Sociology of Religion

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Looking ahead to our time in New York, I am excited about the vibrancy that I see in our Section, which led to several interesting panels with excellent papers and a large Roundtable session. There are many people to thank for all their hard work in making things come together for the upcoming meeting, but in particular I want to take a moment to thank our Program Committee members: Melissa Wilcox, Jerry Park, Wendy Cadge, and Evelyn Bush (in reverse alphabetical order). Our award committee members, too, spent a great deal of time doing the vital work of reviewing the scholarly books and articles that form the heart of our scholarly endeavor. Thanks go to Susan Crawford Sullivan, John Bartkowski, Paul Lichterman, David Sikkink, Nancy Davis, Gerardo Marti, Rachel Rinaldo, Joseph Baker, and Sally Gallagher for their important work on our award committees. Our nominating committee, comprised of Dan Olson, Mark Chaves, Nancy Ammerman, and Melinda Denton, put forward an excellent slate of candidates, resulting in the election of a new Chair-Elect, Elaine Howard Ecklund, a new Secretary-Treasurer, Gerardo Marti, and two new Council Members, Paul Lichterman and Kraig Beyerlein. Finally, it is also important to thank those who also stood for election, for their willingness to serve: Fenggang Yang, Jenny Trinitapoli, Korie Edwards, and Jerry Park.

It may seem redundant to list all those names here, but it is important to take a moment and remember all of the hard work of all of the people who make our Section a good place to present our work and get feedback, to make professional and intellectual connections, to mentor younger scholars, and to debate one another about the important issues in the sociological study of religion today.

There are ongoing challenges that face our section, including the high cost of ASA membership in a time of scarce institutional resources. Our section is holding its own so far, but we need to be mindful of keeping our membership numbers high enough to sustain our 5 regular program sessions (we have a 6th this year but only because our Section Day is the last day of the program and we get an “extra” session the day before to compensate for any lower attendance due to people leaving the conference early).
In light of that, I believe it is urgent that our section foster high levels of participation by graduate students and assistant professors. The section Roundtables have generally helped to engage younger scholars, providing a place to present preliminary work and to have a presence on the program, which is necessary for many in order to receive travel reimbursements. Recently there have been informal arrangements between the Section and the Association for the Sociology of Religion encouraging Section members to withdraw papers from the Section roundtables to present at ASR instead. I put a stop to such informal arrangements this year because I believe they are not in the Section’s interests, and not in the interest of younger scholars in the sociology of religion, who need to maintain networks in the broader ASA in addition to their ties to other sociologists of religion. In the future, Section members who care about issues like this should be in touch with the Chair and Program Committee to express their views on the best way to maintain a healthy and vibrant set of section Roundtables, and about our ongoing relationships with ASR and with other ASA sections, too (the latter especially important now, given the high costs of hotel hospitality and the potential need to partner with other sections for our reception).

I look forward to seeing many of you in New York for what promises to be an exciting set of panels and a great meeting!

Penny Edgell
An Invitation from the ASR

The Association for the Sociology of Religion Invites ASA Religion Section Members to Visit the ASR Meeting Held at the Doubletree Metropolitan Hotel August 11-12, 2013

During the two days prior to the ASA Religion Section Day, which will be held on Tuesday, August 13, the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) will be holding its annual meeting at a nearby hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton Metropolitan (www.dtnewyork.com), located at 569 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022, just a few blocks from the main ASA conference hotels. All ASA Religion Section Members, whether they are members of ASR or not, are invited to drop by the ASR hotel and enjoy one or more of our lectures, sessions, and/or receptions.

Among the events that may be of particular interest to Religion Section members, besides the two sessions jointly sponsored by ASR and ASA, are the Presidential Address given by Fred Kniss on Sunday evening, August 11, at 6:30 p.m. and the Furfey Lecture given by Nancy Ammerman on Monday afternoon, August 12, at 5:00 p.m. Nancy Ammerman’s lecture was purposely scheduled earlier than usual so ASA Religion Section members could attend both it and the Religion Section’s reception, which is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. that evening. ASR will be hosting its own receptions after both addresses, and you are cordially invited to attend those as well.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with ASR, ASR is an international scholarly association, formed in 1938, to advance theory and research in the sociology of religion. We currently have approximately 650 members who come from all over the world with interests and perspectives that are just as diverse and global. Because one of ASR’s core missions is to share our members’ research and perspectives with sociologists in other associations, we enthusiastically invite you to share in the intellectual discourse and camaraderie that are a part of our meeting. To learn more about the Association, please visit www.sociologyofreligion.com. The website has details of the meeting, including walking maps between the ASA hotels and the Doubletree. We look forward to seeing you in August.
Colleagues,

It is with pleasure that I write to tell you about the results of this year’s election:

**Elaine Howard Ecklund** is our new Chair-Elect for 2013-2014, and will be our section Chair in 2014-2015.

**Gerardo Marti** is our new Secretary-Treasurer (3 year term beginning in 2013).

**Kraig Beyerlein** and **Paul Lichterman** are our new Council Members (3-year terms beginning in 2013).

Congratulations, all!

I would also like to thank all the candidates who stood for election this year; the section appreciates your willingness to serve. And thanks to Dan Olson, our Nominations Chair, and Mark Chaves, Nancy Ammerman, and Melinda Denton, who comprised the Nominations Committee.

See you in New York!

Penny
Recently Published Articles


Recently Published Articles

International Migration Special Issue:
Incorporating Faith: Religion and Immigrant Incorporation in the West
June 2013 (Volume 51, Issue 3)
Guest editor: Phillip Connor

Articles include:

God Can Wait - New Migrants in Germany Between Early Adaptation and Religious Reorganization
Claudia Diehl and Matthias Koenig

God Bless Our Children? The Role of Generation, Discrimination and Religious Context for Migrants in Europe
Koen Van der Bracht, Bart Van de Putte and Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe

Intergenerational Change in Religious Salience Among Immigrant Families in Four European Countries
Konstanze Jacob and Frank Kalter

Piety in a Secular Society: Migration, Religiosity, and Islam in Britain
Valerie A. Lewis and Ridhi Kashyap

Intermarriage Attitudes Among Minority and Majority Groups in Western Europe: The Role of Attachment to the Religious In-Group
Sarah Carol

Religious Dimensions of Contexts of Reception: Comparing Two New England Cities
Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky and Casey Clevenger

Religion as A Context of Reception: The Case of Haitian Immigrants in Miami, Montreal and Paris
Margarita A. Mooney
Rhys Williams and Thomas Josephsohn of Loyola University Chicago guest edited a special issue of the new journal Critical Research on Religion (CRR). CRR is a peer-reviewed, international journal focusing on the development of critical theoretical frameworks and their application to research on religion. It provides an interdisciplinary venue for those studying religion in fields from theology and religious studies to sociology and psychology.

The special issue – due out in August 2013 – is titled “Possibilities in the Critical Sociology of Religion” and has articles by Mary Jo Neitz, Jim Spickard, Lori Beaman, Courtney Anne Irby, Todd Nicholas Fuist and Thomas J. Josephsohn, along with an introduction by Williams and Josephsohn. Some of the papers, and an introduction to the journal, will be featured during a session at the upcoming Association for the Sociology of Religion meetings, titled “Toward a Critical Sociology of Religion.”

The journal encourages submissions of theoretically guided articles on current issues as well as those with historical interest using a wide range of methodologies including qualitative, quantitative, and archival. It publishes articles, review essays, book reviews, thematic issues, symposia, and interviews.

Critical Research on Religion
Announcing a peer-reviewed, international journal focusing on the development of a critical theoretical framework and its application to research on religion.
First issue to be published April 2013
For further information, please see: SAGE Press Release
Recent Publications

Books (Each title is a hyperlink to further information)


**The Spirit's Tether: Family, Work and Religion Among American Catholics**

**When Peace is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp Thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice**

**American Catholics in Transition**

**Religion, Politics, and Polarization: How Religio-political Conflict is Changing Congress and American Democracy**

**Legal Integration of Islam: A Transatlantic Comparison**

**Gülen: The Ambiguous Politics of Market Islam in Turkey and the World**

**Sacred Stories, Spiritual Tribes: Finding Religion in Everyday Life**

**The Protestant Ethic Revisited**

**The Amish**

**New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity**
Mary Johnson, Patricia Wittberg, and Mary Gautier, Oxford University Press, 2013.

**Religious Fundamentalism in the Middle East: A Cross-National, Inter-Faith, and Inter-Ethnic Analysis**
Lori Peek won the 2013 Best Book Award from the American Sociological Association Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity for her book *Behind the Backlash: Muslim Americans after 9/11*. The award will be presented in New York City at the annual meetings.

New Teaching Resources from the ARDA
By Kevin D. Dougherty, Baylor University

Good teaching materials make for good teaching. Stimulating readings, activities, and assignments invigorate a course. A challenge for teachers, novice or experienced, is finding good materials to guide student learning. The Association of Religion Data Archives (www.TheARDA.com) can help. The Learning Center is a section of the ARDA devoted to teaching and learning about religion. It has undergone a major revision and expansion. Useful resources include lesson plans, syllabi, visit guides and videos, and learning modules. The purpose of this short article is to introduce these resources and encourage their use.

Lesson Plans
New to The Learning Center is more than 25 lesson plans pertaining to religion. Lesson plans bring together resources from the ARDA and other on-line sources into teachable units. There are lesson plans on concepts, theories, methodologies, global religion, American religion, and the intersection of religion with other social institutions (family, health, politics, etc). Each lesson has learning objectives and suggestions (with hyperlinks) for relevant readings, activities, and assessment tools.

For those preparing to teach Sociology of Religion for the first time, the ARDA’s lesson plans can be assembled into an entire course. Individual lesson plans can easily fit into numerous other courses. For example, “The Sociological Study of Religion” lesson plan is ideal for an introductory sociology course; “Religion and the Family” is a lesson plan apt for a Marriage and Family course; and stratification courses could benefit from “Religion and Gender,” “Religion and Race/Ethnicity,” and “Religion and Social Class” lesson plans.

Syllabi
A growing list of syllabi is available at The Learning Center. Syllabi come from faculty members at liberal arts colleges and research universities. They include undergraduate and graduate level courses in Sociology of Religion, New Religious Movements, Religion and Politics, Religion and Popular Culture, and Religious Organizations. Links to other on-line syllabi also are provided.
Visit Guides and Videos
A feature of some Sociology of Religion courses is to visit places of worship. Attending religious services, especially of an unfamiliar religious group, is a powerful learning opportunity. The Learning Center has several resources to promote observational learning. A Visitor’s Guide to Religious Groups, by Nancy Ammerman, gives instructions on how to conduct observational research in a religious congregation. The Congregational Observation Tool is a worksheet that students in Roger Finke’s Sociology of Religion course use to record their observations.

With the ARDA’s YouTube Channel, students can observe a diverse array of worship services from the classroom or any other location where there is internet access. The ARDA’s YouTube Channel has links to videos from over two dozen religious groups of varied faith traditions.

Learning Modules
Learning modules are a popular teaching resource on the ARDA. Learning modules acquaint students with important questions related to the study of religion and give them experience using survey data to answer these questions. By guiding students through a series of steps to arrive at empirical conclusions, learning modules spur active learning. Topics explored in the lesson plans span Religion and Society, Religious Groups, Religious Leaders, Religiosity, and International Religion.

Improving Teaching about Religion
The purpose of the ARDA is to make the highest quality resources on religion available to researchers, teachers, and others. Changes to The Learning Center mean that new teaching resources are available.

The ARDA is ever expanding. We invite your additions to The Learning Center. Send us your favorite syllabus from a religion-related course. Send us effective assignments for teaching about religion. Submit your materials to learningcenter@thearda.com. We are eager to provide resources that will enhance the teaching of religion for all.
Gerardo Marti is now the Editor-Elect for Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review.

Robert D. Woodberry, National University of Singapore, received outstanding article awards for “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy” 2012. American Political Science Review 106: 244-274: from the American Political Science Association (the Luebbert Award for Best Article in Comparative Politics; Best Article in Comparative Democratization; and runner up for the Wallerstein Award for Best Published Article in Political Economy).

In April, Brian Grim gave a TEDx Talk at the Vatican on the Pew Research Center’s global restrictions on religion studies. "The Weekly Number" website has a 10-question quiz based on the TEDx Talk that is useful in the classroom to challenge students' knowledge about international religious freedom and its measurement. All the answers to the quiz are found in the TEDx video, which is also on the website.

The symposium seeks to engage the societal impact of the Hizmet Movement and invites contributions from across the social sciences, humanities, and fields of professional and community practice that critically explore the intersection of the movement and peacebuilding. We encourage paper proposals in these two broad topic areas:

(1) Regional focus: Peacebuilding initiatives of Hizmet organizations and institutions in different parts of the world such as Turkey, the Balkans, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa, North America, Australiasia, and comparison of such initiatives across regions.

(2) Thematic focus: The Hizmet movement’s approach to peacebuilding as it compares and contrasts with other secular and faith-based, ethnic and non-ethnic, global and regional, and governmental and non-governmental initiatives around the world.
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