

# CALL FOR PAPERS

83RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

THEME: RELIGION, REPRESSION, AND THE SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Hotel: Sheraton Grand Los Angeles (*at 7<sup>th</sup> & Hope*)

Date: August 6 (welcome reception) – August 8, 2022

Program Chair: Rebecca Catto, Kent State University

Religion can be a source of both repression and liberation. Some political and religious leaders use religion to control people; others use it to free people from both objective and subjective chains. Religious organizations can collaborate with repressive forces, or they can oppose them in the name of justice. Individuals can use religion to defend systems and structures that harm people, or they can use religion to repair that harm and even prevent it. How and when each happens depends on cultural, social, and economic factors, on social definitions, and also on the religious resources available at the time. Mapping and understanding these dynamics is urgent and vital.

The 2022 annual meeting invites presentations and thematic sessions that analyze any aspect of the relationship between religion, repression, and the search for justice:

1. How and when do religious organizations, groups, or individuals attempt to control others – either internally in their own communities or externally in society at large? What rationales do they give for doing so? What techniques do they use? How do they describe their actions? What interactions do they have with non-religious institutions or actors?
2. How and when do religious organizations, groups, or individuals support social justice? What rationales do they give? What techniques do they use? How do they describe their actions? What problems and possibilities do they encounter?
3. How do para-religious, quasi-religious, and anti-religious groups and actors figure into this? How and why do they embrace either movements for repression or for justice? How do they conceive of what they are doing? What leads them to act as they do?
4. More specifically, what role does religion, including civil religion(s), play in the recent rise of right-wing anti-democratic activism? How do these actors conceive of what they are doing? What rationales do they give for their activism? What factors encouraged or mitigated their rise?
5. How do these processes within the United States compare with similar things going on in other parts of the world?
6. How does religious and non-religious involvement in movements for control and for social justice affect religions' future?

Papers and sessions may also focus on any other topic in the sociology of religion. We especially encourage papers and sessions that pursue and stimulate new avenues of research and highlight innovative theoretical and methodological approaches. We welcome specialty sessions, including book events, workshops on teaching and professional development, and discussions that focus on a particular question or topic.

#### DEADLINES:

- Session proposals: March 31, 2022
- Paper abstract submissions: April 30, 2022
- All submissions should be made through the ASR website at [www.sociologyofreligion.com](http://www.sociologyofreligion.com) beginning in mid-January 2022.

ASR Membership is required to organize a session, present a paper, serve as a panelist, or hold another role in the program. Participants are expected to register for the meeting by July 1, 2022.

For questions, please contact: Rebecca Catto ([rcatto@kent.edu](mailto:rcatto@kent.edu)), Jim Spickard ([jjim\\_spickard@redlands.edu](mailto:jjim_spickard@redlands.edu)), or Rachel Kraus ([ASREO@bsu.edu](mailto:ASREO@bsu.edu)).