

Serie de Conferencias

## *Psychology of Religion and Conflict*

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Bosnia-Herzegovina

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Organizado por:

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### **Sobre el ponente**

Srdjan Dusanić es profesor asociado de Psicología Social en la Universidad de Banja-Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ha investigado extensamente sobre la religión como factor psicosocial tanto a nivel individual como grupal, con especial atención a su papel en conflictos sociales.

### **Sobre la serie de conferencias**

Esta serie de conferencias es patrocinada por el programa Erasmus+ y está organizada por el Grounded Cognition Lab ([www.groundedcognitionlab.com](http://www.groundedcognitionlab.com)), dirigido por Julio Santiago. Las conferencias son gratuitas y abiertas a toda persona interesada en la temática.

La serie consta de una conferencia inicial que pasa revista de una forma más general a toda la variedad de temas que luego se tocan en detalle en las siguientes seis conferencias.

Cada conferencia es independiente de las demás y se puede asistir sin haber asistido a las otras. Para quien sólo pueda asistir a una, la conferencia inicial aporta una visión global de la temática del curso. Las otras seis conferencias profundizan cada una en una temática diferente.

Todas ellas serán impartidas en inglés, tienen una duración de 1 hora (más preguntas) y se realizarán en el **Centro de Investigación Mente, Cerebro y Comportamiento, sala de conferencias 1**.

# **CIMCYC, Sala de Conferencias 1**

## **Conferencia General: lunes 24, 12:00 PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION AND CONFLICT**

Research around the world shows that religion, just like a medal, can have two sides. On the one hand, links between religiosity and inner well-being have been established through greater satisfaction with life and happiness, better mental health, less loneliness, etc. On the other hand, results on religiosity and inter-group relations are quite worrying. They show higher tendency of religious people to reject social relations with members of other social groups. There are data that show that religiosity is linked with greater intolerance, prejudice and social distance. Instead of religion becoming a part of solution, it often becomes a part of the problem! The main purpose of this lecture is to discuss when and how religion can be a factor of inner and social stability, and when a correlate of hostility, violence and prejudice in society. In the future it is necessary to work on identifying the dimensions of religiosity that foster internal and social well-being, and work against social conflict.

## **Conferencias de Profundización en Temas Específicos**

### **Conferencia 1: martes 25, 10:00 PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS OF RELIGIOSITY**

This lecture will summarize the main theoretical approaches that explain the phenomenon of religion. Topics covered:

- The concept and dimensions of religiosity.
- Main models of religious orientations.
- Theoretical approaches to the determinants of religiosity.
- Individual development and needs as determinants of religiosity.
- Religiosity as a structural part of the human being.
- Cognitive development and development of religious beliefs.
- Religiosity and parent-child interactions.
- Religiosity and the need for security.
- Religiosity as a "tool" for personal and social integration.
- Socialization and religiosity.
- Family influence.
- The role of religious education.
- The social and political determinants of religiosity.

### **Conferencia 2: martes 25, 11:30 RELIGIOSITY AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS**

This lecture will cover the relation between religiosity and various personality traits such as:

- Cognition, emotions and religiosity.
- Religiosity and personality traits.
- Religiosity and locus of control.
- Religiosity and conformism.
- Religiosity and authoritarianism.
- Religiosity and conservatism.

- Religiosity, self-esteem and self-efficacy.
- Religiosity, optimism and pessimism.
- Religiosity and alienation.
- Religiosity and depression.
- Religiosity and the fear of death.
- Values and religiosity

**Conferencia 3: miércoles 26, 10:00**  
**RELIGIOSITY AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS**

This lecture will touch upon the relations between religiosity and various aspects of interpersonal relations. Special emphasis will be on when religiosity can improve human life. The lecturer will especially consider the relationships of religiosity and psychological phenomena such as:

- Religiosity and family relations.
- Religiosity, prosocial behavior and altruism.
- Religiosity and conformism.
- Religiosity, sexuality and marriage satisfaction.
- Religiosity and gender relations.
- Religiosity, aggressiveness and antisocial behavior.
- When religiosity is a factor of better mental health?

**Conferencia 4: miércoles 26, 11:30**  
**RELIGION AND INTERGROUP RELATIONS: WHEN AND HOW RELIGION BECOMES PART OF THE PROBLEM**

The influence of religiosity on inter-group relations are quite worrying all over the world. The results show higher tendency of religious persons for rejection of social relations with members of other social groups. Some data show that religiosity is connected with greater intolerance, prejudice and social distances. Religion and religiosity often have the function of empowering social identities, but that is unfortunately followed by greater animosity towards other groups. Antipathy is especially evident if real or unreal fear from those groups exists. As part of this lesson, the lecturer will consider the following topics:

- Religiosity and social identity.
- Religiosity and political attitudes.
- Religiosity, ethnic identity and ethnocentrism.
- Religiosity, social distances and prejudices.
- Religiosity and violence.
- When and how religion becomes part of the problem?

**Conferencia 5: jueves 27, 10:00**  
**MEASURING RELIGIOUS ORIENTATIONS**

In this lecture we will deal with how to measure religiosity. There are various dimensions of religiosity such as: religious beliefs, practices, experience, behavioral effects, etc. A particular challenge is how to measure the so-called mature religiousness. By definition, mature religiousness should be a correlate of inner and social well-being. However, experience shows that this is not a simple undertaking. We will present various models of religious orientations

in which different dimensions of religiosity are measured, and touch on the importance role of cognitive complexity.

**Conferencia 6: jueves 27, 11:30**

**RELIGIOSITY IN THE POST-SOCIALIST CONTEXT - INTEGRATION OF  
EMPIRICAL STUDIES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

In this lecture we will present the basic characteristics of religiosity in the post-socialist context. Pre-war research on religiosity in Bosnia and Herzegovina and all ex Yugoslavia showed that the majority of inhabitants (70%-80%) identified themselves as nonreligious. In the 1990s many things changed: fall of the socialist system, expansion of nationalism, ethnic conflicts, war. These circumstances were followed by the expansion of religion. From a socially unacceptable value in socialism time, in the transitional period religion has become a socially desirable norm. In this lecture we summarize how many young people in the post-socialist conditions are religious, and what are main determinants and correlates of their religiosity. In the future, it will be necessary to work harder on making religion a stability factor both at the personal and social level, and not a factor of intolerance and prejudices.