From the Editor

It is a great time to be studying the sociology of religion. Cartoons in Danish newspapers stimulate religious revolt. U.S. political wrangling over abortion, stem cell research, marriage, and capital punishment activate impassioned religious responses. Clearly, faith matters to people. Our field examines for whom, how, and why faith matters at the individual level and beyond.

The salience of our subject attracts attention. Sociology of religion researchers benefit tremendously from the grants awarded by philanthropic organizations including Lilly Endowment Inc., John Templeton Foundation, and Pew Charitable Trusts. It bodes well for our field that the Templeton Foundation will dramatically increase its charitable giving in years to come and that Pew is exploring a return to funding more religion research. These large philanthropies stand alongside a host of smaller organizations and federal sources that invest increasingly into research on faith, spirituality, and religion.

One of the tangible benefits of these investments is the wealth of data available to researchers. We know more about U.S. congregations, race and religion, religion and families, and adolescent religion then ever before due to solid empirical research funded by large grants. The new Baylor Religion Survey is a case in point. It is a nationally representative survey of 1700 U.S. adults launched by Baylor sociologists Byron Johnson, Christopher Bader, Paul Froese, Carson Mencken, Jerry Park, and Rodney Stark. Funded by the Templeton Foundation and collected by The Gallup Organization, the survey probes religious beliefs, affiliations, and practices using a wider array of religious questions then previously asked in a national study. Our hope is to see the Baylor Religion Survey become the religious General Social Survey—publicly available data on a core battery of religious items with additional rotating modules conducted every two years. Eventually, the Baylor Religion Survey will take its place among the more than 300 other data files on religion freely available on the Association of Religion Data Archives (www.TheARDA.com), formerly called the American Religion Data Archive.

Indeed, it is a great time to study the sociology of religion. To continue to make the sociology of religion a great field of study and the ASA Sociology of Religion Section a prominent organization in the field, I encourage you to vote for new section officers, submit nominations for section awards, and plan to participate in the 2006 ASA annual meeting in Montreal. Details about each are in the pages that follow.

KEVIN D. DOUGHERTY, Baylor University
Section Officers 2005-2006

Chair
Christopher Ellison, cellison@prc.utexas.edu

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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.

Candidates for Section Chair

Name: Penny Edgell

Present Position: Associate Professor, Sociology Department, University of Minnesota, 2001-present.

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, Cornell University, 1995-2001.


Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:
Co-chair, Program Committee, Religion Section, 2005.
Council Member, Culture Section, 2003-2005.
Council Member, Religion Section, 2000-2002.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:


Name: Christian Smith

Present Position: Stuart Chapin Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003-present.


Publications and Professional Accomplishments:


American Evangelicalism: Embattled and Thriving, with Michael Emerson, Sally Gallagher, Paul Kennedy, and David Sikkink, University of Chicago Press, 1998.


Professional Awards:
Excellence in Mentoring Award, 2001-2002, Graduate Student Association, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.


Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring, 1995-96, Graduate Student Association, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Candidates, continued from p. 2

Candidates for Council

Name: John P. Hoffmann

Present Position: Professor, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, 1999-present.

Previous Positions:
Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 1991-1993.

Education: M.P.H., Emory University, 1994; Ph.D., SUNY-Albany, 1991; M.S., American University, 1986.

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:
Book Award Committee, Sociology of Religion Section, 2006.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:
Member, Program Committee, American Society of Criminology, 2005.
Member, Student Awards Committee, American Society of Criminology, 2002-2003.

Name: Peggy Levitt

Present Position: Chair and Associate Professor, Wellesley College; 1998-present; Research Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations, Harvard University, 1998-present.

Previous Positions: Assistant Professor, Harvard University, 1995-1998.


Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:
Chair-Elect, International Migration Section, 2006.
Member, International Migration Section, 2000-2003.
Member, Oversight Committee, City and Community.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:
God Needs No Passport: How Migrants are Changing the Religious Landscape (under contract)
Co-Director, SSRC Working Group on Globalization and Religion.
Member, Ford Foundation Working Group on Religion and Progressive Values.
Co-Principal Investigator, “Comparing Spiritual and other Forms of Capital: Lessons From the Immigrant Experience,” Metanexus Foundation.

Name: Omar M. McRoberts

Present Position: Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2005-present.

Previous Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Chicago, 2000-2005.


Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA:
Member, Robert and Helen Lynd Distinguished Career Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, 2005-2006.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:
Candidates, continued from p. 3

Candidates for Council, continued

Name: Jen’nan Ghazal Read

Present Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine, 2003-present.

Previous Positions: Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University and the University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas, 2001-2003.

Education: Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2001; M.A. in Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 1997; BA in Sociology, Midwestern State University, 1995.

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

Member, Article Award Committee, Sociology of Religion Section, 2006.


Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

Carnegie Scholars finalist (recipients named in March 2006).


Candidates for Student Representative

Name: Jacob Felson

Present Position: Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Pennsylvania State University.


Publications and Professional Accomplishments:

“Friends’ Religiosity and First Sex,” co-authored with Amy Adamczyk, Social Science Research, forthcoming.

Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association Children and Youth Section, 2004.

University Graduate Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University, 2001-2002.

Name: Jenny Trinitapoli

Present Position: Graduate Student, University of Texas at Austin, 2002-present.

Education: M.A., University of Texas at Austin, 2002; B.A., Marquette University, 1999.

Publications and Professional Accomplishments:


Co-chair, College of Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship Committee, University of Texas at Austin, 2005-2007.


Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2003-2004.

Call for Papers


The Religious Research Association solicits papers on all topics of a practical or theoretical nature relating to religion, especially (but not limited to) organized religions, denominations, and congregations. However, this year the RRA especially encourages papers that touch in some way on questions related to diversity (both social and religious) within religious organizations. Topics/questions of special interest include:

- The promise and limits of racial and ethnic diversity
- Worship wars
- Gender and congregational roles
- What are the sources and consequences of religious and social diversity?
- What is diversity's role in congregational cooperation and conflict?
- How is cohesiveness created from diversity?
- Comparing the effects of diversity in congregations of different faith traditions
- Encourage or resist diversity? How?
- Which types of diversity within religious organizations are most common? Which are most problematic?
- Comparing levels of diversity in religious organizations across time and location
- Internal divisions within denominations
- Issues of diversity created by denominational or congregational mergers

Send proposals by email to Michael O. Emerson, Rice University, moeRRA@rice.edu. Include email addresses and affiliations of all participants/authors on proposals. Paper proposals are due (title and abstracts of 150 words or less) by March 15. Completed papers are due to discussants by September 30.


In recognition of the 100th year anniversary of the Azusa Street revival, this year’s annual meeting theme addresses the relationship between personal religious experience and institutional religious involvement. Topics of interest include:

- The relationship between institutional religion and spiritual practice
- The growth and history of global Pentecostalism
- Gender, ethnicity, power, and the subjective turn in religion
- Postmodern trends in spiritual practice
- The “Emergent Church,” megachurches, and other expressions of new congregational life
- Spiritual and religious practices of youth and post-boomer adults
- Postmodern trends in spiritual practice
- New expressions of devotionalism and spiritual guidance/direction
- New varieties of Jewish and Islamic mysticism
- Cultural trends associated with the increased interest in spirituality
- Digital spirituality
- Neuroscience of personal and collective religious experience

Proposals for papers should be in the form of a concise abstract of 150 words or less, clearly stating the research question(s), chosen methodology, and preliminary findings (where applicable). Immediately before the abstract include the title of the presentation, author’s name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address.

Please send proposals by e-mail to Brenda E. Brasher, King’s College, b.brasher@abdn.ac.uk.

Other Initiatives and Opportunities

Post-Doctoral and Dissertation Fellowships in Media, Religion and Culture, 2006-2007

The University of Colorado’s Center for Media, Religion and Culture at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication is accepting applications for a Post-Doctoral Fellowship and three Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships in Media, Religion and Culture for academic year 2006-2007. The Fellowships are made possible through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

One Post-Doctoral Fellowship, in the amount of $32,000 plus benefits, is designed for graduates not more than five years past the granting of the Ph.D. Fellow must be in residence in Boulder, Colorado, from August 15 to June 30. To apply, send a letter of intent, proposal (not more than 10 pages), two letters of reference, and C.V. to Monica Emerich at the address to the right. The application deadline is March 31, 2006.

Three one-year Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, in the amount of $12,000 each, are designed to coincide with the year of dissertation proposal writing or the first year after the approval of the dissertation proposal. For application guidelines, visit the fellowship website at www.mediareligion.org, or contact Monica Emerich. The application deadline is March 31, 2006.

Contact:
Monica Emerich, Media, Religion and Culture Fellowship Coordinator
School of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Colorado
1511 University Ave., 478 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309-0478
Email: Monica.emerich@colorado.edu
2006 Section Award Nominations
The ASA Sociology of Religion Section distributes annual awards for distinguished book, distinguished article, and student paper. Nominations, including self-nominations, for all three awards are welcomed.

Distinguished Book Award
Books published during the previous two years are eligible for the 2006 award. Letters of nomination to Joy Charlton, Chair of the Committee, and a copy of the nominated book sent to each Committee Member must be received no later than March 15.

- Joy Charlton (Chair), Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081; jcharlt1@swarthmore.edu.
- John Hoffmann, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, 2008 Joseph F. Smith Building, Provo, UT 84602; john_hoffmann@byu.edu.
- Rhys Williams, Department of Sociology, University of Cincinnati, 1017 Crosley, P.O. Box 210378, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0378; rhys.williams@uc.edu.

Distinguished Article Award
Peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters published in the previous two years are eligible for the 2006 award. Letters of nomination to James Beckford, Chair of the Committee, and a copy of the nominated article/book chapter to each of the Committee Members must be received no later than April 1.

- James Beckford (Chair), Department of Sociology, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, United Kingdom; syred@ice.csv.warwick.ac.uk.
- Duane Alwin, Department of Sociology and Crime, Law & Justice, Pennsylvania State University, 211 Oswald Tower, University Park, PA 16802-6207; dfa2@psu.edu.
- Jen'nan Ghazal Read, University of California, Irvine, Department of Sociology, 3151 Social Science Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697-5100; jennan@uci.edu.

Student Paper Award
Either published or unpublished papers are eligible, but note that if the paper is published, it may not compete for both the student paper award and the article award. Papers of 20-40 manuscript pages (including notes, tables, and references) will be considered. Authors must be students at the time the nomination is submitted and the papers must have been presented or published in 2005 or 2006 to be eligible for the 2006 award. Letters of nomination to Patricia Wittberg, Chair of the Committee, and a copy of the nominated article to each Committee Member must be received no later than April 1.

- Patricia Wittberg (Chair), Department of Sociology, Indiana University (IUPUI), 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202; pwittber@iupui.edu.
- John Bartkowski, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, P.O. Box C, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762; bartkowski@soc.msstate.edu.
- David Yamane, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University, P.O. Box 7808, Winston-Salem, NC 27109; yamaned@wfu.edu.

Member News and Notes
Member News and Notes feature assorted information about section members, including hirings and promotions, new books, articles published outside major sociological or sociology of religion journals, and any other notable achievements.


Roberto Cipriani, University of Rome 3, Sociology of Religion: An Historical Introduction (Aldine de Gruyter, 2000) has been translated into Spanish (Siglo XXI, Buenos Aires), French (L’Harmattan, Paris), and Chinese (Renmin University Press, Beijing). Portuguese and Japanese editions are forthcoming as well.


Cecilia Menjívar, Arizona State University, is guest editor of a Spring 2006 special issue of the American Behavioral Scientist titled “Public Religion and Immigration across National Contexts.” Contributing authors include Margarita Mooney, Xabier Itçaina, Stephanie Nawyn, Tricia Bruce, Jacqueline Hagan, Cinzia Solari, Wendy Cadge and Elaine Howard Ecklund.