

Section Newsletter



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Meet Our New Chair



Dan Olson (Ph.D., 1987, University of Chicago) is an associate professor of sociology at Purdue University. Prior to coming to Purdue he taught for 18 years at Indiana University South Bend where he was Professor and Chair of his department. In addition to past service on our section's council, he has served on the boards of the Association for Sociology of Religion (ASR) and the Religious Research Association (RRA) and is a past-President of the RRA. His research on religious pluralism and market share, religion and politics, congregations (strictness,

giving, and growth), and religiously-based social ties has been published in *ASR*, *Social Forces*, *JSSR*, *Sociology of Religion*, and *Review of Religious Research*.

He is co-editor of two volumes on secularization versus supply-side theories including (with Detlef Pollack) *The Role of Religion in Modern Societies* (Routledge, 2007).

FROM THE CHAIR,

I can't hope to match our section's past-chair, Jay Demerath, for pun-packed and playful prose in these "From the Chair" columns (though I can use some alliteration now and then). Nevertheless, there are several items of interest that I want to pass on to section members.

The 2012 program: Those who want to present a paper in Denver will have several options. All four of the section's main paper sessions are open topic. I am listed as the session organizer for all four sessions. However, I will distribute each of the incoming papers to one of the four members of the program committee (Philip Schwadel, Amy Admczyk, Richard Wood, and Jen'nan Read). Each of the four program committee members will then select four papers for a paper session that they will convene. Authors should be aware that they may also submit their papers to a session jointly sponsored by our section and the Sex and Gender section (organizers Orit Avishai and Courtney Irby). Finally authors are encouraged to submit their papers to the regular session on sociology of religion organized by Susan Farrell. The full ASA call for papers can be found at http://www.asanet.org/meetings/Call_for_Papers.cfm.

If your submitted paper isn't accepted in any of these sessions it may be assigned to our section's round-table session. If this is the case, you may receive a communication from me inviting you, if you wish, to withdraw your paper from ASA and submit it for possible presentation at the annual meetings of the Association for Sociology of Religion (ASR). The ASR meetings will overlap (two days) with the ASA meetings and will be at a nearby hotel. The arrangements have already been worked out with the ASR president, Roger Finke, and the ASR program chair for next year, Chris Bader. Presenting at ASR will not work for everyone, but it should increase the chances for more good papers to be presented in full paper sessions.

Awards Committees: We are fortunate to have nine excellent scholars to serve on next year's awards committees. Chris Ellison (chair), Kristin Geraty, and Shane Sharp will serve on the Student Paper Award Committee. Paul Froese (chair), Amy Burdette, and Nan Dirk De Graaf will serve on the Distinguished Article Award Committee. Prema Kurien (chair), Bill Mirola, and Sally Gallagher will serve on the Distinguished Book Award Committee.

The deadline for nominations for all three of these awards will be at the end of February. See the section website at <http://www2.asanet.org/section34/> for details.

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor: Last but not least, we have a new webmaster for our section website, Besheer Mohamed, bmohamed@pewresearch.org and a new newsletter editor, Kevin McElmurry, kmcelmur@iun.edu.

So far, being chair of the section has mostly involved recruiting volunteer labor to do the real work of the section. Thus I want to encourage all of you to express your thanks to the 13 people (all named above) who I managed to cajole, bribe, shame, and arm-twist into taking on these responsibilities for our section. Given that most of them were actually happy and excited to be asked, I think it will be a great year.

Dan Olson

MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES



Fenggang Yang has been named in July 2011 a “University Faculty Scholar” by Purdue University for being “on an accelerated path for academic distinction.” He has published two edited books in 2011 by Brill, *Social Scientific Studies of Religion in China: Methodology, Theories, and Findings* (co-edited with Graeme Lang) and *Confucianism and Spiritual Traditions in Modern China and Beyond* (co-edited with Joseph Tamney), and a sole-authored book *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule* (Oxford University Press, 2012). He has also published an article (co-authored with Yuting Wang) “Muslim Attitudes toward Business in the Emerging Market Economy of China” (*Social Compass* 58(4): 1-20) and a chapter “Market Economy and the Revival of Religions” in *Chinese Religious Life* edited by David Palmer, Glenn Shive, and Philip L. Wickeri (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Brian Grim and coauthor **Richard Wike** were awarded the 2010 Robert M. Worcester Prize by the World Association for Public Opinion Research for the year’s outstanding research article contributed to the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, titled “Western Views Toward Muslims: Evidence from a 2006 Cross-national Survey.”

Brian Starks was recently hired to direct a new research initiative on and for the Catholic Church at Notre Dame. This initiative is a collaboration of the CSRS and the ND Institute for Church Life. The CSPRI seeks to conduct top-notch sociological research that is both theologically informed and pastorally relevant. CSPRI is dedicated to social science research on and for the benefit of the Catholic Church, especially in its efforts toward education, re-evangelization, and faith formation. CSPRI is also planning to launch a blog entitled, “The Catholic Conversation” in January. Gary Adler, Associate Director of Research at the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, and Carol Ann MacGregor, a fellow at Princeton’s Center for the Study of Religion, have both agreed to be regular contributors to the blog. If others are interested in contributing, please e-mail bstarks@nd.edu.

Kyle C. Longest has published a new book that is specifically aimed at helping both undergraduate and graduate students learn how to use the data analysis package *Stata* to conduct effective quantitative analysis. The text uses several examples from the National Study of Youth and Religion to illustrate statistical techniques that are broadly applicable to the social sciences and of interest to current students. The text, *Using Stata for Quantitative Analysis*, it is set to be released this December by Sage.

Aliaa Rafea (Professor at Ain Shams University, Women's College, Egypt) presented her paper “Remapping the Purposes of Leadership for Peace” at the International Leadership Conference (ILA). She explained how the Egyptian Revolution brings a new perspective on leadership and peace.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



LINKS

[Andrea Borlla 2011](#)

[Cardell K Jacobson & Lara Burton 2011](#)

[Edward A Tiryakian Oct, 2011](#)

[Edward A Tiryakian Aug, 2011](#)

[John P Hoffmann 2011](#)

[Rachel Rinaldo 2011](#)

Andrea Borella. 101 Modi per Allenare la Fede e lo Spirito (101 Ways for Training Faith and Spirit), Newton Compton, Rome, 2011 (in Italian)

Cardell K. Jacobson (editor) with Lara Burton. Modern Polygamy in the United States; Historical, Cultural, and Legal Issues. Oxford University Press. 2011

Edward A. Tiryakian. "The Missing Religious Factor in 'Imagined Communities'," pp.1395- 1414, in Imagined Communities in the 21st Century, special issue of American Behavioral Scientist, edited by Edward A. Tiryakian, volume 55, 10 (October 2011).

Edward A. Tiryakian. "A Sociological Odyssey: The Comparative Saga of S.N. Eisenstadt," pp. 241-250, in special issue on Shmuel Noah Eisenstadt, Bryan Turner and Simon Susen, eds., Journal of Classical Sociology, 11, 3 (August 2011).

John P. Hoffmann (Editor). Understanding Religious Ritual: Theoretical Approaches and Innovations Routledge. 2011

Rachel Rinaldo. 2011. "Muslim Women, Moral Visions: Globalization and Gender Controversies in Indonesia." Qualitative Sociology, Vol. 34 No. 4, pp. 539-560.

CALLS FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION



Association for the Sociology of Religion 2012 Annual Meeting

Religion and Social Change

The 2012 annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion will take place August 17–18 in Denver, Colorado at the Grand Hyatt. The Grant Hyatt is a Four Diamond hotel in the heart of downtown Denver, close to restaurants, shopping and entertainment, including the world famous Tattered Cover bookstore.

Our 2012 meeting will take place immediately prior to the meetings of the ASA's religion section, but will not overlap with those sessions. This will allow members to attend sessions at both meetings in a shorter window than previous years. The Grant Hyatt is a block away from the ASA conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency.

The theme of this year's meeting is **religion and social change**. Most religions traditions are predicated upon the idea that conversion transforms the individual and widespread acceptance of religious principles results in a utopian society. Some religions attempt to produce or prevent change by influencing the wider discourse surrounding key moral and political debates; others promote programs at the local level; and still others, viewing society as beyond repair, attempt to produce their own utopian sub-societies. Yet, religion is also the product of social changes that mold beliefs and transform religious institutions. While we welcome papers on all subjects, we expect many presentations to explore the complex relationship between religion and social change.

Further, this year's meeting will have a strong focus on professional development

with special sessions on funding and disseminating research, navigating the tenure process, publishing and writing, and resources available for research. These sessions will include a panel with the editors of *Sociology of Religion* and *Review of Religious Research*.

LCD projectors and screens will be available for all presentations.

DEADLINES:

–Session Proposals are due by 31 March 2012

–Paper Proposals and Abstracts are due by 30 April 2012

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: (1) Email your proposal to ASR2012@augustana.edu as a Word attachment. Place the title of your proposal first, then names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors, then your abstract/proposal, all on one sheet of paper. (2) Limit paper abstracts to a maximum of 100 words. (3) 2012 membership in ASR is required for program consideration (one author, for multi-authored papers). Do not submit proposals prior to 1 January. PROGRAM CHAIR: Christopher Bader, Chapman University.

CALLS FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION



Crossroads of Civilizations: Media, Religion and Culture July 8–12, 2012

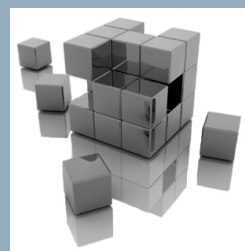
The International Conference on Media, Religion, and Culture, organized every two years by the International Society for Media, Religion, and Culture, invites papers for its July 8–12, 2012 conference to be held in Eskisehir, Turkey (outside of Istanbul), at Anadolu University.

<http://mrc.anadolu.edu.tr/index.html>

Deadline for paper, panel, workshop, and roundtable proposals: January 31, 2012

Final Call: Panelists to discuss epistemologies in the sociology of religion at annual Pacific Sociological Association meeting in San Diego, March 22–25. Official session title is: *Epistemologies and the Study of Religion: Revisiting Berger's Call for "Methodological Atheism"*. No formal paper required, simply a 5–10 minute presentation promoting or critiquing epistemologies used in sociology of religion. Tone is friendly discussion, not debate. Q/A to follow. Contact: Daniel.Davis@Humboldt.edu.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



\$22,000 Dissertation Grant for Research on Religion and Philanthropy **Offered by Lake Institute on Faith & Giving** **Application Deadline is January 31, 2012**

The Lake Institute on Faith and Giving is accepting applications for the 2012 Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, a \$22,000 award for a Ph.D. candidate working in the fields of faith and giving or religion and philanthropy. The fellowship is intended to support the final year of research and dissertation writing.

Applications are being accepted through January 31, 2012. Submission guidelines and forms are available on the Lake Institute website, <http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute/offerings.aspx>

ITEMS OF INTEREST



American Congregations at the
Beginning of the 21st Century
NCS National
Congregations
Study



There will be a third wave of the National Congregations Study (NCS) in

2012. The NCS is a wide ranging survey of a nationally representative sample of religious congregations from across the religious spectrum. The NCS-III will add to our knowledge about demographic, organizational, and cultural change among American congregations, and it will gather first-time or enhanced information about congregations' finances, staffing, multi-site structures, health-related activities, and more. The NCS-III also will contain an oversample of congregations attended by Latinos.

Data from the first two waves of the NCS, conducted in 1998 and 2006-07, can be downloaded from the Associational of Religion Data Archives (<http://www.thearda.com/Archive/NCS.asp>). NCS-III data should be publicly available in mid-2013.

The NCS-III will be funded by a major grant from the Lilly Endowment and by additional support from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, RAND Corporation, IUPUI's Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Church Music Institute, and Duke University. See <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/> for more information about the NCS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



theARDA.com: New Mapping, Congregational QuickStats, SPSS .sav files and more

The Association of Religion Data Archives has recently added new features and made upgrades that will be of interest to SSSR members.

International Mapping:

<http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/intmap.asp>

Regional and global maps show cross-national variation in religion, demographics, politics and more.

Congregational QuickStats:

<http://www.thearda.com/ConQS/>
Browse dozens of topics from the National Congregations Study and then generate statistics, graphs, and tables with a single click of the mouse.

SPSS sav files in the Data Archive:

<http://www.thearda.com/Archive/browse.asp> SPSS sav files have been added as a download option. We continue to offer SPSS por files, ASCII, and Excel files (when the size of the file permits).

U.S. Mapping updated:

<http://www.thearda.com/mapsReports/maps/ardausmaps.asp>

Mapping the states of the United States is now faster, more interactive, and much more fun. Hundreds of variables are available for mapping. Plus, new RCMS data will be arriving in the Spring of 2012.

National Profiles:

<http://www.thearda.com/internationalData/> offer

Constitutional Clauses and updated data: The National Profiles now list religion clauses from the country's constitution and all of the data have been updated.

Other recent additions to the ARDA:

The ARDA's YouTube Channel

<http://www.thearda.com/learningcenter/learningresources/youtubep.asp?ID=1&g=Advent%20Christian%20Church&t=Sermon,%20pt.%201&v=Hpi7-BoQjRs>

A Compare Yourself Survey for Youth

<http://www.thearda.com/learningcenter/learningactivities/comparestart.asp>

New Learning Modules

http://www.thearda.com/learningcenter/learningactivities/lm_da.asp

ITEMS OF INTEREST



The International Mission Photography Archive

is a joint effort of the USC Digital Library and the [Center for Religion and Civic Culture](#), offers a searchable database of over 60,000 cataloged historical photographs from the collections of international missionary organizations. The images preserve the visual traces of cultural change between (roughly) 1860 and (roughly) 1960. The website is here: www.usc.edu/impa

The Council on Contemporary Families

(www.contemporaryfamilies.org) is a national non-profit whose goal is to bring new research and clinical information to public conversation. Its Executive Officer Barbara Risman won this year's 2011 Award for the Public Understanding of Sociology for her work with this group. The Children and Youth Section also awarded this organization an Advocacy Award at the meetings in Las Vegas. CCF is known for its success with translating social science for journalists and policymakers.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Opening: Executive Officer for ASR

The Association for the Sociology of Religion is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Officer. The primary duties include hotel selection and meeting arrangements for the annual meeting, receiving revenue and paying expenses, and keeping association records up to date. Responsibilities begin following the ASR's August 2012 meeting and the new EO takes full responsibilities by the Spring of 2013. To submit an application, recommend a person for this position, or for more information, contact the ASR President, Roger Finke, at rfinke@psu.edu.

A Book of Note

Nam liber ratiōne

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Translated and Introduced by Stephen Kalberg

Sociologists interested in Max Weber can count themselves fortunate these days with the recent appearance of the second revised edition of Stephen Kalberg's new translation of Weber's work, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2011). Kalberg's volume gives us not only a complete and more precise translation of Weber's revised 1920 text, containing his mature views of a thesis originally broached in two lengthy journal articles of 1904–05, but supplements this classic work with new translations of Weber's closely related essay on "Church and Sect in America," excerpts from his "last word" of response to his critic Rachfahl, an important selection on Protestantism and capitalism from Weber's final lectures on "General Economic History," and Weber's "Prefatory Remarks to the Collected Essays on the Sociology of Religion." Readers interested in going further and placing Weber's "Protestant Ethic Thesis" in the context of his other writings may consult Kalberg's collection, *Max Weber: Readings and Commentary on Modernity* (Blackwell, 2005).

In addition, Kalberg provides a revised and expanded, and very illuminating, introduction to these texts, along with a

substantial bibliography of writings about the "Weber thesis" and a glossary of key ideas used by Weber. Readers, especially students, will find this glossary particularly valuable. It helps to define the central reference points for understanding Weber's overall theoretical framework and method of analysis. As an aid to the twenty-first century reader, Kalberg has also inserted many footnotes to Weber's text. These identify and explain terms, events, persons and other items mentioned in passing by Weber, things which Weber could expect his readers to know, but which are largely inaccessible to current audiences.

Those teaching upper division undergraduate and graduate courses in social theory or the sociology of religion will find this volume an ideal introduction to Weber's work and to the continuing controversies surrounding his famous thesis. At \$14.95 in paperbound edition, it is more than worth the price.

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State University of New York Oneonta

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