

International Liaison Committee

The International Liaison Committee is “responsible for promoting participation in the activities of the Association by scholars from outside the United States, coordinating activities of the Association with those of international associations, and facilitating international communication among scholars in the sociology of religion.”

In practice, the International Liaison Committee has fulfilled these objectives in the following ways:

1. Arranging joint sessions across the programs of the various societies and subgroups interested in the sociology of religion throughout the world, such as the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (SISR/ISSR) and the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Sociology of Religion (RC22). Ideally we would like to have jointly sponsored sessions across each other’s program at each meeting of each of these groups. At times such efforts have led to such publications as special issues of journals or free-standing collections.
2. Working to ensure that calendars of other such groups (including smaller regional/national groups and interdisciplinary groups) do not conflict with the calendar of ASR. Because the ASR meets on a fixed schedule with respect to ASA and ASA plans approximately four years in advance (sometimes more), ASR deems it desirable that other groups who plan on a shorter lead time work to take into account the dates that our historic relationship to ASA dictates for our meetings.
3. Reviewing applications from graduate students and international scholars for the Ralph A. Gallagher Travel Grants. Beginning in 2014, these applications will be submitted directly to the chair of the International Liaison Committee by the March 1 deadline following the procedure outlined on the ASR website. During the month of March, the committee will evaluate the applications and forward to the Program Chair those applications deemed worthy of travel funding for his/her approval. Once the Program Chair approves these papers, the chair of the International Liaison committee will compose official letters on ASR letterhead to the awardees notifying them of their paper’s acceptance and the intent of ASR to provide financial assistance (the amount of which will be determined in May based on the number who were successful in obtaining travel visas by that time) to support their participation in the conference. The chair of the committee will also instruct the international awardees to use these official letters to apply immediately for travel visas and to notify the chair of the committee (copied to the Executive Officer of ASR) once the travel visa has been approved. In May, the Chair of the International Liaison Committee will compile a list of graduate students and international scholars whose applications were approved for funding and who successfully obtained travel visas and send that list, along with recommendations of the amount of money to award each person, to the Program Committee (i.e., the Executive Officer, President, and Program Chair) which, in consultation with the International Liaison Committee, makes a final determination about how to allocate the Gallagher Travel Grants to the applicants.

The committee meets primarily through emails, which its chair should take the lead in initiating.