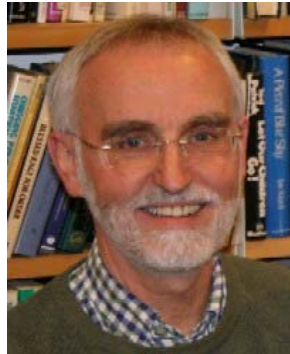




THE RELIGION AND DIVERSITY PROJECT/RELIGION ET DIVERSITÉ



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Brief Biography

James A. Beckford, Fellow of the British Academy, is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Warwick. His PhD was awarded in 1972 by the University of Reading. He has held teaching and research positions at the University of Reading, the University of Durham, and Loyola University Chicago. He has also held visiting positions at the University of California, Berkeley; Tsukuba University, Japan; the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris; and the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris.

In addition to editing *Current Sociology* (1980-87) and serving on the editorial boards of numerous journals and book series, he has been elected to the following offices in scholarly and professional associations: President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (1989-90), Vice-President of the International Sociological Association (1994-98), President of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (1999-2003) and President-elect of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (2009-10).

His most recent books are: *Religion in Prison: Equal Rites in a Multi-Faith Society* (with S. Gilliat, 1998), *Social Theory and Religion* (2003), *Muslims in Prison: Challenge and Change in Britain and France* (with D. Joly & F. Khosrokhavar, 2005), *Theorising Religion: Classical and Contemporary Debates* (edited with J. Walliss, 2006) and *The SAGE Handbook of the Sociology of Religion* (edited with N.J. Demerath III, 2007). *The Centrality of Religion in Social Life: Essays in Honour of James A. Beckford* was edited by Eileen Barker in 2008.