

No. 43, September 2018

News from Info-Cult

The 2018 International Cultic Studies Conference in Philadelphia

In this Issue

ICSA 2018 Conference

Notes from a Participant
at the Conference

2019 ICSA International
Conference in Manchester, UK

Support Group

New acquisitions

Library Collection

Government Reports



A convivial city for our conference

The International Cultic Studies Conference held this summer in Philadelphia was organized jointly with Info-Cult and was one of the most successful to date. Over 100 presenters were among the over 260 participants that featured more than 100 presentations and individual presentations on a range of subjects.

As usual at these conferences there were many sessions that addressed the needs of former members both first generation and those born or raised in high demand groups. Info-Cult is proud to be a partner in organizing these conferences that address the needs of four constituencies, former group members, families, helping professionals and researchers. Info-Cult has been partnering with ICSA in organizing these conferences since the beginning of the 21st century. *...continued page 3*

Notes from a "Participant" at the ICSA/Info-Cult Philadelphia Conference

By Marie-Hélène Frappier, Info-Cult Board Member*

ICSA's annual conference on cultic phenomena was held in Philadelphia this summer. All the presentations (over one hundred) addressed the complex issues of cults and the many questions they raise by presenting different perspectives. In addition to testimonials and case studies, much time was devoted to exchanges and reflection. Choices had to be made therefore I will only comment on some of the presentations I attended. Furthermore, certain presentations were only open to former members.

For those who have lived it, the cult experience can be painful and harmful. This situation creates a need among former members to rebuild their trust in themselves and in others. Moreover, the sometimes-extreme character of cults teaches us about the vulnerability that exists in each human being. The complexities of the psyche are brought to light in a particular way by extreme phenomena.

The issue of cults takes us straight to the heart of questioning beliefs. Those who believe in "truth" put an end to the possibility of questioning oneself. When the feeling of instability and loss of one's bearings intensifies, the quest for a solid foundation becomes more important, opening the door to authoritarian influences that ease the burden of existence and the unease caused by uncertainty and doubt. We must examine our own capacity to tolerate doubt to understand how powerless we feel in the face of it. Is not the feeling of certainty more comforting?

Continued on p.2

Notes from a Participant at the ICSA/Info-Cult Philadelphia Conference

The psychoanalyst Lorna Goldberg stressed the importance of questioning Manichean positions (binary thinking: good / bad) and learning to live with conflict. With this in mind, she invites us to be humble and resist the impression of knowing, while we are still in the process of learning. We should be wary of theories that have not yet passed a 'reality check' and resist the tendency to allow apprehensions to dictate what is real. Childhood traumas can permeate our perception and impair our ability to see the other in a realistic manner, a defensive reaction that prevents the expression of genuine curiosity towards others. Ms. Goldberg inspired us to think outside dogmatic responses as she emphasized the importance of learning to tolerate ambiguity and paradox even when they cause discomfort.

In his presentation, Mr. Thomas M. Baier adopted a cognitivist point of view. He underscored the importance of critical thinking arguing the precedence of reason over emotion as the motive for joining a cultic group. In this perspective, he proposed teaching strategies for raising critical awareness. Mr. Russell Bradshaw presented the attractiveness of these groups from an evolutionist point of view. The history of humanity would have reinforced the gregarious tendency of human beings in their desire of belonging and communion with fellow human beings. Membership would therefore be more emotional by playing on the satisfaction of belonging.

In a panel on domestic violence and interpersonal abuse, L. Dubrow-Marshall, moderator, E. Bruchard, M. Davis, and B. Sturman noted, despite some differences, the similarities between abuse experienced in domestic violence and that experienced in cults. The emotional relationship would tend to reinforce the abuse by establishing a cycle between tenderness and harshness, testimonies of love alternating with reprimands generating fear. This oscillation maintains the victims in a situation of survival and deprives them of the critical distance necessary to consider leaving.

Many other topics were presented. The case of Patti Hearst and new controversy raised by her story was revisited. A young woman then told of her experience which resembled that of Hearst's. Her involvement in a cultic relationship with a teacher led her to legal problems. I will also mention the story of a German religious association that has been fighting against the extreme right since the post-war period (R. Burks), the recruitment of child soldiers by Daesh (M. Lauret) as well as the complex cases of children's rights in a cultic context (C. Tremblay). These various examples illustrate the importance of the issue of cults and the questions and research it elicits. They sparked great interest in future publications proposed by various presenters. The conference was an opportunity for stimulating meetings, fruitful discussions and a motivator for further studies.

***Marie-Hélène Frappier, Info-Cult Board Member**

Marie-Hélène Frappier holds an Honor's degree in political thought from Ottawa University, a master's degree in philosophy from the University de Montréal and a D.É.A. (Diplôme d'études approfondies) from the Université de Paris. She has been a philosophy teacher at College Ahuntsic since 1995.

She has collaborated with Info-Cult since first participating as a researcher and coordinator of a documentary film on the prevention of cultic phenomena (1992-1993).

Critical thinking is at the core of her teaching. She is also very interested in education and questions pertaining to ideology and the different beliefs that lie at the very heart of thought: dogmatism, sectarianism and totalitarianism.



...continued from page 1

Mike Kropveld Info-Cult's executive director is on the board of ICSA and chairs its conference committee. Carolle Tremblay Info-Cult's president assisted at the opening and closing sessions of the conference as well as giving a presentation titled *Difficult Challenges Raised in Custody and Visitation Disputes*.

For the first time at an ICSA conference the opening and closing plenary sessions were streamed and accessible on FACEBOOK.

THURSDAY JULY 5, 2018 AT 9:00 (EST): *WE DISAGREE-LET'S TALK! WHY DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE ARE NECESSARY AND HOW WE OVERCOME UNDERMINING FACTORS* WITH LORNA GOLDBERG, LCSW.

<https://www.facebook.com/ICSAToday/videos/vb.134946268265/10157599273703266/?type=2&theater>

SATURDAY JULY 7, 2018 AT 4:30 (EST): *THE SPECTRUM OF COERCIVE CONTROL* WITH ROD DUBROW-MARSHALL, PHD.

<https://www.facebook.com/ICSAToday/videos/vb.134946268265/10157605813408266/?type=2&theater>

The Sunday following the conference an organized tour visited Father Divine's mansion as well as the Cave of Kelpius and a drive by of the site of the MOVE bombing.



Call for Papers - 2019 Annual International ICSA Conference, Greater Manchester, UK July 4 – 6, 2019 (Pre-Conference workshops July 3th).

The International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) is conducting its 2018 Annual International Conference with [Info-Secte/Info-Cult of Montreal](#) and the Directorate of Psychology and Public Health and the Criminal Justice Hub and Connected Lives Diverse Realities Research Group at the University of Salford, UK.

The theme: *Coercive Control and the Psychology of Influence across Comparative Contexts – Implications for Policy, Practice and the Criminal Justice Process*

Call for Papers: http://infosecte.org/ICSA_2019-call-for-Papers.pdf

Support group

In response to the expressed needs of former members Info-Cult has started a support group in Montreal. The support group, being run in French, is for those who have gone through a controlling relationship (conjugal, ideological or group). The group is being led by a psychologist and psycho-educator who are volunteering their time and expertise. The support group started in February 2018 and takes place on a monthly basis at a local CLSC, who are providing us with a free meeting space.

The purpose of the group is to help former members move on after their experience. After being involved in an environment that was so intense, post-group life can be quite lonely and isolating. A group for former members can help counteract that sense of loneliness. It's also helpful for former members to see that the manipulations and power tactics used on them were similar whether they were involved in a religious, new age, political, therapy cult or cultic relationship. For more information soutien.infosecte@gmail.com



New Acquisitions - September 2018

BOOKS

Branham, William Marrion



[Exposé des Sept Âges de l'Église](#)

Voice of God Recordings

C1995 (version française) c1965 (version originale anglaise), Jeffersonville

[Exposé des Sept Âges de l'Église](#) (**Note** : Whole document available on line)

Voice of God Recordings

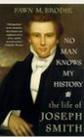
C2005 (version française) c1965 (version originale anglaise), Jeffersonville



[La Révélation des Sept Sceaux](#)

Voice of God Recordings

C1992 (version française) c1967 (version originale anglaise), Jeffersonville

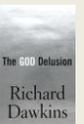


Brodie, Fawn M.

[No Man Knows My History: the Life of Joseph Smith](#)

Vintage Books

C1995, New York



Dawkins, Richard

[The God Delusion](#)

Houghton Mifflin Company

C2006, New York

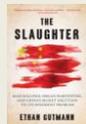


Derocher, Lorraine

[Intervenir auprès de groupes sectaires ou de communautés fermées : s'outiller pour protéger les enfants](#)

Presses de l'Université du Québec

C2018, Québec



Gutman, Ethan

[The Slaughter: Mass killings, organ harvesting, and China's secret solution to its dissident problem](#)

Prometheus Books

C2014, Amherst



Kendall, Lois

[Born and Raised in a Sect: You are Not Alone](#)

Progression Publishing

C2016



Schriver, Debby

[Whispering in the Daylight: The children of Tony Alamo Christian Ministries and Their Journey to Freedom](#)

The University of Tennessee Press

C2018, Knoxville



Siegel, Aryeh

[Transcendental Deception](#)

Janreg Press



Stadslev, Julius

[William Branham : Un prophète visite l'Afrique du sud](#) (**Note** : Whole document available on line)

Voice of God Recordings

C2003, Jeffersonville

E-BOOKS

Thiessen, Elmer John
[The Scandal of Evangelism: A Biblical Study of the Ethics of Evangelism](#)
 Wipf and Stock Publishers
 C2018, Eugene



Roy, René
[Les Témoins de Jéhovah : Entrée facile, sortie difficile](#) – (Note : Whole document available on line)
 C1996

ACTES/ACTS

FECRIS

Actes du colloque européen

[Dérives sectaires et processus de radicalisation, une question à débattre](#)

Organisé par la Fédération Européenne des Centres de Recherche et d'Information sur le Sectarisme (FECRIS) en partenariat avec son association membre AVISO asbl – Aide aux victimes de sectes

Vendredi 19 mai 2017, Bruxelles

Acts of the European Conference

[Cult undue influence and the process of radicalization, a question for debate](#)

Organised by European Federation of Centres of Research and Information on Cults and Sects (FECRIS) in cooperation with its member association AVISO asbl – Aide aux victimes de sectes

Friday 19 May 2017, Brussels

DVDS

China Organ Harvest Research Center
[Medical Genocide: Hidden Mass Murder in China's Organ Transplant Industry](#)

Branham, William Marrion

Sermons, Disques: 21 (1993-2004); 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 21, 22 (v. 2, 1993-2007)

Voice of God Recordings

1993-2007

Library Collection

Info-Cult's library has acquired a vast quantity of materials on "cults", "new religious movements" and related groups and subjects.

The documentation centre is the largest of its kind in North America and houses, thousands of files, more than 1,200 programs on audio/video cassettes, journals, newsletters, government and legal documents, academic reports, journals and thousands of books principally in English and French with a smaller collection of documents in Spanish, Italian, Japanese, and German. The collection spans critical and group generated information and other materials which are obtained from sources around the world.

Governmental Reports

This page <http://infosecte.org/ic-gov.html> provides a range of government studies and reports, legal decisions and other documents from 21 countries and the Council of Europe.

Info-Cult on Facebook



Find us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/InfoCult.InfoSecte>



Info-Cult E-mail Information Lists (English and French)

Info-Cult's **free email service** offers subscribers: articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. For more information about this service:

http://infosecte.org/Options_EN.html



Info-Cult's videos can be accessed on our YouTube page:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/infosecte>



Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and is recognized for its role in responding to a real need in our society. Info-Cult is able to carry out its activities thanks in large part to the support of people like you who believe we provide a vital community service. Please consider donating to Info-Cult today.

Online at:



<https://www.canadahelps.org/services/wa/dnm/en/#/page/16231>

Or by:



Go to www.infocult.org and click on **DONATE NOW**

Or by mail to
Info-Cult at: 5655 Park Ave, Suite 208, Montreal, QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Donations to Info-Cult are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated