

New Perspectives on Religious and Spiritual Education

2nd Biannual Conference on Religious and Spiritual Education
European Association of Research Learning and Instruction (SIG19)
Malta, 26-28 August 2010

The Conference aims to foster the community of researchers in the field and to enhance theory formation. The conference will deal with three major issues relevant to the field.

- a. The interdisciplinary approach: from being an exclusive theological field of interest, religious and spiritual education have evolved to become an interdisciplinary field in which scholars of various disciplines are involved.
- b. The balance between explanation and interpretation: traditionally, researchers in the field of religious and spiritual education have taken an interpretative, hermeneutical perspective.
- c. Third, the relationship between religious and spiritual education, on the one hand, and similar fields of interest, such as moral, citizenship, and values education, as well as the contemporary imperative around social inclusion and cohesion.

The three issues can be dealt with by means of empirical (and philosophical) research into topics such as religious ideas and beliefs, diversity, socialisation, religiosity and giftedness, and so on.

A publication of contributions to the conference is expected in an issue in the new book series Religious and Spiritual Education (Waxmann Publishers, edited by Theo van der Zee, Kirsi Tirri and Ulrich Riegel).

For more information visit the conference website: <http://www.um.edu.mt/theology/earli>.