**XI Congress of the Spanish Society for Sciences of Religion (SECR)**

**Violence, Peace and Religion**

**Seville, 19-21 May 2016**

Introduction

Violence in the name of religion, and solutions to this problem, are currently a key issue in all forums that are in any way interested in religion as a fundamental component of contemporary societies. The frequent association between faith-based violence and the idea that violence is an intrinsic part of religion –particularly in monotheistic religions- has made it essential to debate and question the relationship between religion and violence. This Congress will examine questions such as: Is violence really an intrinsic part of religion or, on the contrary, does religion promote non-violence? What is the role of religions in the formation of identities and the conflict or collaboration among them? What do local, national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, religious and secular, do to educate people to take a non-violent approach and to respect the diversity of religions and, within national structures, protect religious minorities? Do formal education at the primary, secondary, and university levels, as well as non-formal education in a variety of contexts, both religious and non-religious, include interreligious dialogue? If so, how impactful are such inclusions? Even if all such educational spaces included interreligious dialogue, would it suffice to solve the problems of our turbulent times, which include geopolitical, identity, social and cultural factors? What can history teach us about how conflicts involving religions and politics have been dealt with in the past?

Many people are asking such questions today, providing often very different answers. The XI Congress of the SECR, as the major academic forum in Spain for discussion on religious phenomena from diverse approaches, aims to be at the forefront of the academic study of this issue.

As at previous Congresses, there will be a variety of sessions, allowing for input from the widest possible range of disciplines, and interdisciplinary exchange. Contributions from such fields as, for example, anthropology, history, law, psychology, religious studies, and sociology, are welcomed so as to enrich our understanding of the complexity of the relationships between politics and religions, past and present. The main aims of this Congress are to reach more comprehensive conclusions about those relationships and, in particular, try to settle the question as to whether or not violence is an intrinsic part of religion(s), using the best interdisciplinary academic thinking possible. This Congress will also address particularly sensitive areas through the following three panels: 1) “Religion, Peace and Gender-based Violence” will focus on the vulnerability of women and children in faith-based violent conflicts; 2) “Islam, Violence and Peace” will present various findings about strategies to solve violent radicalism that arise in the name of Islam; 3) “Interreligious Dialogue as a Methodology for Peace and Reconciliation” will examine how various interreligious dialogue methodologies contribute to reducing violence in the name of religion.

Presentations

Scholars interested in religion from any academic disciplinary perspective are invited to submit proposals for participation.

Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes, including discussion time. Abstracts (200 words) must be sent before February 15, 2016 to [congreso2016@secr.es](mailto:congreso2016@secr.es). Abstracts will be evaluated by a scientific committee. Presentations in other languages than Spanish are welcomed (preferably in English). Participants who would like their papers to be published in the proceedings must sign a copyright form to cede rights to the Organizers of the Congress and the editors of the publication (SECR, Instituto de Ciencias de las Religiones de la U.C.M. and the International Dialogue Centre KAICIID).

Fees

Members of SECR: 60 euros

Non-members: 80 euros

Students and unemployed persons: 30 euros

Attendance (without presentation): 30 euros (a certificate will be issued)

The participation fee will be collected following the positive evaluation of the abstract by the scientific committee. When participation is approved by the committee, a copy of a bank payment receipt for the participation fee will be sent to [congreso2016@secr.es](mailto:congreso2016@secr.es)

Payment details

**Concept**: Inscripción XI Congreso de la SECR

**Beneficiary**: Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones

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