

The project “Religions and Societies in the face of Contemporary Challenges” – “RELIGions et Sociétés face aux défis contemporains” (ReligiS) has been awarded a grant of €9,000,000 over 6 years in the context of the France 2030 call for projects in the humanities and social sciences, with a mid-term evaluation.

Led by the University of Strasbourg, it is based on a consortium of 13 institutions:

- CNRS
- Université de Strasbourg
- Université de Lorraine
- École des hautes études en sciences sociales
- Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales
- Sciences Po / Fondation nationale des sciences politiques,
- Aix-Marseille Université
- École normale supérieure de Lyon
- Université Lumière Lyon 2
- École française d'Athènes
- Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3
- École Pratique des Hautes Études - Université PSL
- Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire de Strasbourg

450 researchers from all disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, working in 80 laboratories, will be involved.

The work is divided into 8 work packages:

- Analysing, acting with and situating religion in a changing world (WP2, WP3 and WP4).
- Supporting doctoral training and scholarly mobility (WP5).
- Promoting digital humanities and open science (WP6).
- Establishing an academic think tank to inform public policy (WP7).
- Developing professional training adapted to the needs of institutions (WP8).

The EPHE-PSL is heavily involved in ReligiS under the supervision of two scientific leaders, Valentine Zuber, Director of Studies, Religions and International Relations, and Pascal Bourdeaux, Senior Lecturer, Religions of South-East Asia. The EPHE co-investigators are as follows:

- WP2.3 “Situating worship”: Isabelle Saint-Martin, Director of Studies, Visual Arts and Christianity (19th-21st C.).
- WP3.2 “Religion, politics and laïcité”: Valentine Zuber
- WP4.1 “Epistemology and knowledge of religion”: Pascal Bourdeaux
- WP5.1 “Structuring and networking research”: Vassa Kontouma, Director of Studies, Orthodox Christianity (15th-21st C), and Dean of the Religious Studies Section.
- WP5.2 “Doctoral policy”: Christophe Grellard, Director of Studies, Medieval Systems of Thought and Belief and former Director of Doctoral School 472.
- WP8 “Continuing Education”: Dominique Avon, Director of Studies, Intellectual history of contemporary Sunnism.

A first plenary conference, reserved for members and a few institutional guests, will be held in autumn 2025. An open conference will take place in 2026/2027.