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News from Info-Cult

No 16, August 2010

This edition of **News from Info-Cult** focuses on one of our most important educational activities – organizing international conferences - which is closely tied in with our primary service of assistance and information to those harmed by “cults”, new religious movements and related phenomena. Future editions of **News from Info-Cult** will focus on other day-to-day educational and assistance activities of Info-Cult.

Education

International Conferences and Presentations

Over the last number of years, Info-Cult has been pleased to collaborate with the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) in organizing annual international conferences. Working with ICSA has reinforced our belief in the value of international cooperation. Attendance from around the world at these conferences, which include academic scholars, mental health professionals, former members and families, reflects the global nature of the issue. The growing collaboration of individuals and organizations in other countries is helping to enhance the quality of the information and assistance Info-Cult provides to those in need. We look forward to our continued collaboration with ICSA.

Who Is Info-Cult

Founded in 1980, Info-Cult is a non-profit charitable organization that helps people concerned or interested about cults, new religious movements and related phenomena.

Our services include :

an information and assistance phone line, consultation, research, conferences, documentation centre and an internet site.

Recent ICSA International Conference in New York (Fort Lee)

The most recent international conference was held in New York (Fort Lee, NJ). There were 250 people attendees from 21 countries and more than 70 presentations. The conference program can be found at: http://icsahome.com/infoserv_conferences/conference_agenda.asp . Mike Kropveld, Info-Cult's Executive Director, organized and moderated three sessions on “**How to Bring About Change in Controversial Groups**”. These sessions explored how controversial groups can and do change in response to internal and external processes. Mike will continue to pursue this theme in future conferences as the idea that groups can and do change is often not considered or is rejected when focusing on “cults” and cultic groups.

Upcoming International Conferences

There are two upcoming international conferences that Info-Cult is involved in organizing:

September 18-19, 2010 : Rome, Italy, ICSA conference

“Cultic Groups in Society: Prevention, Information, and Assistance”
(sessions will be held in English and Italian)

This ICSA conference is being organized in conjunction with [Info-Cult/Info-Secte](#), [Osservatorio Nazionale Abusi Psicologici \(ONAP\)](#), [Sects, Religions, and Spirituality \(SRS\)](#), and [SOS-Abusi Psicologici](#).

Information about the conference can be found at: http://www.icsahome.com/infoserv_conferences/2010rome/conf_home.htm

Education (continued)

July 7 – 9, 2011 ~ Barcelona, Spain, ICSA Annual International Conference
“Psychological Manipulation, Cultic Groups, Social Dependencies, and Harm”
(sessions will be held in English, French and Spanish)

This conference is organized jointly with [Atención e Investigación de Socioadicciones](#) (AIS) of Barcelona in collaboration with the **University of Barcelona** and [Info-Cult/Info-Secte](#).

The Call for Papers is here: http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/2011_CallForPapers2011.pdf

More information about this conference will be forthcoming.

Presentations

Mike Kropveld, will be travelling to Turin, Italy in September to present at a conference organized by CESNUR (Center for Studies on New Religions) entitled **“Changing Gods. Between Religion and Everyday Life”**. He will be part of a panel on **“Responses to Harm and NRMs in Europe and North America”**. His presentation, **“Cults, NRMs and Related Groups: What Governments are Asked to Do; What Governments Should Consider”** will focus on the kinds of requests that people, concerned about cult harms, have asked of governments in Europe and North America and which governmental responses are appropriate and beneficial.

In addition, over the last few months, Mike provided educational programs to high schools and community groups in and around Montreal.

NOTE : **Michael Kropveld** of Info-Cult and **Michael Langone** of ICSA were to have given talks, “Cultic Crimes in North America,” at the April 24, 2010 INFORM conference at the London School of Economics. Unfortunately, the ash cloud from the Iceland volcano prevented them from leaving North America. Fortunately, **Rod and Linda Dubrow-Marshall** two colleagues in Wales filled in for them and presented the talks at the conference.



Info-Cult houses one of the largest documentation centers in the world on “cults”, new religious movements and related phenomena, and information is constantly being updated. On our website, the following sections are routinely added to:

Government Reports, Legal Decisions, etc...
Library Collection and Documentation
Upcoming TV and Radio Programs/ Conferences/
Other Events

You can also find new and relevant information on our “New” page.

Internet

Arrondissement.com

Info-Cult has its profile in the [family section of Arrondissement.com](#). The arrangement with them offers us a new avenue for the public to know about us and our services. This website is based in Quebec and information is only available in French.

Info-Cult E-mail information lists (English and French)

Info-Cult’s **free** email service allows those interested to receive articles on cults, new religious movements and related subjects, announcements of upcoming conferences, television programs and updates about Info-Cult. To subscribe **to either or both language lists**, email us at infosecte@qc.aibn.com

NOTE : The information sent on the English and French lists are mostly different.

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and relies on financial support from various sources to fund our day-to-day activities. Info-Cult is recognized for its role in responding to a very real need in our society. Donations to Info-Cult are greatly appreciated.

You can donate online at



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

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