

Abstracts

Péter Török

Typologization of religious entities,
its adaptation to the situation in Hungary

More than half a dozen factors make the typologization of Hungarian religious entities difficult. The first, which is the characteristic of every typologization, is a certain level of arbitrariness, the second, is the diversity of these typologizations. The next problematic factor is that new religious movements (NRM) are sometimes treated separately and taken out of the traditional church-sect typology, and sometimes they are placed into one of the categories of the typology. Naturally, there are reasons for this separation, which are perhaps best summarized by Bryan Wilson (1993) in his historical comparative analysis. The consequence is that further typologies were created within NRMs. However, according to Wilson, these typologies were not based on ideal types, but only on a few typical characteristics (1993:70). These new categories either cannot be matched with to the previous ones even after a lengthy analysis, or can only be matched partially.

András Máté-Tóth, Péter Török, Gábor Dániel Nagy

The relation of new religious communities
to the society

When we analyse the relation between a social group and the society, our results primarily depend on the society perception we have. Taking the homogenous society as basis, every relation between every social group and the society is interpreted in a dichotomous (bipolar) model, due to the logical pressure. The whole of society is on one side, the social group is on the other side. This schematic model dominates every description. However, in the view of society, which takes the complex relation of many social sub-systems into consideration, social groups also have a complex system of relations, the description of which are dominated by nuances. The classics of the sociology of religion like Max Weber, Ernst Troeltsch, Emile Durkheim and others, started from the homogenous view of society when describing churches and sects, as a result of which, society is opposed by the church or the sect. We analyse this relation in our study.

András Máté-Tóth, Gábor Dániel Nagy
Types of religiosity in certain
new religious movements

We more and more often find the idea in popular belief that new religious movements are not really religious, or on the contrary, they practice a fanatic version of religiosity. One can rarely find other thoughts that are between the extremities of false and excessive religiosity. This is why we considered it important in our research to gather detailed and reliable data about the specialities and types of the religiosity of these communities, by a survey research among the members of new religious communities. We did not expect new discoveries compared to the results of the international research of religiosity. However, we find it important to prove and modulate the known connections with our research.

András Máté-Tóth
Preferences of religious orientation in certain
religious communities

In this study, I analysed the religious orientation of the members of different religious communities, which are present in Hungary: Jehova's witnesses, Scientologists, Buddhists, while Catholics and the whole population of Hungary are included as a control group. Among the 9 possibilities of orientation, the respondents, in different combinations, considered the writings and rules of their own communities and conscience as the most significant. Orientation to the statement of „what most people do” had the lowest significance. Two groups can be perceived in all communities, one which is totally loyal to its own religious community and one which is less or not at all loyal. These two groups show different characteristics in the relation to the most important possibilities of orientation as well. Loyalty can primarily be perceived in the case of men and younger people. The level of loyalty increases with the level of religiosity, though an autonomous group can be found in the most religious group. Factor analysis shows two dimensions of orientation: a rather religious and a rather social orientation. With these results, we were able to verify the hypothesis, according to which, not the type of the religious community determines the orientation of the members, but the character and type of the religiosity of the members.

Sára Mezei, Gábor Dániel Nagy, András Máté-Tóth
Religious orientation in certain Hungarian
religious communities

Theoretical background

Religious orientation is the most influential theory in the scientific research of religion, it is the most popular, and at the same time, it is the area of research, which generates serious theoretical and methodological disputes. Gordon W. Allport in his book titled *The Individual and His Religion*, which was published in 1950, differentiated mature and immature or intrinsic or extrinsic religiosity, based on the psychological motivation theory. In this study, we test whether or not the model can be applied in Hungary.

András Máté-Tóth, Péter Török, Gábor Dániel Nagy

Changes of religious affiliation between generations among the membership of several smaller churches

The stability or change of religious affiliation among generations is one of the most interesting questions of the sociology of religion. International publications of this topic can be categorized into three groups according to their subjects. However, belonging to one group is naturally not exclusive, thus a certain publication may not deal with only one set of questions as we will see in our short review. The first set of questions deals with the general characteristics of religious tendencies and their cause, demographical indicators, especially denominational specialties. Publications dealing with the religiousness and denominational switching of adolescents have to be put into a different category. The third topic of international publications is undoubtedly the so called brainwash theory. However, the detailed examination of this last category is beyond the limits of this study.

Péter Török

Unification Church

The aim of this study is to get to know the history, teachings, Hungarian presence and social appreciation of the Unification Church. Beside the review of the available Hungarian and foreign sources, the highest possible objectivity is achieved by discussions with the representatives of the Unification Church, and participant observation. Though I am aware of the risks of such a task, I try to make some statements in the conclusion of this study, which compares the true state of this community with the image they have in the Hungarian society.

István Kamarás

Habits of Krishna followers

When Pierre Bourdieu examines the correlations between social status and lifestyle, he finds for example that piano, golf, whisky, bridge, and water skiing are the characteristics of the lifestyle of self employed people and high level managers, while beer, football, accordion, and the card game sixty-six are characteristics of the lifestyle of skilled workers and foremen (Bourdieu 1979). I assume that we can find special lifestyle elements in the two groups of Vaishnava followers, who have the same faith but different lifestyles. By examining this topic, I try to find the answer to the question of what role do the differences in religion have in the differences in lifestyle, or in other words: to what extent does religiosity affect lifestyle.

Irén Annus

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

In the 1990s, the members of a previously unknown community appeared in more and more cities of Hungary. They walked the streets in groups of two, women dressed humbly, wore simple clothes, men wore ironed white shirt, tie and dark suits, and backpack. All of them wore name cards on their clothes: men were referred to as elder, women as sister. They did not stop anyone on the street, they did not try to collect money, and they did not preach in busy squares. Instead, they went from house to house, rang the doorbell and politely asked the inhabitants if they heard about their church: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Márta Szenes

The characteristics of the careers of young people,
who joined new religious movements,
before their conversion

We have met many social phenomena in Hungary since the system change, which several areas of science wish to understand and interpret within their own area of competence. The more emphasized presence of new religious movements and their effect on the young adult age group is one of these phenomena. The phenomenon was visible in western societies tens of years ago and as a reaction researches and studies were made in the fields of sociology, political science, history of religion, cultural anthropology, and psychopathology. This study examines the characteristics of the careers of young people, who joined new religious movements, with the help of in depth interviews.