

News from Info-Cult

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***International
Conference in Montreal
Brings Together Experts
on Cults, Psychological
Abuse, and New
Religious Movements.***

International Conference – Montreal 2012

Ever since the 1978 mass murder-suicides at Jonestown in the jungles of Guyana, when nearly 1000 people died, cults have periodically made front-page news. Aum Shinrikyo's release of sarin gas in the Tokyo subway and the murder-suicides of Solar Temple members in Switzerland, France, and Canada are two other well-known tragedies that captured the media's attention.

These are striking examples of cult-related harm. Many people do not realize, however, that there are thousands of mostly small high-demand groups, some of which psychologically and/or physically damage members and families.

The researchers, mental health care professionals, families, former members, and others who will be coming to Montreal for the annual conference of the [International Cultic Studies Association](#) (ICSA) share a common concern about group-related abuse. The conference is open to the public and will take place from July 5-7. It is organized jointly with [Info-Cult/Info-Secte](#) in collaboration with the [Université de Montréal](#), [The International Centre for Comparative Criminology](#) (ICCC) of the Université de Montréal, and [l'Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes](#).

Attorney Carolle Tremblay, President of Info-Cult/Info-Secte, says, "We eagerly collaborate with ICSA on bringing this important conference to Montreal for the first time. Since researchers consider the province of Quebec to be fertile ground for alternative groups and movements, we hope that many educators, mental health professionals, and others come to the conference to learn more about this intriguing phenomenon."

Lorna Goldberg, President of ICSA, says that "the goals of ICSA's annual conference are to help victims and families, provide training and support for helping professionals, and bring researchers together to improve understanding of the phenomenon."

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Education

Info-Cult Web Site

Beyond the Mirage and Au-Delà des Mirages the English and French educational videos produced by Info-Cult are now accessible free of charge online (<http://infosect.freeshell.org/infocult/ic-e7.html>). Though made a number of years ago they are still relevant today as an educational tool. This 22 minute documentary on the cult phenomenon includes an analysis by Info-Cult's Executive Director and the testimonies of former members.

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International Conference – Montreal 2012

This year's conference will offer special sessions for former group members and families, and will feature presentations in English or French by more than 100 speakers from 16 countries on 5 continents.

Here are titles of some of the **English** sessions:

- "By their fruits ye shall know them" - perhaps: how good and bad works can deceive - the case of the Legion of Christ
- Constructive activism: what can I do?
- Manipulation and victimization by the Exclusive Brethren: conceptual, legal, historical, and psychological issues
- A practical approach for law enforcement when dealing with cultic groups
- Recovering your sexual self after the cult
- From perception to reality: the case of ISKCON ["Hare Krishna"] in Belgium
- Spiritual manipulation in pseudo-Christian cults: a panel discussion with former members
- The neurobiology of belief
- Teen Mania: exploitation in a teen cult?
- The popularity of Christian evangelical patriarchy in the US and the resultant vilification and abuse of women and children
- Listening to the still small voice: reclaiming the self after leaving religious totalistic groups
- Cult-induced ecstasies, dissociation, and psychosis
- Healing the rift between ex-cult member parents and their second generation adult children (SGAs)
- The case of freedom of belief vs. freedom of speech
- The guru pedophile unmasked
- An indirect cult experience in psychotherapy

Here are the titles of some of the **French** sessions:

- La dynamique des croyances
- Les sectes et nos enfants : pistes pour une liberté religieuse responsable
- Discours sur le châtime corporel des enfants chez les protestants conservateurs québécois francophones : l'influence des différences générationnelles
- Victimes de crime d'honneur : entre religion, culture et tradition
- L'isolement social : une situation pouvant justifier une intervention en matière de protection de l'enfance en milieu religieux fermé
- Criminalisation de l'abus de faiblesse
- Intégrisme religieux entre manipulation et victimisation
- Comprendre l'expérience de la polygamie

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select Montreal Centre Ville Downtown.

For information on how to register, please click [here](#)

or contact Info-Cult/Info-Secte at 1-514-274-2333 or at infosecte@qc.aibn.com.

Journalists interested in arranging interviews should contact Mike Kropveld, Executive Director of Info-Cult/Info-Secte: 1-514-274-2333; infosecte@qc.aibn.com.

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Old Montreal

Education

Info-Cult Library

Info-Cult's library regularly receives new acquisitions. The most recent list can be found [here](#). Past acquisitions can also be easily accessed and documents acquired over the last 12 years are listed [here](#).

Other pages on our site are regularly updated as new information is received, including the following pages: **Government Reports, Legal Decisions, Publications and Selected Documents from Info-Cult and Colleagues** and **TV, radio programs, conferences and other events**.

Bookmark our site: www.infocult.org and keep up to date.

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

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

If you are interested in subscribing to **either or both language lists**, email us at: infosecte@qc.aibn.com

NOTE: The information sent on the English and French lists are generally different. The inclusion of information on a group in our mailings is provided solely as a source of information and does not denote that Info-Cult considers the group to be a cult or harmful.

Donate to Info-Cult

Info-Cult is a registered charitable organization and relies on financial support from various sources to fund our day-today 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 by mail to
Info-Cult at 5655 Park Ave., Suite 208, Montreal, QC, Canada H2V 4H2.

Or online at:



Or by:

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Go to www.infocult.org and click on *Support Us*



Beyond the Mirage

Directed by: Jorge Martinez
Produced by: Info-Cult and
Vidéographe
22 minutes