I am excited to be chair of the section, and very much looking forward to our program in New York next August. The section day next year is Day 4 of the meetings, August 13. Because we are on the last day, we get an extra session; so we will have 5 paper sessions on the 2013 program as well as one session for our combined roundtables and business meeting. There are some schedule changes associated with being on the last day, as well; our Council meeting will be on the 12th (the day before our session day) and so will our section reception.

I am very happy about the program, and very grateful to our colleagues who have agreed to serve on the program committee and help organize what I think will be an exciting set of sessions. Jerry Park will organize a session on religion, race, and ethnicity. Evelyn Bush will organize a session, jointly sponsored with the Sex and Gender Section, on the intersections of religion with gender/family/sexuality. Wendy Cadge will follow up on her recent collaborative scholarship on "religion on the edge" by organizing a session that highlights new cases, topics, and approaches in the sociology of religion. I am organizing a session on cultural approaches to the sociological study of religion. We will also have one open paper session to which you can submit papers on any topic. And Melissa Wilcox will be our roundtable organizer.

I am also grateful to those who have agreed to serve on our section committees for 2013. Our 2013 Program Committee is comprised of myself, Evelyn Bush, Wendy Cadge, Jerry Park, and Melissa Wilcox. Our 2013 Distinguished Book Award Committee is comprised of Susan Crawford Sullivan (chair), John Bartkowski, and Paul Lichterman. The Distinguished Article Award Committee members are Sally Gallagher (chair), Rachel Rinaldo, and Joseph Baker. Our 2013 Student Paper Award Committee members are David Sikkink (chair), Gerardo Marti, and Nancy Davis. And, our Nominating Committee Chair is Dan Olson.
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.
Global Religious Experiences and Identities among Lesbians

The Journal of Lesbian Studies (Taylor & Francis) will devote an entire issue to the topic of global religious experiences and identities among lesbians, guest edited by S.J. Creek. The intention behind this special edition is to generate richer and more varied scholarship around the lived experiences of lesbians connected to (or alienated by) religious practices or faiths around the world. Topics may include, but are not limited, to: the intersection of race/class/gender/sexuality and religion, religious movements, orthopraxy, orthodoxy, representation in media/literature/art, trends in religiosity, clergy/religious officials, resistance and activism, indigenous religions, Wicca, Santeria, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Confucianism, Taoism, Sikhism, Baha'i, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, atheism, popular religions, Mujerista theology, practice, belief, religious socialization, disability, size, critiques of lesbian sexualities or spiritualities from post-colonial or transgender studies perspectives, religious individualism, secularism, celibacy, “religious nones,” nuns, intentional communities, state control of religious practice, reproduction, families, identities, cognitive dissonance, oppression, reparative therapies, migration, religious education, or emotions. Works attending to the experiences of queer, bisexual, and transgender individuals will also be considered, if these pieces strongly connect to the central theme.

Please direct inquiries or proposals of no more than 500 words to S.J. Creek by December 20, 2012. Invitations for full manuscripts will be issued in January 2013. Both abstracts and manuscripts will be evaluated for originality, style, and fit within the overall edition. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to submit a full manuscript of 5,000–6,500 words, due May 15, 2013.

Amish America: Plain Technology in a Cyber World

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies
Elizabethtown College (PA)
June 6–8, 2013

This international conference will highlight the challenges of recent technology (the Internet, social media, and telecommunications) and technology’s impact on manufacturing, family life, consumption, medicine, and leisure for Amish communities in North America. In addition, conference presentations and seminars will cover many aspects of Amish life and include comparative studies of non-Amish traditional groups of Anabaptist origin.

The deadline for proposed papers is October 15, 2012. A preliminary version of the conference program will be posted in December, and registration will open February 1, 2013. Follow this link for more information and the call for papers.
Brian J. Grim is the lead author of a recent Pew study on global restrictions on religion. Access this report here. He has presented the findings in a meeting at the 67th General Assembly of the United Nations and plans to continue disseminating the results of this study at the 5th annual United Nations Alliance of Civilizations meeting, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on Feb. 27–28, 2013 and as a TED–Talk at a TEDx Religious Freedom event in Rome, Italy, on April 19.

Prema Kurien received a Jack Shand Research Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, for her project, “The Political Incorporation of Religious Minorities in Canada and the U.S.”

Anthony J. Blasi has retired from Tennessee State University and is now a research affiliate with the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Gerardo Marti, L. Richardson King Associate Professor, is now Chair of the Department of Sociology at Davidson College as of August 2012.
Recent Publications

Articles and chapters


**Recent Publications**

**Books**

Kim P. Hansen has a book coming out from Palgrave Macmillan on October 16th of this year. It's called "Military Chaplains and Religious Diversity." This study is based on interviews with active duty military chaplains and covers issues such as the accommodation and limitation of religious expression in a total institution, Islam and Wicca in the military, chaplains' own experiences with diversity, and "culture war" type tensions between evangelical and mainline chaplains. Click here for more.


Peter Nynas, Mika Lassander, and Terhi Utriainen, recently co-edited a volume titled Post-Secular Society published by Transaction Publishers, 2012. Follow this link for more information.

Jason E. Shelton and Michael Emerson have coauthored a forthcoming book titled: Blacks and Whites in Christian America: How Racial Discrimination Shapes Religious Convictions. It will be published by New York University Press on October 8th. Details on this volume can be found by following this link.

Philip Wexler co-edited book, with Jonathan Garb titled “After Spirituality: Studies in Mystical Traditions.” This volume will be released in a few weeks by Peter Lang (New York, Berlin). After Spirituality: Studies in Mystical Traditions is the first volume in a new series of the same name from this publisher.
Critical Research on Religion is a new, peer-reviewed, international journal from SAGE Publications focusing on the development of a critical theoretical framework and its application to research on religion. Co-Editors Roland Boer, Jonathan Boyarin, and Warren S. Goldstein invite you to submit an article to this journal and encourage you to get your libraries to subscribe to it. For further information, click on the link above.

Sociologists of religion may like to familiarize themselves with the online searchable bibliography available through the "Research Hub" on the ARDA website or through the Association for the Sociology of Religion website. Searching through the alphabetical search terms can save a lot of time. Those who have new publications or completed theses and dissertations should notify Tony Blasi so that he can enter them into the bibliographic database. Including suggested search terms and a four line maximum annotation (not a whole abstract) would be helpful. Search terms and annotations need to be in English, with American spellings, but titles in all languages using the Roman alphabet are welcome. The editor actively seeks out entries in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish but accepts entries from other languages using the Roman alphabet provided that search terms and annotations are supplied in English.

Pew Research made headlines with this recent article
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