

ISA RELIGION AND IR

SECTION NEWSLETTER

October 2020



2021 BEST BOOK AWARDS

This year, REL's ad-hoc committee for Best Book is pleased to report an incredibly competitive pool of 26 submissions. The committee is excited by the strong state of current scholarship on religion and international relations. Deliberations continue apace ahead of the release of the 2021 program.

Jonathan C. Agensky

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2020

ISA MIDWEST VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

REL is sponsoring 4 panels at the ISA Midwest Conference:

Qualitative Approaches to Religion and IR: Session 1 and Session 2
Quantitative Approaches to Religion and IR: Session 1 and Session 2

Please Join Us!

Conference registration is very reasonable:

\$25 ISA members \$30 nonmembers

<https://www.isanet.org/Conferences/Midwest-2020>

One of the panels will be recorded by ISA as a webinar for the benefit of REL members. Further details soon on REL's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Thank you, Jonathan Fox for organizing these panels on behalf of REL!

A NOTE FROM OUR SECTION CHAIR

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2020 of the Religion and International Relations (REL) section of the International Studies Association. The previous one appeared in April and is available at the REL website (link to April newsletter).

Obviously, a lot has happened since then. I hope very much that all REL colleagues are fit and well, coping with the continuing effects of the pandemic in both personal and professional lives. Despite the disruption, REL has been busy.

REL's **Facebook** page, established in 2015, has seen a rapid growth in membership over the last six months, rising from 150 to 450 members. REL's Facebook page has regular updates about REL's activities, plus relevant news, views, and developments concerning religion and IR. REL also has a **Twitter** account and a **website**, both established in 2020. See links to the right.

REL is organising several webinars. Details are not yet finalised and will be announced as soon as they are known, via Facebook, Twitter and the REL website. In addition, REL will shortly be publishing a new blog to add to those already on the website.

JEFFREY HAYNES

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To find our group on Facebook, search for "RELIGION AND IR (ISA SECTION)" or click on the Facebook icon below.

Follow our section on Twitter: ([@religion_ir](https://twitter.com/@religion_ir)) or click the icon below.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Check out our website at:

religion-ir.org

We've got blogs and newsletters, and we're developing job and fellowship boards.

Have an idea for a blog? Send it to us at blogs@religion-ir.org.

Have a job or a fellowship listing? Send it to info@religion-ir.org.

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR 2021: DANIEL PHILPOTT

Daniel Philpott, Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame, is the recipient of the 2021 Religion and International Studies Distinguished Scholar Award, to be formally awarded by the Religion and International Section of the International Studies Association (ISA) at the 62nd Annual Convention, April 7th - 10th, 2021 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

As one of the members of the selection committee Scott Thomas put it, “it is a bit surprising that Dan Philpott, an early, and one of the earliest, scholars of the religious turn in the study of IR, has not already received this award earlier. It is overdue.”

To make a list of reasons why Professor Philpott deserves to receive this award in one paragraph is impossible. His pioneering contribution spans 25 years.

Professor Philpott is a key member of the first generation of scholars of the “religious turn” in International Relations: some of his early works continue to be on reading lists of Religion and IR courses. Some of his many books have gained significant awards. He published in the top IR journals such as *World Politics*, a feat very few religion and IR scholars have managed.

As his nomination letter stressed, in his first works, Philpott “challenged the hegemony of rational choice theory in the political science discipline, which undermines ideas as mere epiphenomenal factors.” He did not stop there, however. His other major research agendas have included the relationship between religion and democracy, ethics, peace-building, reconciliation, and religious freedom. His service and activist side complement his research: Philpott worked with religious leaders in Kashmir and Central Africa on peace and reconciliation, as well as conducting a major study of forgiveness in the wake of armed violence in Uganda.

In today’s dramatically changing world, the committee saw its task in the context of Religion and IR as a subfield of IR, as well as the future of REL as an ISA section. The selection committee has high hopes about Professor Philpott’s intellectual influence into the future, on the next IR and religion scholars. The IR discipline is now “global,” interreligious dialogue on global political issues is a part of a globalizing world. To encourage the next generation of scholars not just from the West, the REL section will have to take the lead in recognizing different ways of “global knowing,” coming with many different theories and methods. (<https://danielphilpott.info>)

It is with great honor and gratitude for his unique contributions that we announce this award.

Congratulations!

Renat Shaykhutdinov, Chair of REL awards
V. Kubalkova, DS Award committee chair
Scott Thomas, Jonathan Fox, DS Award committee members

The time of a panel and celebration in honor of Professor Philpott will be announced at a later date.



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