Abstract: This paper examines the setting up of the Center for Religion Studies (NER) at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), in Brazil. NER is a research group composed by scholars and students of religion sociology and anthropology. It is part of a wider historical context in which religion is viewed as a social fact to be studied in loco and mostly analyzed from the perspective of social anthropology. The establishment and consolidation of NER has enabled its associate researchers to supervise a number of these and dissertations and hence contribute to a recent increase in the number of studies on religion.

Keywords: research group, religion, Center for Religion Studies (NER@UFRGS), academic work.