Kevin McElmurry suggested that I write some reflections on the past year, and extend my fervent invitation to all of you to join us in San Francisco. Thanks to the diligent work Kevin Dougherty, Jenny Trinitapoli, Jason Shelton, and Patricia Herzog on our Program Committee, we have four strong Sociology of Religion Section sessions, three of which are related to the larger ASA theme of “The Impact of Economic Inequality on Families and Individuals.” We also have a busy Roundtable Session, with 15 tables, as well as our Business Meeting and Reception. I hope to see you all there on August 16!

Kevin’s invitation was an impetus to me to look back over the past year. As I mentioned in this newsletter space last fall, my twin goals were to raise our section’s profile in the ASA as a whole, and to encourage more persons to join our section. In pursuit of the first objective, I researched the various deadlines for the 2014 and 2015 annual meetings. In addition to urging all of you to submit papers for the Section and Regular sessions in 2014, I also found that proposals for Special Sessions, Author-Meets-Critics Sessions, and Workshops for the 2015 Annual Meeting were due by February 5 of 2014! I sent out a call to the members in both December and January; best of luck to the persons who responded to the invitation!
A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR, Patricia Wittberg

With regard to my second goal, I contacted all those Section members who renewed their membership in ASA but did not renew their membership in our Section. For several, it was a simple oversight, and they renewed once personally invited to do so. Still, at our most recent count, our end-of-year estimate is only 604 members, down 6% from 641 last year. We are getting uncomfortably close to the 600-member cutoff, after which we will begin to lose sections! Please invite your colleagues to join us!

Finally, I want to say “Thank You” to all those who helped in the section tasks this year – Penny Edgell and her Nominating Committee, Brian Steensland and the Book Award Committee, Bill Mirola and the Distinguished Article Award Committee, and David Smilde and the Student Paper Award Committee. Their hard work has surfaced truly outstanding awardees. And a final “Thank You” as well to Samuel Perry, our Student Representative for the year, and to Peter Ryan, our new Webmaster. Thank you, also, to Kevin for his generous service as Newsletter editor.

Patricia Wittberg
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 604 (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 2014. 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](mailto:) 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.
An Invitation from ASR

ASR Invites ASA Religion Section Members to Visit the ASR Meeting Held at the JW Marriott Union Square Hotel August 13-15, 2014

During the days prior to the ASA Religion Section Day on Saturday, August 16, the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) will be holding its Annual Meeting at the nearby JW Marriott Union Square Hotel, located at 515 Mason Street, just two blocks north of the ASA’s Hilton Hotel. All ASA Religion Section Members, whether they are members of ASR or not, are warmly 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 Welcoming Reception on Wednesday evening, August 13, at 8:00 p.m. in Skyline A (21st Floor), the Presidential Address given by Christopher Ellison on Thursday evening, August 14, at 6:30 p.m., and the Furfey Lecture given by Neal Krause on Friday evening, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. Both of these evening addresses will take place in Metropolitan Ballroom B & C (2nd Floor), and the receptions following will be held in Skyline A (21st Floor). All are welcome.

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. Because one of ASR’s core missions is to share its members’ research and perspectives with sociologists in other associations, ASR enthusiastically invites you to share in the intellectual discourse and camaraderie of its 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 JW Marriott. We hope to see you there.
The Sociology of the Catholic Parish: A Seminar and Call for Papers

Despite its ubiquity and centrality in American Catholicism, the parish remains understudied by contemporary social scientists. The American Parish Project (TAPP) seeks to bring together scholars whose work intersects with the Catholic parish through diverse themes and methods, advancing a new understanding of Catholic practice, culture, and organizational life.

Toward this aim, we invite social scientists to participate in a four-day seminar in Los Angeles, California, USA, June 25-28, 2015. The seminar will include robust discussion of participants’ submitted papers that present new social scientific data on the parish, analyze existing data, or synthesize and problematize current approaches to a sociology of the parish. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches are welcome. The seminar aims to (1) shape the agenda for future research on the American parish that is rigorous and constructive; (2) build community and networks in this emergent area of research; and (3) provide a foundation for an edited volume on the American parish today. Discussions will engage authors’ papers as well as their motivating questions and contributions to the future trajectory of parish studies. Participants will include those accepted through a competitive application process, as well as invited leaders in congregational studies and Catholic scholarship. Travel funds and a $500 honorarium will be available to participants. Following the seminar, selected papers will undergo additional editorial review for inclusion in an edited volume; these authors will receive an additional $500 honorarium.

Interested participants should submit a curriculum vitae and an extended abstract of 750-1000 words by October 1, 2014 to gary.adler@usc.edu for consideration. Notification of acceptance will be provided by October 30, 2014. Complete paper drafts (20-30 pages, double-spaced) will be due by May 1, 2015 for distribution in advance of the seminar. For more information and updates, visit the project website at http://tapp.ifacs.com/

**TAPP Team**
Gary Adler, PhD, Director of Research, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California
Tricia Bruce, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Maryville College
Brian Starks, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, Kennesaw State University

The following project advisors have also confirmed their participation in the seminar:
Nancy T. Ammerman, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Boston University
Jerome Baggett, Ph.D., Professor of Religion and Society, Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University
John Coleman, S.J., Ph.D., Casassa Professor of Social Values Emeritus, Loyola Marymount University
Mary Ellen Koneiczny, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Paul Lichterman, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and Religion, University of Southern California
Andrew Whitehead accepted a position as assistant professor at Clemson University that will start fall of 2014.

Ruth Braunstein (University of Connecticut), Brad Fulton (Duke University), and Richard Wood (University of New Mexico) were cited in a July 6 Huffington Post article, "Interfaith Prayer Can Strengthen Unity, Diversity In Faith-Based Organizations" that featured findings from their study published in the American Sociological Review. This study was also featured in the Washington Post and New York Magazine on June 25.

Here are the links to the articles:

Huffington Post “Interfaith Prayer Can Strengthen Unity, Diversity in Faith-Based Organizations: Study”
Washington Post “Interfaith Civic Groups Bridge Diversity with Participatory Prayers”
New York Magazine “Prayer Can Help Promote Unity in Diverse Settings”

Prema Kurien was a Visiting Professor at the Ecole des Hautes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, June 2014 where she gave a series of lectures on religion and transnationalism in the South Asian diaspora.
Penny Edgell was just the recipient of a grant from the National Science Foundation, along with my co-PIs Doug Hartmann (Minnesota), Eric Tranby (U. Delaware) and Paul Croll (Augustana College), for a national survey to replicate and extend our findings from the 2003 American Mosaic Project survey. We will focus on religion and race as sources of diversity and solidarity in American life. Joe Gerteis (Minnesota), an original PI on the 2003 study, is also helping us with the research. The survey will field in early 2014.

Joseph Yi (Hanyang University) is studying sexual and ethnic out-groups (e.g., LGBT, Japanese) in religious and other organizational settings, mostly in Seoul, South Korea. This project includes qualitative observations and interviews, supplemented by quantitative analysis. Colleagues interested in collaboration or providing feedback are welcome to contact investigator: josephyi@uchicago.edu

Joseph Yi also plans to investigate multiracial worship among African-Americans, using available survey data (e.g., GSS, Faith Matters). He welcomes interested colleagues and collaborators.

Woodberry, Robert D. National University of Singapore, won both the 2014 Best Article Award, Global and Transnational Sociology, American Sociological Association and the 2014 Distinguished Article Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion for his article “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy.” (2012. American Political Science Review 106(2): 244–274). To date the article has won eight awards including two from the American Sociological Association and four from the American Political Science Association.

Robert D. Woodberry also won the 2013 Award for Excellent Research from the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It recognizes the NUS faculty member who had the most significant research accomplishment in the previous year.
Jaime Kucinskas  
Ph.D. Candidate  
Department of Sociology  
Indiana University – Bloomington

Title: Change without Confrontation: The Making of Mainstream Meditation

Committee: Robert V. Robinson, Brian Steensland, Fabio Rojas, Tim Hallett and Larry Isaac

My dissertation investigates how a movement of Buddhist modernist meditators transformed meditation from a stigmatized, countercultural, religious practice in America to a mainstream practice embraced by esteemed secular organizations such as Fortune 500 companies, Ivy League schools, hospitals, the U.S. military, and K–12 schools. This movement diffused meditation to these different secular audiences with seeming ease, despite how prior Buddhist movements received negative backlashes after brief periods of popularity, and how other similar religiously inspired movements (e.g. Transcendental Meditation) have been met with opposition as they expanded into science and education. I examine how Buddhist–inspired meditators legitimized and diffused meditation across secular fields. By doing so, I contribute to scholarship on social movements, institutional change, and field theory by identifying various ways movements can use consensus–based tactics—rather than confrontation and protest as much of the research on movements and contentious politics suggests—to build a new multi–institutional contemplative field and legitimize meditation.

---- 2013 (September). “Atomized Terror and Democratic Engagement.” *Political Quarterly* 84:3.


Recently Published Books


**Davidman, Lynn.** (2014) Becoming Un-Orthodox: Stories of Ex-Hasidic Jews. Oxford University Press. This will be available in November 2014.


The PALS research team in conjunction with ARDA is pleased to announce that the new 2012 wave of PALS data is available for downloading. This wave followed up over 1300 PALS respondents from 2006, making the study of religious (and other) change possible. Both in STATA and SPSS, the 2006, 2012, and 2006–2012 files public data sets are available for free. To access the data, reports, and much more, please visit:

http://www.thearda.com/pals/

This data set has hundreds of variables on religion plus many other modules.

It is of value as stand-alone years, and of special interest for studying change over this period, or to examine the effects of 2006 attitudes, views, behaviors, and characteristics on 2012 outcomes.

--Michael Emerson, Rice University & David Sikkink, Notre Dame
The Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies is a new open access journal that welcomes manuscripts, both theoretical and empirical, about plain Anabaptist groups, including Amish, Apostolic Christian, Brethren, Bruderhof, Hutterite, Russian Mennonite, Swiss Mennonite, and related movements.

The Ohio State University Knowledge Bank publishes the Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies (http://hdl.handle.net/1811/54889).

Under normal circumstances, the manuscript should be no more than 10,000 words, including tables, figures, endnotes, and references.

All manuscripts should be submitted by email to Joseph Donnermeyer (donnermeyer.1@osu.edu) and Cory Anderson (dranderson@beachyam.org) for consideration for peer review.
A special issue of the Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion, edited by Franco Garelli and Roberto Cipriani, on atheism (forthcoming 2016)

In the spring of 1969 an International Symposium on the Culture of Unbelief was held in Rome, organized by the Vatican Secretariat for Unbelievers, with the participation of illustrious sociologists like Parsons, Berger and Luckmann: see R. Caporale, A. Grumelli (eds.), The Culture of Unbelief, University of California Press, 1971 (published in Italian as Religione e ateismo nelle società secolarizzate, Mulino, 1972). This pioneering experience sought to understand the evolution of the secularization then taking place. Later, the topics of religious non–belonging, indifference, agnosticism, ceased to attract the specific attention of sociologists, who began taking a greater interest in pluralism, globalization, multiple modernity and intercultural phenomena. But for some years now the issue of non–religious attitudes and behaviour has come to the fore again. The Sociology of Religion review devoted most of one of its recent issues (Winter 2013, with two essays by Stephen LeDrew and one by Jesse M. Smith) to the phenomenon of atheism. The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion (March 2013) also showed an interest in unbelief by publishing essays by Jesse M. Smith (Godless Community), Eran Shor and David J. Roelfs (Nonreligious Participation). Previously the Journal of Contemporary Religion had devoted a special issue (January 2012) to the topic of “Non Religion and Secularity”.

The time seems to have come for sociology to take stock of the situation, not merely in partial or territorial terms, but in a much broader sense, in order to obtain a better understanding of the dynamics presently at play in this area. Among other things, it is significant that, in the meantime, a neologism, previously unknown to the literature of sociology has been coined: Nones, those who deny, do not believe, do not belong, do not participate, do not pray, do not refer at all to values of a religious nature.

However, adequate statistical references and specific research devoted entirely to the issue of unbelief are lacking. Without claiming to present a comprehensive picture of the situation at world level, nevertheless, the intention underscoring this proposal is that of trying to provide as varied an analytical perspective as possible, one capable of acting, maybe, as a new starting point for a future sociology of non–religion.
The University of Chicago Divinity School seeks to make an appointment in Religions in America.

Rank and salary are open.

Religions in America is an interdisciplinary area of graduate study that investigates religious ideas, practices, institutions, and movements in colonial North America, the United States, and those of the broader hemisphere. The area brings together faculty and students with historical, sociological, ethnographic, literary, legal, demographic, comparative, and theoretical interests in American religion.

The candidate for this position should be qualified to teach and direct research in American religious history broadly construed. Area of specialization, both in terms of religious traditions or movements, chronological periods, and disciplinary focus, is open. A coherent and creative agenda for research and publication, and capacity for intellectual leadership, are essential.

The Divinity School is the graduate professional school for the academic study of religion at the University of Chicago, a private research university. Faculty in the School teach Ph.D. students in 11 different areas of study, and master’s level students in M.A. and M.Div. programs, offering courses at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. Many faculty hold associate appointments in other departments and schools of the University; such associations are encouraged. A normal teaching load is 4 courses per year on a quarter system; in most cases that leaves one quarter open for research in residence (in addition to summers free for scholarship).

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of candidates will commence on September 1, 2014. Application should be made online, at http://tinyurl.com/kgeu3cj. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, protected veteran status or status as an individual with disability.

For questions please contact Dean Margaret M. Mitchell, The University of Chicago Divinity School, 1025 East 58th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 (mmm17@uchicago.edu). The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity / Disabled / Veterans Employer.
The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University is seeking a research associate to join an interdisciplinary team of researchers who conduct social scientific research related to the Catholic Church. The position involves survey and/or demographic research and data analysis and requires strong analytical and writing skills. Applicants with a Ph.D. in sociology, political science, demography, economics, psychology, or education and knowledge about the Catholic Church are especially well suited for this position. Applicants with a M.A. and at least two years’ experience in research will also be considered. Familiarity with SPSS and Qualtrics is important. A proficiency in Spanish is a plus. Ph.D. level appointments will be made as Georgetown research faculty at the appropriate rank. Send curriculum vitae, a cover letter and writing sample to Thomas Gaunt, SJ, Ph.D., Executive Director, CARA, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007; FAX: 202.687.8083; email: cara@georgetown.edu.

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University is seeking a research assistant to join an interdisciplinary team of researchers who conduct social scientific research related to the Catholic Church. The position involves working with staff researchers on survey research and data analysis and requires strong analytical and writing skills. Applicants with a bachelor's or masters in social sciences and knowledge about the Catholic Church are especially well suited for this position. The position offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package through Georgetown University that includes tuition support. Send curriculum vitae and writing sample to Thomas Gaunt, SJ, Ph.D., Executive Director, CARA, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007; FAX: 202.687.8083; email: cara@georgetown.edu.
Dear Religion Section Members,

I am very pleased to announce that our Chair-Elect will be Omar McRoberts, from the University of Chicago.

We have two newly elected Council Members, whose 3-year term begins in 2014 after the August meetings.

*** Geneviève Zubrzycki, University of Michigan
*** Orit Avishai, Fordham University

This year the total number of ballots cast was 275.

Congratulations to Omar, Genevieve, and Orit, and a large thanks both to Penny Edgell and her committee and to all the nominees who agreed to stand for election!

Patricia Wittberg
Meet the Incoming Editor

Please welcome our incoming newsletter Editor, Jennifer Lê. Jennifer recently graduated from Texas A&M with a PhD in Sociology. Her research focuses on religion, social psychology, and culture.

Dr. Lê’s dissertation is titled "A Merger of Two Theories: The Case of Multiracial Asian Identity." Texas A&M University. Committee: Jane Sell, Wm. Alex McIntosh, Sarah N. Gatson, Phia Salter.

She will be starting a tenure-track position at Bellevue College in the fall.

Jennifer formerly worked as a copywriter, copy editor, and marketing intern (including design work) and would like to utilize those skills in service of our section.

Please join me in thanking Jennifer for her willingness to provide this service to our section membership.

All the Best,

Kevin McElmurry
Officers and Committees

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Patricia Wittberg, pwittber@iupui.edu

Past Chair:
Penny Edgell, edgell@umn.edu

Chair Elect:
Elaine Howard Ecklund, ehe@rice.edu

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