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- The Role of Chaplains at Hospital (Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris).
- Foundations and Practices of Secularity (École nationale de protection judiciaire de la jeunesse).
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- Secularity and contemporary issues – e.g., French “Sacre”, European secularity. Case law of the European Court of Human Rights regarding religious freedom, etc.
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- Cultural approaches – e.g., Music and religions; The St John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach, etc.
- Philosophy and religions – e.g., Haïdar Arefi and Christianity, Religious and violence, Nietzsche and religion, etc.

A Center of Expertise and Resources

Targeted research

IESR analyzes how teaching about religions is being implemented in France and Europe by examining case situations, practices, issues and debates. Studies have covered:

- How educators are trained: Investigations into initial and ongoing training.
- Study of teaching practices in French, History, Philosophy, History of the Arts: Analyzing school curricula and methods.
- Teaching about religions in Europe: Comparative study of situations and developments by country.
- Teaching materials and textbooks.
An Institute For Training On Secularity And Religion

Teaching about religion in school subjects

IESR was created in response to Regis Debay’s report in 2002 titled _L’enseignement du fait religieux dans l’école laïque_ (Teaching about religion in the laic school), which advocated bringing together the necessary resources to “match educational methods with scientific research.” For this purpose, IESR provides key support in the provision of teaching about religions in primary and secondary schools. In collaboration with the French Ministry of National Education, universities and IUFMs (teacher training schools), the Rectorats d’académie, as well as education inspectors, IESR organizes initial and ongoing training programs for National education personnel. The training programs, which are conducted in a secular framework, assist in adapting teaching methods to varying subjects where religions are discussed (History, Geography, French, Foreign Languages, Philosophy, Social and Economic Sciences, Art class, History of the Arts).

Dealing with issues involving religion in public service and professional life

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- Fundamental texts – e.g., The Koran, Qu’ran: the mystery of a site and the Dead Sea Scrolls; Introduction to the Bible; Jeremiah, prophet of doom, etc.
- Secularity and contemporary issues – e.g., French “laïcité”: European secularity; Case law of the European Court of Human Rights regarding religious freedom, etc.
- Anthropological approaches – e.g., Introduction to religious anthropology; Popular rituals and religiousness in the Americas; Duties, rituals and religious spaces in Black Africa, etc.
- Historical and sociological approaches – e.g., Religious and citizenship in Antiquity; Jerusalem, Constantinople; Europe and Christianity, etc.
- Cultural approaches – e.g., Music and religions; The St John Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach, etc.
- Philosophy and religions – e.g., Hannah Arendt and Christianity; Mysticism; Buddhism, etc.
- Holy days of the Talmud and Jewish in Mesopotamia
- Anthopological approaches – e.g., Introduction to religious anthropology; Popular rituals and religiousness in the Americas; Duties, rituals and religious spaces in Black Africa, etc.
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Research promotion and dissemination

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In partnership with various publishers, IESR offers several publications for the teaching profession, including: _History of Islam (La Documentation française, 2007)_; _History of Judaism (La Documentation française, 2008)_; _History of Christianity (La Documentation française, 2009)_; _Teaching about Religions (Amand Colin, 2011)_, the collection _Récits primorciaux: Founding Religious Stories_, _L’Édition La Documentation française_, _IESR_ also partners with organizations such as ISJAM-EHSS (Institute for the study of Islam and Muslim societies), CERI-Sciences Po (Center for international studies and research), and IRIS (Institute of strategic and international relations) to provide jointly organized seminars and training.

IESR hosts monthly panel discussions called _Les mercredis de l’IESR_, where latest publications are debated in the presence of authors, with participation by the audience.
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