

Foundations and Fluidity

20th Anniversary Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC)

10 – 14 October | Casa Artom, Venice, Italy

The ISSRNC is a multi-disciplinary society dedicated to studying the relationships among human beings, their diverse religions, and the earth's living systems. Papers are not limited to the conference theme; we enthusiastically welcome research addressing any area of the religion-nature-culture nexus.

Deadline for Proposals | 15 March 2026

For the full CFP and to submit your proposal, please visit the [2026 Conference Website](#).

Foundations and Fluidity will mark the 20th anniversary of the *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* (ISSRNC)—a milestone not only for the Society but also for the emerging field of Religion and Nature/Ecology. Over the past two decades, this field has matured into a vibrant area of interdisciplinary scholarship, with several graduate programs now training researchers and scholars. Our conferences provide essential spaces for these scholars to collaborate, build networks, and workshop their research.

Throughout the modern era, many of the social, political, and epistemological structures that humans have regarded as stable “foundations” have begun to liquefy under the pressures of the contemporary polycrisis—climate disruption, colonial legacies, imperialism, and the globalization of neoliberal capitalism. As Zygmunt Bauman argues in his concept of “liquid modernity,” modernity’s supposedly solid institutions and systems are giving way to a condition in which foundations are no longer fixed but shifting, eroding, or reforming in unpredictable ways. This is as true of religious institutions and epistemologies as it is of ecological, economic, and political systems.

The conference theme takes inspiration from these dynamics. We invite reflection on how ecological, cultural, political, religious, and epistemological structures are being tested, eroded, and reconfigured in an increasingly fluid world. Here fluidity is not just about water, it is also about identities, displacements, political contestations, and economic restructuring.

The 20th anniversary conference of the ISSRNC provides an ideal opportunity to revisit and reassess the foundations of the field of Religion and Nature/Ecology. We gather at a moment when both literal and metaphorical foundations are shifting: glaciers are melting, political systems are buckling, and the epistemological structures that have undergirded modern knowledge production are under strain. Venice offers a powerful space to consider these transformations—a city defined by both its enduring foundations and its perpetual negotiation with fluidity.

As scholars working at the intersections of religion, nature, and culture, this conference invites us to think with and through these dynamics: to explore the challenges and possibilities that emerge as foundations liquefy, and as new forms of resilience and meaning-making arise in their wake.

In the spirit of addressing such issues from a variety of perspectives, the ISSRNC invites proposals that illuminate themes related to **foundations** (broadly conceived), human relationships with **fluidity** (including water, epistemic shifts, and social transformations), and resilience-based

We welcome scholarly work on religion, nature, and culture from any disciplinary perspective across the social sciences and humanities.

In addition, we specifically invite paper or panel proposals related to the theme *Foundations and Fluidity* which address the following:

Cosmologies, Ontologies, and Ecologies of Fluidity

- Critical reflections on the study of religion and nature;
- Theoretical and methodological assumptions that have shaped the field, and/or important interventions that have shifted its foci;
- Attention to physical and/or cultural foundations of adaptation and resistance;

Ecologies of Fluidity

- Case studies that illuminate spiritual dimensions of responses to climate-induced water disasters;
- Differential access to water and other resources based on ethnicity, race, or class;
- Narratives and/or direct actions that subvert dominant water management practices;
- Discourses of plenty or abundance in religious texts, interpretations, or practices;
- Ritual and symbolic dimensions of water in various contexts, including adaptive practices in changing conditions;
- Community-scale resources and response protocols for unanticipated weather events;
- The role of water in traditional ecological knowledge systems;
- Ecomodernist responses to water crises, real and imagined;
- Extraction of water resources, and the use of water in other extractive technologies and practices;
- Water as a tool of war.

Cultural and Religious Responses

- Inquiries into intersections of religion, gender, sexuality, ability, and embodiment with the conference themes, especially in relation to erasure, silencing, and absence;
- Reflections on the scholar's role in preserving foundations, fostering innovation, and enhancing resilience.

Interdisciplinary Reflections

- Reflection on barriers to interdisciplinary inquiry;
- Discussion of methods and practices for engaging across disciplines;
- Explorations of differences between trans- and interdisciplinary approaches;
- Case studies examining climate change impacts and conflicts over resources.

Venice is an appropriate place for a discussion of these themes. The conference will be held at Casa Artom in the heart of Venice, Italy. Participants are encouraged to secure their own lodging as early as possible, as space in the city center is limited. The International Proposal Review Committee (IPRC) encourages and will also consider proposals on other topics related to the conference themes. We welcome proposals from scholars across the arts and humanities, natural and social sciences, inviting all researchers broadly engaged with the nexus of religion, nature, and culture.

Proposal Submission and Deadlines

Proposals may take any of the following forms:

1. Individual Paper Proposal

Submission must include a paper title, a 150-word abstract, and a 500-word description of the paper that indicates the methods, argument, and findings as well as the relevant literature engaged.

2. Full Panel Proposal

Full panels will consist of either three presenters and a respondent or four presenters and a moderator. Submissions must include a 500-word panel proposal and a 150-word abstract for each presenter paper that indicates the methods, argument, and findings as well as the relevant literature engaged.

3. Roundtable Panel Proposal

Roundtable panels will consist of 4-6 discussants who speak on a shared theme. Submissions must include a 500-word proposal and a brief description of each panelists' planned contribution to the discussion.

4. Alternative Format Session

In addition to the traditional paper and panel proposal format, we welcome proposals for alternative format sessions, including practical skills-sharing workshops or presentations from artists, musicians, poets, and filmmakers to showcase work related to the conference themes. We also encourage proposals that engage the borders between academics and the public. Alternative format sessions may also include, but are not limited to, interactive workshops, working group sessions, fireside chats, and book panels. Externally funded groups working on larger projects related to the conference themes may also apply for open or closed seminar style sustained conversation and reflection meetings at the conference.

Please submit your proposal [here](#) by **15 March 2026**.

For more information about the ISSRNC please visit our website: <https://www.issrnc.org>.

Papers will be anonymously peer-reviewed by the International Proposal Review Committee (IPRC) and decisions will be communicated by **1 May 2026**. All presenters will be required to join or renew their membership to attend the conference. Presenters and session organizers are encouraged to submit their articles for publication, or their sessions for special issues, to the official publication of the ISSRNC, the [*Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture \(JSRNC\)*](#).