issues—including evolution, embryonic stem cell research, immigrant rights, and religious expression in politics and business—is often divisive, religion does not necessarily provoke conflict, and in fact religious convictions have in some contexts given rise to societal prosperity and the expansion of human rights and strengthening of communities. As sociologists of religion who work from a variety of different theoretical and methodological approaches we bring serious and meaningful dispassionate scholarly reflection to all of this. Within the discipline of sociology, scholars within the sociology of religion are engaging across sub-fields of gender, immigration, race, science, sexuality, the environment, urban life, health and medicine, and many, many others. Our members are well-represented structurally in the rest of the discipline. There are many ways that we can be even more so. I encourage you to consider how our section might become even more involved in the American Sociological Association. Are there people from our section you could nominate for association-wide awards? Are there those you could nominate or encourage to get involved in the Association leadership? It’s worth noting too that the section itself is strong. We have over 600 members, with many students. We will be sponsoring four panels for the 2015 meetings. I am hoping that this year our section can continue to cast a vision for the ways in which the sociology of religion is integral to the discipline as a whole as well as think through the ways that we can mentor junior scholars who do work in sociology of religion. Visit our webpage and let me know how you would make it better. Visit the ASA link for nominations and nominate people for an award. Special thanks to outgoing chair Patricia Wittberg of IUPUI, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of our section over the past year and who continues to get me up to speed on chair duties. I look forward to hearing from many of you during the next year and working together to continue to build on our strengths.

Elaine Howard Ecklund
Chair, Sociology of Religion Section
Recently Published Articles


Recently Published Books


Lynn’s book will be reviewed in *Publisher’s Weekly*, along with a profile of the author.
Recently Published Books


Recently Published Book Chapters

Awards
Anna Sun’s *Confucianism as a World Religion* won the best book award of the religion section this year at the ASA, and it has just won another award.

Prema Kurien received the Contributions to the Field Award (2014) from the Asian and Asian American section of the ASA. She is the Dr. Thomas Tam Visiting Professor (of Asian American studies) at CUNY for 2014-2015.

Job Postings
University of California - Santa Barbara: [Assistant Professor in the Social Scientific Study of Religions](#)

Samford University: [Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion](#)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: [Postdoctoral Researchers](#)
PALS Study
Interesting in studying religion with access to hundreds of variables on a wide range of religious and spirituality measures?

How about religion and health? Or religion and intergroup contact, race and ethnicity, social networks, moral and political attitudes, trust, contextual effects, or change over time?

You can study these and much more using the Portraits of American Life Study (PALS), a nationally representative study that has interviewed the same 1300 adult Americans in 2006 and 2012.

Visit http://www.thearda.com/pals/ for everything you need to use the PALS.

(Book brought to you by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., Rice University, the University of Notre Dame, and the ARDA)

Book Symposium
Nancy Davis and Rob Robinson’s Claiming Society for God: Religious Movements and Social Welfare in Egypt, Israel, Italy and the United States was the subject of an Author Meets Critics session, organized by Melissa Wilde, at the 2014 ASA meetings in San Francisco.

Please see the Newsletter Addendum with the revised comments of Rhys Williams, John McCarthy, and John Evans and the responses of the authors. Transcription was done by Karen Myers.