

Information Network on Religious Movements



Annual Report

April 2014 – March 2015

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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 this period Inform continued to fulfil its charitable objectives by helping enquirers by providing information that was as reliable and up-to-date as possible about minority religions. Enquirers included the UK government, academics, the media, church networks and chaplains, relatives of members, members and former members of groups, students and other members of the general public, from the UK as well as other countries. Staff also spent considerable time keeping the database and website up to date. We intend to post more information on the website in 2015/2016, including some of the Inform leaflets.

In late March 2014 at a meeting between Inform staff and the LSE accommodation manager the possibility was raised that the ongoing building work at the School would result in Inform having to move from its office space in Tower 2 as departments and institutes were shuffled to make space. After a period of uncertainty it was decided to create a new office space within the LSE's library building. On 19th January 2015 the staff moved into the new office in the Lionel Robbins Building.

We have established a programme of monthly meetings with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The office prepares a 'horizon scanning' document for the meeting containing a mixture of news about developments amongst NRMs and significant activities undertaken by Inform staff. The meetings have been welcomed by the Faith Engagement team leader. A representative from the Department for Education now also attends.

Governors and Patrons



Canon Ralph Godsall

During the reporting period one new member joined Inform's Board of Governors. The Reverend Canon Ralph Godsall is a nominee of the Church of England and is Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey and Canon Emeritus of Rochester. Dr Abby Day left the board in September 2014; she joined Inform's Advisory Panel.

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. Under the guidance of the Treasurer, the Reverend Andrew Maguire, Inform's annual accounts were presented to Knox Cropper for auditing and, following approval by Inform's Governors at the Annual General Meeting, were submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House.



Inform's Management Committee – Eileen Barker, Andrew Maguire and James Beckford

For a full list of Governors and Patrons and the membership of the Management Committee, see Appendix I.

Staff

In September 2014 Adviya Khan, an Assistant Research Officer, left Inform. The Management Committee decided not to appoint a replacement until Inform's funding position had been secured. Sarah Harvey took maternity leave between May 2014 and March 2015.

The core of Inform's staff remained: Nick Parke (Director) (full-time), Dr Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist (Deputy Director) (full-time), Sarah Harvey (Research Officer) (part-time), Dr Suzanne Newcombe (Research Officer) (part-time), Silke Steidinger (Assistant Research Officer) (part-time), and Sibyl Macfarlane (Administration Officer and Assistant Research Officer) (full-time).



Nick Parke & Professor Jean La Fontaine

In addition, Inform has three Honorary Research Fellows: Professor Eileen Barker, Professor Jean La Fontaine and Dr Bernard Doherty.

Inform has had eight student placements during the period in question. Tara Schwenk, a postgraduate student in LSE's anthropology department, started work in the office one day a week in October 2013 finishing in September 2014. Emily Byron, a Masters student at King's College London, worked two days a week from February to August 2014. Read Ezelle, another

Master's student at King's, worked as a student placement from February until July 2014. Cordelia Ruck, a post-A level student, worked as a student placement for two weeks in July 2014. Alexandra Dignan, an undergraduate at Downing College, Cambridge, worked three days a week in the office from August until October. She returned to work five days a week during a fortnight in January 2015. Jessica McCarthy, a Master's student at King's College London, has been working one day a week in the office from October 2014. Jasmiina Kauriola, a final year undergraduate student at King's College London, has been working one day a week in the office since November 2014. Martyn Venskutonis, an undergraduate at King's College London, has been working one day a week in the office since November 2014.

Aside from their main tasks, some staff undertook related work outside their Inform hours.

Suzanne continued in her roles as Commissioning Editor for the Indian Traditions section of the journal *Religion Compass*, and Book Reviews Editor for the journal *Religions of South Asia*. She also continued teaching as an Associate Lecturer for the Open University in London, teaching a third-year undergraduate course entitled 'Why is Religion Controversial?', as well as moderating the national student online forum in relation to this course and marking exams. She is also one of the website managers for <http://modernyogaresearch.org/> and acted as a peer reviewer for *Religion in Contemporary Society* and two post-doctoral grant applications.

In December 2014, Suzanne was notified that she was part of a successful bid for a European Research Council Horizon 2020 project, Ayuryog (<http://www.ayuryog.org/>), which will look at 1,000 years of overlap between traditions of yoga, ayurveda and rasaśāstra (Indian alchemy and iatrochemistry). Starting 1 June 2015, Suzanne will work for 2 days each week on the project for 5 years.

Silke finished a four-year clinical training course at The Bowlby Centre in July 2014 and qualified as an attachment-based psychoanalytic psychotherapist with the UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) in November 2014. She now works part-time in an NHS personality disorders service as a psychotherapist offering group and individual MBT (Mentalization Based Therapy), as well as having a small private practice.

Sarah continued to work on her PhD, provisionally entitled '*A Nicer Birth: Negotiating the Ideal and the Practical in Natural Birth Practices*', in the Department of Religious Studies, University of Kent.

Enquiries

As usual, Inform received a wide 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 could be responded to relatively swiftly (sometimes taking less than an hour to answer), whilst others required in-depth analysis, research, and contextualisation (which may entail several days' or even weeks' work). Some enquirers were seeking therapy or counselling and in such cases the staff tried to help so far as they could, but Inform policy has always been clear that it does not engage in counselling. However, those seeking therapy or counselling were put in touch with some organisations or professionals on our network who could help them find someone with accredited professional training. As ever, all enquiries were treated in the strictest confidence (for Inform's Confidentiality and Ethical Policy, see <http://inform.ac/node/4>).

In the period April 2014 to March 2015, Inform dealt with 305 enquiries concerning some 83 different groups, including 10 enquiries about groups that we classified as 'unknown' – either we had too little information to classify them accurately, or we were awaiting more information. These are now being researched and classified. There were also 49 enquiries about general themes/topics. The number of enquiries received about a particular group is merely a statistic relating to which groups are generating the most enquiries; it does not indicate either negative or positive evaluations.

The groups most enquired about were:

New Kadampa Tradition	57
Scientology	10
Jesus Christians	7
School of Economic Science	5
ISKCON	5
Christian Revival Church London	4
Unification Church	4
Jehovah's Witnesses	4

Enquiries came mainly from:

Ex-members	44
Government bodies	43

Media	37
Church network/chaplains	34
Other / don't know	30
Current members	24
Students	22
Relatives and friends	20
General public	20
Academics/writers	18

Enquiries were also received from education institutions (7), counsellors and therapists (3) and advice agencies (2). Three enquiries came from people who wished to remain anonymous.

Government enquiries could be further broken down: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (8), Department for Education (6), Police (9), Home Office (3), and local government (4). Of the 37 media enquiries, 7 were from the BBC.

Enquiries from abroad came from 22 different countries: 12 from the USA; four from Slovakia, three from Australia, France and Germany; two each from Mexico and Switzerland; and one each from Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, India, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

Of all enquirers, 120 had enquired before on another matter or on the same matter but had got back in touch with new developments. The majority, 185, had not previously contacted Inform.

Speaking engagements undertaken by Inform staff

Eileen gave a number of keynote talks and lectures at universities and conferences in Britain and overseas. She attended the annual conference of ISORECEA (International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association), of which she is the Honorary President, in Kaunas, Lithuania, and gave a key note address entitled '*Diversification Among New Religious Movements*'. Eileen also gave a series of four 20-minute talks on new religions for the Tony Blair Faith Foundation. At the annual CESNUR conference in Waco, Texas, she gave the Opening lecture entitled '*Here, There or Everywhere? Who Cares and How?*'. At the annual International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) meeting in Washington DC, she gave a talk about '*Protection, Prevention and/or Post Facto Penalty? Government Attitudes to Minority Religions*'; and took part in a Family Workshop on '*Building Bridges*'. At the International Sociological Association convention in Japan, her paper was entitled '*Which Tradition Shall I Reject? The dilemma of second generation members of new religious movements*'. She also gave a talk at a seminar specially convened to discuss her work with professors from Tokyo University and other institutions of higher education.



Eileen speaking at the 2014 CESNUR conference

Her talk at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion conference in Indianapolis was entitled '*A Bridge Too Far? Cults, Anti-Cultists and Scholars of Religion*'. A paper given at a

conference in Bratislava was *'Do What Thou Wilt Shall be the Whole of the Law'*. Her keynote lecture in Olomouc University in the Czech Republic was *'Minority Religions and their Migration In and Out of Britain'*. She gave two talks to the International Association of Religion Journalists on *'The Changing Face of Religion in Europe'* and *'Resources for Religion Writers'*. A talk at the University of Durham was entitled *'The Lord Provides in Many Ways: Diverse Approaches to religious Economies in Contemporary Britain'*.

Eileen was invited to Israel, where some academics had been concerned about a draft law aimed at minority religions, to speak at a seminar and take part in a workshop attended by representatives of the Ministry of Welfare, social workers, some 'anti-cultists', and scholars. She also gave a talk at Ben Gurion University.

A talk at the European Institute in Florence was entitled *'Freedom for me and, perhaps, for you – but surely not for them?'* Further talks included one on *'Diversity in Modern Britain'* at Barton Peveril College; another entitled *'They Do it for God'* to the Council for Christians and Jews; one at a dining club, 'the Confreres', at the Goring Hotel on *'Where have all the cults gone?'*

Eileen also took part in a few radio broadcasts, was interviewed for the Open University and subjected to a *'Gearty Grilling'* by one of Inform's Governors, Professor Conor Gearty - <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/ipa/2014/10/09/gearty-grillings-episode-12-eileen-barker-on-cults/>

Amanda and Nick gave several presentations about the work of Inform to various government departments throughout the year. Presentations were given to the Department for Education, the DCLG, the Home Office and other departments both at their offices and the LSE.

In June, Amanda, Suzanne and Adviya gave a highly successful talk on the main religious traditions in the UK at the Department for Education in London. Suzanne and Adviya also repeated the presentation for Department of Education staff in Sheffield in July.

In August, Suzanne appeared on the BBC World News TV show IMPACT (South Asian Television) to discuss the Church of Almighty God / Eastern Lightning. In February, Suzanne was interviewed live on the subject of yoga in church halls for around eight local BBC radio stations.

Amanda attended the British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group conference in July, where she gave a talk on conspiracy beliefs, entitled *'Trust me, you can't trust them'*.

Amanda attended the BASR conference in September, where she joined a round-table debate on the insider / outsider problem in ethnography. These talks have been collected for publication. Amanda gave a talk entitled *'From brainwashing to radicalisation – what have we been talking about?'* at a seminar on religion and the media at Goldsmiths College entitled *'Misrepresenting Faith: Media Crises, Controversies and Conspiracies'*. She also spoke at a conference at Goldsmiths University entitled *'Seriously Possessed'*, about beliefs in possession. She also spoke at a postgraduate research seminar at King's College London about her research on children who have been raised on the religious fringe.

Nick spoke on the role of Inform to an audience of Special Branch officers from around the UK at a conference organised by the National Domestic Extremism and Disorder

Intelligence Unit. The talk generated a lot of interest and requests for contact details. Contact was also made with staff from Research Information and Communication Unit (RICU) at the Home Office, who wished to collaborate with Inform on the subject of radicalisation.

Sibyl and Nick gave a talk on food and the main faith traditions at the Department for Education.

Suzanne and Adviya gave talks about Inform and new religious movements to the Upper Sixth Form girls at St Mary's School, Ascot and at St Bonaventure's School and St. Marylebone School in London. Suzanne returned to St Mary's School, Ascot for a further talk in January 2015.

Inform's visitors

Visitors to the office included students, government officials and members of the media; current and former members of groups, and experts from other institutions. In most cases they were seeking to add to our resources, share our knowledge, or exploring other ways to work together.

Visitors from both government and other official bodies in the UK and overseas included:

- Staff from the Department of Education to discuss religious/spiritual groups and proposed Free Schools
- A team from the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism at the Home Office
- Members of different Metropolitan Police departments
- Several meetings with teams from the DCLG
- Staff from the Valuation Office Agency
- Members of the Central Tibetan Administration
- An employee of the Chinese Embassy in London
- Employees of the Ministry of Justice in Kazakhstan.

Visits from researchers and academics included:

- Professors from King's College London and Kingston and Brunel Universities
- A Sikh journalist and author
- Various academic staff from The London School of Economics
- Two PhD students from Cambridge
- An investigative therapist researching service provision for those leaving NRMs
- A PhD student from Nottingham University studying Falun Gong
- A writer and expert on the Islamic State.

Visits from members of, or former members of, minority religions included:

- Former members of the New Kadampa Tradition
- Former members of the Unification Church
- Current members of the Twelve Tribes
- Both current and former members of the Church of Scientology
- A former member of the Church Universal and Triumphant.

Other notable visitors included:

- Various people from the legal profession
- An employee of the Department of Religious Affairs of the government of Estonia.

- Senior managers from the London School of Economics
- A social worker dealing with child safeguarding issues
- A staff from a company making a television programme about NRMs.

Mail-out

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 all higher education institutions throughout Britain. 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.

Information resources

Throughout the year we added to and updated Inform's database. By the end of March 2015, our electronic database held information on 4,768 movements, groups and organisations; 134 new groups were added to the database during the period covered by this report, and countless others were updated by Inform staff and students during their placement with Inform.

Our library has also increased and, by the end of March 2015, our Endnote bibliographic database has a total of 20,682 entries, 8,814 of which are entries of publications located at Inform, including 3,742 books, 278 edited books and 4,118 journal articles. 5,377 entries refer to publications among those located at Professor Barker's house, including 3,118 books, 457 edited books and 2,141 journal articles. (There are thousands more books and articles that have not yet been entered in Endnote.)

Research

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



Eileen visiting the Bhaktivedanta Manor with Swedish Colleagues

Eileen's research in the UK involved numerous visits and interviews with members and former members (both first-generation converts and second and third-generation children and adults born into numerous religious groups), including (in no particular order) the Unification Church; the Church Universal and Triumphant; the Church of Scientology; the Brahma Kumaris; the International Society of Krishna Consciousness; the Anthroposophical village, Kfar Raffael; Christian Science; the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons); the Ahmadiyya community; the Plymouth Brethren Christian Community; a

Neo-Mennonite Community; the Messianic Community; a Messianic Jewish community in Israel; the Hizmet (Gülen) movement and various categories of Pagans.

She also interviewed other participants in the 'cult scene', including members of the so-called 'anti-cult movement'; therapists; lawyers (for the Unification Church in the USA, and, in Japan, litigating against the Unification Church). Also, whilst in Japan she visited and interviewed members of three very different Buddhist groups: Soka Gakkai International; Pure Land Buddhism; and Hikari No Wa, an offshoot of Aum Shinrikyo, founded (after he had left prison following his internment for his role in the release of sarin gas in the Tokyo underground) by Asahara's public relations manager, Joyu Fumihiko, with whom Eileen spent an evening just outside Tokyo. She also spent two days at the communal home of The Family International (previously known as the Children of God) in Tateyama, Chiba Province. When she had last stayed there about ten years ago, there were about 200 residents; this time there were less than a dozen.

Eileen attended lectures concerning issues connected with minority religions that were organised by RAPT (the Research Associate Religion and Political Theory Centre); the Westminster Faith Debates; the Scientific and Medical Network; the Royal Anthropological Society; the Soul of Europe; the Conway Hall Ethical Society; a meeting at the House of Lords concerning the Chinese 'harvesting' organs from prisoners; a talk by a Scientologist about the danger of drugs in a local state school. She also met with officials in Israel, Estonia and Belgium and interviewed Dr Michael Langone (Executive Director of the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) for The World Religions & Spirituality Project (WRSP) - <http://www.wrs.vcu.edu/FORUM/WRSPFORUMINTERVIEWS.html>).

In her role as Chair of Inform's Board of Governors, Eileen attended several meetings of 'Charity Chairs' organised by the Charity Commission.

Amanda attended:

- An event titled '*Scientology, Religion and Cults*' at the University of East Anglia
- An event called '*Religious Power: Risk and Regulation*' at the House of Commons, where debates focused on child abuse, religious incitement, and human rights.
- A talk hosted by the Fortean Society
- The British Sociological Association's sociology of religion study group (SocRel) conference
- Amanda and Adviya attended a talk by Professor Elizabeth Loftus at Goldsmiths about the consequences false memories can have for people, entitled '*The Memory Factory*'.
- Amanda, Suzanne and Nick attended an event entitled '*Getting Religion: Challenging religious illiteracy in a time of global uncertainty*'; a joint Lapido Media and Open University consultation, supported by the Research Councils UK Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research in January
- Amanda and Nick subsequently attended an additional event on the subject of Professor John Wolffe's report, '*Religion, Security and Global Uncertainties*'. The report is connected with the Research Council UK Global Uncertainties Programme.
- Amanda and Nick attended a conference hosted by Project Violet on faith-based child abuse, and the launch of the '*Consequences for Children Accused of Witchcraft and/or Spirit Possession*' Professionals DVD
- Amanda and Nick attended a conference at the Temple on the subject of Magna Carta and Religious Freedom.
- Amanda and Nick attended events at Portcullis House and the Open University as part of the Global Uncertainties programme.
- Amanda and Nick visited Norwich to interview a former member of a new religious movement
- Amanda and Nick met the then Minister for Faith, Baroness Warsi

- Amanda and Alexandra Dignan attended a book launch for *The Dark Net* by Jamie Bartlett at Demos
- Amanda and Nick attended a meeting with the Research Information and Communications Unit at the Home Office.
- Eileen and Amanda attended a meeting in Geneva with CIC / CIAOSN / Info-Secte and Inform, comparing our methodologies archiving / categorisation systems.

Nick attended:

- Westminster Faith Debates in March and May.
- A press conference on the subject of 'Undue Influence'.
- A meeting with senior staff at the Tony Blair Faith Foundation
- Meetings with a member of the Security Service
- Meetings with a member of a government vetting agency
- Meetings with various members of the National Domestic Extremism and Disorder Intelligence Unit and also members of the MPS Counter Terrorism Command
- Meetings with staff from the National Community Tension Team
- A workshop sponsored by the ESRC to discuss the establishment of an academic research centre focused on the study of themes linked to terrorism and extremism.
- A lunch with the director of the Inter Faith Network
- A meeting of the Democracy Forum on the subject of radicalisation
- Suzanne and Nick attended an event at Church House to discuss NRMs and the Church of England.

Suzanne attended:

- A seminar on The Place for Humanism in Religious Education at the Conway Hall
- A panel discussion on - '*The Shugden Controversy and the 14th Dalai Lama*' at SOAS in August
- A British Academy event focusing on funding research entitled '*Pushing the boundaries: Early Career Research and Interdisciplinarity*' in September
- A Roundtable Discussion on '*Youth, Education and Sense of Belonging in a Diverse Britain*' at the Dialogue Society in London during November
- Three drop-in public introductory meditation sessions held by the NKT in North London during the autumn of 2014
- An All Faiths Network Meeting at Church House entitled '*Who is My Neighbour?: A Multifaith Response to Critical Issues for the General Election*' in March
- A meeting with the chief executive of the Religious Education Council.



Suzanne speaking at the February 2015 seminar

Sibyl attended:

- A talk with Eileen at Conway Hall by Nate Phelps, a former member of the Westboro Baptist Church.
- A lecture at Conway Hall entitled '*God in the Lab: The Science of Religious Belief*'
- Sibyl and Silke attended a talk at Goldsmiths on the subject of Carol Felstead and the creation of a satanic myth.

Silke attended:

- An event on vampires held by the Central London Humanist Group, entitled '*Things that go bump in the night*'
- A conference on spirit possession held by BME Mental Health
- A lecture at the War Studies Department at King's College given by Hassan Hassan, entitled '*ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror*'.

Adviya attended:

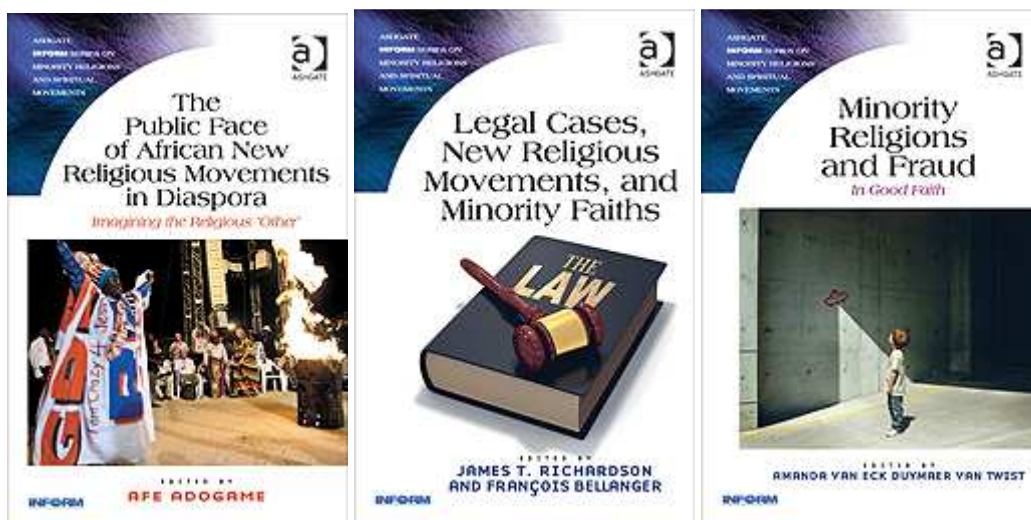
- A Researching Religion event at the LSE Faith Centre
- A conference in Cambridge on the subject of Muslims in the UK.

New Leaflets

During the period covered by this report, staff members updated a number of leaflets, including: the School of Economic Science and Sathya Sai Baba. Staff have been working on leaflets about traditional religions, which provide a background contextualisation for enquirers seeking information about NRMs that have developed out of them. Leaflets on Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity have been completed. Leaflets have also been completed on the subjects of Mindfulness and the Kabbalah Centre.

Sibyl has also produced a new format brochure explaining Inform's purpose and the services that we offer.

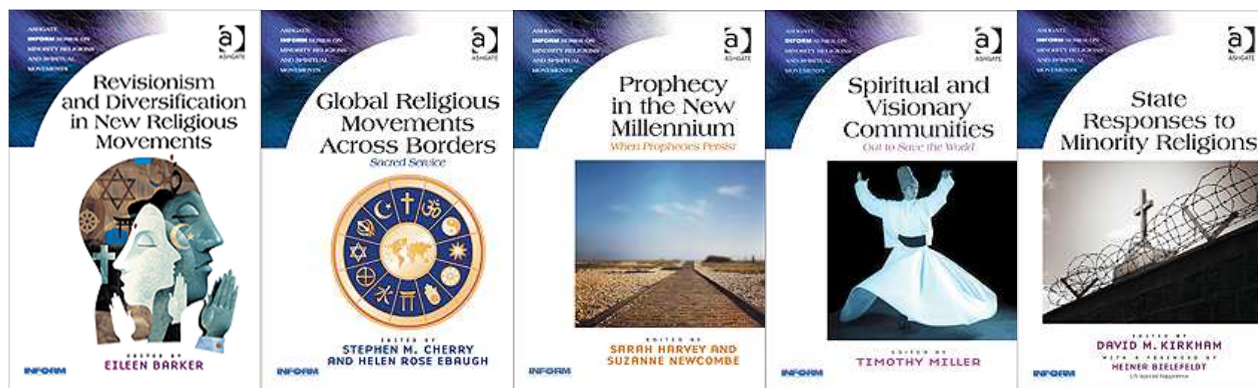
Ashgate / Inform series in 2014 - 15



Newly published volumes in the Ashgate / Inform series are: *Legal Cases, New Religious Movements and Minority Faiths* edited by Professor James T. Richardson and Professor

François Bellanger; *The Public Face of African New Religious Movements in Diaspora* edited by Dr Afe Adogame and *Minority Religions and Fraud* edited by Dr Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist.

This brings the number of volumes published in the series up to eight with the first five being:



Sarah is co-editing with Dr Hamish Cameron an edition on new religious movements and counselling. An edition is in preparation stemming from Inform's spring seminar: *Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?* edited by Professor Kim Knott and Dr Matthew Francis. A publication from the December 2014 seminar: *Minority Religions and Schooling* is being planned by Suzanne and Amanda. Carole Cusack and Pavol Kosnáč are editing *Fiction, Invention and Hyper-Reality: From Popular Culture to Religion*. Eugene Gallagher is editing two books from the Anniversary Conference on *The "Cult Wars" in Historical Perspective* and *New and Minority Religions: Projecting the Future*; and George Chryssides is editing a volume on *Minority Religions in Europe and the Middle East: Mapping and Monitoring*.

Publications by Inform staff and governors during 2014-2015

Eileen Barker

- 'New Religious Movements'. In: James D. Wright (editor-in-chief), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, Vol 16. Oxford: Elsevier, pp. 805–808.
- 'The Not-So-New Religious Movements: Changes in 'the Cult Scene' over the Past Forty Years.' *Temenos* Vol. 50 No. 2: 235–56. <http://ojs.tsv.fi/index.php/temenos>
- 'New Religious Movements in the West: The Xu Yun Lecture', Peking University, *World Religions Reviews*, 2014: 8. Pp. 122-160. (In Chinese).
- 'Ageing in New Religions: The Varieties of Later Experiences' (translated into Japanese) in *Gendai Shukyo (Religions in the Contemporary World)*, January. (Originally published in *Diskus* Volume 12 (2011): 1-23 http://basr.ac.uk/diskus_old/diskus12/Barker.pdf)
- 'Uscire dalla Torre d'Avorio: un impegno sociologico nella "guerra alle sette"'. <http://www.dimarzio.info/it/articoli/varie/371-uscire-dalla-torre-d-avorio-un-impegno-sociologico-nella-guerra-delle-sette.html>. Italian translation of '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\(proofed\).pdf](http://www.pbs.plym.ac.uk/mi/pdf/09-06-11/6.%20Article%20-%20Barker%2018-40%20(proofed).pdf)
- 'But is it a Genuine Religion?' in Carole Cusack, Danielle Kirby (eds) *Sects, Cults and New Religions*, Volume III, London: Routledge, Chapter 39, 2014. Originally published in

A. L. Griel and T. Robbins (eds.), *Between Sacred and Secular: Research and Theory on Quasi-Religion* (JAI Press, 1994), pp. 97–111.

Suzanne Newcombe

‘Cults: history, beliefs, practices’ in: Muck, Terry C. and Netland, Harold A. and McDermott, Gerald R., (eds.) *Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices*. Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, USA, 568-572.

‘Review of Yoga Powers: Extraordinary Capacities Attained Through Meditation and Concentration’ edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 30:1, 176-178, DOI: 10.1080/13537903.2015.987013

Sarah Harvey

‘Ayahuasca in the UK/Ayahuasca vor Gericht’, in: Kai Funkschmidt (ed.): *Mit welchem Recht? Europäisches Religionsrecht im Umgang mit neuen religiösen Bewegungen*, EZW-Texte 234, Berlin 2014 p.91-101.

‘Cults: Theological Exchanges, Current Issues’ in Terry C. Muck, Harold A. Netland, and Gerald R. McDermott (eds.) *Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices*. Grand Rapids, MI, Baker Academic, pp. 573-577.

Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist

Perfect Children: Growing Up on the Religious Fringe 2015 New York, OUP

‘Religion in England’, in Kai Funkschmidt (ed.): *Mit welchem Recht? Europäisches Religionsrecht im Umgang mit neuen religiösen Bewegungen*, EZW-Texte 234, Berlin 2014 p. 74-90

(with Matthew Francis) ‘Religious literacy, radicalisation and extremism’ in *Religious Literacy in Policy and Practice*. 2015 Adam Dinham and Matthew Francis. Eds. Policy Press; Bristol.

Jim Beckford

‘Rethinking religious pluralism’ pp. 15-29 in G. Giordan and E. Pace (eds) *Religious Pluralism. Framing Religious Diversity in the Contemporary World*. Heidelberg: Springer, 2014.

(with Danièle Joly) ‘Les aumôniers de prison musulmans en Angleterre et au Pays de Galles’, pp. 76-88 in L'Administration pénitentiaire (ed.) *Le fait religieux en prison : configurations, apports, risques*. Paris: L'Administration pénitentiaire, 2014.

(with Ilona C.M. Cairns) ‘Muslim prison chaplains in Canada and Britain’, *The Sociological Review* 63(1) 2015: 36–56.

‘Religious organizations’, pp. 406-12 in James D. Wright (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition, vol. 20. Oxford: Elsevier, 2015.

George D. Chryssides

‘Jehovah’s Witnesses: Theological Exchanges, Current Issues’; in Terry C. Muck, Harold A. Netland and Gerald R. McDermott (eds), *Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, pp.481-484. ISBN 978-0-8010-3776-4.

‘Jehovah’s Witnesses: History, Beliefs, Practices’; in Terry C. Muck, Harold A. Netland and Gerald R. McDermott (eds), *Handbook of Religion: A Christian Engagement with Traditions, Teachings, and Practices*. Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, pp.476-480. ISBN 978-0-8010-3776-4.

'Come On Up, and I Will Show Thee': Heaven's Gate as a Postmodern Group'; in James R. Lewis and Jesper Aa. Petersen (eds.), *Controversial New Religions*. 2 ed. New York: Oxford University Press, pp.349-369.

'The Jehovah's Witnesses' Changing Hymnody'. *Diskus* 16(1): 82-95. Accessible online at www.religiousstudiesproject.com/DISKUS/index.php/DISKUS/article/view/6/6

'Jehovah's Witnesses and Healing'. *CESNUR Library Texts and Documents* Cyber-proceedings of International Conference organized by CESNUR, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 5-8 June 2014. URL: <http://www.cesnur.org/2014/waco-chryssides.pdf>

Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter. Entries on 'Good'; 'Gospel Harmonies'; and 'Government' Vol.10, pp.628-629, 691, 743.

Inform Seminars

Inform held a seminar in December 2014 on *Minority Religions and Schooling*, attended by some 80 people, and in February 2015 *Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?* was attended by 70 people (see Appendix II for the programmes). The spring seminar was jointly organised and run by Inform and the Ideology, Decision-Making and Uncertainty Project, based at Lancaster University (Ideology and uncertainty | <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/ideology-and-uncertainty/>) and was followed by a one-day workshop. It is intended that the papers presented will be published as a book in the Ashgate-Inform series (see earlier section).

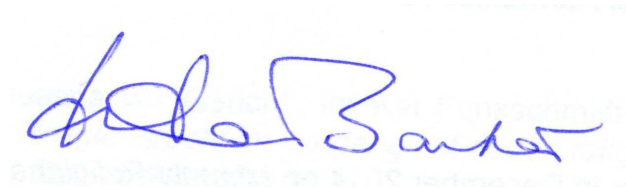


Professor Kim Knott speaking at the February 2015 seminar

The Future

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.

Work will continue on Inform's database, publications, and website, which will enable more of Inform's material to become publicly available. Inform plans to write further leaflets in 2015 and to have the leaflets available through our website. Inform also plans to continue to disseminate information through various media and talks; we already have a number of invitations for later in 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eileen Barker', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Eileen' written in a more compact, looped style and the last name 'Barker' in a more extended, flowing script.

Eileen Barker
Chair of Inform's Board of Government

Appendix I

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Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia (Greek Orthodox Church)
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Professor Lord Desai of St Clement Danes
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Appendix II

Minority Religions and Schooling

Saturday 6 December 2014

London School of Economics

9.30 - 10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00 - 10.10 **Eileen Barker** (Founder and Honorary Research Fellow, Inform)

Welcome and Housekeeping

10.10 - 10.35 **Amanda van Eck Duymaer van Twist** (Deputy Director, Inform) and **Suzanne Newcombe** (Research Officer at Inform)

Minority Religions and Schooling

10.35 - 11.00 **Farid Panjwani** (Director of the Centre for Research and Evaluation in Muslim Education at the Institute of Education, University of London)

Muslims and Faith Schools: identity and social aspiration in a minority religion

11.00 – 11.25 **Damon Boxer** (Assistant Director, Academies and Free Schools Policy, Department for Education)

Government Policy on Minority Religions and Schools

11.25 – 11.50 TEA/COFFEE

11.50 – 12.15 **Ozcan Keles** (Chairperson of the Dialogue Society)

Fethullah Gulen-inspired Hizmet schools from an alumnus: basics, characteristics and critique

12.15 – 12.40 **Usha Sahni** (Director of Education, Avanti Schools Trust)

Avanti Schools: Inspiring legacies of Excellence, Identity and Consciousness

12.40 - 13.05 **Richy Thompson** (Campaigns Officer (Faith Schools and Education), British Humanist Association)

A Humanist Perspective on Minority Religions and Schooling

13.05 - 14.05 LUNCH

14.05 – 14.15 **Ashgate-Inform Newest Titles Book Launch in Wolfson Theatre**

14.15 - 14.40 **Graham Kennish**

Vision as Mediator between Faith, Belief, Experience and Knowledge

14.40 - 15.05 **Jonny Scaramanga** (Doctoral student at the Institute of Education)

The History of Accelerated Christian Education in the United Kingdom

15.05 - 15.30 TEA/COFFEE

15.30 - 15.55 **Jo Fageant** (SIAMS inspector and Principal RE Adviser, Oxford Diocesan Board of Education)

Faith and Inspection in Church of England schools

15.55 – 16.45 GENERAL PANEL DISCUSSION

Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?

Saturday 7 February 2015
London School of Economics

9.30 - 10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00 - 10.05 **Eileen Barker** (Founder and Honorary Research Fellow, Inform) *Welcome and Housekeeping*

10.05 - 10.15 **Kim Knott** (Professor of Religious and Secular Studies in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University) *Introduction*

10.15 - 10.45 **Graham Macklin** (Honorary Fellow, Southampton University) *Extreme Movements under Extreme Pressure – British Fascists and Uncertainty during World War Two*

10.45 – 11.15 **Titus Hjelm** (Lecturer, UCL) *Paradoxes of Religious Legitimacy and Authenticity in an Age of Expediency*

11.15 – 11.40 TEA/COFFEE

11.40 – 12.10 **Suzanne Newcombe** (Research Officer at Inform) *Certain Beliefs and Uncertain Evidence: The Case of Shugden*

12.10 – 12.40 **Erica Baffelli** (Senior Lecturer, Manchester University) *Failure, Conflicts and Consequences: Japanese New Religions' Reactions to Uncertainty*

12.40 - 13.10 **Dawn Marie Gibson** (Lecturer, Royal Holloway, University of London) *Uncertain times in the Nation of Islam's Past and Present*

13.10 - 14.10 LUNCH

14.10 - 14.40 **George Sieg** (Adjunct Professor, University of New Mexico) *Distinguishing the Conditions of Violent Reaction in Esoteric Minority Religions*

14.40 - 15.10 **Anthony Fiscella** (Doctoral Student, Lund University) *Moving Mountains: From Colonial Orders to Universal Change*

15.10 - 15.40 TEA/COFFEE

15.40 – 16.10 **David G. Robertson** (Editor-in-Chief, The Religious Studies Project / University of Edinburgh) *Conspiracy Theories as Response to Uncertainty in Minority Religions*

16.10 – 16.50 GENERAL PANEL DISCUSSION