Dear Section Membership,

I hope you are all keeping well. In addition to the normal fare of notifications, news, and announcements, this edition of the newsletter includes brief statements from candidates for upcoming openings in the section’s governance structure. I hope that you will take a moment to review these.

As always, I am happy to receive items for upcoming newsletter editions at any time. kmcelmur@iun.edu

The next newsletter will include highlights, helpful tips, and previews for the upcoming round of conference meetings this fall in New York City. Contributions here are particularly welcome.

All the best,

Kevin McElmurry
Tributaries, Eddies, and Cross-Currents: Religion Outside the Mainstream
Association for the Sociology of Religion
August 11–12, 2013
Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel
New York, New York

NOTE: The annual meetings take place immediately prior to the meetings of the ASA’s Religion Section, but will not overlap with those sessions. This will allow members to attend sessions at both meetings in a shorter window than previous years.

THEME: When operating in the mode of “normal science,” the sociology of religion has been dominated by studies of mainstream religious institutions, beliefs and practices. But there is much to be learned in science by exploring anomalies. Global changes in recent decades have dramatically increased religious pluralism and innovation in local and regional settings, raising serious questions about the character, relevance, perhaps even the very existence of the “mainstream.” Research in the sociology of religion has begun to reflect these shifts, challenging previously dominant theories of religion via studies of new religious movements, new immigrant/transnational religion, lived religion, and/or new spiritualities. The 2013 Annual Meeting will explore what we may learn by turning our attention to religious forms, practices and beliefs existing outside the mainstream, in both institutional and noninstitutional expressions.

DEADLINES:  Session Proposals are due by 15 March 2013
Paper Proposals and abstracts are due by 30 April 2013

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
(1) Email your proposal to ASR2013@augustana.edu.
(2) Place the title of your proposal first, then names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors, then your abstract/ proposal, all on one sheet of paper.
(3) Limit paper abstracts to a maximum of 100 words, describing your research question(s), methodology, and preliminary results.
(4) 2013 membership in ASR is required for program consideration (one author, for multi-authored papers).

Please follow this link to the ASR HOMEPAGE for updates and information.
Calls for Participation

National Council on Family Relations
Religion and Family Life Section

The RFL Section seeks to explore the connections between religion and the family and solicits diverse proposals for all formats that examine how religion is related to individual and family well-being. The conference theme certainly is relevant for religion and family scholars, and we also welcome all submissions addressing any of the broad topics associated with religion and the family. 2013 is the 75th anniversary of NCFR so we are hoping to have a record numbers of submissions for the conference and our section.

Research on how religion affects individuals and families has been increasing in recent years, but the links between religion and family relationships remain vastly under investigated.

Thus we encourage a wide range of innovative proposals that provide empirical data describing religion-family associations in diverse family structures, from varied religious traditions, at multiple points through the lifespan, among different levels of family systems, and with different methodological strategies or theoretical perspectives. We also welcome conceptual and theoretical papers that offer explanations of how religion influences relationship formation, stability, and functioning, for better or worse. In addition, we will accept practice-oriented presentations that address relevant policy issues or that help educators and therapists utilize integrative interventions that are both efficacious and ethical.

Students, new professionals, and established scholars are encouraged to submit proposals. Cash awards are presented for the Outstanding Paper and the Student/New Professional Outstanding Paper.

Contact: Joanne Roberts
Hardin Simmons University
Email: jroberts@hsutx.edu
Re-envisioning the History of Sociology (and Much More)
A Call for Papers and Publication Opportunity for Graduate Students and Early Career Sociologists

The history of sociology is seen by some as an antiquated domain. However, there is ample evidence that innovations in sociological theory and methodology have repeatedly come through extended engagement with historical works in the sociological tradition. Talcott Parsons, Harriet Martineau, Lewis Coser, Pierre Bourdieu, Margaret Archer, and Paul Lazarsfeld all testify to the benefits to be gained, for theory and methodology, in engaging with sociology's past. Furthermore, the “history of sociology” can be seen more broadly as the “sociology of sociology.” If we take this perspective, what once may have appeared to be the preserve of historians and classicists becomes a locus of research for all sociologists.

In order to highlight the relevance of sociology’s past to its present and future, perhaps what we need are new approaches to the history of sociology. The goal of this Symposium is to engage graduate students and early career sociologists in an effort to re-envision the history of sociology.

We invite paper submissions for a Symposium to be held in conjunction with the American Sociological Association’s 2013 Annual Meeting in New York City. This Symposium will be organized by the History of Sociology section, and held on the first day of the ASA (August 10, 2013).

The highest-quality paper submissions will be considered for publication in The American Sociologist. Professor Larry Nichols, as editor of The American Sociologist, has generously offered to dedicate an issue of his journal to publishing Symposium papers. Depending on paper length, space is available to publish up to seven papers.

Paper specifications: All papers relating to the history of sociology are welcome, although papers engaging directly with the theme of the Symposium (“Reenvisioning the History of Sociology”) will be given highest priority. Papers focusing on the relevance of history of sociology to contemporary challenges in sociological theory and methodology will receive special attention. Papers must be under 30 pages in length, and must include (1) a title, (2) the author’s name, title, and contact information, (3) an abstract, and (4) a complete bibliography.

Please send submissions to the organizers: Michael Bare, University of Chicago (mbare@uchicago.edu) and Laura R. Ford, Cornell University (lrf23@cornell.edu). The deadline for submission is March 1. We will extend up to 12 invitations to present by May 1. Symposium participants will then have until July 1 to edit and revise their papers, prior to submitting the papers to the senior discussants.
Membership News and Notes

Professor, the Reverend Gary D Bouma AM FAICD has been appointed a Member of The Order of Australia by the Governor-General of Australia Her Excellency Quentin Bryce AC AO. The citation for this Honor reads ‘For significant service to sociology as an academic, to interfaith dialogue, and to the Anglican Church of Australia’. This Award was announced in the Australia Day 2013 Honors List on 26 January 2013.

Patricia Snell Herzog recently accepted an Assistant Professor position with the University of Arkansas.

Fareen Parvez (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) was awarded a 2-yr grant with the Social Science Research Council on New Directions in the Study of Prayer. This research will focus on debates around Islamic reform and prayer practices among minorities in India and France.

Robert N. Bellah, distinguished professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and National Humanities Medal awardee, will be speaking at the University of Notre Dame on his latest research regarding religion and human evolution. For this ticketed event, he will lecture on “The Modern Project in Light of Human Evolution” at the Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame on Tuesday, March 19th at 4:30pm. All are invited to attend. There is no admission cost for the tickets. A reception will follow. For more information, please visit this webpage.

Brian Starks and Christian Smith recently released a report titled “Unleashing Catholic Generosity.” Using data from a nationally representative survey of 1,997 US adults in 2010, Starks and Smith show that Catholics tend to be less generous than the U.S. population as a whole. They also find Catholics perceive their parishes to be less participatory and more likely to focus on immediate parish needs in discussions of money than congregations of other faiths. In contrast, participatory parish cultures and the highlighting of opportunities for spiritual growth and world transformation (rather than a focus on paying the bills) are associated with more generous giving. Thus, in explaining the Catholic giving gap, Starks and Smith highlight the role of congregational cultures in shaping larger patterns of generosity in the U.S. The full report can be accessed online at http://cspri.nd.edu

Hans Joas, (University of Chicago) will be speaking at the University of Notre Dame on April 26th. For more information, please visit this webpage.

Brian Grim, (Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life) will be speaking at a TEDx Talk on “Religious Freedom Today” at the Vatican on April 19, 2013. For more information, please visit this webpage.
The following people have graciously agreed to serve as officers for our section, if elected. I have asked each of them to write a brief biographical statement for the benefit of section membership. These are reprinted in the pages that follow.

Upcoming vacancies and candidates

**Chair Elect**
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard
  Rice University
- Yang, Fenggang
  Purdue University

**Secretary/Treasurer**
- Marti, Gerardo
  Davidson College
- Trinitapoli, Jenny
  Penn State University

**Council Members** (Open Seats: 2)
- Beyerlein, Kraig
  Notre Dame University
- Edwards, Korie
  Ohio State University
- Lichterman, Paul
  Univ. of Southern California
- Park, Jerry
  Baylor University
Elaine Howard Ecklund is an associate professor of sociology at Rice University, where she is also director of graduate studies. In addition Ecklund is director of the Religion and Public Life Program and a Scholar at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. Exploring mechanisms of institutional change draws together Ecklund’s research. Specifically, she is interested in how individuals develop religious identities that are at odds with the institutions that constrain them and how they use religious identities to bring social change. Her research addresses this theoretical topic through the lens of how religion intersects with immigration, science, and gender. Ecklund has published two books with Oxford University Press and over thirty peer-reviewed research articles, and numerous op-eds. She has received grants in support of her research from the National Science Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, John Templeton Foundation, and Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Her latest book, Science Vs. Religion: What Scientists Really Think was chosen by Times Higher Education as an international book of the week and named a book of the year on religion by the Huffington Post. Her research has been covered in national and international news media, including USA Today, Nature, The Wall Street Journal, and Xinhua News. In 2011 Ecklund was named among the top five percent of junior faculty teachers at Rice University. Over the next few years, Ecklund’s research will examine how scientists in eight different nations understand religion and ethics. In addition, through a cooperative project with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she will study how four different US religious groups understand science and medicine. Ecklund has served as a council member for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religion Section of the American Sociological Association. In addition she has chaired paper award committees for the International Migration Section of the ASA, the Religion Section of the ASA, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. She was co-organizer of paper sessions for the 2010 ASA Religion Section and is currently in her second term as an editorial board member of the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion.
Fenggang Yang is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University, Indiana, USA. His research focuses on religious change in China and immigrant religions in the United States. He is the author of Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule (2011) and Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities (1999), and the co-editor of six books. He has received two distinguished article awards, “The Red, Black, and Gray Markets of Religion in China” and “Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications” (with Helen Rose Ebaugh). He has given many invited lectures and presentations at major universities and think-tanks, and has been interviewed by the National Public Radio, New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, etc. He has served as an elected member of the councils of the ASA Sections of Religion and of Asia and Asian America, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and Association for the Sociology of Religion.
Jenny Trinitapoli is an Assistant Professor of Sociology, Religious Studies, and Demography at Penn State University. She earned her PhD (2007) from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was also an active member of the Population Research Center. Her research on the interplay between religious and demographic processes and outcomes tends to focus on the context of sub-Saharan Africa—but not always. Jenny's research on religion has appeared in Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, and Demographic Research, among other outlets. Most recently, Oxford University Press published Religion and AIDS in Africa (with Alexander Weinreb), “the first comprehensive empirical account of the impact of religion on the AIDS epidemic.” Jenny has been an active member of the ASA and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion since 2003. She previously served as the student representative for the ASA Religion Section.
Kraig Beyerlein is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Notre Dame and a faculty fellow in the Center for the Study of Religion and Society and the Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change. Prior to coming Notre Dame, he was an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Arizona. Kraig received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research and teaching focuses on the relationship between religion and civic engagement/social activism. He has published articles on this topic in the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Mobilization, Social Forces, and Social Problems. He has received external research grants from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Louisville Institute, and the Spencer Foundation. He is currently finishing a book manuscript on the role of religion in the humanitarian aid movement for migrants in Southern Arizona, which is titled “Flooding the Desert: Faith-Based Mobilizing to Save Lives in the Sonora Desert.”
Paul Lichterman currently is Professor of Sociology and Religion at the University of Southern California; previously he was Associated Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His research has focused on grassroots social movements, community volunteer projects, nonprofit advocacy groups and associations. He studies religion’s roles in civic and political culture. Paul’s second book, Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America’s Divisions (Princeton, 2005) is an ethnographic study of religious community service groups responding to U.S. welfare policy reform. He co-edited The Civic Life of American Religion (Stanford, 2009), a collection of essays that explore different ways that religion enters and influences American public life. Paul’s current research includes a multi-method project on the field of organizations that advocate for housing and on behalf of homeless people. Paul has held a variety of positions in several ASA sections, including council and award committees, and was executive board member of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at USC, 2004–2007.
Jerry Park  It’s an honor to be nominated for council of the Religion Section of ASA. I have been a member since 1997 during my graduate school years and have been a regular attender and participant in the sessions as well as the annual meetings of organizations that have overlapping membership including: the Association for the Sociology of Religion, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association. I have been a graduate student representative in the religion section, and a member of the Nominating Committee. This year I serve as a session organizer for the 2013 meetings. My current research interests are in racial stratification and religion as well as religion, labor force participation and entrepreneurship. The religion section has been a very supportive scholarly community and it would be a privilege to serve it.
Recent Monographs: Please note book titles are hyperlinks to detailed publication information.

Sally Gallagher, [Making Do in Damascus: Navigating a Generation of Change in Family and Work](#). Syracuse University Press, 2012


Jim Wellman, [Rob Bell and a New American Christianity](#). Abingdon Press, 2012


Recent Publications

New Edited Volumes: Please note book titles are hyperlinks to detailed publication information.

Religion on the Edge
De-centering and Re-centering the Sociology of Religion
Edited by Courtney Bender, Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt and David Smilde
Oxford University Press, 2012

Ecologies of Faith in New York City
The Evolution of Religious Institutions
Edited by Richard Cimino, Nadia A. Mian, and Weishan Huang
Foreword by Nancy T. Ammerman
Indiana University Press, 2012

Religion in the Neoliberal Age
Political Economy and Modes of Governance
Edited by François Gauthier, and Tuomas Martikainen
Ashgate Publishing, 2012

Chapters and Articles:


A word about our membership,

We will be doing a membership drive this fall and winter. We need to maintain a membership of over 600 to retain the number of sessions we currently get on the annual meeting program, and we are too close to that limit at 631 (as of the latest count). Please, renew your section membership for 2013 when the call comes out later this fall. Also, please encourage your graduate students to sign up for section membership; it's $5, and a good investment!

Renew your membership for 2013. Membership is on a calendar year basis (January 1-December 31); however the ASA accepts no applications or renewals for the current year after September.

Update your ASA membership record with a new address, contact information, demographics, employment history, education history, and areas of sociological interest. Current members may use this option to purchase a journal, join a section, and access an e-mail directory of ASA members!

If you have any questions or need assistance, e-mail the ASA membership department. If you would like to speak with a membership team member, call (202) 383-9005 x389, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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Program Committee, 2013
Penny Edgell (Chair), edgell@umn.edu
Evelyn Bush, ebush@fordham.edu
Wendy Cadge, wcadge@brandeis.edu
Jerry Park, Jerry_park@baylor.edu
Melissa Wilcox, wilcosmm@whitman.edu

Book Award Committee, 2013
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