

Sociology of Religion



Newsletter of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association

Richard Flory, Editor

From the Chair

It is always satisfying to be able to convey good news. The good news is that our Religion Section is doing very well, as is the field of sociology of religion generally. Our section is steadily growing in membership and stands on solid financial ground. We continue to receive impressive and competitive submissions for our Section's paper, article, and book awards. We have many talented people willing and able to serve on Section committees. We are seeing scholarship by many of our members published in a wide range of journals and university book publishers. Book editors everywhere know that the subject of religion is hot. We enjoy a greater variety of options for teaching and studying sociology of religion at good graduate programs than there was in past years. And many very promising young scholars with interests in sociology of religion are working their way through many different graduate programs and will be taking research and teaching jobs in the coming years. Every year now we see open sociology faculty positions advertised that are specifically interested in hiring in the sociology of religion. Increasingly, more and more scholars in academia seem to realize that religion matters and so must be taken into account and understood in their own scholarship. Good work, everybody! And many thanks to the leaders of our Section who have ably served in recent years. Let's keep up our good efforts and keep our progress moving forward.

CHRISTIAN SMITH, University of Notre Dame

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Christian Smith is currently the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Director of the Center for the Sociology of Religion, and Principal Investigator of the National Study of Youth and Religion. He recently served as Associate Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, from 2000 to 2005. Smith worked at UNC Chapel Hill from 1994 to 2006. Smith holds an MA (1987) and PhD (1990) in Sociology from Harvard University and has studied Christian historical theology at Harvard Divinity School and other Boston Theological Institute schools. Smith's BA is in sociology (1983), from Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts. Before moving to UNC Chapel Hill in 1994, Smith taught for six years at Gordon College. During his years at UNC Chapel Hill, Smith has brought in about eight million dollars of research grant money from the Pew Charitable Trusts and Lilly Endowment, Inc. Smith is the author, co-author, or editor of numerous journal articles and books, including *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*; *Moral, Believing Animals: Human Culture and Personhood*; *The Secular Revolution: Power, Interests, and Conflict in the Secularization of American Public Life*, *American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving*, and *The Emergence of Liberation Theology: Radical Religion and Social*

Section Officers 2007-2008

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The Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association encourages and enhances research, teaching, and other professional concerns in the study of religion and society

2007 Section Awards

Distinguished Book Award (Co-Winners)

Mansoor Moaddel, Eastern Michigan University, *Islamic Modernism, Nationalism, and Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse* (University of Chicago Press, 2005)

Genevine Zubrzycki, University of Michigan, *The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland* (University of Chicago Press, 2006)

Distinguished Article Award

Nancy Davis and Robert Robinson, "The Egalitarian Face of Islamic Orthodoxy: Support for Islamic Law and Economic Justice in Seven Muslim-Majority Nations." *American Sociological Review* 71:167-190 (2006)

Student Paper Award

Christopher Scheitle, Pennsylvania State University, "Organizational Niches and Religious Markets: Uniting Two Literatures." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*. Issue 3, Article 2.

Committee Assignments 2007-2008

Book Award Committee, 2008

Courtney Bender (Chair), cb337@columbia.edu

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SPECIAL ISSUE: SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Special Issue of *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* published in September on **The Politics of Veiling in Comparative Perspective: Muslim Integration in the United States and France.**

Special issue editor: Jen'nan Ghazal Read

Contributors: Kathleen Moore, Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Rhys Williams, Gira Vashi, Sophie Body-Gendrot, Caitlin Killian, and Kristine Ajrouch

The question of Muslim integration is of paramount concern in the United States and France, two Western nations that have witnessed rapid growth in the Muslim population over the past few decades to the extent that Muslims now comprise the second largest monotheistic religion in both countries. Beyond population growth, an important common denominator linking the French and U.S. cases is the struggle to incorporate Muslim communities into societies whose values are often at odds with Islamic beliefs and whose members are often hostile to their presence. Perhaps no single issue better captures the controversy over Muslim integration than the Islamic practice of veiling, a practice that many consider a universal symbol of women's oppression and that has stimulated much debate over how best to integrate Muslim minorities into Western democracies.

This special issue of *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*, guest edited by Jen'nan Ghazal Read, sheds light on this question by bringing together an international group of scholars to examine how state policies on veiling shape the national climate on ethnic and religious integration in the United States and France. Contributors include Kathleen Moore, Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, Rhys Williams, Gira Vashi, Sophie Body-Gendrot, Caitlin Killian, and Kristine Ajrouch.

Several key findings emerge from this cross-national comparison, two of which are highlighted here. First, policies aimed at strengthening democracies may actually result in the exclusion of religious and ethnic minorities from civic engagement and integration. In France, for example, the law banning the veil was meant to encourage the abandonment of ethnic and religious identities in favor of a more unified French national identity, but the result has been heightened segregation and intensification of group differences. Second, Muslims in the United States and France are distinct in their socioeconomic and demographic profiles, which have resulted in differing opportunities for their social, cultural, and political integration. Muslims in America are generally better educated and earn higher incomes than the U.S. population as a whole, while the majority of Muslims in France have relatively low levels of educational attainment and are working-class poor, which contributed to the riots in the suburbs of Paris in October 2005. In the French case, ethnic and religious tensions are often compounded by and sometimes conflated with class tensions, and unlike Muslims in America, Muslims in France typically lack the individual and community resources needed to influence and/or challenge state politics. Future research will need to continue to explore how the tension between individual rights and state sovereignty will affect Muslim integration.

Call for Papers

Watch the ASA website for the online call for papers: www.asanet.org



August 1 - 4, 2008

Sheraton Boston and the Boston Marriott Copley Place
Boston, MA

The 19th Nordic Conference in the Sociology of Religion

"URBAN DIVERSITY AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS"

Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland
13-15 August 2008
<http://www.abo.fi/ncsr2008>

The theme of the conference is religion in a contemporary urban setting. How are religious traditions and practices influenced by the contemporary city, and what is the role of religion in the late modern "cityscape"? The pluralistic situation in a modern city is characterized by ethnic minorities, but also by various other subcultures. The role of media and consumption is most evident in urban settings. And in the centre of town, we find a cathedral. What are the strategies of the mainstream churches amidst the new urbanism? In short, how does religion fit into the contemporary city and what happens with religion in this environment?

The plenary speakers of the conference are Professor Linda Woodhead (University of Lancaster, UK), Professor R. Stephen Warner

(University of Illinois at Chicago, USA), Professor Inger Furseth (Centre for Church Research, Norway) and Dr. Pasi Mäenpää (University of Helsinki, Finland).

The language of the conference is English.

The conference will be held at Arken, in the Faculty of Arts building of Åbo Akademi University.

Timetable

Call for sessions, deadline December 15th, 2007
Call for papers, deadline April 30th, 2008
Registration, deadline April 30th, 2008

Paul Djupe and Laura Olson are editing a special issue of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* on the topic: The Impact of Religion on Politics and Policy in the American States. Info is available at www.sssrweb.org or by contacting the editors at djupe@denison.edu or laurao@clemson.edu

The Association for the Scientific Study of Religion: Southwest (ASSR:SW), an affiliate of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, invites participation in its 2008 Annual Meeting on March 14-16 in Irving, Texas. ASSR:SW invites paper proposals on any topic concerning the scientific study of religion, particularly those dealing with the sociological, philosophical, historical, economic, psychological, anthropological, or political/public policy aspects of religion in society. Accepted papers are also eligible for publication in the 2008 Proceedings of the ASSR:SW Annual Meeting (completed papers due by 2-10-08). Additional information about ASSR:SW & the 2008 Annual Meeting is available at this website: envirecon.com/assronline.htm. Submit paper proposals by October 8th to Dr. Richard Ambler, SouthernArkansas University, at rmambler@saumag.edu.

Member News

Anna Bruzzese, Pierce College (Los Angeles), recently defended her dissertation titled "The Social and Personal Implications of the Process of Identity Revision: the Case of Separated and Divorced Catholics" at the State University of New York at Stony Brook on August 14. She is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology at Pierce College.

Elaine Howard Ecklund (University at Buffalo and Rice University) and **Michael Emerson** (Rice University), received a grant for \$190,149 from the Russell Sage Foundation to fund a study titled, "Religion and the Changing Face of American Civic Life."

Penny Edgell, University of Minnesota, was promoted to Professor and is also Director of Graduate Studies.

Jen'nan Ghazal Read, University of California, Irvine, has been awarded a Russell Sage Foundation grant (2007-2009) to examine how different dimensions of ethnic and religious identity combine to influence Muslim American political incorporation. She has also been awarded a Scholar-in-residency grant from the Borchard Foundation to live at the Chateau de la retesche in Missillac, France for the fall (2007) quarter to work on publications from her research as a Carnegie Scholar.

Jay Howard, Professor of Sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus, has been appointed Interim Vice Chancellor and Dean.

David O. Moberg, Marquette University (Emeritus), has published the third edition of his *The Great Reversal: Reconciling Evangelism and Social Concern* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock), each edition carrying a slightly different subtitle. Also, at the June 2007 annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), Moberg was honored with a plaque "for his exemplary faith, scholarship, and integration in the discipline of

Sociology and his founding and continuing contributions to this Association."

Eric Morier-Genoud has been working since last autumn at the University of Oxford, for the Oxford Research Network on Government in Africa (OReNGA) <http://orenga.politics.ox.ac.uk/>. He is developing a project on state mediation of religion in South-East Africa. He also reports that the journal he co-edits (*Le Fait Missionnaire*) has been taken over by Brill in Leiden and renamed *Social Sciences & Missions*. It will be published twice a year in both French and English. (For more information see <http://www2.unil.ch/lefaitmissionnaire/SSM.htm> or www.brill.nl/ssm)

Lisa Pearce, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is spending the 2007-08 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto, CA. She is working on a book, with Melinda Denton (Clemson University), about continuity and change in religiosity and spirituality throughout adolescence.

Yanick St. Jean's lecture/research Fulbright award to Benin, West Africa, has been renewed for a second year.

Dissertation in the Pipe

Joshua D. Reichard. "Process-relational theology and psychotherapy applied to Pentecostal-Charismatic social systems," Department of Religion and Theology, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa.

Member Publications

Albert J. Bergesen (ed.), University of Arizona, *The Sayyid Qutb Reader: Selected Writings on Politics, Religion, and Society*, (Routledge, 2007).

Anthony J. Blasi (ed.), *American Sociology of Religion: Histories* [includes contributions by Anthony Blasi, D. Paul Johnson, William H. Swatos, Peter Kivisto, Armand Mauss, James Cavendish, Joseph Tamney, Nancy Nason-Clark, Barbara Fisher-Townsend, Alberto Lopez Pulido, E. Burke Rochford, and John H. Simpson]. (Brill, 2007).

William V. D'Antonio and Fr. Anthony Pogorelc, Catholic University of America, *Voices of the Faithful: Loyal Catholics Striving For Change*. (Crossroad Publishing Co, 2007).

Ecklund, Elaine Howard (University at Buffalo and Rice University) **and Christopher Scheitle**, (Penn State University), "Religion among Academic Scientists: Distinctions, Disciplines, and Demographics," *Social Problems*, 54(2):289-307.

Steve Ellingson, Hamilton College, *The Megachurch and the Mainline: Remaking Religious Tradition in the Twenty-First Century*. (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Richard Flory and Donald E. Miller, University of Southern California, "The Embodied Spirituality of the Post-Boomer Generations," in Kieran Flanagan and Peter C. Jupp (eds.), *A Sociology of Spirituality* (Ashgate, 2007).

Brian J. Grim (Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life) **and Roger Finke** (Penn State University), "Religious Persecution in Cross-National Context: Clashing Civilizations or Regulated Religious Economies." *American Sociological Review*, 2007, Vol. 72 (August: 633-658).

Stephen Kalberg, Boston University, "A Cross-National Consensus on a Unified Sociological Theory? Some Inter-Cultural Obstacles." *European Journal of Social Theory* 10 (May, 2007): 206-19.

Donald B. Kraybill, Elizabethtown College, *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* (Jossey-Bass, 2007).

Prema Kurien, Syracuse University, *A Place at the Multicultural Table: The Development of an American Hinduism*, Rutgers University Press, 2007

D. Michael Lindsay, Rice University, *Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

Joseph M. Palacios, Georgetown University, *The Catholic Social Imagination: Activism and the Just Society in Mexico and the United States* (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Joseph M. Palacios, Georgetown University, "Bringing Mexican Immigrants into American Faith-Based Justice and Civic Cultures," in Pierrette Hondagneu Sotelo (ed.), *Religion and Social Justice for Immigrants* (Rutgers University Press, 2007).

Joshua D. Reichard. *Rust to Renewal: Why churches must work together to lead social and economic recovery in Youngstown, Ohio*. Ramona, CA: Vision Publishing.

Funding Opportunity

The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, is offering its first Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in the area of religion and philanthropy. This is a one year dissertation fellowship intended to encourage research in the area of faith and giving or religion and philanthropy.

See the following link for more information and the application procedures:
<http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/>

Employment Announcements

The American University in Cairo. The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, and Egyptology has two possible vacancies. The successful candidates will teach both undergraduate and MA-level courses, including introductory sociology courses and courses within the areas of expertise. Rank and specialization are open, but specializations in the following areas are preferred: social inequalities (e.g. race/ethnic, class, gender), sexualities, development, social movements, research methods (quantitative and qualitative). A regional specialization in the Middle East or the Global South is a plus.

Requirements:

All requirements for the PhD in sociology must be completed by the time of appointment. Priority will be given to applications received by November 1, 2007.

Additional Information:

One position is tenure track, with an initial two-year (renewable) appointment, subject to mutual agreement will begin September 2008. Renewal of an appointment depends upon institutional needs and/or the appointee's performance. The second is a one-year sabbatical replacement. All applicants must submit the following documents via online: 1) an updated C.V (upload via Step 2 in the next page); 2) a letter of interest; 3) a completed AUC Personal Information Form (PIF). For your convenience, the PIF can be downloaded in the next page (next to upload section); d) List names & contact information of at least three references familiar with your professional background; (e) statement of teaching philosophy, research agenda, copies of recent student evaluations, and copies of two recent publications.

The American University in Cairo is an EEO Employer.

You can apply online at <http://aucegypt.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=6626>

Lehigh University. The Department of Sociology & Anthropology invites applications for a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Sociology. The successful candidate is expected to participate in the new interdisciplinary Globalization and Social Change Program and to have an active research program in comparative sociology. Possible specialty areas might include, but are not limited to, gender and development, international political economy, urban/community sociology, comparative health care, life course and family, and intergroup communications. Candidates must have Ph.D. completed by the starting date of August 2008 and show significant evidence of research productivity and successful teaching experience. The standard teaching load is 2-2. The College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community and curriculum. Candidates who can contribute to that goal are encouraged to apply and to identify their strengths or experiences in this area. Lehigh University is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer and provides comprehensive benefits including partner benefits. Lehigh University is a highly competitive, research-oriented private university located one hour north of Philadelphia and 90 minutes west of New York City. Email a curriculum vitae, a letter of application indicating teaching and research interests, and the names of four references to insoc78@lehigh.edu. Send the material as attachments in WORD or PDF format. Please do not send additional material at this time, and only electronic submissions will be considered. The deadline for applications is **November 5, 2007**. Questions concerning the position should be directed to James McIntosh, Search Committee Chair, at ijm1@lehigh.edu. The department web site address is <http://cas.lehigh.edu/socanthro>.

Loyola University Chicago. The Department of Sociology seeks to fill two tenure-track Assistant Professor positions beginning in Fall 2008. We are especially interested in candidates whose primary expertise will enhance our department's historic strengths in urban sociology/public policy or sociology of religion/culture. We will give priority to applicants who can teach courses and mentor graduate students in quantitative analysis. Applicants whose scholarship is relevant for studies of environmental issues, transnational migration, and/or globalization will be especially attractive. Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to scholarly publication, grant-writing, and excellence in teaching, and should have completed a Ph.D. degree by August, 2008. Loyola is a nationally recognized research university in the Jesuit Catholic tradition. The sociology department, located on Loyola's attractive Lakeshore Campus, has a well-established doctoral program as well as a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching.

Candidates should send a statement of research and teaching interests, Curriculum Vitae, and three letters of reference to: Fred Kniss, Chair, Dept. of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL, 60626. Candidates must also register their application and submit an electronic CV at www.careers.luc.edu. Review of applications will begin October 1, 2007, continuing until the position is filled.

Loyola University Chicago is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer with a strong commitment to diversification of its faculty.

Purdue University. The African American Studies and Research Center (AASRC) and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, (www.cla.purdue.edu/african-american/), invite applications for a joint-appointed tenure-track Assistant Professor position, beginning August 2008 (50% in AASRC and 50% in either the Department of Sociology or the Department of Anthropology as the tenure home). We seek a candidate with

expertise in race relations, and with evidence of excellence in both research and teaching. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in either Sociology or Anthropology and have expertise in some aspect of race relations and social inequalities, and a research focus on African Americans or the African Diaspora. Topical areas of particular interest include African American families, Black masculinity, Black churches in America, African Americans and the civil rights movement, and the culture of the African Diaspora. The teaching load is two courses per semester and includes teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Candidates should send a letter of application that includes a statement of research and teaching interests, a curriculum vitae, and two writing samples. Candidates should ask three references to send letters of recommendation to: Professor Venetria K. Patton, Joint Search, African-American Studies and Research Center, Beering Hall, Purdue University, 100 University Ave., West Lafayette, IN 47907. Inquiries may be directed to Venetria K. Patton, Chair of the Search Committee (vpattton@purdue.edu). Review of applications will begin October 15, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and individuals from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

From the Editor

I am pleased to be able to serve as the Newsletter Editor for the Sociology of Religion section of the American Sociological Association. While many friends and colleagues have suggested to me that this is a thankless job (after which they thanked me!), as my predecessor in this position has noted, it has its own set of rewards. Yes it entails a lot of organizing of information and then formatting it into what is hopefully both an easy to read and visually pleasing format. But in that process, one can't help but be impressed by the sheer amount and breadth of activities that are reported by members, and the commitment that this evidences by the members of this section. I have seen first hand—and in a very compressed way—what Chris Smith suggested in his note at the beginning of this newsletter, that the sociological study of religion is vital and expanding. Thus I get to have a sort of front row seat on new developments in the field and with our fellow sociologists of religion.

That said, this newsletter can in large part, only be as good, or engaging, as the information that we have to disseminate. So, please send me information about your activities, publications, interactions with the media, as well as articles that you think might be a good fit for the newsletter. One function of this newsletter that has been nurtured by my predecessors has been to publish short articles that allow for a different sort of dialogue than is possible in professional journals or even at professional meetings. I would like to continue with that emphasis during my tenure as editor. Feel free to contact me with your comments, suggestions and contributions. The Winter issue will be out in February, and I'll need your submissions by February 1.

I would like to note here my sincere thanks to Kevin Dougherty for both his work over the past three years as the Newsletter Editor, and also for his willingness and graciousness in answering all my questions about how to do this job.

RICHARD FLORY, University of Southern California