

THE 10TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

CHALLENGES FACING RELIGION AND THE CHURCH IN POSTMODERN DIGITAL SOCIETY

5-6 SEPTEMBER 2025, VILA DINČIĆ, SREBRNO JEZERO

ORGANIZED BY

The Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade

Forum for Religious Issues and ISS Center for Sociological and Anthropological Research

The Center for Empirical Research of Religion, Novi Sad

CHALLENGES FACING RELIGION AND THE CHURCH
IN POSTMODERN DIGITAL SOCIETY

Published by International Program Committee

Institute of Social Sciences
Institute of National Significance
for the Republic of Serbia

Belgrade, 2025

Publisher

Goran Bašić

Organizing Committee

Nataša Jevtić

Milan Blagojević

Milica Janković

Ljiljana Čumura

Mirko Blagojević, Ph.D., Head of FOREL, Principal Research Fellow, ISS, Belgrade, Serbia;

Sergey Lebedev, Ph.D., Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Mass Communications, Faculty of Sociology and Theology of the Belgorod State University, Belgorod, Russia;

Goran Bašić, Ph.D., Director of the ISS, Principal Research Fellow, ISS, Belgrade, Serbia;

Zorica Kuburić, Ph.D., Retired Full Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad and Head of the Center for Empirical Research of Religion, Novi Sad, Serbia;

Zlatko Matić, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia;

Nena Vasojević, Ph.D., Research Associate, Head of the Department for Sociological and Anthropological Research, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia;

Željko Pavić, Ph.D. Full Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Osijek, Croatia;

Yuri Stojanov, Ph.D., Professor, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Great Britain;

Kjell Magnusson, Ph.D., Retired Associate Professor, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden;

Emil Hilton Saggau, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, Lund University, Lund, Sweden;

Ivan Cvitković, Ph.D., Full Professor, Academic, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Vladimir Bakrač, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić, Montenegro;

Nuri Tinaz, Ph.D., Full Professor, Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey;

Ružica Cacanaska, Ph.D., Principal Research Fellow, Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia;

Sergey Trofimov, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Faculty of Journalism, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia;

Nonka Bogomilova, Ph.D., Principal Research Fellow, Institute for the Studies of Society and Knowledge, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria;

Krasimira Marulevska, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pedagogy, South-West University Neofit Rilski, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria;

Olga Smolina, Ph.D., Volodimir Dahl East Ukrainian National University, Kyiv, Ukraine;

Danica Igrutinović, Ph.D., Faculty of Media and Communications, Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
BELGRADE

CHALLENGES FACING RELIGION AND THE CHURCH IN POSTMODERN DIGITAL SOCIETY

(ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE)

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Silver Lake, Veliko Gradište, 5–6 September 2025

Vladimir Mentus

Institute of Social Sciences
Belgrade, Serbia

**TRENDS OF SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE OF
HOMOSEXUALITY ACROSS EUROPE**

In this paper, we explore trends in the social acceptance of homosexuality across European countries. We analyze the direction of these changes and the differences in trends between countries. This topic is crucial in current political, societal, and scientific debates concerning the rights of sexual minorities across Europe. Additionally, such attitudes may influence various discriminatory and even aggressive behaviors, and consequently, largely impact the well-being of members of these minorities. We use data from the European Social Survey (ESS), covering 17 countries (with more than 350,000 respondents) and eleven time points between 2002 and 2023. During this period, countries were affected to varying degrees by economic downturns, increasing inequalities and insecurities, the refugee crisis, and the rise of far-right movements, and it has been expected that such changes would be reflected in the attitudes toward sexual minorities. Social acceptance of homosexuality in the ESS is measured through agreement with the attitude that “Gays and lesbians should be free to live life as they wish.” The results of the latent growth curve modeling indicate that social acceptance of homosexuality clearly increases across Europe – the linear component of the trend is significant and positive (.051, $p < .001$.), while the quadratic component is not significant. Additionally, only Hungary and the Czech Republic deviate from the observed positive trend. Finally, the acceptance of homosexuality was consistently lower in Eastern European countries compared to the Western during the entire observed period.

Key words: trends, homosexuality, European Social Survey