Greetings friends and colleagues,

I hope you've all enjoyed a productive and refreshing summer season. I'm writing to you at the end of my first stint as the editor of our section's newsletter. Looking back over the three previous issues, I can't help but be impressed with the breadth of scholarship conducted by our membership. This issue demonstrates no exception, setting a high-water mark for news of new projects and publications. I'm very much looking forward to hearing more about these existing projects as well as new ideas during our upcoming meetings in Denver. For quick reference, I have included a listing of section sponsored events (sessions and meetings) as well as a brief highlight of ASA activities that may be of interest to our membership. I've also included announcements of our award winning authors and new section officers. Please do plan to stop by the section reception Sunday evening to wish them congratulations.

Our incoming chair, Penny Edgell, has asked that I stay in the role of editor for the coming year. I've agreed, so expect to hear from me once again later this fall. In addition to the usual request, I will be particularly interested in gathering your reflections and musings on this year’s meetings for a bonus section in the next issue of the newsletter. Just a thought...

All the best,
Kevin McElmurry
ANNOUNCING DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2012 Distinguished Book Award

Thanks go out to Distinguished Book Award committee members: Prema Kurien (Chair), William Mirola, Sally K. Gallagher for their work making two fine selections from an always crowded field of nominations. This year our section recognizes the work of two outstanding scholars.

Susan Crawford Sullivan is the winner of the 2012 ASA Religion Section’s Distinguished Book Award for her book titled: Living Faith: Everyday Religion and Mothers in Poverty published by the University of Chicago Press.

Pyong Gap Min is recognized with Honorable Mention for his work titled: Preserving Ethnicity through Religion in America: Korean Protestants and Indian Hindus across Generations published by New York University Press.

2012 Distinguished Article Award

Nicholas Vargas, and Matthew Loveland for their 2011 article, “Befriending the 'Other': Patterns of Social Ties between the Religious and Non-religious.” Sociological Perspectives. 54(4): 713–731.

A thank you also goes out to our 2012 Distinguished Article Award committee members: Paul Froese (Chair), Amy Burdette, Nan Dirk de Graaf.

2012 Graduate Student Paper Award


Student Paper Award committee members this year were. Chris Ellison (Chair), Shane Sharp, Kirstin Geraty. Again, thanks to you for undertaking this important work.

Congratulations to all of this year’s award nominees and winners. Your fine scholarship is essential for fostering the vibrant and dynamic conversation that characterizes our section.
Section Election Results

On behalf of all section members I would also like to thank the following members who have graciously agreed to volunteer time and energy in service to our organization. The following are the results of this year’s section elections.

Chair-Elect (1-year term begins in 2012)

Patricia Wittberg, Indiana University /Purdue University, Indianapolis

Council Members (3-year term begins in 2012)

Richard Flory, University of Southern California

Brian Steensland, Indiana University, Bloomington

Though routine organizational work is neither glamorous nor particularly exciting, it is nonetheless essential and appreciated. So please do thank the committee members and section officers for their service.
Program Highlights

Included here are a brief highlights of our section’s activity at this year’s meetings. Please note of the section reception (Sunday at 6:30pm) and join your colleagues and friends for a toast to this year’s award winners. Also included is a selection of sessions and roundtables organized by other sections that may be of interest. Please note that this quick guide is by no means exhaustive. If I’ve missed something that you think is important, my apologies. I simply combed through the online preliminary program using the keyword “religion.” Use this guide as a shortcut of sorts for accessing more detailed information about the authors, papers, and session locations.

Here is the link to the searchable program

Login with your ASA credentials to select and save sessions and events of your choosing for a personalized itinerary. Hooray for the digital age!

**Section Specific Sessions, Roundtables, and Meetings**

Paper Session: Explaining Religious Dynamism: Competition, Politics, Globalization, and Emotion
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 10:30am – 12:10pm**

Paper Session: Religion in Racial and Ethnic Contexts
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm**

Paper Session: Religion, Social Capital, and Religious Identity
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 8:30am – 10:10am**

Paper Session: Biology, Family and Local Contexts
Time: **Mon, Aug 20 – 8:30am – 10:10am**

Section on Sociology of Religion Refereed Roundtables Session (one-hour) – We have 10 tables open during this session. Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 4:30pm – 5:30pm**

Section on Sociology of Religion Business Meeting
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 5:30pm – 6:10pm**

Section on Sociology of Religion Council Meeting
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 7:00am – 8:15am**

Section on Sociology of Religion Reception
Time: **Sun, Aug 19 – 6:30pm – 8:30pm**
**Other Sessions and Roundtables of Interest**

General Paper Session. Religion: Conflict and Resolution I  
Time: **Mon, Aug 20 – 8:30am – 10:10am**

General Paper Session. Religion: Conflict and Resolution II  
Time: **Mon, Aug 20 – 10:30am – 12:10pm**

Thematic Session: Global Restrictions on Religious Utopias and Religious Minorities (co-sponsored with Association for the Sociology of Religion)  
Time: **Sat, Aug 18 – 8:30am – 10:10am**  
Topics: Religion, Human Rights

Thematic Session: Religion and Stratification (co-sponsored with Association for the Sociology of Religion)  
Time: **Sat, Aug 18 – 10:30am – 12:10pm**  
Topics: Religion, Marxist Sociology

Thematic Session: Religion and Utopia: A Contradiction in Terms?  
Time: **Mon, Aug 20 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm**  
Topic: Religion

Paper Session: Gender, Sexuality and Religion (co-sponsored with Section on Sociology of Religion)  
Time: **Sat, Aug 18 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm**  
Topics: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion

Time: **Sat, Aug 18 – 12:30pm – 2:10pm**  
Topics: Demography, Religion, Public Policy

Open Refereed Roundtables Table 08. Religion  
Time: **Fri, Aug 17 – 2:30pm – 4:10pm**

Section on Sociology of Culture Refereed Roundtables Table 08. Religious and Educational Cultures in Context  
Time: **Fri, Aug 17 – 4:30pm – 6:10pm**  
Topics: Cultural Sociology, Religion, Education

Section on Political Sociology Refereed Roundtables (one-hour): Table 10. Politics and Religion  
Time: **Sat, Aug 18 – 2:30pm – 3:30pm**  
Topics: Politics and Religion

And finally, Marion Goldman brings to our collective attention the thematic session "Utopian Dreams, Surprising Consequences" on Monday, from 10:30 to 12:00. She writes, “It is not listed as part of the Sociology of Religion Section, but two of the papers deal with new religious movements and the others touch on them. I hope that people who are around until the end will attend!”
**Projects in Process**

USC received $305,000 in grants from National Endowment for the Humanities to catalog, digitize and conduct a workshop on its International Mission Photography Archive, headed up by co-principal investigators Jon Miller, CRCC senior research associate and IMPA director, and Matt Gainer, director of the USC Digital Library and CRCC research associate. The International Mission Photography Archive offers historical images from Protestant and Catholic missionary collections in Britain, Norway, Germany, and the United States. The photographs, which range in time from the middle of the nineteenth to the middle of the twentieth century, offer a visual record of missionary activities and experiences in Africa, China, Madagascar, India, Papua-New Guinea, and the Caribbean. The photographs reveal the physical influence of missions, visible in mission compounds, churches, and school buildings, as well as the cultural impact of mission teaching, religious practices, and Western technology and fashions. For more information follow this link.

Elaine Howard Ecklund (Associate Professor and Director, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University) has just received $2,057,000 from the Templeton World Charity Foundation (with Rice University colleagues Kirstin Matthews and Steven Lewis) to conduct a project titled Religion among Scientists in International Context (RASIC). Research will include a survey of 10,000 biologists and physicists at different points in their careers at top universities and research institutes in the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, Italy, France, and China. The researchers will then conduct follow-up qualitative interviews with 600 of these scientists. Their goal is to determine how scientists in different national contexts understand the relationship of science and religion (and, where relevant, spirituality), and how religion and spirituality influence scientists’ research agendas, daily interactions with students, and ethical decisions and discussions.

Jeannette Aguilar, Karla Rodriguez (both of UCA/IUDOP in El Salvador) and Richard L. Wood (University of New Mexico) and research teams in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador finished research in summer 2012 for “The Impact of Pentecostal & Charismatic Religion on Civil Society and Community Organization in Central America”. The multi-method study was funded by a grant from The John Templeton Foundation through the Center on Religion and Civic Culture at the University of Southern California. Spanish-language book later this year; other publications (English and Spanish) to follow.

**Grant and Award Recipients**

Allison Schnable, a Ph.D. candidate at Princeton, was awarded the Lake Institute Dissertation Fellowship. The $22,000 award will support her dissertation titled Voluntrepreneurs: The Growth of American Grassroots Development Organizations. She is conducting a study of the 10,000 new international aid organizations started by Americans since 1990. Schnable’s research examines the rapidly growing environment that has developed as a result of “voluntary entrepreneurs” seeking to deliver charitable aid in poor countries. She explores religious and secular organizations together to attempt to account for this broader trend toward grassroots assistance and understand the different organizational resources these voluntary entrepreneurs use.
**Grant and Award Recipients**

Tricia Bruce (Maryville College) has been awarded grants from The Louisville Institute and National Science Foundation (sociology program). Her project examines how religious institutions accommodate diversity from within, through the lens of "personal" (i.e. non-territorial) parishes in the U.S. Catholic Church.

Magna Teter won the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for 2012, her second "Guggenheim" award this year. Her earlier award, the Harry Frank Guggenheim, was announced here in the last edition.

**Around the World and In the News**

Jerry Pankhurst has been working as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tartu. He has taught two courses in the master’s program of the EuroCollege of UT, one on "Social Change and Social Problems in Russia and the CIS: Bases for Sociocultural Analysis" and the other on "Religion and National Identity: From Believer to Citizen." In addition, Jerry co-directed an international workshop that was held in early June here in Tartu. The title of the workshop was "Religion, Politics and Policy-Making in Russia: Domestic and International Dimensions." The papers are currently being edited for publication. If you are especially interested in the workshop, you can view all or part of the proceedings on the University of Tartu television network by following this link.

Fenggang Yang gave a series of invited lectures on his sociological studies of Chinese religions at the Bar-Ilan University and the University of Tel Aviv in Israel, the National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, and Tunghai University in Taiwan, the American University of Sharjah and Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates, the Roma Tre University and University of Padua in Italy, and Princeton University. His work has appeared on National Public Radio, “Tiananmen Square, A ‘Watershed’ For Chinese Conversions To Christianity”; Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Australia: “Like a phoenix from the ashes: religion in China”; CNN’s Belief Blog: “Jeremy Lin Emerges as Emblem of Burgeoning Asian-American Christianity”; Foreign Policy: “China's 'Come to Jesus' Moment: How Beijing Got Religion”; and Christianity Today: “Disciplining the Dragon: Christian Publishing Finds Success in China.”

**On the Move**

Roman R. Williams accepted a tenure-track appointment as Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Calvin College beginning August 2012. Correspondence may be sent to roman.williams@calvin.edu

Lorne Dawson and Marion Goldman were quoted at length in an article about Scientology in the DAILY BEAST. Follow this link for the article.
**Recent Books**

**The Emerging Church: Religion at the Margins** by Josh Packard
Lynne Reinner Publishers 2012

**The Underground Church: Nonviolent Resistance to the Vatican Empire** by Kathleen Kautzer

**Religion and AIDS in Africa** by Jenny Trinitapoli & Alex Weinreb
Oxford University Press 2012

**White Parents, Black Children: Experiencing Transracial Adoption** by Darron T. Smith, Cardell K. Jacobson and Brenda G. Juarez
Rowman & Littlefield, Inc. 2011

**The Post-Secular in Question: Religion in Contemporary Society** Edited By Philip Gorski, David Kyuman Kim, John Torpey and Jonathan VanAntwerpen
NYU Press 2012

**Military Chaplains and Religious Diversity** by Kim P. Hansen
Pelgrave Macmillan (October) 2012

**Divine Callings: Understanding The Call To Ministry In Black Pentecostalism** by Richard N. Pitt
NYU Press 2012

**European Cosmopolitanism in Question** edited by Roland Robertson and Anne Sophie Krossa (eds.) Palgrave Macmillan, 2012

**Claiming Society for God: Religious Movements and Social Welfare in Egypt, Israel, Italy, and the United States** by Nancy J. Davis and Robert V. Robinson
Indiana University Press 2012.
**Recent Articles**

Robert D. Woodberry
(University of Texas at Austin)


Mark Killian

University of Cincinnati

Title: Everything in Common: The Growth of Urban Christian Intentional Communities

Abstract: The aim of this research is to examine why Christian Intentional Communities are growing numerically, have increased member commitment, and are choosing to locate in urban neighborhoods. This work is significant because it provides a much needed update to the body of knowledge surrounding intentional communities, it builds on the prior theories of urban religiosity by illustrating how religious organizations grow in urban environments, and offers practical information for religious organizations as they adapt to a changing religious landscape.
A New Journal of Interest

Announcing the American Journal of Cultural Sociology

Editors: Jeffrey C. Alexander, Department of Sociology, Yale University, USA, Ronald N. Jacobs, Department of Sociology, University at Albany, State University of New York, USA, Philip Smith, Department of Sociology, Yale University, USA

Description:
From modernity's onset, social theorists have been announcing the death of meaning, at the hands of market forces, impersonal power, scientific expertise, and the pervasive forces of rationalization and industrialization. Yet, cultural structures and processes have proved surprisingly resilient. Relatively autonomous patterns of meaning – sweeping narratives and dividing codes, redolent if elusive symbols, fervent demands for purity and cringing fears of pollution – continue to exert extraordinary effects on action and institutions. They affect structures of inequality, racism and marginality, gender and sexuality, crime and punishment, social movements, market success and citizen incorporation. New and old new media project continuous symbolic reconstructions of private and public life.

As contemporary sociology registered the continuing robustness of cultural power, the new discipline of cultural sociology was born. How should these complex cultural processes be conceptualized? What are the best empirical ways to study social meaning? Even as debates rage around these field-specific theoretical and methodological questions, a broadly cultural sensibility has spread into every arena of sociological study, illuminating how struggles over meaning affect the most disparate processes of contemporary social life.

Bringing together the best of these studies and debates, the American Journal of Cultural Sociology publicly crystallizes the cultural turn in contemporary sociology. By providing a common forum for the many voices engaged in meaning-centered social inquiry, the AJCS will facilitate communication, sharpen contrasts, sustain clarity, and allow for periodic condensation and synthesis of different perspectives. The journal aims to provide a single space where cultural sociologists can follow the latest developments and debates within the field.

We welcome high quality submissions of varied length and focus: contemporary and historical studies, macro and micro, institutional and symbolic, ethnographic and statistical, philosophical and methodological. Contemporary cultural sociology has developed from European and American roots, and today is an international field. The AJCS will publish rigorous, meaning-centered sociology whatever its origins and focus, and will distribute it around the world.

Our first issue will publish in the first quarter of 2013 but accepted articles will appear earlier online. Submissions will be anonymously reviewed.

For more information about AJCS, and to access our online submission system, please visit our website at www.palgrave-journals.com/ajcs/.
Specifically for the Students among Us

American Sociological Association (ASA) has had an active and robust programming component for its student members. These student programs house initiatives supporting student involvement in ASA governance and sections, professional development and socialization into the discipline, and funding support to both attend and participate in the ASA Annual Meeting.

For instance, the ASA Student Forum, which provides resources for graduate and undergraduate students who are ASA members, helps develop networks among student members, and facilitates student participation within ASA by encouraging professional development and service. There are no additional fees associated with membership in the Student Forum.

On the ASA Student Forum Facebook page, members have access to various discussion groups as well as links to current research, funding, and employment opportunities. See also The Student Sociologist, the Student Forum’s bi-monthly newsletter. The Student Sociologist is disseminated via the student listserv; current and past issues are available online.

Another very important student program is the ASA Honors Program, providing undergraduate students with a rich introduction to the professional and intellectual life of the discipline. Exceptional students from both the U.S. and other countries come together to experience all facets of the ASA Annual Meeting. By participating in the Honors Program, students develop long-lasting networks with other aspiring sociologists while their sponsoring departments have a chance to “showcase” their programs and their most outstanding students. Participation requires nomination by a sociology faculty member at the student's home institution, and Honors applications are due by early February each year.

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