



Photo by Vicki.

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Dr Hayes has been teaching in Philosophy and Religion Departments in Australia and the United States for a number of years and has degrees from Sydney University (B.A.), Union Seminary in New York (B.D., S.T.M.) and Columbia University (Ph.D).

The religions of humankind are involved in a constant dialectic of identity and change. The terms "religion" and "identity" point not to static entities but to dynamic processes in which the survival of traditions are at stake – survival in terms of discerned continuity and contemporary relevance.

What gives identity to a religion or a morality?

How do religious traditions maintain their identities when faced with membership dispersal or modern secularism or the new religious pluralisms?

How do religions relate to the human quest for personal and group identity (tribal, ethnic, sectional, class, political, national)?

What are the religious dimensions of cultural, generational, ecumenical and even world identities?

How will the History of Religions be changed as it is re-written in the light of women's experiences, perspectives and scholarship?

These issues and others are addressed – largely in terms of specific case-studies – in this major selection of theme-related papers from the Fifteenth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). The Congress assembled in August 1985 at the University of Sydney, Australia, for the first Southern Hemispheric meeting in its 85-year history. Its theme:  
**Religion and Identity.**