



International Seminar on Religious Education and Values



ISREV 2025

Riga, Latvia



ISREV 2025 Programme (July 27-August 1)

SUNDAY 27th July

17:00 - 19:00	Registration: Hotel Bellevue Park Hotel Riga (1 Slokas street)
19:00 – 19:30	Welcome greetings
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner (Bellevue Park Hotel Riga)

MONDAY 28th July Academic Centre of University of Latvia (Jelgavas street 1)

9.00–9.30	Greetings and introductions		
9.30-11.00 Plenary I Magnum	<i>Chair: Karen Walshe</i> Plenarist: <u>Dr. Kevin O’Grady, UK: John Hull Lecture</u> (online) Citizenship, diversity and hope: Dialogue about what and for what? Respondent: Dr. Werner Haussmann (Germany)		
11.00-11.30 Coffee break			
Rooms	Magnum	107.	109.
11.30-12.45 Collegial Session 1	<i>Chair: Niina Putkonen</i> <u>Karlo Meyer & Christian Hild</u> Relevance-orientated religious education Respondent: Fahimah Ulfat <u>Hülya Bastürk</u>	<i>Chair: Jaroslaw Horowski</i> <u>Liam Gearon</u> (online) Enlightenment’s Empire and Apocalyptic Modernity: Religion and Education Revisited Respondent: Thomas Schlag <u>Reinhold Mokrosch</u>	<i>Chair: Madara Mickevica</i> <u>Tania ap Sion, Libby Jones</u> <u>Paula Webber, Rachel Samuel,</u> <u>Alice Parry</u> (online) Perspectives from the classroom: Integrating Religion, Values and Ethics into a new curriculum

	<p>The Dynamics of Children’s Religious Education in Islam Respondent: Marije Verkek</p>	<p>Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Ethics of Peace – Still Relevant Today? Respondent: Phillips Angelina (online)</p>	<p>Respondent: Heike Lindner <u>Marjaana Kavonius, Tuuli Lipiäinen, Arto Kallioniemi, Saira Poulter, Hanna Hallikas</u> Together and/or separately? Pedagogical approaches to worldview education in the future Respondent: Karin Sporre</p>
12.45-14.15 Lunch			
<p>14.15-15.30 Symposium 1 and 2</p>	<p>Chair: Julian Stern <u>Julian Stern, Yonah Matemba (online), Eli Kohn (online)</u> Prayer in Schools: International Perspectives Respondent: Reinhold Mokrosch</p>	<p>Chair: Stefan Altmeyer <u>Stefan Altmeyer, Vasiliki Mitropoulou (online), Eszter Kodácsy-Simon</u> Eco-sustainability dilemmas and religious perceptions. First results of a comparative quantitative study with Austrian, German, Finnish, Greek and Hungarian youth Respondent: Bernadette Sweetman</p>	
15.30-15.45 Coffee break			
<p>15.45-17.00 Collegial Session 2</p>	<p><i>Chair: Annika Lilja</i> <u>Caroline Klintborg</u> Confirmation work as a learning arena: a safe or a brave space in turbulent times? Respondent: Rob Freathy <u>Henrik Simojoki</u> Defying the Odds? How Protestant Adolescents in Europe Experienced their Confirmation Time During the COVID-19 Pandemic Respondent: Ilona Nord</p>	<p><i>Chair: Marjaana Kavonius</i> <u>Katja Boehme, Mualla Selçuk, Vasiliki Mitropolou</u> Sharing Worldviews: The Contribution of Religious Education, Ethics, and Philosophy to Mutual Understanding in a Diverse The Erasmus+ project ‘ Sharing Worldviews: Learning in Encounter for Common Values in Diversity Respondent: Tania ap Sion (online) <u>Havva Sinem Ugurlu (online)</u> Religious Education Teachers' Struggle with “Reality” in terms of Student Centeredness:</p>	

		An Evaluation through Experience-Based Field Studies Respondent: Norman Richardson	
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Evening program/reception **Riga City Hall, Rātslaukums 1, 18:30**

TUESDAY 29th July Academic Centre of University of Latvia (Jelgavas iela 1)

9.00-10.30 Plenary II Magnum	<i>Chair: Thomas Schlag</i> Plenarist: <u>Prof. Mary Hess (the USA)</u> Listening for the Divine amidst digitality: Finding hope for a world on the brink Respondent: Ilona Nord (Germany)		
10.30-11.00 Coffee break			
Rooms	Magnum	107.	109.
11.00-12.15 Collegial Session 3	<i>Chair: Antje Roggenkamp</i> <u>Arto Kallioniemi, Martin Ubani, Jenni Pieniniemi, Matti Suomilammi</u> What kind of model for religious education? A national survey on Finnish teachers. Respondent: Jacqui Wilkinson <u>Heike Lindner</u> Fin de Siècle 1889 – The Year, when the Eiffel tower was built and Friedrich Nietzsche became crazy. Dealing with the ambivalence of liberty in turbulent times. Two miniatures for the discourse in Religious Education Respondent: Johannes Lähnemann (online)	<i>Chair: Phillips Angelina</i> <u>Karin Sporre</u> Fostering hope and contributing to the well-being of young people – Contextual and global perspectives within Religion Education. Respondent: Jaroslaw Horowski <u>Ilona Nord</u> Hope and Well-being in hopeless and destructive contexts: Critical Education on Antisemitism for Teaching Respondent: Stefanie Lorenzen	<i>Chair: Caroline Klintborg</i> <u>Marije Verkek</u> Reflection and existential wellbeing Respondent: Hülya Bastürk <u>Saila Poulter</u> How to exist with a loss? Grieving children in the secular age Respondent: Maurice Harmon

12.15-14.00 Lunch			
14.00-15.15 Symposium 3 / Collegial Session 4	<i>Chair: Christina Osbeck</i> <u>Christina Osbeck, Nigel Fancourt, Ole Andreas Kvamme, Karin Sporre, Annika Lilja</u> The human being—through varying theoretical and contextual lenses A methodological reflective contribution to the RE research field Respondent: Henrik Simojoki and Cok Bakker	<i>Chair: Hümeyra Güteryüz</i> <u>Betül Zengin</u> Reimagining Abraham: Philosophy with Children through Stories from Qur'an Respondent: Antje Roggenkamp <u>Niina Putkonen</u> Learning within Religious Tradition. Navigating the Educational through 'Existential' in Islamic Religious Education Respondent: Friedrich Schweitzer (online)	<i>Chair: Aybiçe Tosun Erken</i> <u>Elisabeth Migge</u> The Significance of a Critical Education on Antisemitism in Teacher Training of Religious Education Respondent: Kristian Niemi <u>Marios Koukounaras Liagkis</u> Preparing future RE teachers to integrate democratic principles into teaching practice. Research on implementation of Council of Europe's Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture Respondent: Arto Kallioniemi
15.15-15.30 Coffee break			
15.30-16.45 Symposium 3 continues/ Collegial Session 5	(Symposium 3 continues)	<i>Chair: Catriona Card</i> <u>Karin Flensner & Kristian Niemi</u> Citizenship and worldview — Pupils' experiences of belonging in the Swedish secular and multi-religious society Respondent: Hümeyra Güteryüz Erken <u>Samaneh Khalili</u> Civic engagement and agency among Young Muslims: A case study of Farsi-speaking youth in Finland Respondent: Ruth Flanagan	<i>Chair: Stefanie Lorenzen</i> <u>Anna Franzén Johnson</u> Discourses on the meaning of religion for the individual and for society in interviews with 15- to 16-year-old Swedish students Respondent: Aybiçe Tosun <u>Phra Nicholas Thanissaro</u> Educating Buddhist children and teenagers in the U.S.: a contemporary vignette Respondent: Eugene McElhinney
17.00	BOOK LAUNCH		
18.00 Dinner at University of Latvia (Jelgavas 1)			

WEDNESDAY 30th July Academic Centre of University of Latvia (Jelgavas iela 1)

9.00-10.30 Plenary III Magnum	<i>Chair: Henrik Simojoki</i> Plenarist: <u>Ole Kvamme (Norway)</u> If not optimism, then what? Potentials of religion and worldview education in times of ecological crisis and climate crisis Respondent: Saila Poulter (Finland)		
10.30-10.45 Coffee break			
Rooms	Magnum	107	109
10.45-12.00 / Collegial session 6	<i>Chair: Maurice Harmon</i> <u>Patricia Hannam</u> (online) Encountering life lived as a Muslim: teaching Islam in the public school Respondent: Niina Putkonen <u>Fahimah Ulfat & Friedrich Schweitzer</u> Images of God and Interreligious Education: A Lacuna in Research and RE? Respondent: Shira Iluz (online)	<i>Chair: Katja Boehme</i> <u>Bernadette Sweetman</u> ‘The dangers must be growing for the rowers keep on rowing’: Religious education in turbulent times: How to foster hope and wellbeing of young people Respondent: Anna Franzén Johnson <u>Julian Stern</u> Two Kinds of Hope: A Macmurrian Approach to RE in Troubled Times Respondent: Marlene Printz Jellesen	<i>Chair: Sandra Cullen</i> <u>Karen Walshe</u> An exploration of the metaphorical nature of the term ‘understanding’ with implications for teaching and learning in Religious Education. Respondent: Cok Bakker <u>Werner Haussmann</u> “Seeing and Being Seen”: Insights and Outlooks from Theology and Religious Education Respondent: Madara Mickevica
12.00-14.00 Lunch			

Outing after lunch walking tours options:

- 1) National Library of Latvia “500 Years of the Latvian Book” <https://lnb.gov.lv/en/>
- 2) The Lipke Memorial <https://lipke.lv/>
- 3) Latvian National Museum of Art <https://lnmm.gov.lv/en>
- 4) Occupation museum <https://okupacijasmuzejs.lv/en>

18:30 **Dinner** in Folkclub ALA Pargrabs (in direct translation meaning: Folk-club Cave) Peldu iela 19 <http://www.folkklubs.lv/our-story/>

THURSDAY 31st July Academic Centre of University of Latvia (Jelgavas iela 1)

9.00-10.30 Plenary IV Magnum	<p><i>Chair:</i> Fahimah Ulfat</p> <p>Plenarist: <u>Gerdien Bertram-Troost (the Netherlands)</u> (Religious) Education in times of uncertainty: Enhancing trust and agency <i>Respondent:</i> John Valk (Canada)</p>		
10.30-11.00 Coffee break			
Rooms	Magnum	107	109
11.00-12.15 Collegial Session 7	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Betül Zengin</u></p> <p><u>Hümeyra Güleriyüz Erken</u> Exploring Digital Ethics and Digital Awareness among Religious Culture and Ethics Teachers (RE) in Türkiye to Contribute Digital Wellbeing <i>Respondent:</i> Christina Osbeck</p> <p><u>Thomas Schlag</u> Critical hope in post-digital times. How religious education can address current AI-promises for the future from a theological perspective <i>Respondent:</i> Patricia Hannam (online)</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Samaneh Khalili</u></p> <p><u>Shira Iluz (online)</u> Simulation-Based Learning for Arab Teachers in Jewish Schools: Navigating Identity and Professional Conflicts <i>Respondent:</i> Nigel Fancourt</p> <p><u>Ayşe Yorulmaz & Aybice Tosun</u> Fostering Ecological Awareness Through Worldview Education: Perspectives from Teacher Candidates <i>Respondent:</i> Karlo Meyer</p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Heike Lindner</u></p> <p><u>Karin K. Flensner & Caroline Klintborg</u> Religious Education in Transition: A Comparative Research Overview of South Africa and Sweden from 1994 to 2024 <i>Respondent:</i> Younah Matemba (online)</p> <p><u>Marlene Printz Jellesen</u> Religious Education as shared space for existential reflection in a time of transition - a Danish ethnographic classroom study <i>Respondent:</i> Mualla Selçuk</p>
12.15-14.00 Lunch			
14.00-15.15 Collegial Session 8	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Karin Sporre</u></p> <p><u>Antje Roggenkamp</u> Dealing with stereotypes and prejudices in (inter-)religious education <i>Respondent:</i> Caroline Klintborg</p> <p><u>Cok Bakker</u></p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Phra Nicholas Thanissaro</u></p> <p><u>Madara Mickevica</u> Nurturing Existential Resilience in Secular Youth through Values-Based Religious Education <i>Respondent:</i> Karin K. Flensner</p> <p><u>Pinar Usta & Hümeyra Güleriyüz Erken</u></p>	<p><i>Chair:</i> <u>Anna Franzen Johnson</u></p> <p><u>Margaret Carswell & Bob Bowie</u> Towards a hermeneutic of otherness: saving Bible study from the culture wars <i>Respondent:</i> Susanne Schwartz</p> <p><u>Eugene McElhinney</u> Pushing Back on contemporary Western culture's challenges to Christian belief and</p>

	<p>The Educational Potential of Conflicting Perspectives in the Classroom: A Fundamental Challenge for Teachers Respondent: Betül Zengin</p>	<p>Resilient Classrooms Movement in religious education project Respondent: Katja Boehme</p>	<p>practice by enhancing catechists', religious education teachers' awareness of the threats posed by 'soft' and 'hard versions' of post-modernity. Respondent: Thomas Schlag</p>
15.15-15.30 Coffee break			
<p>15.30-16.45 Collegial Session 9</p>	<p><i>Chair: Karin K. Flensner</i></p> <p><u>Madoka Miguchi</u> How to Foster the faith of Young People through teaching Bible Class in Japan - Qualitative Research on the Effects of Christianity during Six Years at a Christian Girls' Junior and Senior High school Respondent: Samaneh Khalili</p> <p><u>Stefanie Lorenzen & Felicitas Held</u> Considering Parents' Perspectives on Religious Education as a way of fostering hope and well-being of young people Respondent: Marios Koukounaras Liagkis</p>	<p><i>Chair: Jacqui Wilkinson</i></p> <p><u>Catriona Card</u> Does an age-appropriate disciplinary approach to religious education improve Reception age (4-5 years) children's knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews? Respondent: Phra Nicholas Thanissaro</p> <p><u>Maurice Harmon</u> Religious Education in a New Reality: The Voice of Children on Religion and Religious Education in an Irish Catholic Primary School Classroom Respondent: Karen Walshe</p>	<p><i>Chair: Caroline Klintborg</i></p> <p><u>Susanne Schwarz</u> Children and Religion: Exemplary Insights and Reflections on a Qualitative Study from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland Respondent: Sandra Cullen</p> <p><u>Ruth Flanagan</u> Enhancing 'dialogue' by providing an initial understanding of self and others through a Personal Worldviews Framework Respondent: Stefan Altmeyer</p>
19.00 ISREV Gala Dinner and social evening Radisson Blue Daugava Hotel (24 Kungu Street)			

FRIDAY 1st AUGUST Academic Centre of University of Latvia (Jelgavas iela 1)

<p>8.45-10.15 Plenary V Magnum</p>	<p><i>Chair: Marios Koukounaras Liagkis</i></p> <p>Plenarist: Manfred Pirner (Germany) (online) Digital ethics education. Fostering human flourishing in a technologized world Respondent: Annika Lilja (Sweden)</p>
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10.15-10.30 Coffee break			
Rooms	Magnum	107	109
10.30-12.00 Collegial Session 10	<p><i>Chair: Cok Bakker</i></p> <p><u>Jacqui Wilkinson</u> The Follow Me Religious Education programme: redevelopment in the context of a new state primary school curriculum Respondent: William Sultmann (online)</p> <p><u>Rob Freathy</u> Religious Education in turbulent times: Revisiting the Mary Whitehouse experience Respondent: Lasma Latsone</p>	<p><i>Chair: Marlene Printz Jellesen</i></p> <p><u>Johannes Lähnemann</u> (online) Interreligious and Peace Education in Times of Crisis. A History of Religions for Peace Respondent: Vasiliki Mitropoulou (online)</p> <p><u>Jaroslav Horowski</u> ‘Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you’ (1 Kings 19:7): Christian Religious Education and the Journey ‘Into the Unknown’ Respondent: Catriona Card</p>	<p><i>Chair: Margaret Carswell</i></p> <p><u>Phillip Angelina</u> (online) OER and OEP as a chance for RE in Germany and beyond Respondent: Eszter Kodácsy-Simon</p> <p><u>Norman Richardson</u> (online) & <u>Sandra Cullen</u> What motivates student teachers to select RE as their subject specialism? Respondent: Elisabeth Migge</p>
12.00-12.15 Break			
12.15-13.30 ISREV AGM			
13.30 Lunch			

(The seminar ends after the lunch)