



CALL FOR PAPERS

'Religion and church in the spiritual and socio-political changes of the modern world'

An international conference organized by the Centre for Sociological and Anthropological Research and the Forum for Religious Questions at the Institute for Social Sciences

Srebrno jezero, 19 – 20 May 2017

The Forum for Religious Questions and the Centre for Sociological and Anthropological Research at the Institute of Social Sciences are, in 2017, planning to continue organizing annual academic conferences dedicated to the question of religion. This will be the third year of such regularly held meetings between local and foreign religiologists. The first international conference on 'Religion and Violence' held in Smederevska Palanka in June 2015, was organized in partnership with the Philosophical Commune from Belgrade. The second conference on 'Faith and Reason' in June 2016 was also held in Smederevska Palanka. After these conferences edited volumes were published by Forel IDN and The Philosophical Commune. Both conferences attracted media attention. We invite interested colleagues to participate in this year's international conference entitled 'Religion and church in the spiritual and socio-political changes of the modern world.' The conference will be held on the occasion of the 60 year anniversary of the Institute for Social Sciences.

We are witnesses to undisputable and turbulent socio-political changes in the modern world. And culture, in the broadest sense of the word, is not beyond these changes. Religion, as a constituent part of culture, does not avoid these changes. In the first case when religion and churches produce these changes; in the second when they endure clear external pressures which come most frequently from the political sphere. This has ambivalent effects on religion itself and on its (un)institutional forms of organisation. On the one hand, the social roles of religion and religious organizations are strengthened in the process of deprivatization and desecularization of social life. On the other, this process produces numerous possibilities for the instrumentalization and misuse of religion and church in the non-religious sphere. In the former socialist Yugoslavia this phenomenon was evident at the beginning of the 1990s and is so today

at many neuralgic points around the world. Nor is the European continent spared, especially in recent years when, with migrants from the Middle East and North Africa, another different *Great tradition* has arrived. This is a new situation for Europe, and it is an academic challenge for foreign and local religiologists who will in the coming years undoubtedly research and check the wide range of academic hypotheses about the religious situation in Europe and the world.

By organizing this conference we wish to bring together local and international established researchers of religious phenomenon from various disciplines so that, using data from their own experiential and theoretical research, they can shed light on at least one small part of the importance and roles of religion and churches in culture and in the socio-political changes of the modern world.

Important dates:

- By 15th March 2017: Send the title of the paper, an abstract of up to 200 words with 5 key words in Serbian (and other languages of the former Yugoslavia), English or Russian by mail to blagomil@91sbb.rs and office.skupovi@idn.org.rs
- By 1st May 2017: Submit full texts (up to 10 pages in A4 format) in Serbian (and other languages of the former Yugoslavia), English or Russian by mail to blagomil@91sbb.rs and office.skupovi@idn.org.rs
- An electronic volume of the conference papers will be available on the IDN website by the end of October 2017.

Author guidelines:

- Texts should be up to 10 A4 pages, including references and literature, in Times New Roman, font size 12, margins at 2.5 cm, single spaced. At the beginning of the text should be an abstract in the same language as the text. At the end of the text should be an abstract in English.
- The working languages of the conference are Serbian (and all languages of the former Yugoslavia), English and Russian.

Belgrade, 9th February 2017

The Forum for Religious Questions
Dr Mirko Blagojevic