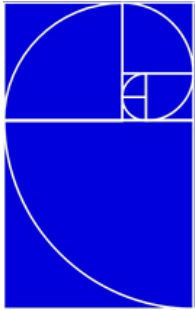
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Coffee	KN 4: Larisa Heiphetz Solomon	Coffee	Parallel 3	Lunch	Posters	Parallel 4	Coffee	Lightning	Closing address



IACESR 2026 PROGRAM

DAY 1: JULY 1 MENDEL MUSEUM

14:00-16:00	MENDEL MUSEUM VISIT	Museum
15:00-16:00	REGISTRATION	Museum
16:00-16:30	OPENING ADDRESS	Refectory
16:30-17:30	KEYNOTE: QUENTIN ATKINSON	Refectory
17:30-21:00	RECEPTION	Garden

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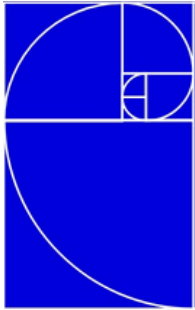
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DAY 2: JULY 2 MORNING
FACULTY OF ARTS, BUILDING B2

8:30 - 9:00	COFFEE AND REGISTRATION			B2 foyer
9:00 - 10:00	KEYNOTE: KATHLEEN CORRIVEAU			B2.13
10:00 - 10:30	COFFEE			B2 foyer
10:30 - 12:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS 1			
	METHODS AND MEASUREMENT IN CESR B2.23	SENSED PRESENCE, AGENT DETECTION AND PREDICTIVE PROCESSING B2.22	PANEL: GODS, GAMES, AND THE SOCIOECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT B2.24	
12:00 - 13:30	LUNCH			B2 foyer
	GENERAL ASSEMBLY			B2.13



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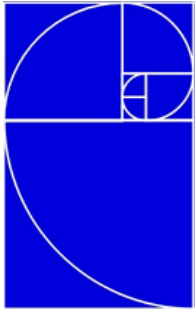
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DAY 2: JULY 2 AFTERNOON
FACULTY OF ARTS, BUILDING B2

13:30 - 14:30	JOHN MCGRAW AWARD TALKS			B2.13
14:30 - 16:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS 2			
	MORALITY, EMOTIONS AND NORMS B2.24	CONTEMPORARY BELIEFS, UNBELIEFS AND ATHEISM B2.22	PANEL: SYSTEM- THEORETIC APPROACHES IN THE CESR B2.23	
16:00 - 16:30	COFFEE			B2 foyer
16:30 - 17:30	KEYNOTE: WILL GERVAIS			B2.13



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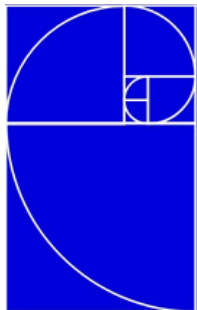
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DAY 3: JULY 3 MORNING
FACULTY OF ARTS, BUILDING B2

8:30 - 9:00	COFFEE			B2 foyer
9:00 - 10:00	KEYNOTE: LARISA HEIPHETZ SOLOMON			B2.13
10:00 - 10:30	COFFEE			B2 foyer
10:30 - 12:00	PARALLEL SESSIONS 3			
	RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, SHIFTS, AND INNOVATION B2.22	MAGIC AND HEALING B2.23	SACRED SPACES, AWE AND SOCIAL BONDS B2.24	
12:00 - 14:00	LUNCH			B2 foyer
	POSTER SESSION			B2 foyer



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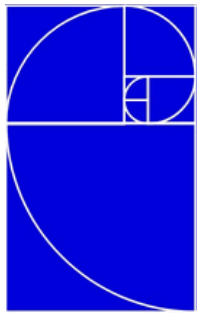
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DAY 3: JULY 3 AFTERNOON
FACULTY OF ARTS, BUILDING B2

14:00 - 15:30	PARALLEL SESSIONS 4		
	RITUAL SIGNALLING B2.24	RELIGIOUS TEXTS AND CONTEXTS B2.22	MYSTICAL AND ANOMALOUS EXPERIENCE B2.23
15:30 - 16:00	COFFEE B2 foyer		
16:00 - 17:00	LIGHTNING TALKS B2.13		
17:00 - 17:30	CLOSING ADDRESS B2.13		



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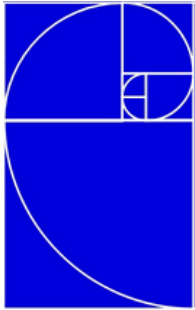
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSIONS 1 (DAY 2 MORNING)

METHODS AND MEASUREMENT IN CESR	• Prosocial Reinforcement Learning in a Multi-Religious Society: Insights from Mauritius (Alexandra Ružičková) • Sleights of Mind: Using Magic to Manipulate Belief in God and Free Will (Ryan McKay) • Systematizing the Sacred: Coding Divinatory Practices for Cognitive Analysis (Tyrel Sorensen) • A new mobile toolkit for CSR researchers (Dimitris Xygalatas)
SENSED PRESENCE, AGENT DETECTION AND PREDICTIVE PROCESSING	• From priors to phantoms: Testing the predictive processing model of agency detection (Piotr Szymanek) • Revisiting "Agent Detection": Numerical Overestimation in Bereaved People (Courtney Applewhite) • The Third man factor: Sensed presence between religion and extreme cognition (Ingela Visuri) • Sensing gods, ghosts, and spirits: Feelings of presence across Mauritian religions (Jana Nenadalová + Jakub Cigán)
PANEL: GODS, GAMES, AND THE SOCIOECOLOGIC AL LANDSCAPE PROJECT	• Gods, Games, and the Socioecological Landscape Project (Benjamin Purzycki) • Local gods, supernatural punishment, and the expansion of human society: A cross-cultural causal analysis (Daniel Major-Smith) • Spirited Landscape and Decision-Making in Pastoral Mongolia (Renatas Berniunas) • Major Depression and Pachamama Beliefs and Practices Among Lowland Kichwa in the Ecuadorian Amazon (Connor Wood)



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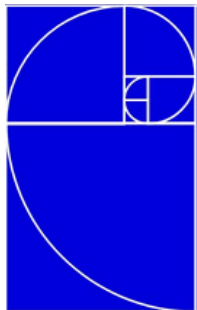
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSIONS 2 (DAY 2 AFTERNOON)

MORALITY, EMOTIONS AND NORMS	• The Dark Side of Recognition: How Evil Eye Beliefs Shape Emotional Responses to Personal Achievement (Cindel White) • Cognitive and Relational Predictors of Perceived Divine Forgiveness: A Registered Report Among Spanish-Speaking Catholics (Carmen Callizo) • Beyond Punishment: How Religious Believers Use Contempt to Enforce Social Norms (Anese Shabani Vikaei) • Religiosity Attenuates the Effect of Empathy on Moral Decision-Making (<u>Khatereh Borhani</u>)
CONTEMPORARY BELIEFS, UNBELIEFS AND ATHEISM	• Analytic Atheism & Analytic Apostasy Across Languages (Nick Byrd)* • The Fault In Our Stars: Astrology As Social Signals For Dating (Nachita Rosun) • Luck's six fingers: A multidimensional scaling analysis of social media luck stories (Anastasia Ejova)* • Understanding the morality of unbelievers: Non-theistic beliefs about right and wrong in ten countries (<u>Roosa Haimila</u>)
PANEL: SYSTEM- THEORETIC APPROACHES IN THE CESR	• Examining religious systems ethnographically: A methodological template (Benjamin Purzycki) • Magic as a cultural immune program (Jesper Sørensen) • Gods of Autonomy: Morality as autonomy-preserving regulation in multi-level social systems (Matylda Ciołkosz)



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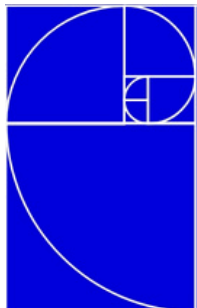
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSIONS 3 (DAY 3 MORNING)

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, SHIFTS, AND INNOVATION	• "Religion as Adaptive System," Shifting Morality, and Deidentification (Myron Penner) • Innovation in Ritual and Religion among Neo-Pagans (<u>Aiyana Willard</u>)
MAGIC AND HEALING	• Black and White Magic: Efficacy of In-group versus Out-group Rituals (Robin Kopecký)* • Folk healers in Eastern Poland. Healing Practices at the Margins of Orthodoxy (Ewelina Sadanowicz) • In-group and out-group perceived magic efficacy in southwestern Amazonia (Paweł Chyc) • Gods, karma and witchcraft in Mauritius: Beliefs in supernatural causation of diseases (<u>Peter Maño</u>)
SACRED SPACES, AWE AND SOCIAL BONDS	• Pilgrimage as Attunement: How Sacred Spaces Are Perceived Through Culturally-Shared, Embodied Affordances (Mohammadamin Saraei)* • 42 Days of Summer: A diary study of awe (Valerie van Mulukom) • I Belong in Glastonbury: The importance of belonging to Spiritual but not Religious individuals (Kathryn Ford) • Maternal compliance with mate-guarding practices increases patrilineal child investment in Mauritius (<u>Radek Kundt</u>)



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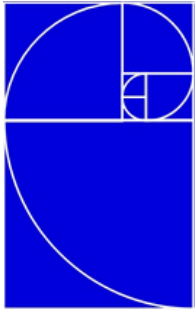
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PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSIONS 4 (DAY 3 AFTERNOON)

RITUAL SIGNALLING	• Small Acts, Strong Bonds: Trust, Low-Cost Rituals, and Subtle Religious Signals in Rural Christianity in Slovakia (Michal Uhrin)* • Exploring Identity Fusion and Psychological Kinship in the U.S. Military: Training, Rituals, and Dysphoric Events (Steve Medeiros) • Ritualising Patriarchy: Religious Internalisation and Gender Norms in Hindu Devotion (Feryl Badiani) • Perceptions of Costs and Benefits in Ritual Participation – What Motivates Participants to Continue Partaking in Painful and Costly Acts? (<u>Eva Kundtová Klocová</u>)
RELIGIOUS TEXTS AND CONTEXTS	• Beyond Traditions: Tracing the cultural evolution of religious ideas with contextual embeddings (Vojtěch Kaše) • Compliant Dissent: Gendered Moral Outrage in 1299 Bologna and CESR Theories of Moral Behavior (Tomáš Hampejs) • Psychedelic Substances and Religious Experiences in Brazil (<u>Renato Brandao</u>)
MYSTICAL AND ANOMALOUS EXPERIENCE	• Mystical experience, cognition, and attention (Hans Van Eyghen)* • From Experience to Interpretation: Pattern Perception, Ritualisation, and Supernatural Explanation (Konrad Talmont-Kaminski) • Sleep Paralysis: When Fear of the Dark Becomes Religion (Lenka Příplatová) • Predictive Processing in Religious Experience (<u>Anton Timmermann Østerlund</u>)



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JOHN MCGRAW AWARD

DAY 2 AFTERNOON

**CARMEN
CALLIZO**

- Religiosity, Not Size, Predicts Abstract Cognition in Sacred Spaces: A High-Powered Registered Report

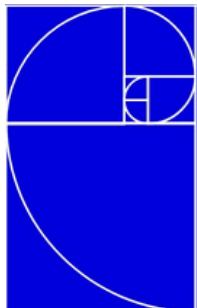
RADIM CHVAJA

- Is God Perceived as More Moralizing During War? Evidence from Ukraine

LIGHTNING TALKS

DAY 3 AFTERNOON

- From Noise to Signal: Identity Fusion from Language at Scale (Devin Wright)
- Musical Sounds as Tools in Spiritual but not Religious Ritual Practices (Sotirios Kolios)
- Affective Polarization and Emotional Synchrony in Collective Political Events (Meara Geraty)
- From worldview conflict to sheer difference discrimination: testing cross-domain links and the role of religion and political orientation (Eliane Deschrijver)
- Ecological Validity in Decision-Making Research: A Triad-Based Study on Cognitive Biases (Markéta Muczková)
- If religion is make-believe, then it's not here due to agency detection (Jędrzej Gosiewski)



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POSTERS

DAY 3 LUNCH

- Understanding self-transcendent experiences through affective salience as instantiated in experiential consciousness (Valerie van Mulukom)
- Embodied Cognition and Charismatic Authority in Ōmoto: Nao and Onisaburō Deguchi (Yetkin Karaoğlu)
- The effects of behavioral synchrony on social bonding and preference transmission (Tatsunori Ishii)
- Intersections of Spiritual and Material Norms in a Spiritual-Syncretic Community (Alex Fewings)
- Mapping Moral Domains in the Sermon on the Mount: An Explorative Study (Harri Söderholm, Nina Nikki & Zdeňka Špiclová)
- Exploring the influence of Need for Cognitive Closure, Compassion and Religiosity on moral rigidity (Alicja Zawistowska)
- The tephilin as an embodied, high-frequency special-instrument ritual in Judaism (Veronika Kuroli)
- Religious innovation as phase transition: The case of 19th century Neolog Judaism in Hungary (Tamas Biro)
- The role of procedural memory in high-frequency non-special-agent rituals in Rabbinical Judaism (Tamas Biro)
- Emotional Fit and Group Belonging in Women's Circles (Danijela Jerotijevic)
- God and self: exploring affective aspect of religious engagement in narcissism (Julia Tokarz)
- Self-Referential Speech of Followers of Afro-Brazilian Religions in Possession Trance: What Do Slips of the Tongue and Ritual Languages Say About the Principles of Fusion and Displacement? (Paulo Araujo)
- Religiosity and Teleological Thinking: Evidence from a Newly Developed Comprehensive Psychometric Scale (Magdalena Drezno)
- Embodied Attention: Can Meditation Bend Cultural Perception? (Silvie Kotherová)
- Religiosity and the Regulation of Threat Perception in Modern Societies (Igor Miklousic)
- Unpredictable Socioecology and the Context-Dependent Expression of Religious Norms in Mauritius (Martin Lang)