

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Academic Conference on RELIGION AND CAPITALISM IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY: VALUES, IDENTITIES, AND POLITICS**

Srebrno jezero, 4-5 September 2026

organized by

The Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade (Forum for Religious Issues)

and

the Center for Empirical Research of Religion, Novi Sad

The contemporary era is marked by significant social, economic, and cultural changes that redefine how individuals and communities perceive their position and role within the global social order. Capitalism, as the dominant economic system, permeates all spheres of human life, while religion, despite processes of secularization, continues to exert a powerful influence on the formation of value frameworks, moral orientations, and collective identities. The relationship between religion and capitalism, complex and dynamic, represents one of the key questions for understanding contemporary global society and the challenges it faces.

Throughout history, this relationship has been the subject of numerous analyses – from Weber's understanding of the Protestant ethic as the foundation of the capitalist spirit to contemporary research showing how market logic influences the transformation of religious institutions and practices. Today, under conditions of globalization and neoliberal economics, religion is not merely a critical corrective to the capitalist system but significantly adapts to its structures and values. Religious institutions adopt elements of corporate organizations, market communications, and branding, utilizing various strategies to maintain influence in the public sphere, whereby the boundaries between the economic and spiritual, the material and symbolic, are increasingly blurred.

With the process of secularization, the political influence of religious institutions has gradually diminished. By maintaining close ties with political structures, sometimes compromising their own spiritual and ethical values, religious institutions and actors strive to strengthen their position in the political arena. This dynamics reveals the complex role of religious institutions in legitimizing or resisting existing power structures, providing significant space for analyzing the influence of religion on social and political processes.

The current crisis of values, rising inequalities, and social tensions are not limited to specific regions or national frameworks but manifest on a global level, making the study of these relations particularly significant. Although the relationship between religion and capitalism has long been a subject of research, the contemporary social context brings new challenges and requires an interdisciplinary approach that integrates sociological, political science, economic, philosophical, and anthropological perspectives.

Through its designated thematic units, the conference will address the theoretical and methodological framework for studying the relationship between religion and capitalism, the phenomenon of consumer culture and the commodification of religion, as well as considerations of the economic and moral dimensions of social justice. Special attention will be paid to the relations of religion, legitimation, resistance, and structural violence in capitalism; the specificities and challenges of religion and capitalism in post-socialist societies; individual and collective religiosity in late capitalism and post-socialism; and issues of religion, ethics, and values in neoliberal societies.

From a scientific perspective, the conference will facilitate the exchange of the latest theoretical and empirical insights among researchers from various disciplines and contribute to the development of an interdisciplinary approach in studying the relationship between religion, politics, economy, and social change. The social significance of the conference is twofold – reflected in the need for a better understanding of contemporary challenges and the causes of the value crisis, and in the effort to find sustainable solutions.

The goal of the international scientific conference is to provide a new theoretical framework for studying the aforementioned research problems using an interdisciplinary approach that ensures comprehensiveness in the study of the topic.

The program of the international scientific conference is structured into **seven thematic units**. Upon application, **authors are required to select one area** within which they will present their research.

We propose the following topics for the conference:

- 1) Theoretical and methodological frameworks for studying the relationship between religion and capitalism;
- 2) Religion, consumer culture, and commodification: between adaptation and resistance;
- 3) Religion, economy, and concepts of social justice;
- 4) Religion between legitimation and resistance: structural violence in capitalism;
- 5) Religion and capitalism in post-socialist societies: specificities and challenges;
- 6) Individual and collective religiosity in late capitalism and post-socialism (confessionalism, beliefs, and ritual practices);
- 7) Religion, ethics, and values in neoliberal societies.

### **International Program Committee of the Conference**

- Dr. Marko Jovanović, Research Associate, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Political Science Research and Public Opinion, President of the Program Committee;
- Dr. Nena Vasojević, Senior Research Associate, Head of the Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research – ISS, Belgrade, Serbia; Vice-President of the Conference Program Committee;
- Dr. Mirko Blagojević, Head of FOREL, Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research, Belgrade, Serbia;



- Prof. Dr. Sergey Lebedev, Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Mass Communications, Faculty of Social Theology, Belgorod State National Research University, Belgorod, Russian Federation;
- Dr. Goran Bašić, Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, Principal Research Fellow, Belgrade, Serbia;
- Nebojša Kujundžić, Full Professor, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada;
- Prof. Dr. Zorica Kuburić, Full Professor (Retired), Faculty of Philosophy, Novi Sad, and Director of the Center for Empirical Research on Religion, Novi Sad, Serbia;
- Prof. Dr. Zlatko Matić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia;
- Prof. Dr. Željko Pavić, Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Osijek, Croatia;
- Prof. Dr. Yuri Stoyanov, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, United Kingdom;
- Prof. Dr. Kjell Magnusson, Associate Professor (Retired), Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden;
- Dr. Emil Hilton Saggau, Senior Research Fellow, Lund University, Lund, Sweden;
- Prof. Dr. Ivan Cvitković, Academician, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, BiH;
- Prof. Dr. Vladimir Bakrač, Associate Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić, Montenegro;
- Prof. Dr. Nuri Tinaz, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey;
- Dr. Ružica Cacanaska, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia;
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Sergey Trofimov, Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation;
- Dr. Ivana Arsić, Research Associate, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain; Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade;
- Dr. Nonka Bogomilova, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria;
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Krasimira Marulevska, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Faculty of Pedagogy, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria;
- Dr. Olga Smolina, Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University, Kyiv, Ukraine;
- Dr. Bojan Tomić, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, University of Belgrade;
- Dr. Danica Igrutinović, Singidunum University, Faculty of Media and Communications, Belgrade, Serbia.

### **Organizing Committee of the Conference**

- Nataša Jevtić, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade;
- Milan Blagojević, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Political Science Research and Public Opinion, Belgrade;
- Milica Janković, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research, Belgrade;

- Ljiljana Ćumura, MA, Center for Empirical Research on Religion, Novi Sad;
- Danica Lazović, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Political Science Research and Public Opinion, Belgrade;
- Njegoš Vujadinović, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research, Belgrade;
- Veljko Košević, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Philosophy, Belgrade;
- Emilija Mijić, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research, Belgrade;
- Đurđica Stanković, MA, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Political Science Research and Public Opinion, Belgrade.

### **Instructions for the Participants**

- Deadline for abstract submission: 1 April 2026. The application must include: the author's first and last name, affiliation, paper title, email address, the thematic unit to which the application refers, an abstract of no less than 300 and no more than 500 words, and 5 keywords. Submissions should be sent to the following addresses: **djstankovic@idn.org.rs** and **vkosevic@idn.org.rs**.
- The participants of the conference will have the opportunity to publish their papers in the scientific journal *Religion and Tolerance*;
- **The conference will be held at Vila Dinčić, Srebrno jezero (Silver Lake - Veliko Gradište), and the program will subsequently be available on the website of the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade.**

Belgrade, February 5, 2026

Director of the  
Institute of Social Sciences  
Goran Bašić, Ph.D.  
Principal Research Fellow

Vice-President of the Conference Program Committee  
Head of the Centre  
for Sociological and Anthropological Research

Nena Vasojević, Ph.D.