ISORECEA 2026 Conference Program

Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ilkovičova 6, Bratislava

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">April 16, Thursday</th></tr>
<tr><td>10:00
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18:00</td><td colspan="3">Registration</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:30
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12:00</td><td colspan="3">ISORECEA EB Meeting (Conference Center)</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:00
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13:30</td><td colspan="3">Plenary session 1 (Plenary Room 1)
Conference Opening and Keynote Lecture
Welcoming speeches: Comenius University Representative; Gergely Rosta, ISORECEA President
Keynote Lecture: Freedom of thought and religion in the context of the work of the public
defender of rights Róbert Dobrovodský, Public Rights Ombudsman of the Slovak Republic
Chair: Miroslav Tížik
Miklós Tomka Award Ceremony presented by Gergely Rosta and Nikolina Hazdovac-Bajić</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:30
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14:30</td><td colspan="3">Lunch Break (Respirium)</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:30
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16:30</td><td>Parallel session 1: Churches and the Crisis of War and Democracy
(Plenary Room 1)

Chair: Juraj Marušiak

Faith in Motion: Migration and the Reconfiguration of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Poland Anton Cherepenko, Konrad Pedziwiatr</td><td>Parallel session 2: Religious Transformations in the Region and Beyond
(Room 3)

Chair: Olaf Mueller

The effect of war on religiosity: A difference-in-difference study of post-socialist Croatia and Slovenia Maruša Bastardi</td><td>Parallel session 3: Religion, Social Change and Resilience
(Room 4)

Chair: Juraj Majo

Religion and social disorder: The main consequences of the Pandemic in the political and social life of Romania Laurentiu Tanase

Existential Resources and the Concept of Resilience Rita Figus-Illinyi</td></tr>
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	Praying, Practising and Constructing War: Pentecostal Social Engagement and Multiple Dependencies **Natalia Zawiejska, Ganna Tregub** Religiosity of Ukrainian immigrants in Czechia: trends and context **Tomáš Havlíček** Ukrainian migrants and Czech evangelical churches: Mediation of expectations and frustrations **Barbora Spalová** The Role of Religiosity in the Adaptation and Integration Strategies of Ukrainian Migrants in Slovakia **Liudmyla Trubinova, Silvia Letavajová**	New Religious Pluralism in Croatia? **Nikolina Hazdovac Bajić, Siniša Zrinščak, Dinka Marinović Jerolimov** Intersecting Identities: Unraveling the Impact of Religiosity on Interethnic and Inteconfessional Attitudes in Bosnia and Herzegovina **Željko Pavić** Religion-politics nexus in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia: Empirical evidence and theoretical challenges **Siniša Zrinščak** Determinants of Belief in the Ten Commandments: A Multilevel Analysis Across 30 European Countries **David Kollár**	Institutional Reconfiguration and Gendered Agency: Women Evangelical Leaders in Germany and Bulgaria amid Geopolitical Change **Elsa Pereira** Transforming the Minister's Family: Role Conflicts and Institutional Challenges among Protestant Clergy **Bálint Róbert Zoltán** Values as a Bridge between Religiosity and Volunteering **Zsolt Csák**	
16:30 – 17:00	**Coffee Break** (Respirium)			
17:00 – 18:30	**Parallel session 4: Alternative Religiosity in Communist and Post-Communist region** (Plenary Room 1) Chair: Milda Ališauskienė Spiritual Seekership and Orientalist Religions in Late-Soviet Lithuania **Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson** Asia-Inspired New Religious Movements and the Public Sphere in Late Soviet Lithuania **Deimantas Valančiūnas**, Astrology as a Path to Self-Knowledge: Leon Zawadzki's Synthesis of Classical Yoga and European Astrology **Małgorzata Alicja Biały**	**Parallel session 5: Negotiating Religious Freedom in Contemporary Europe** **(**Room 3) Chair: Miroslav Tížik Jehovah's Witness Court Cases in Central and Eastern Europe: Implications for Religious Freedom **James Richardson** Negotiating Religious Freedom During COVID-19: A Comparative Analysis of Church–State Relations in Poland and Germany **Sławomir Mandes** Across the Spectrum of Religious Freedom and State-Religion Identification: Youth Perceptions in Italy and Croatia **Olga Breskaya**	**Parallel session 6: Spirituality, Esotericism, and Alternative Religiosity** (Room 4) Chair: Michal Uhrin Between Orthodoxy and Esotericism: Competing Sacral Discourses and the Paradox of Religious Stability in Post-Communist Romania **Kiss Dénes** Personal Development, Symbolic Efficacy and Holistic Spiritualities in High-Ranking Slovak Workers **Zuzanna Bártová** Deconversion from (neo)paganism: Case of Dievturi in Latvia **Anita Stasulane**	**Author-Meets-Critics Panel** (Conference Center) Chair: Tatiana Bužeková *Families and religion: Dynamics of transmission across generations*. 2025. Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag. Editors and Contributors: **Olaf Müller, Roberta Ricucci, Gergely Rosta** Panelist: **Sinisa Zrinščak**

		Youth Perspectives on the Protection of Religious Freedom: Comparative Insights from Croatia and Italy **Teuta Marušić**	How Science Awakens Spiritual Yearning as Freedom from Religion **Stefano Sbalchiero**	
19.00 –	**Welcome Reception** (Respirium)			
April 17, Friday				
9:00 – 10:30	**Parallel session 7: Orientalist Religious Movements and their Features, Manifestations and Transformations** (Plenary Room 1) Chair: Deimantas Valančiūnas 'Criminals in Lamaist Robes': How *Rudé právo* Told the Story of Tibetan Uprising **Terezie Spáčilová** Reframing Monasticism after 1989: Discourses on Tibetan Buddhism in Czechoslovak Early Post-Communist Press **Jana Valtrová** Buddhism in Hungary: from prohibition to legal recognition and diverse institutionalization including a university **Csáji László Koppány** Astrology and Astrologers in the Post-Communist Space from the 1990s to the Present **Farafonov Evgenii**	**Parallel session 8: Funerary Culture, Death, and the Afterlife** (Room 2) Chair: Michal Puchovský Social Change and the Shifting Boundaries Between the Living and the Dead in Post-Socialist Rural Slovakia **Michal Uhrin** Commemoration of the dead in alternative spiritual circles as a mirror of changing worldviews **Tatiana Bužeková** Heaven and hell disappearing: contemporary views of the afterlife amongst Hungarian Roman Catholics **Agnes Hesz** Reimagining the Afterlife in Contemporary Hungary through Mediumship Practices **Emese Ilyefalvi**	**Parallel session 9: Lived Religion and Religious Transformations among Roma in Central and Eastern Europe** (Room 3) Chair: Sanja Zlatanović Visual Expressions of Lived Religion among Roma in Slovakia **Juraj Majo, Tatiana Zachar Podolinská** Institutionalization of everyday life of the Romani Evangelists **Magdalena Slavkova** 'Migration and Religious Conversion in Two Pentecostal Roma Communities from Romania **Lehel Peti** Theology as Potential Resource and Obstacle to the Social Inclusion of Roma. Reflections based on a Participatory Project in Localities in Romania **Annette Leis-Peters**	**Author-Meets-Critics Panel** (Room 4) Chair: Miroslav Tížik *A Sociology of Religious Freedom*. 2024. Oxford: Oxford University Press Authors: **Olga Breskaya, Giuseppe Giordan, James T. Richardson** Panellists: **Brian Conway, Dorota Hall, Roberta Ricucci, Siniša Zrinščak**

10:30 – 11:00	**Coffee Break** (Conference Center)			
11:00 – 12:00	**Plenary session 2** (Plenary Room 1) **Keynote Lecture:** Peering through the Curtain, then Stepping through the Wall: A West-European Sociologist of Religion Journeys East **Eileen Barker** Chair: Milda Ališauskienė			
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break** (Conference Center)			
13:00 – 14.30	**Parallel session 10: Global and Glocal Forms of Religiosity: The Functions and Significance of Emerging Religiosities and Native Faiths in Contemporary Societies** (Room 2) Chair: Michal Uhrin I choose Mokoš, not Holy Mary: Preliminary findings of a qualitative study on motivations for affiliation with modern Paganism in Slovakia **Michal Puchovský** From Kemalism to a Neoliberal Chile: The Book of Knowledge and UFO Religions as Desinstitutionalized Spiritualities **Sofía Belén Ceresuela Del Valle** Tengrism, Nationalism, and Secularisation Dynamics in Turkey's Modern Transformation **Kerem Görkem Arslan**	**Parallel session 11: Contesting Secular Governance and Power Structures: Politicization of Religion and Religionization of Politics in Contemporary Society** (Room 3) Chair: Juraj Marušiak The Moralisation of Politics in Lithuanian Catholic Media **Gražina Bielousova** Negotiating Faith and Power: Religionisation of Politics during the Process of State Recognition of Minority Religions in Contemporary Lithuania **Milda Ališauskienė, Evelina Juchnevičiūtė** Balkanization and Belief: The Catholic Church, Nationalism and Statehood in Post-Yugoslav Croatia. **Natalie Schwabl** Russian orthodox church: from humiliation to "the gospel according to shark" **Marjan Smrke**	**Parallel session 12: Muslim Communities in Contemporary Europe** (Room 4) Chair: Attila Kovács The funerary culture of Muslims in contemporary Austria **Martin Klapetek** From Badakhshan to Warsaw - The Modern Ismailis in Eastern Europe **Miklós Sárközy** The Religious Roots of Narrative Apocalypticism and the Modernisation Ditch in Europe **Zoltán Kelemen** Islam, Migration and Non Violence education (Religious and Critical Social) for countering violent religious radicalization among Muslim women in Europe: Theoretical and Padagogical Approaches **Nisar Tehseen**

14:30 – 15:00	**Coffee Break** **Poster Session:** (Conference Center) The Secular Experience of the Sacred: The Representation of Jesus in Popular Culture Created by Religious Nones (A Case Study of The Simpsons) **Iveta Stefanovicova** **(**Non-Confessional Spirituality in the Eastern Regions of Ukraine as a Transformational Form of Religiosity during the Russian-Ukrainian War **Yuliia Shabanova** Different paths, common goals? Parental involvement in the context of institutional diversity **Zsuzsanna Demeter-Karászi, Gabriella Pusztai**			
15:00 – 17:00	**Parallel session 13: Churches and the Crisis of War and Democracy** (Plenary Room 1) Chair: Nikolina Hazdovac-Bajić In Search of a More Secure Church: Freedom of Religion and Government's Role in the Establishment of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Lithuania (2022–2024) **Milda Ališauskienė, Gražina Bielousova** The Catholic Church and the nation: Constructing national community in times of crises **Anna Szwed** Blessed are the peacemakers? Lithuanian Catholic Church's responses to the geopolitical crisis **Rosita Garškaitė - Antonowicz** The Roman Catholic Church in Poland and the Crisis of Democracy **Katarzyna Zielińska** From Sacred to Shelter and Back: The Transformation of Evangelical Space for the Integration of	**Parallel session 14: Catholicism and Catholic Identities Under Negotiation?** (Room 2) Chair: Josselin Tricou Pathways of Clerical Child Sexual Abuse in Catholic Europe: Towards an Historical Institutionalist Explanation **Siniša Zrinščak, Brian Conway** LGBT Christians and the framework of epistemic injustice **Dorota Hall** Catholic Left in the conservative Poland **Paulina Model** A Living Faith in the Living God: Charismatic Christian Reflections on Pre- and Post-Conversion Belonging **Igor Jurekovič** The Iconic Power of Catholicism in Poland and the Internal Limits of Secular Resistance **Agata Rejowska**	**Parallel session 15: Religious minorities and the political right in Central Europe** (Room 3) Chair: Martin Klapetek The formation of the political right wing and anti-Semitic discourse in the 1990s (starting points) **Ivica Štelmachovič Bumová** From torchlight marches to green frogs: the transformation of right-wing radicalism in cyberspace, the case of Daniel Bombic **Dominik Popluhár** Central European Muslim communities in comparative a perspective **Attila Kovács** Antisemitism and Islamophobia in the Context of 21st-Century Hybrid Threats **Katarína Csikosová** The making of the Czech fear of Islam: transformations of Czech anti-Islamism from the 2010s on **Zora Hesová**	**Parallel session 16: Media, Visual and Digital Religion** (Room 4) Chair: Michal Uhrin What the Digitalisation of Religious Life Reveals about the Concept of Religion **Aleš Črnič** The Celebrity YouTube Monk and "the Sociological Bullshit" **Konrad Pędziwiatr, Barbara Thériault** Negotiating Authority in Crisis: Digital Media, Pandemic Restrictions, and Religious Organizations in Post-Communist Europe **Marta Kołodziejska** (Anti)religious argumentation in public discourse in Slovakia. Analysis of opinion texts in conservative and liberal media **Terézia Rončáková** The role of Christianity in East-West Narrative in the context of the Russian Ukrainian war – A Case Study analyzing social media comments in Hungary **Anna Vancsó**

	Ukrainian Refugees in Czechia **Kamila Klingorová**			
17.10 – 18.40	**ISORECEA General Assembly and Elections** (Plenary Room 1)			
19:30 –	**Gala Dinner (**Moyzes Hall, 12 Vajanského Street, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University)			
April 18, Saturday				
9:30 – 11:00	**Parallel session 17: Religious Transmission and Value Orientations across Generations** (Plenary Room 1) Chair: Zuzana Bártová Mechanisms of Intergenerational Religious Transmission **Miklos Gyorgyovich** Religious young adults' value orientations in European countries based on ESS Waves 9–11 **Laura Morvai, Gabriella Pusztai, Katinka Bacskai** Changes in religious behavior of seniors in Slovakia between 2001 and 2021 **Marcela Káčerová, Juraj Majo** Changes in the Personal Experience of Religious Affiliation **Rita Hegedűs**	**Parallel session 18: Religion, Politics, and Public Life** (Room 2) Chair: Olga Breskaya The Institutionalisation of Contested Religious Heritage: The Reconstruction of the Marian Column in Prague (1990-2022) **Alessandro Testa** Religion, church and faith in the moral considerations of Czech and Slovak presidents **Zuzanna Kusá** Hybrid Religious Identities – The Campaign for the 2024/2025 RomanianPresidential Elections **Dascalu Mihai Cezar** Ambivalences of a Beatification in Hungary's "Illiberal" Context **Josselin Tricou**	**Author-Meets-Critics Panel** (Room 3) Chair: Tatiana Bužeková *Event Religion and European Festival Experience: Concepts and Case Studies.* 2026. London/New York: Routledge. Author: **Sára Eszter Heidl** Panellists: **Agata Rejowska, Gergely Rosta**	
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee Break** (Conference Center)			

11:30 – 12:30	**Plenary session 3** (Plenary Room 1) **Keynote Lecture:** Religion in Central and Eastern Europe: Decades of Geopolitical Struggle over Identity **Irena Borowik** Chair: Katarzyna Zielińska		
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**		
13:30 – 15:00	**Parallel session 19: Religious Socialisation and Worldview Formation in Educational Contexts** (Room 2) Chair: Zuzana Kusá Multiple spiritualities in secondary schools **András Máté-Tóth, Sára Eszter Heidl** Where to Next, Kolping Students? Aspirations and Future Plans of Kolping Secondary School Students in an Intersectoral Comparison **Edit Szilagyi, Gabriella Pusztai** Atheistic indoctrination in educational system of Soviet Latvia (1960s-1980s) **Maija Grizāne, Irēna Saleniece**	**Parallel session 20: Pagan Politics in Europe: Constructing and Reconstructing Identity in Times of Global Uncertainty** (Room 3) Chair: Michal Puchovský Right-Wing Eastern European Paganism: An Infantile Disorder? **Giuseppe Maiello** "Seeking and Finding" Ethnic Heritage - Reflections on the Recent State Recognitions of Romuva and Dievturi **Márk Nemes** "It's Important To Let People Know About Our Pagan Past". Contemporary Paganism and Politics in Italy Today **Eleonora D'Agostino**	**Author-Meets-Critics Panel** (Room 4) Chair: Dorota Hall *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion. Change and Its Discontents: Religious Organizations and Religious Life in Central and Eastern Europe*. Volume 15. 2024. Leiden/Boston: Brill. Editors: **Olga Breskaya, Siniša Zrinščak** Panellists: **Milda Ališauskienė, Gergely Rosta, Katarzyna Zielińska**
15.00	**Closing Ceremony** (Plenary Room 1)		
16:00 – 18:00	**Guided Walking Tour: Religious and Cultural Sights in Bratislava (Bratislava Conference – Tour information)**		