From the Chair

It hardly seems possible that the ASA meetings are just around the corner, but there you have it. Summers do fly by! We have planned an excellent set of sessions for Atlanta, and look forward to seeing you there. Check out the lineup on page 4 of this newsletter.

Our reception this year will be in the Atlanta Marriott Marquis on Saturday evening from 6:30-8:15. We will present our awards at about 7:00, so be sure to show up and cheer lustily for this year’s award winners, Melissa M. Wilcox, John R. Hall, Nancy J. Davis, Robert V. Robinson, and Z. Fareen Parvez (see page 2 for section award details).

We have scheduled our award presentation at 7:00 so that those of you who may be interested in the Association for the Sociology of Religion’s Furfey Lecture (Janet Jacobs on “Sacred Spaces and Collective Memory”) can attend that, and even catch the early part of their reception. Just remember that you have a couple blocks to hoof it between hotels. The ASR is meeting in the Hyatt Regency. This issue of the newsletter also contains a blurb with highlights from the ASR meeting.

The annual meeting is the culmination of a lot of hard work by your section colleagues. I would like to especially thank Elaine Howard Eklund and Bill Mirola, who worked with me on the Program Committee, David Smilde, chair of the Book Award Committee, Christopher Bader, chair of the Distinguished Article Award Committee, Mary Ellen Koniecny, chair of the Student Paper Award Committee, and Past-Chair Michael Emerson, who chaired the Nominating Committee. All of these folks (along with their committee members) put in many hours in the service of our section this year. They deserve our gratitude and the round of applause you will give them at our section’s business meeting.

And, speaking of the business meeting. . . We need you to attend. ASA cares whether or not we have a quorum, so please come and do your part to help us reach it. Student members are especially welcome. The good news is that this is a great chance for you to meet others who may one day be your colleagues. The business meeting also provides the rare opportunity for you to volunteer for section work in the coming year! The bad news is that our business session is scheduled for first thing Saturday morning. The Section Council will meet from 8:30-9:30, with the full Section Business Meeting from 9:30-10:10.

 Continued

Please see From the Chair, page 2
Section Officers 2009-2010

Chair
Fred Kniss, fred.kniss@emu.edu

Chair Elect
Jay Demerath, demerath@soc.umass.edu

Past Chair
Michael O. Emerson, moe@rice.edu

Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Christiano, kevin.j.christiano.1@nd.edu

Council
Wendy Cadge, wcadge@brandeis.edu
James D. Davidson, davidsonj@purdue.edu
Elaine Howard Ecklund, ehe@rice.edu
D. Michael Lindsay, dml1@rice.edu
Lisa Pearce, ldpearce@unc.edu
Fenggang Yang, fyang@purdue.edu

Student Representative
Carol Ann MacGregor, camacgre@princeton.edu

Newsletter Editor
Richard Flory, rflory@usc.edu

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

From the Chair, Con’t.

The Council meeting is open to observers, so feel free to drop by before 9:30 if you’re an early riser. But please do arrive by 9:30 in time for the quorum count!

Finally, congratulations to our election winners (or should I say, “And the office goes to . . .”).? Our new Chair-Elect will be Dan Olson, our new Secretary-Treasurer will be Wendy Cadge, and our new Council members will be Kevin Dougherty and Mary Ellen Konieczny. Welcome aboard to all of you, and many thanks to everyone who agreed to have their name on the ballot.

Looking forward to Atlanta.

Fred Kniss, Eastern Mennonite University

2009-2010 Section Officers Elected

Chair-Elect
Dan Olson
Associate Professor of Sociology
Purdue University

Secretary-Treasurer
Wendy Cadge
Associate Professor of Sociology
Brandeis University

Council Member
Kevin Dougherty
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Baylor University

Council Member
Mary Ellen Konieczny
Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of Notre Dame

2010 Section Awards

Distinguished Book Award (Co-Winners)
Melissa M. Wilcox, Queer Women and Religious Individualism (Indiana University Press, 2009)

John R. Hall, Apocalypse: From Antiquity to the Empire of Modernity (Polity, 2009)

Distinguished Article Award
Nancy J. Davis and Robert V. Robinson. “Overcoming Movement Obstacles by the Religiously Orthodox: The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Shas in Israel, Comunione e Liberazione in Italy, and the Salvation Army in the United States.” American Journal of Sociology 114:1302-49 (2009). (This article also received Honorable Mention Award in the ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements.)

Student Paper Award
Z. Fareen Parvez (University of California at Berkeley), “Debating the Burqa in France: The Antipolitics of Islamic Revival.”
Member News

People

Korie Edwards (Ohio State University) has been promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology.

David O. Moberg (Marquette University, Emeritus), presented the Berton H. Kaplan Lifetime Achievement Award Lecture at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Spirituality, Theology & Health, Duke University, June 18, 2010, "Expanding Horizons for Spirituality Research and Its Applications."

Jerry Park, Baylor University; Kevin Dougherty, Baylor University; and Baylor management professor Mitchell Neubert were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to fund a three-year project titled "National Study of Entrepreneurial Behavior, Regulatory Focus, and Religion."

Melissa Wilde (University of Pennsylvania) has been promoted to Associate Professor of Sociology.

Fenggang Yang (Purdue University) has been promoted to Full Professor of Sociology.

Fenggang Yang has received a $2 Million grant from the John Templeton Foundation for the Chinese Spirituality and Society Program.

Grace Yukich will begin a position as Religion & Public Life Fellow at Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religion in September 2010.

Member Publications

Amarnath Amarasingam (Wilfrid Laurier University), Religion and the New Atheism: A Critical Appraisal (Brill).


Brad Christerson (Biola University), Korie Edwards (Ohio State University), and Richard Flory (University of Southern California), Growing up in America: The Power of Race in the Lives of Teens (Stanford University Press).


Elaine Howard Ecklund (Rice University), Science Vs. Religion: What Scientists Really Think. (Oxford University Press).

Christopher G. Ellison (University of Texas) and Robert A. Hummer (University of Texas), Religion, Families and Health: Population Based Research in the United States (Rutgers University Press).

Michael Emerson (Rice University), William Mirola (Marian College), and Susanne Monahan (Montana State University), have published a new textbook, Religion Matters: What Sociology Teaches Us About Religion in Our World (Allyn & Bacon).


Continued

Please see page 5, Member Publications
Religion Sessions at 2010 Annual Meeting

The 2010 ASA meeting program includes many religion-themed presentations, panels, and sessions. Basic information on each Religion Section Session, as well as other religion-themed sessions is listed below by date and time. For more complete information about the meeting program, click on the following links for the online program.

### Saturday

**8:30-10:10** Council and Business Meetings

**10:30-12:10** Measuring Religion

“Does Religious Pluralism Aid or Hinder Religious Participation: A New Method for Analyzing Cross Sectional Data.” Daniel V.A. Olson, Purdue University.

“Secular and Liminal: Decomposing Religious Nones.” Chaeyoon Lim, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Carol Ann MacGregor, Princeton University; Robert D. Putnam, Harvard University.

“Rethinking Religious Human Capital.” Katie Corcoran, University of Washington.


**2:30-4:10** Religion and Citizenship


“Volunteering Revisited: Religiosity or Social Networks?” Navid Asgari, National University of Singapore; Albert Chu Ying Teo, National University of Singapore, Business School.

**4:30-6:10** Roundtables

**6:30-8:15** Reception

### Sunday

**8:30-10:10** Religion and Movements for Equality and Human Rights

“Congregational Mobilization Against Same-Sex Marriage: The Role of Perceived Threat and/or Political Opportunity to Act.” A. Joseph West, University of Arizona; Gary Adler, University of Arizona; Catherine Hoegeman, University of Arizona.


“Exploring the Consequences of Denominational Policy on GLBT Issues and the Rhetoric of Gay Christian Movements.” Todd N. Fuist, Loyola University; Laurie Cooper Stoll, Loyola University Chicago.


### Monday

**8:30-10:10** Religion, Transnational Immigrants, and Citizenship


Association for the Sociology of Religion Meetings

The ASR will be meeting in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta from Friday, August 13 to Sunday, August 15. The theme of the meeting this year is “Religion, Identity, and Place” and program chair Gerardo Marti has put together an interesting program. Highlights include the Presidential address on Friday, August 13, (5:30 p.m.), “Creating an American Islam: Thoughts on Religion, Identity, and Place” by Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University Chicago, and the annual Paul Hanly Furfey lecture on Saturday, August 14 (5 p.m.) by Janet L. Jacobs of the University of Colorado, titled, "Sacred Spaces and Collective Memory: Memorializing the Holocaust at European Sites of Terror," and a joint ASA/ASR Thematic Session on Monday, August 16 (8:30 a.m.), titled "Religion, Transnational Immigrants and Citizenship." Participants will be Rhys H. Williams (Loyola University Chicago), Carl L. Bankston III (Tulane University), Lori G. Beaman (University of Ottawa), Fred Kniss (Eastern Mennonite University), and Pyong Gap Min (Queens College CUNY).

Other high points include a session with scholars and leaders of the Emerging Church Movement, and Author-Meets-Critics sessions on Afe Adogame and James Spickard’s new book, Religion Crossing Boundaries: Transnational Religious and Social Dynamics in Africa and the New African Diaspora, and on Chris Smith and Patricia Snell’s Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults (Sunday Aug. 15, 8:30 a.m.). There will also be a session on Congregations and Communities,” organized by Nancy Ammerman in honor of our recently passed friend Nancy Eiesland (Saturday, Aug. 14, 2:30 p.m.), a session on publishing articles and books that includes the new editor of Sociology of Religion, Scott Scheiman (Saturday Aug.14, 12:30 p.m.) and a session co-sponsored with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry on “Jews and Jewish Identity: The Impact of Place” (Sunday, Aug. 15, 12:30 p.m.).

The ASR has long been a setting hospitable to those breaking into the subdiscipline, with a keen sense of gemeinschaft as well as intellectual rigor. We hope all ASA Section members can come by to participate in some of it.

Rhys Williams, Loyola University Chicago

Member Publications, Con’t.


David A. Snow, James A. Bany, Michelle Peria, and James E. Stobaugh, “A Team Field Study of the Appeal of Megachurches: Identifying, Framing, and Solving Personal Issues. Ethnography 11: 165-188. (PDF copies can be received by emailing David Snow - dsnow@uci.edu.)


Resources

The Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches for 2010 is now available for $55 each. Also available is the Yearbook Historic Archive, 1916-2000 on CD for $35.

For ordering information see www.electronicchurch.org or call 888-870-3325
Honoring Nancy Eiesland (1964-2009)

Nancy Eiesland, Associate Professor of Sociology of Religion at Emory University, passed away in March, 2009. With ASR/ASA in Atlanta this summer, her colleagues decided to honor her with two sessions dedicated to her work, at the Association for the Sociology of Religion meetings in August.

Nancy was well known for her work on congregational studies, particularly her study, *A Particular Place: Urban Restructuring and Religious Ecology in a Southern Exurb* (Rutgers University Press 2000), of a rapidly changing rural to exurban community outside of Atlanta. To honor and continue the important work she contributed to the field of congregational studies, Nancy Ammerman is convening, with Steve Warner responding, a session of Nancy Eiesland’s former students who will be reporting on research done with her, as well as their own work influenced by her, on Saturday, August 14, 2:30-4:45 p.m.


"He’s Just a Pastor of Levels: The Prosperity Gospel in an Atlanta African-American Megachurch as a Response to Persistent Economic Crisis." *Chris Scharen*, Luther Seminary.


In many ways, however, Nancy’s most significant contribution to the larger world of scholarship on religion came in her pathbreaking work on religion and disability. Her master’s thesis, revised and published as *The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability* (Abingdon Press) in 1994, is still in print and widely hailed as moving both theology and disability studies to a new level. Subsequently, she co-edited a volume on *Human Disability and the Service of God* (Abingdon Press 1998).

Convened by Laurel Kearns, a friend from her graduate student days, the Sunday, August 15, 12:30-2:30 p.m. session contains a paper by her close Emory colleague Elizabeth Bounds reporting on the research Nancy was doing prior to her death, as well as reflections on the import and continuations of her work by two colleagues, also sociologists of religion, from the field of religion and disability studies.

“Mothers with Disabilities and Issues of Agency.” *Elizabeth Bounds*, Emory University.


Nancy’s husband and daughter will be attending at least the Saturday session, and, a gathering of colleagues will be held to celebrate her work, and to announce an Emory scholarship for students with disabilities. For more information and locations, contact Laurel Kearns at *lkearns@drew.edu*.

Laurel Kearns, Drew University

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**New Section on Altruism and Social Solidarity**

A new ASA section on “Altruism and Social Solidarity” is now in formation. The section focuses attention on phenomena such as generosity, altruism, forgiveness, unlimited love, philanthropy, intergroup cooperation, and universalizing solidarity. The purpose of the section is to promote theoretical development and empirical research pertaining to altruism and social solidarity. Section activities are directed towards establishing the discipline of sociology in the forefront of theoretical development and empirical testing in this essential interdisciplinary area of scientific investigation.

For more information about the section please see the Section Homepage: [http://www.csun.edu/~hbsoc126/](http://www.csun.edu/~hbsoc126/)

To join the section see the ASA website under Membership Information.
Dissertations

**Defended:**


**Abstract:**
Current literature claims that religious activity not only eases the emotional adjustment of immigrants within the receiving society, but it also serves as a mechanism for upward mobility and building of social capital. Although immigrant religious participation facilitates immigrant incorporation, we still know very little of the religious adaptation process in general terms. Using multiple, recently available immigrant cohort datasets from the Western world (i.e. Canada, the United States, Australia, and Western Europe), this dissertation finds similar processes of immigrant adaptation within various receiving societies, regardless of national context or religious group affiliation. The extensive empirical research conducted in this dissertation across multiple contexts results in a robust, interlocking theory of immigrant religious adaptation, representative of recent immigrant cohorts to the Western industrialized world. Additionally, the dissertation elaborates migration theory more generally by identifying that immigrant adaptation occurs through the three distinct areas of disruption, assimilation, and facilitation.

Ephraim Shapiro (Columbia University), “The Relationship of Religious Involvement with the Health Status and Health Behaviors of Latino Immigrants.”

**Abstract:**
While religious involvement has been associated with better health in general, there is a paucity of theory-driven empirical research on its relationship with immigrants’ health, which typically worsens with acculturation, as well as an insufficient theoretical framework. This dissertation examines the relationship of religious involvement with health status and behaviors for Latino immigrants and explores mechanisms underlying the relationship. Over 1200 immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador were surveyed as part of the randomized New Immigrant Survey. Outcome measures included health status and behaviors. Multivariate analyses were performed using measures of religious involvement and extensive immigrant and demographic variables. An association was found between church attendance and health outcomes, with partial mediation by behaviors and support for the hypothesized mechanisms of social resources, social capital magnified and religious capital. Variations were found by denomination and country of birth.

**In the Pipe:**


**Dissertation Fellowship Award**

Jared Peifer (Cornell University) was awarded the 2010-2011 Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship ($22,000) for his dissertation, “Religion in the Financial Market: A Look at Religiously Affiliated Mutual Funds.” Peifer’s dissertation examines how religious values impact behavior in the financial market, including how these funds screen or try to change the behavior of corporations they deem to be unethical. The research also looks at how religious fund employees and donors manage the tension between religion and finance.

For more information on the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, and the annual Lake Dissertation Fellowship, visit [http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/).
From the Editor

Wow, I’m sort of stunned that it is already the second half of July, and I am just now realizing that we’ll be in Atlanta in a few short weeks. While putting this issue of the Newsletter together, I was excited to see the many interesting sessions, and many different opportunities to get together with colleagues. I’m looking forward to the presentations and to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

This is the last issue my three year run of being the editor of the ASA Religion Section Newsletter. However, I have agreed to continue on in this position (at least into the near future), so you aren’t rid of my emails yet! The Newsletter will have a different look beginning with the Fall 2010 issue, mainly to keep with the continuity of changing every three years, and also just to provide a new look to keep everybody interested.

One of the components of the current layout that has both been fun and difficult has been to find four original photographs for each issue that I haven’t used before, and that represent projects dealing with religion in contemporary society. The four photographs in this issue are again taken from a project that was funded out of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, that documented store front churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and the like, in Los Angeles. What struck me about these photographs was how these particular churches are just as natural a part of their communities as their neighbors. It is a bit difficult to see the detail in the photos, so here are brief descriptions, beginning on the left and moving to the right: 1) The Jesus Christ Holiness Church, Inc., (and Mind Deliverance School), which is situated next door to a corner produce store, 2) The Church of Jesus Christ, located next door to the Look Good, Feel Good Beauty Salon (which apparently has a booth for rent), 3) the Palm Mission Church, right next door to Spencer’s Barber Shop, and 4) the Evangelical Christian Fellowship, which is just one of several other tenants in a local strip mall.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime with your comments, suggestions and contributions for the newsletter. The Fall issue will be out in October, and I’ll need your submissions by October 1.

RICHARD FLORY, University of Southern California