

# Sociology of Religion



Newsletter of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association

Richard Flory, Editor

## From the Chair

Plans are underway for many successful religion section activities at the ASA annual meeting in Boston this coming August 1-4. Authors have submitted 27 papers for review that request a religion section session as their first choice in which to present, and another 53 papers indicating our section sessions as their second choice for presenting. The annual meeting sessions organizing committee of Wendy Cadge, John Evans, Michele Dillon, and I are currently working diligently to evaluate the submitted papers and organize them into thematic sessions. As with previous years, our section will offer three thematic sessions presenting the strongest submitted papers, as well as a refereed roundtable session involving many other very good papers, with a section business meeting following. We will also host a section reception, where awards will be made and good conversation enjoyed. Our reception is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 on the evening of our "section day," Sunday, August 3. And plans for a few joint events with ASR are also in the works. I encourage all of you to attend ASA this year and to participate in all of our section activities.

Also note that nominations are due March 30 for our section's Distinguished Book, Distinguished Article, and Student Paper Awards. We can only recognize and honor the very best when we review a full representation of eligible published works in each category. Please note the details on the awards in this newsletter below and send in your nominations before the deadlines. Graduate

students are particularly encouraged to send in their best papers for review.

Finally, a brief word on the size of our section's membership: We have over the past years grown in size, comfortably above the total needed to be allotted the number of annual meeting sessions that we currently enjoy. We are also not close to reaching the next additional-session-conferring size threshold. Therefore, we are not currently engaged in an intentional membership drive or campaign. Nevertheless, I think we would be wise to continue growing our membership over time, however rapidly or gradually that may happen. So, if you know someone who is interested in the sociology of religion but who is not a member of our section, please make the effort to encourage them to join. And if you are a faculty member with graduate students interested in religion, please do not assume that all of them are already section members. They may not be. Please ask your students if they are members and, if they are not, strongly encourage them to join. It costs little. We already know that the best way to get people to volunteer or give money is by having someone else who they know ask them to do so. We should employ the same mechanism to continue to build our section's membership. All of us benefit from more members, professional ties, and scholarly contributors to our field. So think about who you might encourage to join our section and put the bug in their ear.

CHRISTIAN SMITH, University of Notre Dame

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- From the Editor

## Section Officers 2007-2008

### Chair

Christian Smith, [chris.smith@nd.edu](mailto:chris.smith@nd.edu)

### Chair Elect

Michael O. Emerson, [moe@rice.edu](mailto:moe@rice.edu)

### Past Chair

Mark Chaves, [mac58@soc.duke.edu](mailto:mac58@soc.duke.edu)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Christiano, [kevin.j.christiano.1@nd.edu](mailto:kevin.j.christiano.1@nd.edu)

### Council

Omar McRoberts, [omcrober@uchicago.edu](mailto:omcrober@uchicago.edu)

Peggy Levitt, [plevitt@wellesley.edu](mailto:plevitt@wellesley.edu)

Wendy Cadge, [wcadge@brandeis.edu](mailto:wcadge@brandeis.edu)

David A. Smilde, [dsmilde@arches.uga.edu](mailto:dsmilde@arches.uga.edu)

Melissa J. Wilde, [mwilde@indiana.edu](mailto:mwilde@indiana.edu)

James Davidson, [davidsonj@purdue.edu](mailto:davidsonj@purdue.edu)

### Student Representative

Christopher Scheittle, [cps153@psu.edu](mailto:cps153@psu.edu)

### Newsletter Editor

Richard Flory, [richard.flory@gmail.com](mailto:richard.flory@gmail.com)

*The Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association encourages and enhances research, teaching, and other professional concerns in the study of religion and society*

## Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

- Sacred Assemblies and Civic Engagement: How Religion Matters for America's Newest Immigrants, Rutgers University Press, co-authored with Paul Numrich (2007)
- Book Review Editor, Sociology of Religion (1998-2000)
- Disquiet in the Land: Cultural Conflict in American Mennonite Communities, Rutgers University Press (1997)
- Distinguished Article Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (1997)
- Associate Editor, American Journal of Sociology, 1994 - 1996

**Name:** Peggy Levitt

## Present Professional Position:

- Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Wellesley College, 1998 - present
- Co-Director, Transnational Studies Initiative, Harvard University, 1998- present

## Previous Professional Positions:

- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, 1995-1998

## Education:

- PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1996
- MSUP/MPH, Columbia University, 1985
- BA, Brandeis University, 1980

## Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

- Chair, International Migration Section, 2006-2007
- Council Member, Sociology of Religion Section, 2006-present
- Publications Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, 2004-2006

## Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

- God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape, The New Press, 2007
- The Transnational Studies Reader (edited with Sanjeev Khagram), Routledge, 2007
- "Transnational Migration Studies: Past Developments and Future Trends." Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 33, August 2007, pp. 129-156.
- "Following the Migrants: Religious Pluralism in Transnational Perspective." In ed. Nancy Tatom Ammerman. Religion in Modern Lives. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (2006), pp. 103-121.
- Co-Director, Social Science Research Council Program on Religion and Globalization.

## Candidates for 2008-2009 Section Offices For Section Chair

**Name:** Fred Kniss

## Present Professional Position:

- Associate Professor of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago, 1997- present

## Previous Professional Positions:

- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago, 1992-97.

## Education:

- Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1992
- M.A. University of Chicago, 1986

## Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:

- Chair, Membership Committee, ASA Section on Sociology of Religion, 1997 - 2000
- Member, Barrington Moore Prize Committee, ASA Comparative Historical Section, 1999 - 2000
- Member, Distinguished Article Award Committee, ASA Culture Section, 1998-1999

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Candidates, continued to p. 3

Candidates, continued from p. 2

## Candidates for Council

**Name:** Tim Clydesdale

**Present Professional Position:**

- Associate Professor, The College of New Jersey, 1996 - present

**Previous Professional Positions:**

- Assistant Professor, Gordon College, 1994-1996

**Education:**

- PhD, Princeton University, 1994
- M.A., Princeton University, 1991
- B.A., Wheaton College, 1986

**Publications and Professional Accomplishments:**

- The First Year Out: Understanding American Teens after High School, University of Chicago Press (2007)
- Principal Investigator, Life & Vocation of American Youth Project (2006-2010)
- Program Chair, Eastern Sociological Society (2005)
- Sabbatical Fellowship, The Louisville Institute (2003-2004)
- "Family Behaviors Among Early U.S. Baby Boomers: Exploring the Effects of Religion and Income Change, 1965-1982." *Social Forces*. Vol. 76 (2): 605-635 (1997)

**Name:** Elaine Howard Ecklund

**Present Professional Position:**

- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rice University, effective July 1, 2008

**Previous Professional Positions:**

- Assistant Professor of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, 2006 - 2008
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Rice University, 2004-2006

**Education:**

- PhD, Sociology, Cornell University, 2004
- MA, Sociology, Cornell University, 2001
- BS, Human Development, Cornell University, 1995

**Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial**

**Appointments Held in ASA:**

- Chair, Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Sociology of Religion Section, 2007-2008
- Chair, Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Section on International Migration, 2007-2008
- Student Representative, ASA Sociology of Religion Section, 2002-2003

**Publications and Professional Accomplishments:**

- Principal Investigator, (Anne Lincoln, Southern Methodist University, Co-Investigator) "Perceptions of Women in Academic Science," National Science Foundation (\$299,334, Grant #0733976), 2007-2010

- Principal Investigator, (Michael O. Emerson, Rice University, Co-Investigator) "Religion and the Changing Face of American Civic Life," Russell Sage Foundation (\$190,149), 2007-2009
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard, *Korean American Evangelicals: New Models for Civic Life*. 2006. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press (Reviews in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Christian Century*, *American Journal of Sociology*)
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard and Christopher Scheitle, 2007. "Religion among Academic Scientists: Distinctions, Disciplines, and Demographics," *Social Problems*, 54(2): 289-307.
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Jerry Z. Park, Phil Todd Veliz. 2008. "Secularization and Religious Change Among Elite Scientists: A Cross-Cohort Comparison," *Social Forces*, forthcoming

**Name:** Jen'nan Ghazal Read

**Present Professional Position:**

- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine, 2007- present

**Previous Professional Positions:**

- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine, 2003-2007
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University and the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas, 2001-2003

**Education:**

- PhD in Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2001
- MA in Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 1997
- BA in Sociology, Midwestern State University, 1995

**Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial**

**Appointments Held in ASA:**

- Chair, Article Award Committee, ASA Section on the Sociology of Religion, 2007
- Organizer, ASA Section on the Sociology of Religion Roundtables, 2004
- Editorial Board, *Contemporary Sociology*, 2006-2009

**Publications and Professional Accomplishments:**

- Carnegie Scholar, 2006-2008
- Guest Editor, Special issue of the *Sociology of Religion* entitled, "Muslim Integration in the United States and France" (2007 vol. 68 no. 3).
- "One Size Fits All? Explaining U.S.-born and Immigrant Women's Employment across Twelve Ethnic Groups." *Social Forces* (2007, 85: 1737-1760) with Philip N. Cohen.
- Culture, Class, and Work among Arab-American Women. (2004). New York: LFB Scholarly.
- "More of a Bridge than a Gap: Gender Differences in Arab-American Political Incorporation." *Social Science Quarterly* (2007, 88: 1072-1091).

*Candidates, continued from p. 3*

**Name:** Fenggang Yang

**Present Professional Position:**

- Associate Professor, Purdue University, 2006-present

**Previous Professional Positions:**

- Assistant Professor, Purdue University, 2002-2004
- Assistant Professor, University of Southern Maine, 1999-2002
- Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Houston, 1997-1999

**Education:**

- Ph.D., The Catholic University of America, 1997
- M.A., Nankai University, 1987
- B.A., Hebei Normal University, 1982

**Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:**

- Program Committee member, Section of the Sociology of Religion, 2005-2006
- Book Award Committee member, Section of the Sociology of Religion, 2004-2005
- Council member, Section of Asia and Asian America, 2001-2004

**Publications and Professional Accomplishments:**

- "The Red, Black, and Gray Markets of Religion in China" *Sociological Quarterly* (2006 Distinguished Article Award, ASA Religion Section)
- "Lost in the Market, Saved at McDonald's: Conversion to Christianity in Urban China." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (2005)
- *State, Market, and Religions in Chinese Societies* (with Joseph Tamney, Brill, 2005)
- "Transformations in New Immigrant Religions and Their Global Implications" (with Helen Rose Ebaugh), *American Sociological Review* 66 (2002 Distinguished Article Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion)
- *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities* (Penn State, 1999)

**2008 Award Nominations**

***Distinguished Book Award***

Books published in the previous two years (2006, 2007) are eligible for the 2008 award. Copies of books must be received by all committee members no later than March 30, 2008 to be considered for the Award. Books may be submitted by authors, publishers, or others.

- Courtney Bender (Chair), Department of Religion, Columbia University, Room 103 MC 9610, 80 Claremont Avenue, New York, NY 10027  
[cb337@columbia.edu](mailto:cb337@columbia.edu)

- Roger Finke, Department of Sociology, 402 Oswald Tower, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802
- Jackie Hagan, Department of Sociology, CB 3210 Hamilton Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

***Distinguished Article Award***

Peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters published in the previous two years are eligible for the 2008 award. Electronic versions (PDF format) of articles must be received by all committee members no later than March 30, 2008 to be considered for the Award. Articles may be submitted by authors or by others. It is not necessary to submit a hard copy of the submitted article.

- Brian Steensland (Chair), Department of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405  
[bsteens@indiana.edu](mailto:bsteens@indiana.edu)
- Daniel Olsen, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907  
[dolson@purdue.edu](mailto:dolson@purdue.edu)
- Nancy Davis, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN 46135  
[ndavis@depauw.edu](mailto:ndavis@depauw.edu)

***Student Paper Award***

Either published or unpublished papers are eligible for this award, but if the paper has been published it may not compete for both the Student Paper Award and the Distinguished Article Award. Papers up to 40 manuscript pages (including notes, tables, and references) will be considered. Authors must be students at the time the paper is submitted and the papers must have been presented or published in 2007 or 2008 to be eligible for the 2008 award. Electronic versions (PDF format) of papers must be received by all committee members no later than March 30, 2008 to be considered for the Award. Papers may be submitted by authors or by others. It is not necessary to submit a hard copy of the submitted paper.

- Elaine Howard Ecklund (Chair), Department of Sociology, SUNY-Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14260  
[ehe@buffalo.edu](mailto:ehe@buffalo.edu)
- Chris Scheitle, Department of Sociology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 1682  
[cps153@psu.edu](mailto:cps153@psu.edu)
- Ziad Munson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015  
[web2-zwm@sneakemail.com](mailto:web2-zwm@sneakemail.com)

## THE SOCIOLOGY OF ISLAM: ASA SESSION BRINGS FRESH PERSPECTIVE

By Mounira M. Charrad and Christopher Pieper  
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Few subjects have captivated the attention of the world in the 21st century as that of Islam, which has become a regular, often daily feature of news headlines and mainstream discourse. The impact of Islam on sociology, however, even the sociology of religion, has not been commensurate. Since 2003, ASA has hosted three Regular Sessions on Islam *per se*, and two on "Muslim Societies." Five Regular Sessions were sponsored on the related subject of "Arabs and Arab-Americans" during the period. The session for which we served as co-organizers and discussants, entitled "The Sociology of Islam," was held during the annual meetings in New York City in 2007. It reflected new trends in the field as well as many of the internal debates and central issues at play in the broader social world.

Papers presented in this session explored Islam through an array of sociological lenses and by using several methods, ranging from ethnography to discourse, mass media and structural analysis. Locating themselves in the tradition of political sociology, some presenters examined the intricacies of Islamic social movements and the relationships of Muslim populations in different social classes to the state. Other presenters investigated the formation and representation of Muslim identities around the world through dominant symbolic orders. As a result, the session proved to be of great interest not only to specialists in religion, but to researchers with a focus on ideology, globalization, gender, culture, and contentious politics.

The paper by Fareen Parvez from the University of California-Berkeley, "The Politics of Islam in France and India: Redistribution versus Recognition," was based on a comparative ethnographic study of the politics of Muslim minority communities in Lyon, France and Hyderabad, India. Highlighting the significance of social class in relation to Islamization, her analysis centered on two questions: (1) How working-class Muslims, in non-Muslim, secular societies, experience the state in a context of globalization and post-September 11<sup>th</sup> surveillance; and (2) How this experience shapes the nature and degree of political engagement vis-à-vis Islam. Parvez argued that there are actually different forms of politics under what is commonly and monolithically taken as political Islam: for example, a politics of redistribution in India, located in the middle-class and working-class Muslim communities; and a politics of recognition in France, similarly located in the

two classes. Moreover, among the working-class, there are new forms of politics that are not based on state engagement or even traditional forms of civil society. They are political, however, in the sense that they do arise out of contention with the state and are penetrated by the state in various ways. They take shape through class struggle over the role of the state and over interpretations of Islam, ranging from "mainstream" to strict Salafist. Parvez' research urges the field to consider non-traditional forms of politics specific to poor mosque communities. As she stresses, the extant literature does not account for politics that are outside the realms of state and traditional civil society, even though this is a growing trend in the Islamic world.

In his paper, "Social Appropriation after a Social Revolution: The Trajectory of Iranian Student Organizations, 1979-1999," Kevan Harris from Johns Hopkins University argued that student involvement in contentious politics in Iran leading up to large protests in 1999 emerged out of a state-sanctioned network of Islamic Students' Associations. This network developed as a result of the participation by students in the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the subsequent Cultural Revolution of 1980-1983. In effect, Harris shows, the large protests of 1999 were the unintended consequences of 1979's social upheavals followed by the students' social appropriation of state organizational resources. His paper uses subjective self-reflections on the student movement by its participants as well as secondary literature on students in Iran to situate the trajectory of student politics in relation to the Iranian revolution and its aftermath. Harris challenges a common assumption in much of the social movement literature that demarcates a hard line between state and civil society. He concludes that the large popular mobilization during the Iranian Revolution had consequences that went far beyond the vision of both the participants of 1979 as well as the regime that materialized in its wake.

In her presentation, "When Religion Matters: The Impact of 9/11 on Muslim American Identity," Michelle Byng from Temple University investigated the influence of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the identity of Muslim Americans as a religious minority in the context of American religious pluralism. The analysis showed that media representations of Muslim Americans changed as a result of 9/11. Prior to the attacks, representations of Muslim Americans in newspaper stories were consistent with religious pluralism, emphasizing that Muslims were simply another religious minority in a society characterized by diversity of faith. Following the attacks, news stories signaled that Muslim Americans were

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## The Death of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and the Future of Transcendental Meditation as a Movement.

By Tamar Gablinger\*

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the founder of the Transcendental Meditation Movement (TM), one of the most successful new religious movements, died on February 5, 2008, in the Netherlands. Prior to his death, Maharishi had appointed Tony Nader, now addressed as "Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaraam" as his heir.

The Maharishi was born as Mahesh Prasad Varma and studied physics at Allahabad University, a fact which later played an important role in the movement's claims to be a "scientific method". In 1943, however, he embarked on a spiritual journey to study under a Hindu scholar, Swami Brahmananda Saraswati (Guru Dev). In 1953, Guru Dev died and the Maharishi lived in a vow of silence for two years, followed by two years in which he travelled to southern India and opened a mission in the city of Rameshvaram. On December 31st, 1957, he founded the movement as a Hindu world mission, the Spiritual Regeneration Movement.

Soon, the Maharishi's Hindu mission expanded westward, and in 1959 he arrived in the United States and began to teach. His Hindu mission began to transform its emphasis, and to present itself as "scientific". According to the Maharishi's own account: "It was found that those experiences can also be expressed in the language of the West, which in modern times [is] scientific language, objective exploration of objective explanation". In its early stages (1959-1969), the Hindu orientation of the movement was not disguised, despite its claim to be "science" and its concentration on immediate "compensators", such as improving human potential. It was during this period that the movement reaches the height of its fame, at least partially due to the participation of the *Beatles* and other celebrities in various activities of the movement.

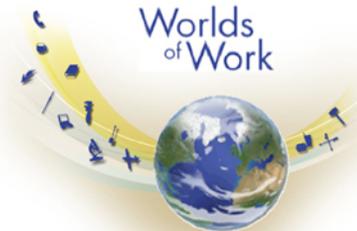
Since the early 1970s (and since the introduction of the Science of Consciousness), the movement did its best to cast away any signs of Hinduism. At the same time, it also developed supernatural compensators for its most devoted followers, the "Siddhi", thus deepening the esoteric gap between followers with different levels of devotion. This is especially evident in the period since 1969, in which concepts evolving "other-worldliness" resumed playing and manifesting an important role in TM's cosmology. What might be considered as a contradiction corresponds in fact with trends in the movement, which had to amend its theory, due to the decline in the movement's impetus.

Structurally, since the 1980s, the movement has kept a very small group of devotees in India and in special TM settlements (one of them is Maharishi Vedic City, near Fairfield, Iowa, where also the campus of the Maharishi University of Management is located). This group practiced esoteric versions of TM in its temples, while the movement continued to market itself as scientific to the general public, even establishing a political party in 1992, which attempted to promote TM through election campaigning in several countries. The different public figures associated with TM have stressed their scientific training: John Hagelin (in Physics); Deepak Chopra (who has since left the movement) and Tony Nader (in Medicine).

In the 2000s, a new tactic emerged, which was to prepare the movement for Maharishi's demise: Forty-eight "Rajas" have been appointed to be part of the "Global Country of World Peace". Nader, the head of the "Government", was appointed Maharishi's heir just before his death, yet several figures (e.g. Hagelin) are likely to remain powerful, and it is not clear if "Maharaja Adhiraj Rajaraam" would carry any spiritual legitimacy as Maharishi's full heir. Nevertheless, true to the spirit of the movement, constant reinvention of the tactical goals is a mechanism which keeps the movement active despite many possible triggers for disappointment among followers.

\*Tamar Gablinger is a postgraduate candidate at the Institute for Social Sciences, Humboldt University, Berlin, and is currently completing a manuscript about the Transcendental Meditation Movement and democracies in comparative perspective.

Mark Your Calendars!

August 1 - 4, 2008

Sheraton Boston and the Boston Marriott Copley Place  
Boston, MA

## Member News and Notes

### Transitions

**John Bartkowski**, Mississippi State University, will be joining the faculty at the University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA) in Fall 2008. Among his other responsibilities, he will organize a consortium of religion researchers across Texas universities. The consortium is called TIGeRS (Texas Interuniversity Group of Religion Scholars). It will include researchers from UT-Austin, UTSA, Rice, and Baylor, among other institutions.

**Sally Gallagher**, Oregon State University, has been appointed Chair of the Department of Sociology.

### Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Randolph G. Atkins (The Walsh Group) and James E. Hawdon, "Religiosity and participation in mutual-aid support groups for addiction," *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, Volume 33, Issue 3, October 2007, pages 321-331.

John P. Bartkowski (Mississippi State University) and Xiaohe Xu (Mississippi State University), "Religion, Social Capital, and Teen Drug Use: A Preliminary Investigation." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 32(6S): S182-194, 2007.

John P. Bartkowski (Mississippi State University), Xiaohe Xu (Mississippi State University), and Martin L. Levin (University of Memphis), "Religion and Child Development: Evidence from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study." Forthcoming in *Social Science Research*.

Troy Blanchard (Mississippi State University), John P. Bartkowski (Mississippi State University), Todd Matthews (Mississippi State University) and Kent Kerley (University of Alabama), "Faith, Morality, and Mortality: The Ecological Impact of Religion on Population Health." Forthcoming in *Social Forces*.

Chen, Carolyn (Northwestern University), *Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience* (Princeton University Press, 2008).

Roberto Cipriani (University of Rome 3), "Religion and Churches in Europe", in Goeran Therborn and Stefan Immerfall (eds.), *Handbook of European Societies* (Springer).

Richard Flory (University of Southern California), and Donald E. Miller (University of Southern California), *Finding Faith: The Spiritual Quest of the Post-Boomer Generation* (Rutgers University Press, 2008)

Sally Gallagher (Oregon State University), "Agency, resources and identity: Working class women's experiences in Damascus." 2007. *Gender & Society*, 21: 227-49.

Sally Gallagher (Oregon State University), "Children as Religious Resources: The Role of Children in the Social Re-Formation of Class, Culture and Religious Identity. 2007. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 46: 169-83.

Lynn M. Hempel (Mississippi State University) and John P. Bartkowski (Mississippi State University), "Scripture, Sin, And Salvation: Theological Conservatism Reconsidered." Forthcoming in *Social Forces*.

John Hoffmann (Brigham Young University), and John P. Bartkowski (Mississippi State University), "Gender, Religious Tradition, and Biblical Literalism." Forthcoming in *Social Forces*.

Philip L. Kohl (Wellesley College), Mara Kozelsky (University of South Alabama), and Nachman Ben-Yehuda (Hebrew University, Jerusalem), *Selective Remembrances: Archaeology in the Construction, Commemoration, and Consecration of National Pasts* (The University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Thomas Stone (SUNY Potsdam), "Property and the Management of Culture: The Construction of Community at Hopedale, 1842-1856." *Communal Societies*, vol. 27 (2007): 47-70.

Richard Wike (Pew Global Attitudes Project), and Brian J. Grim (Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life), "Levels of Negativity: How Muslim and Western Publics See One Another." *Public Opinion Pros*, 2007, October (Article 1). <http://www.publicopinionpros.com/features/2007/oct/wike.asp>

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culturally in conflict with American society. Representations after 9/11 included more details through direct quotes and paraphrasing regarding Islamic religious practices and the perspectives of Muslim Americans. These stories effectively moved the representation of Muslim Americans from a minority group among many to an "internal Other" because they represented Islam as antithetical to American norms and values. According to Byng, the use of fear and threat in the representations of Muslims subtly marked and reinforced an "us and them" cultural boundary.

In his paper, "The Hidden Injuries of Colonialist Discourse and the Islamist Challenge," Khaldoun Samman from Macalester College asked, "How has modernity, through its colonialist and nationalist discourses, limited and constrained the movements of the Middle East?" He found that such figures as Herzl, Atatürk, Qutb, and bin Laden have simply appropriated the original Orientalist narrative, even as they are intending to negate them. This symbolic order sets West and East as essentialized and reified binaries, generally established in opposition to one another, and one as inherently superior. Samman's paper

identified several instances of this pattern in current and past discourse, including images of Arab culture at Epcot Center and the biographies of major Middle Eastern political leaders.

The panel as a whole points towards more rigorous conceptualizations of contemporary Islam and of the dynamic relationship between Islam and politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Taken together, the papers represent a move away from the essentialist representation of Islam -- not simply a critique of it -- but an actual effort to develop a new sociology of Islam. By looking at the colonialist and nationalist discourse and what they have in common, at how religion intersects with politics among Muslim populations in different social classes and countries, at changes in the media representations of Muslims, and at the unexpected consequences of student involvement in a regime based on Islamic claims, the presenters offer a fresh perspective and open up new avenues of inquiry.

## **Opportunity for Grad Students**

### **InAction: Social Engagement, Empowerment and Change**

The eleventh issue of *eSharp* will consider themes of social engagement, empowerment, and change. We welcome articles which examine the social implications and practical applications of various theories, as well as how these may empower marginalised social groups or promote social change. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the journal, the ideas of engagement and empowerment within society can be interpreted broadly. We encourage submissions from postgraduates in any area of the arts, humanities, social sciences or education.

Articles should engage with the main themes and may include, but are not limited to, topics such as

- social history
- revolution
- social ethics
- grassroots movements or projects
- global/local community involvement
- Utopic theories or movements
- practical applications of theory
- political activism
- disenfranchised/marginalised groups
- art and social engagement
- media representations of marginalised groups.

Submissions must be based on original research and should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words in length. Please ensure that you accompany your article with an abstract of 200 to 250 words and a list of three to five keywords to indicate the subject area of your article. For more information, a full list of guidelines and our style sheet, visit [www.gla.ac.uk/esharp](http://www.gla.ac.uk/esharp). Submissions and enquiries should be sent to [submissions@esharp.org.uk](mailto:submissions@esharp.org.uk).

The final deadline for submission of articles is **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008**.

## Call For Papers

**Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting 2008**, "Global Religion: Boon, Nightmare, or Passing Phenomenon?" October 17-19, 2008, Seelbach Hilton Hotel Louisville, Kentucky. Paper proposals (abstracts of 150 words or less), are due by March 15, 2008 to James K. Wellman, Jr., [jwellman@u.washington.edu](mailto:jwellman@u.washington.edu)

For more information click on the link below:  
<http://www.sssrweb.org/news.cfm?newsid=88>

**Religious Research Association Annual Meeting 2008**, "Conflict and Renewal/Stability and Tradition: What is a (Religious) Body to Do?" October 17-19, Seelbach Hilton Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. Paper proposals due (title and abstracts of 150 words or less) March 15, 2008, to Kirk Hadaway, The Episcopal Church Center,

[khadaway@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:khadaway@episcopalchurch.org), or Adair Lummis, [alummis@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:alummis@episcopalchurch.org), 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. For more information click on the following link: <http://rra.hartsem.edu/conf2008call.htm>

**19th Nordic Conference in Sociology of Religion** "Urban Diversity and Religious Traditions," Åbo Akademi University, Turku/Åbo, Finland 13 - 15 August 2008. Paper deadline and conference registration deadline is April 30, 2008. For more information click on the following link: <http://www.abo.fi/ncsr2008>. For more detailed information, contact Dr. Tuomas Martikainen, Åbo Akademi University, Department of Comparative Religion, Fabriksgatan 2, FIN-20500 Åbo, FINLAND, [tuomas.martikainen@abo.fi](mailto:tuomas.martikainen@abo.fi)

## Employment Opportunities

### Associate for Survey Research, Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is seeking an Associate for Survey Research to help the denomination and its entities make better decisions. The Associate will work with constituents to determine their data needs and use social science research techniques—in particular, surveys (including Presbyterian Panel surveys), focus groups, and searches of administrative records—to assemble appropriate data from and about Presbyterians; conduct statistical analyses of these data; and disseminate results to church leaders and other relevant groups through written reports, presentations, and Web postings. A master's degree in a social science or related area is required; a Ph.D. is preferred. A minimum of five years' experience in social science research is also required (preferably 10 years), especially survey research. A background in an applied setting focusing on denominations, congregations, or individual religious behavior is preferred. Requisite skills include knowledge of research methods and data analysis (including SPSS); administration and design of surveys and focus groups; report writing and oral presentation skills; attention to detail; and understanding of and respect for Christian principles. Applicants should send a letter of interest along with a resume to Human Resources HR-E08-02-17, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon St, Louisville KY 40202. For more information on Research Services, go to [www.pcusa.org/research](http://www.pcusa.org/research); for more information on the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, go to [www.USCongregations.org](http://www.USCongregations.org). Screening begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

### Research Assistant, Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is seeking a Research Assistant to help in conducting Wave 2 of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, including: (1) managing recruitment of congregations, development of databases, and response rate tracking; (2) coordinating with mail fulfillment, survey layout and scanning, survey translation, printing, and computer services providers; (3) overseeing revision of congregational resources and reports; and (4) analysis and reporting of US CLS data. A master's degree in a social science or related area is required; a Ph.D. is preferred. A minimum of two years' experience in social science research is also required, preferably in survey research in an applied setting with congregation and/or denominations. Requisite skills include knowledge of research methods and data analysis (including SPSS); report writing and oral presentation skills; attention to detail; and understanding of and respect for Christian principles. This is a three-year, grant-funded position. Applicants should send a letter of interest along with a resume to Human Resources HR-E08-02-18, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon St, Louisville KY 40202. For more information on Research Services, go to [www.pcusa.org/research](http://www.pcusa.org/research); for more information on the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, go to [www.USCongregations.org](http://www.USCongregations.org). Screening begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

## From the Editor

In my new role as editor of this newsletter, I find that as the time approaches when I need to start putting the newsletter together, I start to worry about whether I will have enough content to fill it. I'm realizing though that, at least to this point (and admittedly this is only my second issue), the content tends to take care of itself. For example, for this issue, in addition to all the great news items from members of the religion section and other section business items, I received two articles that I think point up the salience of the study of religion in our increasingly "globalized" world. The first article, by Maya Charrad and Christopher Pieper, of the University of Texas, reports on a session that they organized for the last ASA meetings titled "The Sociology of Islam." The second article, by Tamar Gablinger, of the Institute for Social Sciences at Humboldt University in Berlin, uses the recent death of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi to ask questions about the future of Transcendental Meditation. Each of these articles suggests the richness of our field and the many empirical and theoretical challenges that need to be addressed as we move forward in the study of religion. I would encourage you to think about submitting similar articles from your own areas of interest and expertise, for possible publication in future issues of the newsletter.

I would also like to take just a moment to give some context to the photographs on the masthead of this edition of the newsletter and that will be in the next. The photographs are by Jerry Berndt and are part of an archive of his work maintained by the Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC), at the University of Southern California. Over the course of more than a decade of partnership with CRCC, Berndt has taken thousands of photographs exploring the theme of religion in Los Angeles and five other cities. Part of this collection is a traveling exhibit—from which the photographs on the masthead are taken, "The Soul of Los Angeles: Portraits of Faith, Hope and Social Transformation." In early 2004, Berndt traveled with Donald Miller to Kigali, Rwanda to chronicle the lives of survivors of the genocide. In collaboration with Berndt, CRCC has created an exhibit, "The Rwanda Genocide: Portraits of Survival and Hope", with the support of Howard and Roberta Ahmanson. Each of these exhibits is available for showings at galleries, universities, and other public venues, and I would encourage you to consider booking either (or both) of them at your university art gallery or a similar venue. For more information about the exhibits, please contact:

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Feel free to contact me with your comments, suggestions and contributions. The Spring issue will be out by June, and I'll need your submissions by May 15.

RICHARD FLORY, University of Southern California