



ICSA International Conference Manchester 2019

The International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) will conduct its 2019 Annual International Conference jointly with [Info-Secte/Info-Cult](#) of Montreal and with the [Psychology of Coercive Control Masters Program](#) and the Connected Lives Diverse Realities Research Group and Criminal Justice Hub at the University of Salford.

Where/When: Manchester, UK - Holiday Inn Manchester City Centre, July 4-6, 2019. On July 3, 2019 there will be Preconference Workshops on education, mental health, former-member recovery, research, and families. Preconference Workshops are free for conference registrants.

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

Conference Info: <https://www.icsahome.com/events/conferenceannual>

Program: With more than 100 speakers, this conference will offer many sessions pertinent to former members and survivors, families, professionals, researchers, and others, such as

- Insights on Thought Reform for Former Members and Their Families (Ron Burks)
- The Dynamics of Magical Thinking in Cultic Groups (William Goldberg)
- Drugs, Cults, and Thought Reform (Gillie Jenkinson; Ariela Bogenberger)
- Writing Your Cult Experience: A Workshop for Writing the Unspeakable (Gina Catena)
- Growing Up With Coercive Control (Lindsay Lenton-Maughan)
- Coercive Countermeasures: Controlling the High-Control Organization (Mark Giles)

- Legal Developments in the US (Robin Boyle)
- Exploring Spiritual Abuse in the Christian Faith in the UK and Recommendations for Policy and Practice Development (Lisa Oakley; Kathryn Kinmond; Justin Humphreys)



Support Group for Former Members



Info-Cult started its support group at the beginning of 2018 in response to the expressed need by former members.

The support group, **conducted in French**, is for those who have gone through a controlling relationship (conjugal, ideological or group).

Family and friends usually are unfamiliar with former members' experiences, and most people find it helpful to speak to those who are dealing with similar issues.

The purpose of our group is to help former members of high demand groups or similar situations move on after their experience. After being involved in an environment that was so intense, post-group life for former members can be quite lonely and isolating. A group for former members can help counteract that sense of loneliness. It's also helpful to see that what happened to them is similar whether they were involved in an extreme religious, new age, political, therapy group or relationship. The similarity of what they went through can help former members demystify their experience.

It can also be helpful to get practical suggestions from people who had left their groups or situations and have been faced with similar issues.

Info-Cult's support group meeting is held monthly in Montreal. Before being invited to participate, potential members are asked to fill in a questionnaire which the animators of the group understand each individual's specific experience and needs.

There is no fee for the group and participants are free to come to as many group meetings as they wish. Some come for one or two meetings. Some come on a regular basis. Others attend meetings when they feel the need to touch base or to deal with a particular issue that preoccupies them.

For further information about the group go to: <http://infosecte.org/soutien.html> Or contact us at soutien.infosecte@gmail.com or by phone to Info-Cult: 514-274-2333



