Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I wish to thank you for the honor of serving as Section Chair this year, and for your patience as I learn the ins and outs of the role. I hope that we all will be able to help our section grow and prosper this year.

To that end, today I took advantage of my university’s fall break to page through the final program of last summer’s Annual Meeting. I had wondered how our section compares with other sections in the total number of sessions – Regular, Special, Author-Meets-Critics – devoted to our respective topics. I was also curious to learn what percentage of those presenting papers on religion-related topics were actually section members.

As you know, our membership – 633 at last count – normally entitles us to 4 Section Sessions, plus a Business/Roundtable Session. In 2013, we were also given an extra session as compensation for being scheduled on the last day, for a total of 6 sessions in all. This puts us above the average in our number of Section Sessions. But many other sections’ topics appeared on the program much more often than ours did. Medical Sociology topics were featured in 3 or 4 additional Regular Sessions, Political Sociology topics in 9, and Social Movement topics in 6 – over and above the number of their formally assigned Section Sessions, which was the same as ours. In contrast, only one Regular Session, and two Special Sessions co-sponsored with the ASR, addressed topics in the Sociology of Religion. Of the single religion-related papers scattered throughout the program, fully two-thirds were presented by authors who were not members of our section.
So I consider this my agenda for the year: I hope to contact as many of these non-member presenters as I can and personally invite them to join our section. And I hope to work with Elaine Howard Ecklund, our Chair-Elect, to get more Special Sessions, Regular Sessions, and Author-Meets-Critics Sessions on the program in the future.

You can help us. First of all, when you attend meetings of other subfields in Sociology, scan the programs for religion-related papers and invite their authors to join our section. And consider responding to the listserv email we will send in a few weeks, inviting you to think of other religion-related topics for the Regular Sessions in 2015.

Again, thank you for electing me, and I look forward to working with all of you this coming year,

Sincerely,

Patricia Wittberg,
Chair, ASA Sociology of Religion Section.
“Honoring the Life and Work of Robert N. Bellah,” an informal gathering in memory of one of the intellectual architects of the late 20th-century revival of the sociology of religion and public sociology, will be held in Saturday evening, November 9 from 7:30-8:00 pm in the Burroughs Room of the SSSR conference hotel. All are invited to come honor Bob Bellah with shared memories of his life and work.

**Fenggang Yang** is now the Editor-in-Chief of a new journal, *Review of Religion and Chinese Society*. For information and submission of manuscripts, please visit [www.brill.com/RRCS](http://www.brill.com/RRCS).

**Gerardo Marti** (Davidson College) and **Mark Mulder** (Calvin College) received a $400,000 grant from Lilly Endowment for a new project entitled, "Latino Protestant Congregations in the United States: Liturgy, Mission, and Congregational Practices." The grant will fund a team of research fellows to conduct qualitative observations and interviews in Latino churches across America. For more information, visit [http://www.lpcproject.org](http://www.lpcproject.org).

Prema Kurien was awarded a National Science Foundation grant from the Sociology program for her project, “The Incorporation of Minorities in Canada and the United States.” (SES-1323881, Sept 1 2013- Aug 31 2014). This project examines minority religious groups (Hindus and Sikhs) that have broadly similar patterns of migration to Canada and the United States and have close ties with their compatriots across the border, but yet manifest divergent activism profiles within Canada and the United States and between the two countries. This research also aims to uncover the factors that influence the form that their mobilization takes, specifically, whether it is "ethnic," "racial," or "religious."

Prema Kurien’s 2012 article, “Decoupling Religion and Ethnicity: Second-Generation Indian American Christians.” Qualitative Sociology, Vol 35(4): 447-468, won the 2013 Research Paper Award from the Asia and Asian American section of the ASA.
We invite proposals for a symposium on “Religion in California” to be held at the University of California, Berkeley, in April 2014. The symposium is co-sponsored by Berkeley’s Religion, Politics, and Globalization Program (RPGP), the California American Studies Association (CASA), the Theological Engagement with California’s Culture Project (TECC), the Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion (BCSR), and the Graduate Theological Union (GTU).

The symposium will feature a keynote discussion with Dr. Matthew Avery Sutton (author of *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*), Dr. Lois A. Lorentzen (co-editor of *On the Corner of Bliss and Nirvana*) and Rev. Dr. Joy Moore (Associate Dean of African American Church Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary).

We invite individual proposals that deal with any aspect of religion in California, but we are particularly interested in works that interact with the path breaking scholarship of Sutton and Lorentzen et. al. and/or theological features within the state. Proposals that focus upon some combination of immigration and movement, politics and social movements, and/or theology and culture will be preferred. Proposals should range from 250 to 1,000 words and will be considered through December 15, 2013. Selected participants will be notified by January 1, 2014.

The symposium will be relatively small with panels held on Friday, April 25. Participants will be expected to attend several selected panels and also participate in the opening keynote discussion on Thursday, April 24 and the closing conversation on Friday, April 25.

Please direct any questions and submit proposals to: Lynne Gerber ([l.gerber@berkeley.edu](mailto:l.gerber@berkeley.edu)), Edward J. Blum ([eblum@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:eblum@mail.sdsu.edu)), and/or Jason Sexton ([Jason@teccproject.com](mailto:Jason@teccproject.com)).
The Latino Protestant Congregations Project is Funding a Team of Research Fellows for 2014-2017.

Position: Through a grant funded by Lilly Endowment, we invite advanced graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and junior faculty to participate in a unique, three year research fellowship starting in June 2014. The Latino Protestant Congregations (LPC) Project is forming a team of ten researchers to conduct qualitative observations and interviews in Latino Protestant churches across the United States. LPC Fellows are expected to gain entrée to five local congregations in their geographic region and complete profiles for each, including field notes and audio interviews. LPC Fellows and the LPC Project Directors will gather annually to plan, collaborate, and debrief during the funding period. Spanish fluency is desired but not mandatory.

Funding and Resources: The total stipend available to each LPC Fellow is $8,000 payable in increments per congregational profile. Each LPC Fellow will also be provided separate funds toward a personal digital recorder. As part of LPC funding, all audio interviews will be transcribed for each LPC Fellow. Additional funding is provided for travel and lodging for annual discussions to focus on shared insights, cumulative learning, and strategic planning on analysis of data and dissemination of results. The LPC Project Directors will conduct analyses on the larger dataset, and they will also collaborate with each LPC Fellow on specific writing projects focused on data collected from their own congregations. The LPC fellowship is therefore ideal for young scholars building a research agenda.

Application: To apply, candidates should submit a c.v., one academic reference, a brief statement of previous research experience, and descriptions of Latino Protestant congregations in their geographic area as possible research sites. Send all documents as separate Word documents to both project directors: Gerardo Marti gemarti@davidson.edu and Mark Mulder mttm3@calvin.edu. Applications received by January 15th, 2014 will receive fullest consideration. The first gathering of LPC Research Fellows is scheduled for June 23-27, 2014, in Grand Rapids, MI. Subsequent June meetings will be planned in coordination with fellows. Advanced graduate students through junior faculty are encouraged to apply. Women and members of historically underrepresented groups in the social sciences are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, please visit the project website http://www.lpcproject.org.
New Dissertations Forthcoming

Title: “Postsecular Europe and the Church-Planting Movement”
John D. Boy, CUNY Graduate Center
Committee: John Torpey (chair), Marnia Lazreg, Bryan S. Turner, Stanley Aronowitz

Summary: My dissertation investigates the global diffusion of voluntary religiosity. I study this phenomenon in the context of “church planting,” that is, strategic efforts by multi-institutional networks of individuals and organizations to found new conservative Protestant churches. I use a modified ethnographic approach (focused and multi-sited) to study the work of one of the most prominent of these networks in seven urban areas in Europe. I argue that this network makes strategic use of gentrified urban spaces to make a place for religion in the everyday lives of city dwellers. The result is a transformation of the religious landscape and a change in religious vitality in the broader society. In addition, my dissertation uses archival materials to shed light on how Europe came to be framed as a mission field by American Protestant missionary societies in the first half of the twentieth century. In particular, I draw on illustrated mission periodicals to study framing processes. My research places me at the intersection of comparative–historical sociology, cultural sociology, and the sociology of religion.

Title: “Physician and Patient Interactions: The role of beliefs and values in directing clinical conversations”
Aaron Franzen, Baylor University
Chair: Paul Froese
Projected completion date: May 2014

Aaron’s dissertation analyzes data from a national physician survey collected by The University of Chicago. Using structural equation and path models, he focuses on how a physician’s personal beliefs and values influence how often they discuss religious content in clinical settings and how they engage with the spirituality of their patients.

Randa Kayyali (American University) just finished and defended the dissertation, “Arab American Christian Identifications in the U.S.” looking at historical and contemporary changes in the Antiochian Orthodox, Melkite, and Maronite Churches as well as the identities of their congregants and other Christians from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.


Journals to Note

Edited by Gary Wood, Virginia Tech and Tugrul Keskin, Portland State University

NOW AVAILABLE - Online submission: Articles for publication in Sociology of Islam can be submitted online through Editorial Manager, please click here.

Sociology of Islam (SOI) provides an international scholarly forum for research related to the religion and culture of Islam, Muslim societies, and social issues related to Muslims in socio-political context. Decidedly rooted in the sociological perspective, SOI takes an expansive and global view of this broad subject matter. SOI publishes multiple issues per year containing original peer-reviewed articles and book reviews on the sociological, political, anthropological, historical and other aspects of Islam and Muslim societies across all times and places. By promoting an academic understanding of the richly variegated and complex nature of both majority Muslim societies and of the issues related to the minority status of Muslims in other social contexts, in both thought and practice, Sociology of Islam makes a distinctive contribution to current scholarship in the field of sociology.

The Toronto Journal of Theology is a progressive refereed journal of analysis and scholarship, reflecting diverse Christian traditions and exploring the full range of theological inquiry: Biblical Studies, History of Christianity, Pastoral Theology, Christian Ethics, Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion, and Interdisciplinary Studies. The journal provides a Canadian forum for discussing theological issues in cross-cultural perspectives, featuring pertinent articles, in-depth reviews and information on the latest publications in the field. The Toronto Journal of Theology is of critical interest to academics, clergy, and lay and professional theologians. www.utpjournals.com/tjt
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