

**Information Network on Religious Movements**



# **Annual Report 2011**

Registered Office  
**Inform**  
Houghton St  
London WC2A 2AE

Telephone  
**+ 44 (0) 20 7955 7654**

Email  
**[inform@lse.ac.uk](mailto:inform@lse.ac.uk)**  
Website  
**[www.inform.ac](http://www.inform.ac)**

Inform is a registered charity (No. 801729) and is incorporated in England as a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act (No. 2346855).

## **Introduction**

Throughout the year Inform continued its work of helping enquirers by providing reliable, up-to-date information about minority religions. Enquirers included the UK government, professionals, academics, the media, church networks and chaplains (especially university chaplains), relatives of converts, students and the general public.

There were some unexpected but notable events that kept staff occupied. The main one was the bomb attack and mass shooting by the lone terrorist, Anders Behring Breivik, in Norway. This catastrophic event immediately raised questions about his religious and political affiliations, as well as possible networks. It also raised the issue of lone wolf terrorism with its complications for police and intelligence agencies.

Staff continued follow-up work from the questionnaire survey to update information on some religious groups, and updated the database accordingly. There was also work to do on the website, which is an on-going project. We hope to be able to post more information on the site in 2012. Another major task of 2011 was the fine-tuning of Inform's business plan in order to secure more funding. At the end of the year we did receive confirmation we had secured core funding for the next three years.

This was, of course, welcome news, as we had just settled into our new office space. Along with the new space, all Inform's computers were upgraded to new software compatible with the London School of Economics' Information Technology department, and the database has also had to be upgraded.

## **Governors and Patrons**

In June Professor Beckford represented Inform at a service of thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral for the late Very Reverend Colin Slee, Dean of Southwark, and one of the Vice-Chairs of Inform's Board of Governors. Dean Slee was replaced as the Church of England's nominee on the Board by the Reverend Dr Giles Fraser, who had been the Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral until October when he resigned after disagreements over plans to remove 'Occupy London Stock Exchange' protestors from St Paul's Churchyard.

Another new appointment to the Board was Dr Abby Day, who is the current Chair of SOCREL (the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion study group). She was until recently a Research Fellow in the Anthropology Department at the University of Sussex, and has now moved to the University of Kent where she will focus on being the Principal Investigator of two Research Council funded projects.

Having reached the age of 80, David Bartholomew decided it was time for him to withdraw from the Board. For several years Professor Bartholomew was Inform's Treasurer, and we are grateful for all his help over the years and wish him a happy retirement.

Under the chairmanship of Professor Eileen Barker, Inform's Board of Governors held two meetings during the year. The Management Committee met formally on four occasions under the chairmanship of Professor James Beckford. However, most of its work was conducted on a weekly

or, often, daily basis by email, which enabled quick responses to issues arising over the practical running of Inform.

At the Board of Governors' January meeting it was confirmed that Sally Greengross OBE had agreed to become one of Inform's Patrons. Baroness Greengross, who is a crossbencher in the House of Lords and is well known for her work as Director General of Age Concern, is now a Commissioner on the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

As Commissioner Elizabeth Matear's period of office as Moderator of the Free Churches came to an end, she was replaced by Revd Michael Heaney, General Secretary of The Congregational Federation. He kindly agreed to become a Patron for Inform. For a full list of Governors and Patrons and the membership of the Management Committee, see Appendix I.

The Chair and staff were delighted to welcome to the office and have lunch with the Right Reverend Graham James, Lord Bishop of Norwich, who has taken an active interest in Inform and its work since becoming one of its Patrons nearly ten years ago.

Under the guidance of the Treasurer, Inform's annual accounts were presented to Knox Cropper for auditing and submitted to the Charity Commissioners and Companies House.

## **Staff**

Eileen Barker, Inform's Chair and its Honorary Director, was one of three people who was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics.

The core of Inform's staff remained unchanged; Dr Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist (Deputy Director), Sarah Harvey (Research Officer), Dr Suzanne Newcombe (Research Officer), and Silke Steidinger (Assistant Research Officer) continued their work as in previous years.

Jane Cooper (Administration Officer) was offered a very good job in her chosen field, journalism, and accepted this. Sibyl Macfarlane, who had started working at Inform as an Intern in the summer of 2010, became a part-time Assistant Research Officer in October 2010 after completing her MA at King's College. She then took on the extra administrative duties when Jane left and is now working full-time as Inform's Administration Officer. She is also responsible for the archives and, time permitting, she engages in some research.

Rosalyn Velds, Gita Subrahmanyam and Hannah Lindsay (Assistant Research Officers), however, left over the summer as their contracts came to an end and Inform had no assurance of future funding.

Two interns joined the staff to help with research and the on-going task of keeping the database up-to-date. Zoe Whitfield joined in June for 4 days a week for 6 weeks, and Laura Hodges joined in September and also worked 4 days a week for 6 weeks.

Aside from their main tasks, some staff undertook related work outside of their office hours. Amanda worked to complete her book about children in new religions, which was due with the publishers at the end of the year. Sarah passed the upgrade for her PhD and will begin collecting her research data in 2012. Suzanne was External Assessor for a PhD Upgrade in the Religious

Studies Department at the University of Winchester, became Review Editor for the journal *Religion in South Asia*, published by Equinox, and continued to work for the Open University in the East of England as an Associate Lecturer.



*Amanda, Sibyl and Silke in the new Inform office*

## **Enquiries**

As usual, Inform received a variety of enquiries, either directly to the office or through members of its network, about minority religions, spiritual communities, fringe political movements, and related issues.

Some enquiries can be responded to relatively swiftly (sometimes taking less than an hour to answer), but many others require in-depth analysis, research, and contextualisation (which may entail several days' or even weeks' work). Some enquirers are undergoing a variety of emotional problems, and in such cases, the staff try to help so far as they can, but Inform policy has always been clear that it does not engage in counselling. However, those seeking therapy or counselling will be helped to find someone with accredited professional training. As ever, all enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence and, although Inform is not protected by law from a court-ordered requirement to make disclosure of certain information, it is and has been prepared to fight against such court orders regarding the enquiries it receives.

In 2011 Inform dealt with 342 enquiries. (It dealt with 341 enquiries in 2010.) There were enquiries about 73 different religious groups. Groups enquired about more than four times were:

New Kadampa Tradition	20
Unification Church	13
Church of Scientology	10
Rigpa	7
Brahma Kumaris	5
Believer's Loveworld	5
Hizb-ut-Tahrir	4
The New Cathars	4
Mohan Singh	4
Transcendental Meditation	4

General enquiries about religious traditions or practices	71
General enquiries about Inform and its work	43

There were also 44 enquiries asking about groups that were at the time unknown to Inform; most of these have since been researched and added to the database.

Enquirers by category that enquired more than 4 times were:

Government Body	58
Chaplain/Church network	47
Academic/writer	38
Former member	33
Student	31
Media	29
General public	26
Relative/friend of member	19
Current members	19
Education Institution	7
Counsellor/Therapist	7
Advice Agency	5
Cult Watching Group	4

The enquiries from government bodies can be further broken down; Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (17), Home Office (16), and other Government departments (26). There are usually a certain number of anonymous enquirers. Many of these have been included in the categories above once they make clear why they are enquiring, but in 11 cases this information was not divulged at all.



*An enquirer talking to Amanda, Sarah and Sibyl*

The enquiries included 53 requests for information from 19 countries outside the UK:

USA	13
France	8
Germany	8
Italy	3

Two enquiries each from Croatia, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland, and one enquiry each from Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, The Czech Republic, Iran, Poland, and Russia.

Of all enquirers, 158 had enquired before on another matter or on the same matter but had got back in touch with new developments. The remainder, 186, had not contacted Inform before.

### **Speaking engagements undertaken by Inform staff**

Eileen's speaking engagements included:

- A lecture on Sociology of Religion to LSE first-year undergraduates, and a seminar on Methodology of the Social Sciences for graduate research students.
- A lecture at Southampton University on new religions.
- A paper at the British Sociological Association annual conference on 'The Cult Wars'.
- A course of lectures on religion and politics to East European lecturers in Yerevan, Armenia.
- Four lectures to the Estonian Police in Tallinn on law enforcement and minority religions.
- A talk to ISKCON leaders in Belgium on public responses to minority religions.
- A course of lectures at the Chinese People's Republic Security University on the methods of the social sciences and the variety of state reactions to Falun Gong.
- A lecture at the National Chengchi University, Taiwan, on religious experiences.
- A lecture at Aletheia University, Taiwan, on new religions in China, Taiwan and the West.
- A presentation at the International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Aix en Provence.
- A paper at the International Cultic Studies Association in Barcelona on changes in new religions.
- A talk to the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs on ageing and new religions.
- A lecture at the Free University, Amsterdam on sectarian developments in Eastern Orthodoxy.
- A paper at the European Association for the Study of Religion, Budapest, on the changing face of new religions in Europe.
- A web lecture to students at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- She was a guest on the BBC's Today programme, and on Sky News, gave a talk on BBC 'Nightwaves' and contributed to several other broadcasts for BBC World Service and local radio stations.

Sarah gave talks:

- At the London Interfaith Centre about Inform in March
- At the Sussex Partnership Spirituality Advocates Conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- With Amanda, gave a talk about beliefs in witchcraft and possession and child welfare at Homerton Hospital for the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board in July.
- With Amanda, she gave a talk about the history of enquiries to Inform about Paganism at the Pagan Federation Conference celebrating 40 years since the federation's founding in October.

Amanda spoke at:

- The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities' (CRASSH) Gender Separatism workshop at Cambridge University about gendered spiritual paths in the process of charismatisation.
- An ICSA special event in London entitled *Freedom and Belief and Freedom of Speech: Basic and Essential freedoms for Cults, Anti-Cult Groups and Cult Members*.

- A Great Ormond Street Hospital Lecture Series 'Faiths and Philosophies: Implications for Health Care', where she spoke about possible health implications of strongly held beliefs found in some minority religions.
- A Forum on Religion seminar, along with a colleague from the LSE's law department, Dr Andrew Scott. Both spoke on the topic of religion and law.
- And, along with a contact at Metropolitan Police Services' Counter Terrorism Command, she gave a talk about the kinds of cases for which we contact each other, profiling, and the problems with generalising.

Suzanne presented:

- 'Just How Nigh can the End Be? Some Sociological Thoughts on the Varieties of Apocalyptic Experience' at the Scientific and Medical Network Conference entitled 'Apocalyptic patterns of thought: 2012 and other prophecies' held at Holborn Bars, London. An audio recording of this talk is available here: <http://www.scimednet.org/apocalyptic-thought/>
- Met with representatives of Buddhist groups, told them about Inform, listed the types of enquiries and concerns raised by enquirers, and discussed any arising issues.

### **Inform's Visitors**

Visitors to the office included students using our resources, current and former members adding to our resources, and experts from other institutions seeking to share resources, findings, or looking for other ways to work together.

Visits from representatives of minority religions included:

- Representatives of the Pagan Federation
- Buddhist monks who were discussing their views of some other orders that have been controversial in the recent past
- Members of the International Association of Russian Religious Authors and Philosophers, also known as the New Cathars



*Members of the New Cathar Movement visiting the Inform Office*



Visits from researchers and academics included:

- A PhD student working on the history of Hizb-ut-Tahrir
- Raffaella di Marzio, the director of the Sects, Religion, and Spirituality Counselling Center in Rome, Italy.
- Lorne Dawson, a Canadian sociologist of religion based at the University of Waterloo.
- Lars Ahlin, from Aarhus University, along with 25 students.
- A delegation of social scientists from China

Visitors included:

- The Metropolitan Police Service's Deputy Assistant Commissioner Janet Williams
- Stuart Hoggan, The Department of Communities and Local Governments' deputy director of integration,
- Teams of experts from the Home Office, on two occasions
- A team from the Department for Education
- David Radlett, MP
- The Bishop of Norwich
- Lord Stone
- A member of the French police attached to the French embassy



*Eileen and the Bishop of  
Norwich, The Right  
Reverend Graham James*

## **Mail-outs**

At the start of the new academic year, as in previous years, we distributed information about Inform and our *Searching?* poster to chaplains and Student Union welfare officers in higher education institutions throughout Britain, as well as a new leaflet about extremism on campus. The *Searching?* poster (which can be downloaded from our website <http://www.inform.ac/node/11>) alerts students to potential problems and dangers related to new religious, spiritual and related groups and movements, encouraging the students to make informed decisions, and telling them where they might turn for information and help. The sample leaflet is provided as an example of the kind of information we provide.



Another method by which Inform alerts people to potential problems is through its “Travelling Abroad” information on the website, and to which there are links on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s website.<sup>1</sup>

## **Information Resources**

Throughout the year we have been adding to and updating Inform’s database. At the end of 2011 it held information on 4204 movements, groups and organisations, of which:

Old Religious Movements	168
19 <sup>th</sup> Century Sects	60
New Religious Movements	1894
Cult Watching Groups	222

Our general holdings also increased, and our Endnote bibliographic database now has a total of 15,905 entries located either at Inform or at Professor Barker’s house. (There are thousands more that have not yet been entered in Endnote.)

### *Bibliographic entries of literature held at Inform*

- 3092 books held at Inform
- 246 edited books at Inform
- 3712 journal articles at Inform
- 7648 entries total held at Inform

### *Bibliographic entries held by Professor Barker*

- 2987 books
- 433 edited books
- 1852 journal articles
- 4957 entries total

## **Research**

Staff have continued their research with the aim of remaining up-to-date with developments in the field.

Eileen’s visits included:

- The launch of the Hindu Christian Forum at Lambeth Palace.
- She visited Father John and his followers in Northern Spain, where they have a community that originated as the Russian Mother of God Derzhavnaya movement but now considers itself to be the continuation of the Cathar Church.
- She took part in an interfaith retreat held by the Brahma Kumaris.
- She attended two meetings with lawyers on subjects concerning religion and human rights.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/india> and <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=2035641>

- With sociologist Dr Susan Palmer and two members of the International Cultic Studies Association, she visited Bugarach, a small village in the Département de l'Aude, France, which has become a focus of EndTime prophecies, and spoke with some of the inhabitants.
- She paid several visits to the Dialogue Society, which is the UK branch of a world-wide Islamic movement inspired by the Turkish scholar Fethullah Gülen.
- She met with a number of current and former members of various religious movements including the Unification Church, The Family International, the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, the Kashi Ashram, Soka Gakkai International, Triratna, Falun Gong, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Exclusive Brethren, the Seventh-day Adventists, the Church of Scientology, various Pagan groups (most interestingly in Armenia), Transcendental Meditation, the True Buddha School, the Word of Life, the Messianic Community, Sahaja Yoga and a number of Buddhist groups, including Tzu Chi and the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Monastery, in Taiwan.
- She also attended meetings held by a variety of 'cult-watching groups' and interviewed many of their members.
- With Amanda, she attended the 'Journée de Travail' in Brussels, a closed roundtable discussion between 4 Cult Watching Groups (Centre d'information et d'avis sur les organisations sectaires nuisibles (CIAOSN) from Belgium, Centre intercantonal d'information sur les croyances (CIC) from Switzerland, Info-Secte from Canada, and Inform) and representatives from minority religions. This meeting was facilitated by CIAOSN, on the topic of the education and socialisation of minors within minority religions. The first meeting had been organised and facilitated by Inform (the topic of discussion was ageing), and the second meeting by CIC (where excommunication and shunning were discussed).

Amanda attended

- The Faith and the Big Society conference organised by the South East England Faiths Forum (SEEFF).
- An event organised by Government heads of the analytical professions, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the British Academy entitled *Engaging Academic Social Scientists in Government Policy Making and Delivery*.
- A talk by Brian Grim, Senior Researcher at The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, entitled *The Rising Restrictions on Religion*. This was hosted by the Henry Jackson Society at the House of Commons.
- A workshop held at University College London entitled *Atheism and Anthropology: Researching Atheism and Self-searching Belief and Experience*, sponsored by the European Association of Social Anthropologists and EASA Anthropology of Religion Network.
- The launch of a pamphlet *Right to Object? Conscientious Objection and Religious Conviction*, published by the British Humanist Association and hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group at Portcullis House.
- With Gita, a Radical Thinking event organised by the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) at University College London about extremism on campus.
- With Sarah, the Feminist Review Annual Public Lecture by Professor Linda Woodhead at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).
- With Sarah and Hannah, the lecture *Islam beyond the headlines* at Temple Church by Professor Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures at Harvard University.

Sarah attended:

- The Mind, Body and Spirit festival, which was held on 11/11, a date considered significant by some, and which began with a special opening ceremony.
- The Gender, Migration and Religion symposium organised by Middlesex University.
- With Sibyl, the Research Archives Group annual conference

Suzanne attended:

- The Krishna Janmashtami Festival at Bhaktivedanta Manor

Sibyl attended:

- The *Mediating Modesty: Fashioning Faithful Bodies* symposium at the London College of Fashion.
- A Research Archives Group event entitled “*On a Wing and a Prayer*”: *Managing the Small Repository* at Westminster College, Cambridge.
- With Laura, Dr Robert Lambert’s launch of *Countering Al Qaeda in London* at Chatham House – where he also gave a talk: *Partnering with the Muslim Community as an Effective CounterTerrorist Strategy*.
- A talk at Treadwell’s given by Raven Kaldera entitled *Paganism and Polyamory*.

Hannah attended:

- A talk at Treadwell’s bookshop given by Christina Oakley Harrington entitled *Paganism in Britain Today: Observations, Issues, Trends*.

Zoe attended:

- The FaithxChange Event 4: Faith, Young People and Higher Education.

Andrew Maguire, Inform’s Treasurer, attended:

- The Churches Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG) conference on Inform’s behalf.

## New leaflets

In July Inform received a grant from the Spalding Trust towards creating four new leaflets. Members of staff began research and will complete the leaflets in 2012.

In September Inform staff completed a new leaflet entitled *Extremism on Campus* to include in the mail-out to University Chaplains and Student Unions. The leaflet can be downloaded from <http://www.inform.ac/node/8>.

## Inform Publications

Sarah and Suzanne have had a proposal accepted by the editorial board of the Ashgate-Inform Series on Minority Religions and Spiritual Movements for a volume entitled *Prophecy in the New Millennium: When Prophecies Persist*. The projected publication date for this volume is late 2012.

Other volumes underway in the series include *Intentional Communities* edited by Timothy Miller; *Minority Religions and the Law* edited by François Bellanger; *New Religions in the Islamic Tradition* edited by Marat Shterin; *African New Religions in the West* edited by Afe Adogame; *Global*

*Transnational Service Movements Rooted in Religious Traditions*, edited by Stephen M. Cherry and Helen Rose Ebaugh; *State Responses to Minority Religions* edited by David Kirkham and Cole Durham; and *Revisionism and Diversification in New Religions* edited by Eileen Barker.

### **Publications by Inform Staff and Governors during 2011**

#### Eileen Barker

"Stepping out of the Ivory Tower: A Sociological Engagement in 'The Cult Wars'", *Methodological Innovations Online* 2011, 6(1): 18-39. [http://www.pbs.plym.ac.uk/mi/pdf/09-06-11/6.%20Article%20-%20Barker%2018-40%20\(proofed\).pdf2011](http://www.pbs.plym.ac.uk/mi/pdf/09-06-11/6.%20Article%20-%20Barker%2018-40%20(proofed).pdf2011) - <http://www.pbs.plym.ac.uk/mi/viewissue.html> then click Eileen Barker pdf.

"Religion in China: Some Introductory Notes for the Intrepid Western Scholar" in Fenggang Yang and Graeme Lang (eds) *Social Scientific Studies of Religion in China: Methodology, Theories, and Findings*, Leiden & Boston: Brill, pp. 109-132. [http://ebooks.brillonline.nl/book?id=nij9789004182462\\_nij9789004182462\\_i-312](http://ebooks.brillonline.nl/book?id=nij9789004182462_nij9789004182462_i-312)

(with Katherine Meyer, Helen Rose Ebaugh and Mark Juergensmeyer) "Religion in Global Perspective", *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 50(2): 240-251. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-5906.2011.01565.x/pdf>

"Misconceptions of the Religious 'Other': The Importance for Human Rights of Objective and Balanced Knowledge." in *New Religiosity*, edited by Michaela Moravčiková and Katarína Nádaská. Bratislava: Institute for State-Church Relations (Ustav pre vzťahy štátu a cirkví), 2011: 9-48.

"Inform: A British Cult-Watching Group" in *Quelle Régulation pour les Nouveaux Mouvements Religieux et des Dérives Sectaires dans l'Union Européenne*, edited by Nathalie Luca, Aix-en-Provence: Presses Universitaires d'Aix-Marseille, pp. 123-139.

"The Cult as a Social Problem." in *Religion and Social Problems*, edited by Titus Hjelm. New York & London: Routledge. Pp. 198-212.

"Where Have All the Cults Gone?" *Church Times* 1 April, page 13.

#### James Beckford

"Religious diversity and social problems: the case of Britain", pp. 53-66 in Titus Hjelm (ed.) *Religion and Social Problems*. London: Routledge. <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415800563/>

"Les aumôniers de prison: une introduction au dossier", *Archives de sciences sociales des religions* (153): 11-21.

"Religion in prisons and in partnership with the state", pp. 43-64 in Jack Barbalet, Adam Possamai and Bryan S. Turner (eds) *Religion and the State. A Comparative Sociology*. London: Anthem Press. <http://www.anthempress.com/index.php/religion-and-the-state.html>

#### Abby Day

*Believing in Belonging: Belief and Social Identity in the Modern World*. Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press

#### Marat Shterin

Guest editor of the special double issue of the *Journal of Religion, State and Society*, vol. 39, No 2-3, June-September.

(with Basia Spalek) "Introduction: Muslim Young People in UK and Russia: the intersections of faith, biography, and society" in the *Journal of Religion, State, and Society*, vol. 39, No 2-3, June-September. pp. 145–154,

(with Akhmet Yarlykapov) "Reconsidering Radicalisation and Terrorism: the New Muslims Movement in Kabardino-Balkaria and Its Path to Violence", *Journal of Religion, State, and Society*, Vol. 39, No 2/3, June – September, pp. 89 – 113.

<http://www.radicalisationresearch.org/tags/religion-state-and-society-special-issue/>

(with Suzanne Newcombe) "Religious intolerance and discrimination in the United Kingdom", *Religion – Staat – Gesellschaft*, vol. 2, pp.78-97.

#### Suzanne Newcombe

(with Marat Shterin) "United Kingdom" in *Religious Intolerance and Discrimination in selected European Countries - Part II. Religion - Staat - Gesellschaft: Journal for the Study of Beliefs and Worldviews* 12(1): p. 29-52.

Review of *Yoga in Modern Society* by Vernea Schnabele in *The Journal of Contemporary Religion* 26(3): 518-19.

#### Sarah Harvey

Review of *Talking with the Children of God: Prophecy and Transformation in a Radical Religious Group*. By Gordon Shepherd and Gary Shepherd. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Vol 50, issue 1, p. 212-214.

### Seminars

The Spring Seminar, entitled *African New Religions in the West* (May 2011) was attended by over 70 people. (See Appendix II for the programme)



*Panel of Speakers  
at the African New  
Religions Seminar,  
from left to right:  
Dominic Pasura;  
Afe Adogame;  
Israel Olofinjana;  
Laura Premack;  
Bettina Schmidt;  
Garnet Parris and  
John Omolafe*

The Autumn Seminar was entitled *Legal Cases Involving Minority Religions* (December 2011), and was attended by over 100 people. (See Appendix III for the programme).



*François Bellanger  
delivering a talk at  
the Legal Cases  
Seminar*

For both events, the papers are currently being collected and edited for publication as part of the Ashgate-Inform Series on Minority Religions and Spiritual Movements (<http://www.ashgatepublishing.com/default.aspx?page=4188>).

## The Future

Work will continue on Inform's database, publications, and website, which will enable more of Inform's material to become publicly available.

The forthcoming Spring Seminar in 2012 is *Prophecy in the New Millennium: when Prophecies Persist*, which will be followed with a book on the same topic within the new Inform-Ashgate Series on Minority Religions, edited by Sarah Harvey and Dr Suzanne Newcombe. The Autumn Seminar will be on the theme of revisionism in minority religions, and will be followed with a book edited by Professor Eileen Barker. Meanwhile, work will continue on several other books in the Inform-Ashgate series.

In addition to disseminating further information through talks and publications in journals and edited books, Inform has further leaflets on particular movements and issues in the planning stage.

Inform will, of course, maintain its commitment to its principal objective of helping enquirers by providing information that is as reliable and up-to-date as possible, and it welcomes receiving enquiries, information and suggestions from all sources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eileen Barker'.

*Eileen Barker  
May 2012*

## Appendix I

### **Patrons**

The Right Reverend Graham James, Lord Bishop of Norwich (Church of England)  
The Reverend Michael Heaney, The Moderator of The Free Churches Group  
Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia (Greek Orthodox Church)  
Bishop Paul Hendricks (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark)  
Professor Lord Desai of St Clement Danes  
Lord Ahmed of Rotherham  
Baroness Sally Greengross of Notting Hill

### **Board of Governors**

Professor Eileen Barker, PhD, OBE, FBA (Chair); *Department of Sociology, London School of Economics*  
Professor James Beckford, PhD, FBA (Vice-Chair); *Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Nominee of the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group*  
Abby Day, PhD; *Senior Research Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, University of Kent, Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Geography, University of Sussex.*  
The Reverend Canon Dr Giles Fraser; *Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral*  
The Reverend Dr Philip Knights; *Nominee of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster*  
The Reverend Andrew Maguire, MA, BD (Treasurer); *Nominee of the Free Churches Group, Superintendent Minister of the North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit*  
Professor J. D. Y. Peel, PhD, FBA; *Department of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies*  
Dr Marat Shterin, PhD; *Department of Religious Studies, King's College London*  
Dr Damian Thompson, PhD; *author and leader writer, Daily Telegraph and Catholic Herald*  
Dr Robert Towler, PhD; *Former Head of Research, Independent Television Commission*  
The Reverend Alan Walker MA, MTh, LL.M.; *Parish Priest*

*Observer: Dr Anne Richards, D.Phil, Mission Theological Advisor, Archbishops' Council of the Church of England*

### **Management Committee**

Professor Eileen Barker, PhD, OBE, FBA  
Professor James Beckford, PhD, FBA (Chair)  
The Reverend Andrew Maguire, MA, BD

### **Staff**

Honorary Director: Professor Eileen Barker, PhD, OBE, FBA  
Deputy Director: Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist, PhD  
Research Officer: Suzanne Newcombe, PhD  
Research Officer: Sarah Harvey, BA, MSc  
Assistant Research Officer: Silke Steidinger, BA, MSc  
Administration Officer, Assistant Research Officer: Sibyl Macfarlane, BA, MA

Honorary Research Fellow: Professor Jean La Fontaine, PhD  
University Liaison Officer: Marat Shterin, PhD



## Appendix II

### INFORM Seminar XLVII

## African New Religions in the West

London School of Economics, Saturday 14 May 2011

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/mapsAndDirections/howToGetToLSE.htm>

**To register:** post cheque to Inform, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE. ([Inform@lse.ac.uk](mailto:Inform@lse.ac.uk); 020 7955 7654).

**Tickets** (including buffet lunch, coffee and tea) paid **by 1 May 2011** cost **£38** each (£20 students/unwaged).

NB, Tickets booked **after 1 May 2011** will cost **£48** each (£28 students/unwaged).

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|---------------|--|
| 09.30 – 10.00 | <b>Registration and refreshments</b>   |
| 10.00 – 10.10 | <b>Professor Eileen Barker</b> (LSE; Chair & Honorary Director, Inform)<br><i>Welcome and introductions</i>  |
| 10.10 – 10.35 | <b>Dr. Afe Adogame</b> (University of Edinburgh, UK)<br><i>The Public Face of African NRMs in the West</i>   |
| 10.35 – 11.00 | <b>Dr. Abel Ugba</b> (University of East London, UK)<br><i>Representation and self-representation of African-led churches in the UK</i>  |
| 11.00 – 11.25 | <b>Coffee</b>  |
| 11.25 – 11.50 | <b>Dr. Bettina E. Schmidt</b> (University of Wales Trinity Saint David, UK)<br><i>The Discourse about 'Africa' in Candomblé communities in Brazil: How Afro-Brazilian religions create African space</i> |
| 11.50 – 12.15 | <b>Ms. Laura Premack</b> (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA)<br><i>'The Coca-Cola of Churches Arrives': Nigeria's Redeemed Christian Church of God in Brazil</i>                          |
| 12.15 – 12.50 | <b>Group Discussions</b>   |
| 12.50 – 13.50 | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 13.50 – 14.15 | <b>Rev. Israel Oluwole Olofinjana</b> (Crofton Park Baptist Church, London)<br><i>Nigerian Pentecostals in Britain: Towards Prosperity or Consumerism?</i>   |
| 14.15 – 14.40 | <b>Pastor Festus Olatunde</b> (Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries)<br><i>Poverty alleviation strategies in Mountain of Fire of and Miracle Ministries, Edinburgh</i>                               |
| 14.40 – 15.05 | <b>Dr. Rev. John Omolafe</b> (New Covenant Church, London, UK)<br><i>Dynamics of Local Partnership between British churches and African-led Pentecostal churches in London</i>                           |
| 15.05 – 15.30 | <b>Rev. Dr. Garnet Parris</b> (University of Birmingham, UK)<br><i>The Myth of Reverse Mission</i>   |
| 15.30 – 15.55 | <b>Tea</b>   |
| 15.55 – 16.20 | <b>Dr. Dominic Pasura</b> (University of Huddersfield, UK)<br><i>Constructing transnational religious identities among Zimbabweans in Britain</i>  |
| 16.20 – 16.50 | <b>Panel Discussion</b>  |

## Appendix III

### INFORM Seminar XLVIII

## Legal cases involving Minority Religions

London School of Economics, Saturday 3 December 2011

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/mapsAndDirections/howToGetToLSE.htm>

**To register:** post cheque to Inform, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE. (Inform@lse.ac.uk; 020 7955 7654).

**Tickets** (including buffet lunch, coffee and tea) paid **by 7 November 2011** cost **£38** each (£18 students/unwaged).

NB, Tickets booked **after 7 November 2011** will cost **£48** each (£28 students/unwaged).

- 9.30 - 10.00: Registration
- 10.00 - 10.10: Welcome and Introduction
- 10.10 - 10.35: **Eileen Barker** (Professor, LSE; Chair & Honorary Director, Inform)  
*"One Law for All?"*
- 10.35 - 11.00: **Paul Tweed** (Senior Partner, Johnsons Law)  
*"Scientology and the Media"*
- 11.00 - 11.25: **Coffee**
- 11.25 - 11.50: **Richard Daniel** (Barrister)  
*"Legal Cases Involving Jehovah's Witnesses"*
- 11.50 - 12.15: **Philip Katz** QC (Barrister and Head of Chambers, 9-12 Bell Yard)  
*"What is the Price of Confidentiality? What happens if you get involved in crime..."*
- 12.15 - 12.50: **Group Discussions**
- 12.50 - 13.50: **Lunch**
- 13.50 - 14.15: **Hardeep Singh** (Freelance Writer) & **Henry Spooner** (Barrister)  
*"Religious Libel: Are Courts the Right Place for Faith Disputes?"*
- 14.15 - 14.40: **Andrew Scott** (Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, London School of Economics and Political Science) &  
**Alastair Mullis** (Professor, University of East Anglia)  
*"Establishing Truths?: The Interplay between Libel and Religion"*
- 14.40 - 15.05: **Julie Macfarlane** (Professor of Law, University of Windsor & Professor of Practice, Kroc Institute for International Peacebuilding, University of Notre Dame)  
*"Shari'a Law, Coming to a Courthouse Near You? Legal Issues for Muslims in North America"*
- 15.05 - 15.30: **Tea**
- 15.30 - 15.55: **Henri de Cordes** (President of the Centre for Information and Advice on Harmful Sectarian Organizations)  
*"Luong Minh Dang : when chakra opening leads to a Belgian criminal court"*
- 15.55 - 16.20: **François Bellanger** (President of the Information Centre on Beliefs in Geneva)  
*"Legal Cases Involving Minority Religions"*
- 16.20 - 16.50: **Panel Discussion**