

Sociology of Religion



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

Richard Flory, Editor

From the Chair

I love the sociology of religion section. The members are all excellent scholars or in training to be so, we have established social networks within our section, and we tend to not be hierarchical. In that spirit, I will be working to devise some ways to increase our networking at next year's conference. I hope that we can provide senior scholars, junior scholars, and students with a few structured opportunities to interact. Several of you have already passed on excellent ideas to me (and I continue to welcome other ideas).

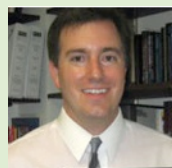
Also, I ask all senior scholars to consider my open invitation to preside at one of our roundtables. When I was a younger scholar, I recall benefiting in many ways from having a senior scholar at my table. I was nervous, but I got good advice, and I made a helpful contact I otherwise would not have had. Given the collective nature of science, finding ways to connect us will hopefully improve our scholarship even more.

As we well know, religion matters in profound and everyday ways in our global world. So understanding it in all its varieties and commonalities is of great importance. The best to everyone as you teach and research.

MICHAEL EMERSON, RICE UNIVERSITY

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Michael Emerson is Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology, and the founding director of the Center on Race, Religion and Urban Life, at Rice University in Houston Texas. Emerson holds an MA (1990) and PhD (1991) in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Emerson's BA is in sociology (1988), from Loyola University of Chicago. In addition to his work at Rice University, he has taught at St. John's University, Bethel College, and the University of Notre Dame. Emerson is currently directing several different research projects, ranging from American religion and ethnicity, environmental sustainability of large coastal cities of China and the U.S., and on religion and immigrant life. Emerson is the author, co-author, or editor of numerous journal articles and books, including *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give More*, *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States*, *Against All Odds: The Struggle for Racial Integration in Religious Organizations*, *United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race*, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*.

Section Officers 2008-2009

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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

2008 Section Awards

Distinguished Book Award (Co-Winners)

Anthony Gill (University of Washington), *The Political Origins of Religious Liberty* (Cambridge University Press, 2007).

David Smilde (University of Georgia), *Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism* (University of California Press, 2007).

Distinguished Article Award

Kelly H. Chong (University of Kansas), "Negotiating Patriarchy: South Korean Evangelical Women and the Politics of Gender," *Gender and Society* 20 (December, 2006): 697-724.

Student Paper Award

J. Shane Sharp (University of Wisconsin at Madison), "Escaping Symbolic Entrapment."

Honorable Mention: Lynne Gerber (Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley), "The Opposite of Gay: Nature, Creation, and Queerish Ex-Gay Experiments," published in *Nova Religio* 11 (May, 2008): 8-30.

Sociology of Religion Section on Facebook

Following the example of several other ASA sections, we've set up a Facebook group for the ASA Religion Section. This group is private in that it is restricted to section members, but it can be viewed by anybody with a Facebook account. Being a private group simply means that you need to be a member of the group in order to see the "wall" and discussion board, and to post something to the page.

Our idea is that this may help to facilitate more networking and conversation opportunities among section members. As well, it may entice new members to join the section who happen upon the group page. Please note however that the Facebook group is not intended to replace

any other form of communication, rather an additional one that can be used by members.

How to access the Facebook Sociology of Religion Section Group:

1. If you have a Facebook account, go to this url: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=37280795918>
2. Click on the "Join Group" link under the picture (upper right side of page). An email will be sent to the group administrator, who will make you a member of the group.
3. If you do not have a Facebook account, open one at facebook.com (all you need is an email address), and then follow steps 1 and 2 above.

SPECIAL ISSUE: Journal of Drug Issues

By Dale Chitwood

The most recent issue of the *Journal of Drug Issues* is dedicated to the topic of religiosity and alcohol and drug use. Dale D. Chitwood of the University of Miami and Carl G. Leukefeld of the College of Medicine, University of Kentucky edited this special issue which contains a systematic review of recent literature plus ten empirical papers authored by researchers from 14 U.S. universities. The webpage for JDI is <http://www2.criminology.fsu.edu/~jdi>. (Please see page XX for complete table of contents.)

The introductory review by Chitwood and colleagues characterizes 105 empirical articles published between 1997 and 2006, the majority of which document an inverse relationship/protective effect for religiosity and spirituality. The authors recommend future research place increased emphasis on the use of more sophisticated measures of religiosity, increase investigations of religiosity among users of major illicit drugs of abuse, and more thoroughly integrate the study of religion and drug use into the broader literature on religion and general health.

The ten research studies fall into three areas. The first section contains four papers which examine adolescent samples. Longest and Vaisey use the National Study of Youth to examine the influence of social control, religious social control, and religious salience on the incidence of marijuana use. Their findings indicate that religious salience is more predictive of initiation of use than are involvement with religious organizations and selected social control indicators. Adamczyk and Palmer analyze two waves of the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health to examine whether the initiation of marijuana use among high school students is influenced by the religiosity of students and their friends. They conclude that while both religiosity and born-again identity are associated with the initiation of marijuana use, only individual and friends' born-again identity are significant in the multivariate analysis. Bahr and Hoffmann use data from two separate surveys to examine the relationship between religiosity, peer drug use, and adolescent drug use. They report religious adolescents are less likely to smoke, binge drink, and use marijuana; adolescents in highly religious schools are less likely to smoke; and individual religiosity tends to lessen the influence of peer cigarette use, binge drinking, and marijuana use. Jang and colleagues examine adolescent drug use and religiosity from a life-course perspective with data from the National Survey on Children. Findings indicate that children raised by parents who believe in religious training and attend religious services are less likely to use drugs during adolescence and early adulthood.

The second section contains three papers that focus on adult populations. Felt and colleagues examine religiosity and the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among students attending a university which has a prohibitionist policy concerning all substance use. Their study focuses on perception of normative use, personal religious behaviors, and a need for adult approval and concludes that religious involvement is protective in such a religious setting. Ellison and colleagues examine religious involvement and alcohol use patterns by developing refined measures of domain-specific religious salience and exploring links with the frequency of alcohol use among college students. Results confirm the importance of domain-specific religious salience in shaping alcohol choices, but also show that overall levels of such salience are relatively low, indicating that other influences such as peers and parents are important. The effects of other religious variables -- religious tradition, attendance, prayer -- on drinking frequency are largely indirect. Hill and McCullough examine religiosity and heavy drinking longitudinally using two year data from the Welfare, Children, and Families project from mothers who live in disadvantaged urban neighborhoods. They report that regular religious attendance is associated with lower levels of intoxication.

Please see p. 7, Journal: Religiosity and Drug Use

Call for Papers

Global Islam in Everyday America

April 3, 2009

University of Pennsylvania

Hosted by the Asian American Studies Program,
the Middle East Center, and the South Asia Center

As Islam is increasingly associated with worldwide debates on terror, anti-West sentiment, and extremism, images of Islam and Islamic identity circulating in the media have become ubiquitous. Pictures of the veil, the turbaned terrorist, and the children schooled in madrasas are conflated to a singular representation of all Muslims. While Muslims face the challenges of negative imagery, researchers know relatively little about the lived experiences of Muslim Americans.

Global Islam in Everyday America is a one-day conference that explores Islam and Muslim identities in the U.S. by interrogating the multiple implications resonating from stereotypes of Islam and the ways in which the imagined versus the lived experience of American Muslims are implicated. We encourage papers that address the migration experiences, political participation and representation of Muslim Americans. We welcome scholars from a wide range of social science and humanities disciplines to submit their 750 word abstract that address these issues on Muslims of all racial and national backgrounds in the United States. Preference will be given to papers based on ethnographic research.

Possible topics may include but are not limited to the following:

Popular Culture and Islam
Gender and Islam
Second Generation
Social Practices
Race and Islam
Islam and Film
Muslims and Migration
Islam and Folklore
Muslim Identity

Please send your 750 word abstract along with your curriculum vitae to:

Dr. Fariha Khan

Associate Director, Asian American Studies
Program

University of Pennsylvania

166 McNeil Bldg

3718 Locust Walk

Philadelphia, PA 19104

fariha@sas.upenn.edu

<<mailto:fariha@sas.upenn.edu>>

Abstracts are due by November 7, 2008 and we will notify you of the status of your proposed presentation by December 1, 2008.

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



Member News

People

Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut, has been appointed the inaugural holder of the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies. He also serves as professor of sociology and as the founding Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life as well as Director of the Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank, both at UConn.

Wendy Cadge is a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University for the 2008-09 academic year.

Elaine Howard Ecklund has recently taken a position as assistant professor in the sociology department at Rice University. She will also be associate director of the Rice University Center on Race, Religion, and Urban Life (CORRUL).

Bindi Shah has recently been awarded a three-year research fellowship by the Economic and Social Science Research Council in the United Kingdom, to conduct comparative research on the role of religion and religious institutions in shaping community, belonging and citizenship among young Jains (second-generation) in the USA and UK. She will examine how Jainism is being translated and/or transformed in new settings, and investigate the kind of faith communities that second and third-generation Jains are building. She will also seek to understand how their religious practices, beliefs and ethics, such as non-violent solutions to conflict, sustainable living, and vegetarianism, resonate with values in the wider society and have the potential to promote a shared sense of citizenship? Bindi is based at the School of Business and Social Sciences at Roehampton University, London, UK, b.shah@roehampton.ac.uk.

Member Publications

Hossein Godazgar (The University of York) *The Impact of Religious Factors on Educational Change in Iran: Islam in Policy and Islam in Practice*, Edwin

Mellen Press. The following website gives more details: <http://www.mellenpress.com/mellenpress.cfm?aid=6551&pc=10>

Cardell K. Jacobson, John P. Hoffmann, and Tim B. Heaton (editors) *Revisiting Thomas F. O'Dea's The Mormons: Contemporary Perspectives*. University of Utah Press, 2008.

D. Paul Johnson (Texas Tech University), *Contemporary Sociological Theory: Toward an Integrated Multi-Level Approach* (New York: Springer, 2008).

Stephen Kalberg (Boston University), *Max Weber's The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism with Other Writings on the Rise of the West*, Oxford University Press

Gerardo Marti (Davidson College), *Hollywood Faith* http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Hollywood_Faith.html

Silvia Pedraza (University of Michigan), *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Michael K. Roemer (Ball State University), has an article forthcoming in the *Review of Religious Research* on religious affiliation in contemporary Japan. The study uses data from the 2000-2003 Japanese General Social Surveys to examine links between Buddhist, New Religion, and Christian affiliation and the theories of socialization and deprivation. It is expected to be in print Spring 2009.

Christian Smith, Michael O. Emerson, and Patricia Snell, *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

Monika Wohlrab-Sahr, Thomas Schmidt-Lux and Uta Karstein, "Secularization as Conflict," *Social Compass* 55, 2, June 2008: 127-139

Employment Announcements

Boston University School of Theology

Boston University School of Theology, pending budgetary approval, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position, beginning Fall 2009. The candidate will hold a Ph.D. in Sociology of Religion or an appropriate equivalent degree. We seek a colleague whose research and teaching focus in the Sociology of Religion, with an emphasis on cross-cultural and global issues in the field. Ongoing engagement in empirical research is expected. Candidates should be committed to the School's mission of preparing religious leaders for service to diverse churches and religious organizations, as well as to working with graduate students in a research university in an interdisciplinary context. Boston University expects excellence in teaching and in research and is committed to building a culturally diverse faculty and a multicultural learning environment. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Applications, including a curriculum vitae, list of publications, statement of teaching and research plans, a major publication sample, and three professional references sent separately, should be sent to the Sociology of Religion Search Committee, Boston University School of Theology, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 110, Boston, MA 02215. Further information about Boston University and the School of Theology can be obtained from <http://sthweb.bu.edu/>.

E-mail and FAX applications will not be accepted. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is selected. Boston University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women and underrepresented minority candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

George Mason University

The Department of Religious Studies at George Mason University invites applications for an Assistant Professor level, tenure track position, to begin fall 2009 in the areas of Religion in Contemporary Society and Sociology of Religion. Ph. D [ABD] required. Areas of specialization might include religion and popular culture, or religion and

the media. Enquiries and resumes should be directed to Dr. Cuong T. Nguyen, Department of Religious Studies, MSN 3F1, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444. E-mail jburns@gmu.edu. Closing date for applications is Nov. 21, 2008

University of Southern California

The University of Southern California College of Letters, Arts & Sciences is seeking to hire an assistant, tenure track professor for the Ruth Ziegler Chair in Culture and Faith, to be appointed in the department of Religion, American Studies and Ethnicity, History, Political Science, or Sociology. The Ziegler Chair has been endowed specifically to support the study of the Jewish roles in American Life (Jews and Judaism in American culture, society, and/or history). Appointment in one department is most likely; however, joint appointments will be considered when such an arrangement is in the best interest of the faculty member's professional development. USC College is the home of the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, the Shoah Institute for Visual History and Education, and the Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

Applicants should submit a CV and three letters of recommendation to the attention of:

Bruce Zuckerman, Chair of the Search Committee
c/o The Casden Institute of the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life
130 Ahmanson Center Building
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1481
bzuckerm@usc.edu

It is our preference that submissions be made electronically (letters of recommendation can be sent as scanned PDF files).

USC strongly values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity in employment. Women and men and members of all racial and ethnic groups are encouraged to apply. Applications should be submitted by November 15, 2008.

Journal: Religiosity and Drug Use, continued from p. 3

The last section includes three studies of illicit drug using populations. Staton-Tindall and colleagues use data from a sample of rural illicit stimulant users to examine the relationship between spirituality and drug use. Bivariate data indicate an inverse relationship between religiosity, spirituality and the use of some stimulants, but multivariate models identify few significant findings for religiosity and spirituality. Weiss and colleagues examine the effects of religious intentionality, worship attendance, and religious self-perception on drug use and HIV related risk behaviors of urban injectors of heroin. A majority of injectors report some degree of religiosity, and high religious intentionality is associated with a decreased likelihood of reusing needles/syringes, but additional analyses indicate religiosity is not associated with heavy poly-drug use or other HIV-related risk behaviors. Duvall and colleagues examine persistence in turning to faith as a predictor of substance use and criminal behavior among Drug Court participants. Results indicate that greater faith persistence across two years of Drug Court involvement predicts decreases in substance use but is not related to differences in perceptions of addiction severity.

Journal of Drug Issues

RELIGIOSITY AND DRUG USE

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Funding Opportunity

THE LAKE INSTITUTE ON FAITH & GIVING THE CENTER ON PHILANTHROPY INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at the Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University will offer a one year doctoral dissertation fellowship of \$22,000 for the academic year 2009-2010. This doctoral dissertation fellowship will be given to a scholar whose primary research focus is in the area of religion and philanthropy or faith and giving. The fellowship is intended to support the final year of dissertation writing. The fellowship stipend will be paid in three installments: \$10,000 at the beginning of the 2009-2010 academic year; \$10,000 at the mid-point of the 2009-2010 academic year; \$2,000 upon the successful completion of the dissertation.

Eligibility

Applicants for the Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship must:

- be candidates for the Ph.D. degree at a graduate school in the United States.
- fulfill all pre-dissertation requirements by December 31, 2008, including approval of the dissertation proposal with the expectation that the dissertation will be completed no later than July 2011.
- have not received a similar grant or fellowship for the writing of the dissertation. Please note that Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellows may not accept other awards that provide similar benefits in the same academic year. Smaller awards and/or those involving limited opportunities to teach may be permitted, at the discretion of the Research Advisory Committee of The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.

Application Information

The application process for the 2009-2010 Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship will open September 1, 2008. All applications materials must be received by January 15, 2009. Applications must include the following:

- an **application form**.
- a **current resume**.
- a **dissertation abstract** no longer than 200 words in length summarizing your topic and its relevance for the understanding of an

important question or issue related to religion and philanthropy or faith.

- a copy of the **approved dissertation proposal** describing the proposed work, demonstrating relevance to the field of religion and philanthropy, describing source materials and their availability, commenting on any special skills or interests you have for carrying out the proposed work, and giving a clear statement of the research or scholarly methodology to be employed.
- a **selected bibliography** no longer than two pages, double-spaced, indicating the major theoretical, practical and critical works that bear on your dissertation. "Selected" means you should include those works that most clearly demonstrate your command of the scholarship necessary to write the proposed dissertation.
- a **timetable** detailing your chapter outline, your progress to date, and your schedule for the fellowship year. It should be no longer than one page, double-spaced.

Supporting materials

- **Three letters of recommendation** must accompany your application: one from your dissertation director and two from faculty members familiar with your work.
- **One official transcript** from the graduate school which will award the Ph.D. degree.

For more information or to download application materials:

[www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/
LakeFamilyInstitute/offerings.aspx](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/offerings.aspx)

All requested materials must be mailed to:

Richard Klopp
Associate Director,
The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving
The Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University
550 West North Street
Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202-3272

Other Opportunities

Pollsters and Parishioners Workshop on Survey Research and American Religion

June 11 - 17, 2009

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI
The Henry Institute
email: henry@calvin.edu

With the support of the Paul B. Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, a week-long seminar on survey research and American religion is tentatively scheduled to be held at Calvin College in June of 2009. The seminar will be directed by Corwin Smidt (Calvin College). As has been true for previous such workshops, it is likely that James Guth (Furman University), and Lyman Kellstedt (Wheaton College) will also help direct the workshop.

Participants: Graduate students and recent Ph.D. graduates in Political Science, Sociology, and related disciplines who are interested in the use of survey research in studying American religion are invited to apply (though preference will be given to those who are currently graduate students). Selection is competitive with an anticipated enrollment of twelve participants. ***Travel costs to Calvin College, and room/board on campus will be provided.***

Schedule: Participants arrive on Thursday and will depart the following Wednesday.

Activities: The seminar will combine instruction on the conceptualization and measurement of religion in survey research with major segments of time devoted to data analysis using major data sets on religion and politics. The instructors will work closely with small groups of participants.

Qualifications: Interest in the study of American religion in the mass public and familiarity with personal computers and SPSS.

Application: Prospective participants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vita, one letter of recommendation, and one sample of scholarly writing to:

*Corwin Smidt
The Henry Institute
Calvin College
3201 Burton St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546*

Deadline: Materials must be received by Monday, March 2, 2009, with selections made by Monday, March 23, 2009.

Engaged Scholars Studying Congregations
A Program of Mentoring, Networking, and Research Support
 Supported by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

For nearly thirty years, the Congregational Studies Project Team has led the way in inviting scholars to engage in serious, rigorous research on congregational life and encouraging religious leaders to draw on academic research to enrich their ability to provide effective leadership to local religious communities. During the next two years, the Team invites **younger scholars and religious leaders**, from any discipline, whose focus is on the **practices of local communities of faith**, to enter into **a program of research and networking**. Participants can enhance their ability to do excellent research that will also provide the wisdom with which gatherings of faithful people and their leaders can see more clearly and act more faithfully. In particular, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Hone research skills that allow them to take the life of faith communities seriously;
- Build a network of interlocutors and mentors who can read and evaluate their work;
- Build a cohort of colleagues who can encourage and stimulate each other in advancing understanding of how engaged scholarship works best; and
- Gain support for significant research and writing and the time to do it.

Since the summer of 2005, the first four cohorts of three “fellows” each were selected by and interacted with the Team. A “coach”—a senior scholar in the person’s field, either from the Team or beyond—worked with each fellow, especially in developing a network of conversation partners and sharpening the research. The project now entertains proposals for the fifth cohort of fellows who will gather with their coaches during two successive summer Team meetings and one fall conference, thereby allowing both a deep conversation about their work and an extension of their networks across overlapping cohorts of fellows, coaches, and clergy and religious leaders.

This round of fellowships will run from 1 June 2009 through 31 December 2010. Fellows will receive **research stipends of \$9,000 for each of the two summers**, plus **consultation travel funding of \$2,000 during the fellowship period** to enhance networking capacity, such as visiting the assigned coach or consulting with another fitting conversation partner. In addition, all expenses associated with the two summer Team meetings and fall conference will be covered.

Who should apply? Relatively new (generally pre-tenure) faculty members in theological schools, colleges, and universities are urged to apply. Likewise, leaders working in religious organizations are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance their work. In addition, more established scholars who are “re-tooling” to do significantly new kinds of work may also wish to apply.

What sorts of questions do we hope might be addressed? Any topic touching on the practices of congregational life is welcome. Such topics might include:

- What is the role of local faith communities in confronting a world (or a community) in distress? How can they see their task more clearly?
- How do congregations engage with and creatively reinterpret historic religious traditions? What impact does this have on members’ lives?
- How can we understand the basic ritual practices that bind a community together and direct their attention toward God?
- How do sermons shape (or fail to shape) the life of a congregation?
- How do congregations influence everyday decision-making?
- How do faith communities form their children in a faith tradition?

Please see *Engaged Scholars*, p. 10

Engaged Scholars, continued from p. 9

What is expected of fellows? By the end of the fellowship period, each fellow will have completed an article-length publishable piece that is either itself aimed at religious leaders or for which there is a clear plan for a secondary adaptation. Each fellow will also work specifically with his or her coach to address both the academic and practical challenges of engaged scholarship and to enlarge the fellow's network of interlocutors.

During the fellowship period, **attendance by fellows is mandatory at three meetings.** (a) At the summer meeting of the first fellowship year (set for 22-25 June 2009 on Cape Cod, Mass.), each participant will present a summary of her or his research plans. (b) During the fall of 2009 (date to be determined), a conference of scholars, clergy, religious leaders, and others will be held to expand the network of people concerned about engaged scholarship in congregations. (c) During the summer meeting of the second fellowship year (date to be determined), fellows will present drafts of the written products of their research. They will also contribute a brief essay on the particular challenges of doing engaged scholarship of the type they have undertaken. These essays will focus a variety of conversations about how this kind of work can continue to be encouraged and supported.

What is the application process? Complete applications for the 2009-2010 cohort of fellows are due no later than **1 February 2009**. To be considered complete, applications must include the following four materials:

- (1) A brief essay (not more than five double-spaced pages) detailing the particular research and writing you wish to undertake and the way that research will grow out of and affect local communities of faith.
- (2) A budget outlining expected uses for the \$18,000 research stipend. This may either be direct research expenses, summer salary replacement(s), and/or other materials or activities that will enhance the goals of your work.
- (3) A copy of your curriculum vitae.
- (4) The names and contact information for two persons you have asked to write letters of support. One of these should be from someone such as a dean or department chair who can express the endorsement of your institution for your participation in this program. *Applicants are responsible for ensuring that these letters themselves are sent directly by your recommenders to the project assistant by the deadline.*

Send materials to engagedscholars@hartsem.edu. With the exception of letters of support, *electronic submission using e-mail attachment is the only accepted form of submission*. Letters of support *only* should be mailed by recommenders directly to the project assistant:

Christy Lohr
 385 York Street
 Jersey City, NJ 07302
 Attn: Engaged Scholars

Awards will be announced no later than 1 April 2009.

The Congregational Studies Team includes: Nancy Ammerman (Boston University), Penny Edgell (University of Minnesota), Nancy Eiesland (Emory University), Larry Mamiya (Vassar College), Bill McKinney (Pacific School of Religion), Omar McRoberts (University of Chicago), James Nieman (Hartford Seminary) Robert Schreiter (Catholic Theological Union), Stephen Warner (University of Illinois, Chicago), and Jack Wertheimer (Jewish Theological Seminary).

New Book Series

"Studies in Critical Research on Religion"

Brill Academic Publishers (hardcover)

Haymarket Books (paperback)

<http://www.brill.nl/scrr>

Series Editor:

Warren S. Goldstein, Center for Critical Research on Religion

This book series invites proposals and submissions of monographs and edited volumes from scholars across all academic disciplines. These include but are not limited to theology, religious studies, sociology of religion, anthropology of religion, psychology of religion, history, political science, and philosophy. Works can use a wide range of methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and historical. While encouraging works to be theoretical driven by a critical perspective, it is particularly interested in empirical research which is theoretically guided by interdisciplinary concerns.

Submissions:

Send Proposals or Manuscripts to:

Warren S. Goldstein, Ph.D.

Center for Critical Research on Religion

2431 Lee Road

Winter Park, FL 32789 USA

voice: (407) 782-8064

fax: (407) 629-0180

e-mail: goldstein@criticaltheoryofreligion.org

<http://www.criticaltheoryofreligion.org>

Book Series Editor

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<http://www.brill.nl/scrr>

From the Editor

Although this is already November, it seems like just the other day we were together in Boston for the ASA conference, and more recently in Louisville for SSSR. Those are always great times to hear new research, talk with colleagues and perhaps think up new projects. Speaking of which, as Michael Emerson noted his desire to provide new opportunities for communication and networking among section members, we've been developing one relatively easy way for religion section members to communicate with each other. Following the example of several other ASA sections, we've set up a Facebook group for the ASA Religion Section. Hopefully this new addition will allow members to communicate more easily and directly about ideas and projects. If you missed the instructions on how to join this group, please see the box on page two (above).

The photos on the masthead of this issue are from Martin Krieger, Professor of Policy, Planning and Development at USC. He has been documenting storefront religious congregations in Los Angeles over the past few years through photography, video, and sound recording.

The next newsletter will be out in February, and I'll be asking for your contributions in early January.

RICHARD FLORY, University of Southern California