



**International Research Network for the Study of Science & Belief in Society,
3rd Annual Conference**

13–15 July 2022

University of Birmingham and Online (hybrid conference)

Call for Papers

Bursaries and honoraria to support participation, whether in-person or online are available, see below for more.

[The International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society](#) has been at the centre of the recent significant growth in social scientific and humanities research focusing on science, religion, and belief in society. Following our successful online conference in 2021, this 3rd annual conference of the network will have a hybrid in-person and online format and will focus on the theme of crossing boundaries.

As this field of research has grown it has engaged in myth busting popular perceptions and stereotypes about the relationship between science and religion, which treat both science and religious/spiritual populations as monolithic. To date, much of this foundational research has focused on North American contexts or debates. This conference seeks to build on this essential work and address future avenues for research within the social scientific and historical study of science, religion, and belief in society to examine the practical implications and applications of research in this field.

This conference will bring together international researchers with backgrounds in sociology, science and technology studies, psychology, political science, history, social anthropology, and related humanities or social science disciplines, to discuss perspectives on the overarching topic of science and belief in society.

We are pleased to invite submissions of papers that relate to any aspect of STEMM in society (science, technology, engineering, medicine, and mathematics), that discuss any religious, spiritual, or non-religious tradition, position, or worldview.

Abstracts are invited for the conference relating to the following themes:

- Public engagement with STEMM in pluralistic or religiously diverse societies.
- The social scientific and historical study of the relationship between science and religious and/or non-religious belief and identity.
- Public perceptions of the relationship between science, religion and non-religion and their respective roles in society.
- National and international comparative perspectives on the study of science, religion and belief in society.
- Past and present media or popular representations of science, religion and belief in society.

- The past or present roles of science, rationalism, religion and belief in national, social or cultural identity and related geopolitical narratives.
- Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of science, religion and non-religion in society.
- Methodological approaches to, and issues in, the study of science, religion and belief in society.
- Studies on the impact of publics' views on science and religion on policy making, and provision for religious, spiritual or non-religious communities across a range of geographies and issues (e.g., healthcare provision, educational policy, science policy, environmental policy or development).
- Religion and inequalities in access to science and technology, including the intersections between religious and racial, ethnic, class and/or gender inequalities.

Individual or panel session submissions may cross over several of the themes listed above, and those intending to submit papers are encouraged to consider the relevance of their work to other academic disciplines.

Conference format

Due to the ongoing and inequitable constraints imposed by COVID-19, the conference will use a hybrid format that combines in-person presentations at the University of Birmingham, with online contributions by those unable to travel due to ongoing restrictions and health concerns.

We ask that in arranging their travel, all in-person participants ensure that they comply with all COVID-19 regulations, both in the UK and their home country. The conference will be run in line with any UK regulations as they stand in July 2022 and will adopt best-practice regarding health and safety of attendees on-site.

Please note that as in prior years, we will be running a fully funded early career workshop in the days prior to this conference, but this will be announced and advertised via a separate call.

We have bursaries available to support both in-person and online attendance (see below).

If you have any questions or concerns about access or the conference format, please email INSBS@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Paper and Panel Submissions

Please follow the below links to submit a stand-alone paper or a panel proposal. Information on what is required on the form can be found below.

Submit an individual paper:

https://birminghamcoaal.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ZKljAc0Gha6aSa

Submit a panel proposal:

https://birminghamcoaal.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3C08z9ubs0oda9E

Individual paper submissions

To submit a paper proposal, please write a title and abstract of no more than 300 words, alongside a biographical note of no more than 200 words (please use this [online form](#)).

Panel session proposals

We will also be accepting a limited number of panel proposals with a maximum of four speakers. To submit a panel proposal, using the [online form](#) please send a session summary of no more than 250 words, alongside abstracts of no more than 300 words for each individual paper and a short biography of no more than 200 words for each contributor. The format and individual presentation length for panel sessions is flexible, but please note that panel sessions must not take longer than 90 minutes overall.

Contributor Biographies

For all submissions, please send a biography of no more than 200 words for each contributor, including name, institutional affiliation, email address, primary discipline or subject area, a statement regarding career stage (e.g., early career, mid-career), and if possible, a link to a personal profile on an institutional website or similar. Biographies of successful applicants will be added to the International Network's [Research Directory](#). Please indicate on your application if you would like to opt out of being added to the Research Directory.

All abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted online by 14 February 2022.

Conference Costs, Bursaries and Honoraria

This conference is funded by the International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society, as part of a grant from the [Templeton Religion Trust](#). Please note that for all successful applicants, accommodation and registration costs will be covered by this grant. In addition, a number of honoraria and bursaries are also available to help with costs that may be incurred as a result of conference participation:

- **Conference attendance honoraria.** For those attending the conference in-person, who do not have institutional support for conference attendance or preparation, these honoraria are designed to allay the costs of attending.
- **Childcare/dependent bursaries.** For both those participating in-person and online, these bursaries are to help cover the costs of any extra childcare or other dependents' costs incurred from participating.
- **Digital inclusion bursaries.** For those participating online these bursaries can be used to cover any extra costs incurred related to digital access (e.g., Wi-Fi costs or data packages). Please note these bursaries cannot be used for hardware (e.g., laptops).

We will prioritise those who have the most need such as postgraduate, early career, retired, low income/unwaged, or any researcher who may not ordinarily be able to access institutional funds.

To request a bursary or any additional support, when submitting your abstract, please complete the additional box on the online submission form.

Please note that while completing the form you will be asked whether you are planning to attend in-person or virtually, however given the uncertainties of the coming months with



regards to international travel, you will only have to confirm in-person attendance after your abstract is accepted.

Key Dates

Deadline for online submissions (abstracts, panels & bursaries): **14 February 2022**

Decision notification: **28 February 2022**

Registration deadline for presenters: **30 April 2022**

The conference is supported by the Templeton Religion Trust and is being held as part of the activities of the International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society, based at the University of Birmingham (UK).

For more information about the conference or wider network please email INSBS@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

For an online version of this Call for Papers see:

<https://scienceandbeliefinsociety.org/2021/12/06/call-for-papers-insbs-3rd-annual-conference/>