

Report from the EFSRE's secretary, 2016-2021

The Forum's ordinary Fifth Biennial Conference took place in May 2015 in Munich on the theme of "Religion in the Anthropocene", hosted by prof. Markus Vogt. It resulted in the widespread, much approved and cited publication *Religion in the Anthropocene* edited by Celia E. Deane-Drummond, Sigurd Bergmann and Markus Vogt, with a foreword by Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Eugene OR: Wipf & Stock/Cascade 2017: <https://wipfandstock.com/9781498291910/religion-in-the-anthropocene/>

Due to a coincidence of unfortunate reasons the next biannual conference could not take place in 2017, but a business meeting was held 9 March 2020 subsequent to the Conference "Creatures – Radical Ecological Conversion after Laudato Si': Discovering the intrinsic Value of all Creatures, Human & Non-human," arr. by the Embassies of Georgia, Federal Republic of Germany, and Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See, and the Gregoriana, 7-8 March 2020 at the Pontifical Gregorian University. It was supported and attended by several Forum members. The business meeting was kindly hosted by Fr. Prem Xalxo, S.J. The minutes are attached here.

At the Rome meeting the Forum decided to plan for the 6th Biannual Conference in May 2020 in Manchester, to be hosted by prof. Peter Scott. Due to the still ongoing pandemic the planned and well-prepared conference on the theme of "Religion, Ecology, Materialism" had to be postponed and will take place in Manchester as a digital event 14-15 May 2021. <http://lincolnthetheologicalinstitute.com/efsre-vi/>

The conference committee consists of Peter Scott, Manchester, Whitney Bauman, Berlin, Sigurd Bergmann, Lund, Roberto Chiotti, Toronto, and Kate Rigby, Bath.

The Forum's website is hosted and financed by prof. Markus Vogt in Munich, and professionally administrated by Maximilian Seidlinger in Munich. The Forum's mailing list (open for members) is operated by Sigurd Bergmann and splendidly administrated by Kari Berg at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim where it also hosted technically. On the behalf of the Forum Sigurd Bergmann edits the book series "Studies in Religion and the Environment" at LIT Verlag, Berlin, (13 volumes so far): <https://www.lit-verlag.de/Publikationen/Reihen/Studies-in-Religion-and-the-EnvironmentStudien-zur-Religion-und-Umwelt/?p=1> .

The number of new members has year on year increased steadily and the total number of members, all active scholars in the field, amounts today to 205 members on all continents (incl. four new members en route at present). It would need a whole booklet to list all the many highly valuable and exciting activities initiated and executed by the Forum members in the last years. Without doubt the whole field of research is still in a dynamically progressive inter- and transnational development.

*Lund, 3 May 2021,
Sigurd Bergmann*