

Conference of International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe
Association

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Special Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

UN(B)LOCKING RELIGION.

STUDYING RELIGION IN TODAY'S CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

University of Szeged, Hungary

May 24-26, 2018

Panel Proposal

Religious Studies – un(b)locking

The panel aims to examine the role of Religious Studies in the disclosure of Eastern and Western blocs, from a historical perspective. It intends to explore the intercourse between scholars of the ex-Warsaw-Pact and NATO member states for mutual understanding, cultural exchange, flow of information, circulation of knowledge from the Cold War period up to the present day. We encourage the authors to challenge the stereotype of a geopolitical division concerning “Eastern atheism” and “Christian West”, by investigating the opening of the Iron Curtain for a debate on secularism and religious topics. Without denying the importance of the Fall of the Berlin Wall event for the contemporary history, but considering the slow negotiation mechanisms in the conflict, the panel seeks to focus analytically on the making of a dialogue, in which cross-ideological communication in Religious Studies was a step to unlock Europe.

Key dates and data

Panel co-chaired by Valerio Severino (*University of Rome La Sapienza; Research fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; member of the Italian Society for the History of Religions SISR*) and Tomáš Bubík (*University Olomouc, Czech Republic; President of the Czech Society for the Study of Religions ČSR*).

Individual paper proposals (complete with title and a 200-300 words abstract) may be submitted to Valerio Severino, e-mail: valerio.severino@uniroma1.it, by 28th November, 2017. Potential contributors will get a response by 30th November.

More information:

<https://www.isorecea.net/>