

European Network of Research on Religion, Spirituality and Health

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Editorial

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

we are gratefully looking back at the 9th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health (ECRSH). Read the summary about the event in this newsletter.

Looking at the ongoing problems in health care, the conference's topic „Spiritual Care Interventions in Health Care“ was obviously right on time. As hopeful as the new interest for the connection of spirituality and health is, as carefully we must work on a methodological integration of spiritual issues within medical practice. May you enjoy reading the news!

Kind greetings,

Dr. phil. H.-A. Willberg
Scientific member of staff at RISH

9th ECRSH-Conference Salzburg, May 16-18.2024



Prof. Dr. Rogiers Honders. One of the keynote speakers at the ECRSH.

A Spiritual Care Intervention is defined as a therapeutic element within medical treatment. This was the main topic of the 9th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health



ECRSH 2024 took place in Salzburg. Here a view on the old city with its castle.

May 16-18 which found place in Salzburg, Austria. The participants got acquainted with already existing concepts of intervention and their effects while discussing them.

Lecturers were, among others, the professors Tracy Balboni (Harvard Medical School, USA), Harold G. Koenig (Duke University Medical Center, USA), Stefan Lorenzl and Piret Paal (Paracelsus Medical University, Austria), Silvia Caldeira (Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal), Rogiers Honders (Center for Integrative Psychiatry, Groningen, Netherlands), Lindsay B. Carey (La Trobe University Melbourne, Australia), and Michael Balboni (Harvard Medical School, USA).

A further element of the event were the symposia as well as the free communication sessions. Researchers were invited to present their own projects and findings in a short and interactive format followed by a discussion.

The conference was held as a hybrid-event. Fortunately, many decided to come to Salzburg. An encouraging gathering of experts from many nations all over the world was the result.

Main organizer of the conference was the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health in international coordination with the Paracelsus Medical University as local partner.

Just the days before in May 12-15 the Pre-Conference-Workshop with Prof. Harold G. Koenig took place, in

cooperation with European experts. All interested researchers irrespective of academic titles and areas of work were invited.

You can find more information about the event on the conference website:

<https://ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2024>

Special issues Submit your article!

The following three peer reviewed journals offer to run each a Special Issue for the conference: *Journal of Religion and Health* with Lindsay B. Carey as editor-in-chief:

<https://link.springer.com/journal/10943>,

Journal of Spiritual Care with Eckhard Frick and Simon Peng-Keller as editors-in-chief:

<https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/spircare/html>, and

Journal of Health and Social Chaplaincy hosted by Austyn Snowden:

<https://journal.equinoxpub.com/HSCC>

Researchers who have participated at ECRSH are invited to share their articles with this periodicals. Please let us know about your interest! Standard publication is free of charge. Quick processing of your manuscripts is guaranteed. For the specific scope of the journals consult the websites. By the way these Special Issues are a special encouragement for us as well.

Factors for a Healthy Heart

Together with a team of specialists, Dr Hefti has conducted a study which compared conventional measurement of coronary artery disease (CAD) risk factors with the addition of positive psychosocial factors (PPF), such as happiness, satisfaction with life, and social support, instead of only considering biomedical and behavioral factors. As the result shows, PPFs were individually linked with CAD risk; that is a further affirmation of preceding studies. On the other hand the predictive relevance did not differ from using biomedical and behavioral criteria alone.

R. Hefti, S. Guemghar, E. Battegay et al., Do positive psychosocial factors contribute to the prediction of coronary artery disease? A UK Biobank-based machine learning approach, *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurjpc/zwae237>

You want more information about the topic? Have a look at the program broadcast of ECS-TV about spirituality and cardiovascular health:
<https://esc365.escardio.org/event/1155>

Measuring Well-Being

The editors of this open access volume with its 625 pages are professors at Harvard University. One might say: This book seems to own the capacity of becoming a standard work.

Striking is the fact that this book not only mentions the spiritual factors of well-being, but gives them equal room as the others. Obviously Social Science finds itself at an interdisciplinary holistic level nowadays, at least at Harvard.

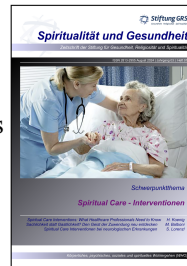
M. T. Lee, L. D. Kubzansky, T. J. VanderWeele (eds.) (2024). *Measuring Well-Being: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from the Social Sciences and the Humanities*. New York: Oxford Academic. Open access:
doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197512531.001.001



Our Magazine Spiritualität & Gesundheit

Subject of the issue is the ECRSH-conference.

It contains articles of three lecturers at ECRSH: H. Koenig, M. Balboni, and S. Lorenzl.



For further information see
www.spiritualitaet-und-gesundheit.de

Welcome in our Team! Dr Michael Ackert introduces himself



Dear readers of the newsletter, at the beginning of February 2024, I joined the operational management of the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health and will be involved in all fields as co-director. Briefly about me. I studied psychology at Humboldt University in Berlin and then went to the University of Fribourg in Switzerland for my doctorate. During my time at university, I worked on the measurement and trajectories of general religiosity as well as on the general effectiveness factors in psychotherapy in a clinical context. As I join the RISH in part-time I stay connected with the University of Bern and with my research field there.

My current research project investigates religious biographies throughout life in the light of the multidimensional religiosity model with the dimensions of ideology, intellect, religious experience, private and public religious practice.

The goal is to find the relationship

of the religious dimensions among themselves as well as associations with external factors, e.g. life events, health status, life crises etc. In my opinion the research fits well with the current projects within RISH.

I am delighted that you, as readers, are interested in the work at the Research Institute and the surrounding topics, and I would like to thank you for your support of the Institute! With the existing team, we are now continuing our commitment to the task of incorporating spirituality and religiosity into research, further professional training, and the application of evidence-based methods. In this respect, the RISH forms a special island in the German-speaking landscape. My work is aimed at maintaining and expanding this commitment. I am convinced that my previous and ongoing research and management experience will be beneficial to the common goal.

Dr. Ackert's introduction at Institute of Empirical Religious Research, University of Bern, containing Curriculum Vitae and Publications:



https://www.ier.unibe.ch/ueber-uns/personen/dr_ackert_michael/index_ger.html#pane604050

Imprint

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