

International Liaison Committee

The International Liaison Committee is “responsible for promoting participation in the activities of the Association by scholars from outside the United States, coordinating activities of the Association with those of international associations, and facilitating international communication among scholars in the sociology of religion.”

The International Liaison Committee is also responsible for awarding the Gallagher Travel Grants to help graduate students in North American and international scholars (both students and professionals) to attend the ASR Annual Meetings.

In practice, the International Liaison Committee has fulfilled these objectives in the following ways:

1. Arranging joint sessions across the programs of the various societies and subgroups interested in the sociology of religion throughout the world, such as the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (SISR/ISSR) and the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Sociology of Religion (RC22). Ideally, we would like to have jointly sponsored sessions across each other’s programs at each meeting of each of these groups. At times, such efforts have led to such publications as special issues of journals or free-standing collections.
2. Working to ensure that calendars of other such groups (including smaller regional/ national groups and interdisciplinary groups) do not conflict with the calendar of ASR. Because the ASR meets on a fixed schedule with respect to ASA, and ASA plans approximately four years in advance (sometimes more), ASR deems it desirable that other groups who plan on a shorter lead time work to take into account the dates that our historic relationship to ASA dictates for our meetings.
3. Appointing or approving active ASR members to serve as liaisons to specific international organizations in which they are also active. The International Liaison Committee should collect reports from such liaisons of their activities.
4. Reviewing applications from graduate students and international scholars for the Ralph Gallagher Travel Grants.

Reviewing Gallagher Grant applications and recommending awards to the Program Committee works as follows:

1. Applications will be submitted on the ASR website by the March 1st deadline. The committee Chair will collect these applications and distribute them to the committee members. During the first three weeks of March, the committee will evaluate the applications and forward to the Program Chair for approval those applications deemed worthy of travel funding. The Program Chair will decide which of these applicants’ papers to accept for the program, notifying the ILC Chair by the end of the first week in April.
2. On receiving the Program Chair’s verdict, the ILC Chair will compose official letters on ASR letterhead (by April 15th), notifying the awardees of their papers’ acceptance and of the ASR’s intent to provide financial assistance to support their participation in the conference. The ILC Chair will instruct the international awardees to use these offi-

cial letters to apply immediately for travel visas and to notify the Chair of the committee (copied to the Executive Officer of ASR) once the travel visa has been approved. The letter will state that the amount of that assistance will be determined after June 1st, based on the number of international awardees who were successful in obtaining travel visas by that time.

3. Beginning June 1st, the ILC Chair will compile a list of graduate students and international scholars whose applications were approved for funding, including only those international scholars who successfully obtained travel visas. The Chair will send that list, along with recommendations of the amount of money to award each person, to the Program Committee (i.e., the Executive Officer, President, and Program Chair). The Program Committee makes the final determination about how to allocate the Gallagher Travel Grants to the applicants. The Executive Officer will notify awardees of the amount of their award by June 30th.

The committee meets primarily through emails, which its Chair should take the lead in initiating.