

ASA SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Newsletter of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association
Kevin D. Dougherty, Editor

From the Editor

I am a big fan of professional conferences. It may not be for the reason that many of you attend however. Sure, paper sessions and keynote addresses can be informative. Yes, presenting your own research to an audience of peers is important. Of course, it is fun to see new sights (provided you ever venture outside the conference hotel). But the real attraction for me is to interact with people like you.

When I began attending professional conferences as a graduate student, I would sit down with the conference schedule and chart out sessions to attend. My selections were based

less on thematic topic or paper titles than on the presenters themselves. I wanted to meet the people whose work I was reading. Had Marx, Durkheim, or Weber been alive and on the ASA schedule, I would have been sure to attend their presentations and stood in line for a handshake at its conclusion. For some of you, our first interaction may have been the handshake that followed your presentation at a national meeting.

Getting involved with the Sociology of Religion Section opened new opportunities for deeper involvement with colleagues. Paper sessions, roundtables, and the annual reception help tie me to our subfield and to those shaping it. Our Section boasts a very healthy social network.

This year the slate of Section activities at the annual meeting is full. Again, we benefit from the coinciding meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR). Meeting highlights are outlined above. Special thanks go to Courtney Bender, Mark Regnerus, and Fenggang Yang for organizing religion sessions. In addition, Jim Cavendish deserves recognition for coordinating religion roundtables. To the many others involved in religion-related sessions and presentations that I do not name here, please know that your involvement is deeply appreciated as well.

Yes, I'll be in Montréal at the 101st meeting of the American Sociological Association. Through sessions and functions, I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. If we haven't met, I hope you will introduce yourself to me. After all, meeting people like you is why I attend professional conferences.

KEVIN D. DOUGHERTY, Baylor University

ASA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, August 11

Section Council and Business Meetings

Section Paper Sessions

Section Roundtables

Joint Reception, with Sociology of the Family Section

Saturday, August 12

Section Paper Session

Co-sponsored ASA/ASR Special Sessions

Sunday, August 13

Religion Regular Session

Monday, August 14

Religion Regular Session

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Section Officers 2005-2006

Chair

Christopher Ellison, cellison@prc.utexas.edu

Chair-elect

Mark Chaves, mchaves@u.arizona.edu

Past-chair

Roger Finke, rfinke@psu.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Richard L. Wood, rlwood@unm.edu

Council

John P. Bartkowski, bartkowski@soc.msstate.edu
 Sally K. Gallagher, sgallagher@oregonstate.edu
 Mary Ellen Konieczny, mchwedyk@midway.uchicago.edu
 Mark D. Regnerus, regnerus@prc.utexas.edu
 David A. Smilde, dsmilde@arches.uga.edu
 Melissa J. Wilde, mwilde@indiana.edu
 David Yamane, yamane@wfu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Kevin D. Dougherty, Kevin_Dougherty@baylor.edu

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.

Updates for On-line Data Archive

We are excited to let you know that the new website of the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA) is up and running at www.thearda.com. You may have noticed that we have changed our name as well. This was done to reflect the current and future growth in international data and resources offered at the ARDA. We now have national profiles and exclusive data on religious freedom and regulation for almost every nation and territory in the world. However, everything in the "American" archive is still part of the ARDA and we continue to expand those resources as well. As part of our renovations we have looked to make the website more accessible to all users. You will find unique areas on the ARDA for researchers, educators, congregations, and media members. Each area highlights particular tools or data that may be more helpful to one user than another. However, all of the ARDA's resources are equally accessible from any area of the website. We encourage you to try out the new site and give us your feedback. Housed in the Social Science Research Institute at the Pennsylvania State University, the ARDA is funded by the Lilly Endowment and the John Templeton Foundation.

Letter to the Editor

I am writing a formal letter to state my objection to the recent decision to NOT publish a hardcopy of the ASA Sociology of Religion Section newsletter. Had I been at the meeting in Philadelphia, I would have voiced my opinion and voted against the change. However, as I try to balance being a mother of ten-year-old triplets and being a graduate student in sociology at Rutgers University in New Jersey, my time and financial resources are constrained, so I was unable to attend the meeting!

Hence, I write this letter. I am not as enamored with technology as the rest of the world. It doesn't always work and leads to miscommunication. The expectations between senders and receivers are often at odds. For example, given the rapidity of sending an email, the flip side expectation is that a response will be quickly given. Frequently, this is not the case for many reasons. The receiver of the message may be sick, his/her computer may be down, or the internet provider may be having a few glitches. Moreover, as we know from reading Goffman and others (Hall, *The Silent Language*) in order to interpret a message we rely on subtle cues and nuances that are simply missing in electronic communication.

With that said, I repeat my concern for eliminating a print copy of the newsletter. I look forward to reading it when it comes and place it by my nightstand so I can read it at my leisure. However, now that I have to go online, download it, print it and then read it, I feel I am frequently too busy to make the time. Moreover, while I am fortunate to have the latest computer technology, the machines are not perfect. Despite modern technological advances, computers and computer networks have mistimed glitches and printer jams, or other printing problems. Hence, the assumption that it is easy to download and print is false.

I do not believe I am the only one with computer concerns. Glitches happen and thwart our best intentions. I would even argue they slow down the communication process. I know of a corporation that is beginning to eliminate e-mails on Fridays, for just this reason!

The purpose of this letter is not to complain, nor to talk about my specific computer issues. Rather, I hope to open up the topic for future discussion among ASA Religion Section members. I believe we can widen the audience to include sociologists of technology and students and professors of communication.

In the spirit of friendly debate,
 LAURIE COHEN, Rutgers University

Editor's Note:

While letters to the editor have not been a part of past newsletters, I saw value in putting Ms. Cohen's comments in front of all Section members. Perhaps you have ideas or concerns that you would like to express in a similar manner. I welcome your letters. K.D.D.



AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

101st Annual Meeting | August 11-14, 2006 | Montréal, Quebec, Canada | Palais des congrès de Montréal

GREAT DIVIDES: TRANSGRESSING BOUNDARIES

Religion Sessions at 2006 Annual Meeting

Religion Section Paper Session: Religious Organizations and Religious Economies (Friday, August 11, 2:30-4:10 pm)

Session Organizer and President: Fenggang Yang, Purdue University

Discussant: Nancy Ammerman, Boston University

- *Clashing Civilizations or Regulated Religious Economies: Explaining Cross-National Religious Persecution*, Brian J. Grim, Pennsylvania State University; Roger Finke, Pennsylvania State University
- *Identifying Congregations with a Higher Risk of Intra-Congregational Conflicts*, Hui-Tzu Grace Chou, Utah Valley State College
- *Maximizing Organizational Resources: Selection Versus Production*, Christopher P. Scheitle, Pennsylvania State University; Roger Finke, Pennsylvania State University
- *Strictness, Subcultural Identity, and Skillful Means: Strategies of Boundary Work in Religious Organizations*, Alison Denton Jones, Harvard University

Religion Section Paper Session: Sociology of Religion (Friday, August 11, 4:30-6:10 pm)

Session Organizer and President: Mark Regnerus, University of Texas at Austin

- *College Major and Preferences: The Case of Religion*, Miles Kimball, University of Michigan; Colter Mitchell, University of Michigan; Arland Thornton, University of Michigan; Linda Young-DeMarco, University of Michigan
- *Religion and Verbal Ability*, Darren Sherkat, Southern Illinois University
- *Religion and Volunteering: Exploring the Links between Spirituality, Moral Attitudes, and Charitable Participation*, Young-Il Kim, University of Virginia
- *Race and Adolescent Depression: The Impact of Religiosity*, Richard Petts, Ohio State University; Anne Jolliff, Ohio State University

Co-Sponsored ASA/ASR Special Session: Crossing National Boundaries: Contrasting Religion in Canada and the United States (Saturday, August 12, 8:30-10:10 am)

Session Organizer and President: Sam Reimer, Atlantic Baptist University

- *Freedom of Incorporation and the Incorporation of Religious and Voluntary Organizations in 19th Century United States and Canada*, Jason Kaufman, Harvard University
- *Religious Freedom in Contrast: A Comparative Analysis of Canada and the United States*, Lori Beaman, Concordia University
- *Evangelical Protestantism in the United States and Canada*, Sam Reimer, Atlantic Baptist University
- *Worlds Apart? A Comparative Study of the Place of Religion in Canadian and American Public Space*, Martin Geoffroy, College universitaire de Saint-Boniface

Co-Sponsored ASA/ASR Special Session: Not Your Father's Weekly Worship: Studying Multi-Cultural Congregations (Saturday, August 12, 10:30 am-12:10 pm, Hyatt Regency Montréal)

Session Organizer and President: Gerardo Marti, Davidson College

- Discussants:** Peggy Levitt, Wellesley College; Peter Kivisto, Augustana College
- *Affinity, Identity, and Transcendence: The Experience of Religious Racial Assimilation in Diverse Churches*, Gerardo Marti, Davidson College
 - *Wrestling with the Meaning of Multiracial Congregations*, Michael O. Emerson, Rice University
 - *Independence and Integration: Chinese Christian Churches in America*, Fenggang Yang, Purdue University

ASA Sessions, continued from p. 3

Religion Section Paper Session: Religion and Family (Saturday, August 12, 12:30-2:10 pm)

Session Organizer and President: W. Bradford Wilcox, University of Virginia

- *Consequences of Physical and Emotional Maltreatment by Parents for Victims' Trajectories of Religious Involvement*, Alex E. Bierman, University of Maryland
- *Religion and Academic Achievement Among Adolescents*, Benjamin McKune, Brigham Young University; John P. Hoffmann, Brigham Young University
- *Religious Discord and Adolescent Family Relations*, Mark D. Regnerus, University of Texas at Austin
- *Searching for Sacred Divorce/Uncoupling Ritual in Religious Community*, Kathleen E. Jenkins, College of William and Mary

Co-Sponsored ASA/ASR Special Session: Dharma Crossing Boundaries: Buddhist Culture in a New World (Saturday, August 12, 2:30-4:10 pm, Hyatt Regency Montréal)

Session Organizer, President, and Discussant: Paul Numrich, Theological Consortium of Columbus (Ohio)

- *The New Buddhism*, James W. Coleman, California Polytechnic State University
- *Buddhism in the Home Space*, Jane N. Iwamura, University of Southern California
- *True Buddhism Is Not Chinese: Taiwanese Immigrants becoming 'True Buddhists' in the United States*, Carolyn Chen, Northwestern University
- *Japanese-American Religiosity*, Tetsuden Kashima, University of Washington

Religion Regular Session: Producing Religious Identity: Organizations, Environments and Adaptations (Sunday, August 13, 8:30-10:10 am)

Discussant: Brian S. Steensland, Indiana University

- *Are American Evangelicals More Politically Conservative Than Canadian Evangelicals? An Empirical Investigation Using Multiple Data Sources*, Jason Kaufman, Harvard University; Lydia Bean, Harvard University; Marco Gonzalez, Harvard University
- *Catholic Identity Formation: Catholics as Cultural Agents*, Brian Matthew Starks, Florida State University
- *Church Participation as Cultural Divider*, Michele Dillon, University of New Hampshire
- *Hijab and American Muslim Women: Creating the Space for Autonomous Selves*, Rhys H. Williams, University of Cincinnati; Gira Vashi, University of Illinois, Chicago

Thematic Session: Religion and Boundaries (Monday, August 14, 8:30-10:10 am)

Session Organizer and President: Paul R. Lichterman, University of Southern California

Discussant: Rhys H. Williams, University of Cincinnati

Panelists: N. J. Demerath, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.; John H. Evans, University of California, San Diego; Michael S. Evans, University of California, San Diego; Penny A. Edgell, University of Minnesota

Religion Regular Session: Theoretical Innovations and Corrections in the Sociology of Religion (Monday, August 14, 10:30 am-12:10 pm)

Discussant: Richard L. Wood, University of New Mexico

- *Provincializing Europe: Towards a Relational, Pragmatic Theory of Religious Meaning*, David A. Smilde, University of Georgia
- *Toward an Analytic Theory of the Self: Studying the Buddhist "Non-Self" in Practice*, Michal Pagis, University of Chicago
- *Who Wanted What and Why at the Second Vatican Council? Toward a General Theory of Religious Change*, Melissa J. Wilde, Indiana University
- *Growing Church Organizations in Diverse U.S. Communities 1890-1906*, Ozgecan Kocak, Columbia University; Glenn R. Carroll, Columbia Business School

Religion Papers in Other ASA Sessions

Sociology of Culture Regular Session: Fields and Practices of Knowledge Production (Friday, August 11, 2:30-4:10 pm)

Creating and Crossing Boundaries: How Scientists View the Relationship Between Religion and Science, Elaine Howard Ecklund, University at Buffalo, SUNY and Rice University; and Jerry Z. Park, Baylor University

Thematic Session: Identifying Boundaries on Social Research (Friday, August 11, 4:30-6:10 pm)

Wild Type Religion, Courtney Bender, Columbia University

Medical Sociology Section Paper Session:

International Issues in HIV/AIDS (Saturday, August 12, 12:30-2:10 pm)

AIDS and Religious Economies, Evelyn Bush, Fordham University

ASA Religion Section Roundtables (Friday, August 11, 10:30 am-12:10 pm)

Table 1: Inter-Group Contact and Threat

- *New Tools for Identifying the Unacknowledged Practices of Racialization*, Mary Hickert Herring, Temple University
- *The Impact of Evangelicalism on Immigrants' Understanding and Practice of Race: The Case of Chinese Immigrants in the United States*, Xuefeng Zhang, Westmont College

Table 2: The Diaspora, Religious Syncretism, and Identity

- *Gender Differences in Ethno-religious Acculturation Among Second-Generation Muslim Americans*, Christine Soriea Sheikh, University of Arizona
- *Remembering the Homeland: The Role of Pentecostalism in a Haitian Diaspora*, Christine McVay, Florida International University
- *Sure You Wanna Study Cuban Religions in "The Provinces?"*, Jualynne Dodson, Michigan State University
- *Madre Ñkisi: Power Not Seen Is No Less*, Jualynne Dodson, Michigan State University

Table 3: Spatial Variations and New Organizational Patterns

- *Ecology of Denominational Fundamentalism in a Metropolis*, William Form, Ohio State University; Joshua Dubrow, Ohio State University
- *Exploring the Connection: Spiritual and Religious Identity Coupling Across National Boundaries*, Brian N. Hewlett, University of Arizona
- *Small Groups in Big Churches: Situating Groups in a Megachurch Context*, Nancy Martin, University of Arizona

Table 4: Religion, Health, and Well-Being

- *Do Religious Beliefs and Membership Affect Life Satisfaction and Happiness in Japan?*, Michael K Roemer, University of Texas at Austin
- *Long Life Through Church? The Effect of Religious Attendance on Mortality*, Justin H. Resnick, University of Wisconsin
- *Religion and HIV-Related Behavior Change in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Jenny Ann Trinitapoli, University of Texas at Austin
- *Sex Differences in Adolescent Religious Participation and Depression*, Kurt Gore, University of Texas

Table 5: Growth and Decline

- *Losing My Religion: Religious Decline in Early Adulthood*, Jeremy E. Uecker, University of Texas at Austin; Mark D. Regnerus, University of Texas at Austin; Margaret L. Vaaler, University of Texas at Austin
- *Preliminary Findings on the Attractions of Reconstructionist Judaism: A Destination Denomination*, Susan B Prager, Brooklyn College/CUNY

- *Reconsidering Mainline Decline: Contemporary Forms of Mainline Adaptation and Congregational Survival*, Jennifer Anne March, University of Texas at Austin
- *Using Symbolic Interaction to Explain Conversion to Voluntary Groups: Theoretical Possibilities for a Unifying Theory*, Laura Ann Auf der Heide, University of Arizona

Table 6: Religion and Gender Roles

- *Empowered: A Case Study on the New Roles of Muslim Women*, Yuting Wang, University of Notre Dame
- *Evangelical Christianity and the Division of Household Labor: Does Covenant Marriage Transform into a Double Shift for Women?*, Heidi Lyons, Bowling Green State University; Laura Ann Sanchez, Bowling Green State University; Steven L. Nock, University of Virginia; James D. Wright, University of Central Florida
- *For Polygyny: Reproductive Rights and Empowerment amongst 19th Century Mormon Women*, Nazneen Michelle Kane, University of Maryland
- *Sanctification, Gender, and Evangelicals: The Symbolic Nature of Covenant Marriages*, Elizabeth Helene Baker, Bowling Green State University; Laura Ann Sanchez, Bowling Green State University; Steven L. Nock, University of Virginia; James D. Wright, University of Central Florida

Table 7: Social Class Matters

- *Denomination and Class: Disentangling Education*, Bradley Aaron Koch, Indiana University
- *Going Higher: African American Women's Religious Participation, Spirituality, and Socioeconomic Status*, Nancy Alexander, Southern Connecticut State University
- *Low-Income Urban Mothers: Perceptions of Stigmatization by Churches*, Susan Crawford Sullivan, College of the Holy Cross
- *Option for the Non-Poor? Poverty and Catholic Church Attendance*, Philip Schwadel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Table 8: Religion and Young Adults

- *Religion and Science Education in the Minds of Young Adults*, Monica Gaughan, Georgia Institute of Technology; Taylor Narewski, Georgia Institute of Technology
- *Sexual Activity and Source of Moral Authority among American Adolescents*, Tim Cupery, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- *Teens and Religious Faith: The More They Change, the More It Stays the Same*, Timothy T. Clydesdale, College of New Jersey

Roundtables, continued from p. 5

Table 9: Issues in Classical Theory

- *Durkheimian Dualism Redux: Homo Duplex and the Origins of Religion*, Douglas Marshall, University of South Alabama
- *Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Mannheim's Epistemological Standpoints and Their Comparisons with Each Other*, Ismail Demirezen, University of Maryland-College Park
- *What is Religion? An Analysis of Some Sociological Attempts to Conceptualize Religion*, Yuri Contreras-Vejar, New School for Social Research
- *Toward a More Precise Interpretation of Weber's Protestant Ethic Thesis*, Jere Cohen, University of Maryland

Table 10: Experience of Ritual and Commemoration

- *Death and Resurrection of Ritual*, Lars Jarkko, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- *Holocaust Commemoration Transgressing Boundaries? The Case of Toronto's Holocaust Education Week*, Y. M. Bodemann, University of Toronto
- *Hyphenated Cultures: "Mothers" as Integrative Force of Distinct Imaginations*, Teruyuki Tsuji, Florida International University
- *Institutionalization of Memory: From Belzec to A Paradigm*, Susanne Bleiberg Seperson, Dowling College

Table 11: The Influence of Peer Groups and the Family

- *The Transmission of Religion in Three-Generation Families: An Empirical Test of a Five-Factor Measurement Model*, Casey Elizabeth Copen, University of Southern California; Timothy J. Biblarz, University of Southern California; Merril Silverstein, University of South California; Vern L. Bengtson, University of Southern California
- *Unraveling Religious Peer Influences on First Sex*, Amy L. Adamczyk, Pennsylvania State University

Table 12: Religion and Conceptions of Citizenship

- *Critical Theory and the Islamic Encounter with Modernity*, Farzin Vahdat, Yale University
- *Religion and Cultural Citizenship: Abrahamic Discourse and the Incorporation of American Islam*, Mucahit Bilici, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- *Sacred Networking or Fragmentation: The Effect of Church Attendance and Church Activity on Civic Engagement*, Jason Martin, Temple University

Table 13: Religion, Movements, and the State

- *Does the "Christian Left" have a Chance?*, Laura Desfor Edles, California State University, Northridge
- *Political Inclusion is Not Everything: How Internal Organization and Party Competition Affect Religious Movements*, Mirjam Kunkler, Columbia University

ASR Mini Conference

Critical Theory of Religion and the Critique of Rational Choice, Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR), 2006 Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Montréal, August 12

This mini conference brings together a group of scholars who have contributed to an edited volume entitled *Marx, Critical Theory, and Religion: A Critique of Rational Choice*, edited by Warren S. Goldstein (Leiden, NL: Brill Academic Publishers 2006). This book establishes the critical theory of religion as an alternative and opposing paradigm to rational choice within the sociology of religion. The papers presented in these sessions are not replications of the articles in the book but set a direction for future research not only critiquing rational choice but continuing to develop a critical sociology of religion.

Session I2: Critical Theory of Religion and the Critique of Rational Choice I (Saturday, August 12, 8:30-10:15 am)

Organizer and Convener: Warren S. Goldstein, University of Central Florida

- *Rational Choice Theorists as Advocates of the Capitalistic Form of Life*, Roland Robertson, University of Aberdeen
- *Reasonable Irrationality: Religious Abnegations of the World Revisited*, Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago
- *Religious Experience and the Economy of Exchange: Notes toward a Theory of Material Christianity*, Kenneth MacKendrick, University of Manitoba
- *Consumer Culture and the Logic of Religious Markets*, Andrew McKinnon, University of Toronto

Session J2: Critical Theory of Religion and the Critique of Rational Choice II (Saturday, August 12, 10:20 am-12:30 pm)

Organizer and Convener: Warren S. Goldstein, University of Central Florida

- *Critical Religion in Antagonistic Civil Society: Towards Discourse and Cooperation among Civilizations*, Rudolf J. Siebert, Western Michigan University
- *Neo-Liberalism's Colonization of Religion in the Form of Rational Choice Theory*, Michael R. Ott, Grand Valley State University
- *From A Beautiful Mind to a Critical Theory of Religion: Rational Choice, Religion, and Adorno*, Christopher Craig Brittain, Atlantic School of Theology
- *Socially Constructing the Experience of Individuation and Group Membership: A Challenge to the Premise of Rational Choice Theory*, Bonnie Wright, Ferris State University

Member News and Notes

James A. Beckford, University of Warwick, and John Walliss edited *Theorising Religion: Classical and Contemporary Debates* (Ashgate, 2006).

Jackson W. Carroll, Duke Divinity School, *God's Potters: Pastoral Leadership and the Shaping of Congregations* (Eerdmans, 2006).

Jualynne E. Dodson, Michigan State University, was awarded Michigan State University's 2006 Outstanding Faculty Award. The honor is given to a single individual, from more than 4,500 faculty members, by the graduating class. During summer 2006, Dodson will travel to Accra, Ghana to begin a collaborative research project with the research team of Dr. Irene Odotei of the University of Ghana. Funded by the American Sociological Association and the National Science Foundation's Office of Engineering and Science, the two research teams hope to establish a comparative examination of women practitioners of Ghana's traditional religions, Cuban women practitioners of Mayombè, and U.S. women in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Elaine Howard Ecklund has accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Sociology at the University at Buffalo, SUNY. She will also remain affiliated with the Center on Race, Religion, and Urban Life at Rice University. With **Wendy Cadge**, Brandeis University and Harvard University, Ecklund published "Religious Service Attendance among Immigrants: Evidence from the New Immigrant Survey-Pilot" in *American Behavioral Scientist* (July 2006) 49:1574-1595.

Michael O. Emerson, Rice University, *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States* (Princeton University Press, 2006).

D. Michael Lindsay will join the sociology faculty at Rice University as an assistant professor and research fellow in the Center on Race, Religion and Urban Life in fall 2006. A paper he wrote entitled "Liminal Organization in Elite Ranks: Linking Societal Power to Religious Faith" recently won the Worldwide Competition for Junior Sociologists sponsored by the International Sociological Association. He will attend the award ceremony in South Africa in July.

Eric Morier-Genoud, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, completed a dissertation entitled, "The Catholic Church, Religious Orders and the Making of Politics in Colonial Mozambique. The Case of the Diocese of Beira, 1940-1974" (Department of Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton, December 2005). He also wrote the introduction and edited a special issue of *Le Fait Missionnaire: Social Sciences & Missions* on religion in Mozambique (volume 17, December 2005).

Jen'nan Ghazal Read, University of California, Irvine, has been named a 2006 Carnegie Scholar. The award carries a \$100,000 fellowship that she will use to research Muslim American political incorporation over the next two years.

David Smilde, University of Georgia, received a Fulbright Scholars award to do research on religion and political conflict in Venezuela during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Melissa Wilde is moving to the University of Pennsylvania where she accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Sociology effective fall 2006.

Patricia Wittberg, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, *From Piety to Professionalism – and Back? Transformations of Organized Religious Virtuosity* (Rowman and Littlefield/Lexington Books, 2006).

Fenggang Yang, Purdue University, received a multi-year grant in 2005 "For the Advancement of the Social Scientific Study of Religion in China" from the Henry Luce Foundation. The Project includes (1) the annual Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion in Beijing, (2) small research grants for scholars to conduct empirical research on religion in China, (3) Chinese visiting scholars at Purdue University, and (4) a lecture series on "Chinese Religion and Society" at Purdue University. For more information, see <http://www.cla.purdue.edu/sociology/religion/>. He also is a recipient of a Metanexus Institute/Templeton Foundation grant for 2006 through the Spiritual Capital Program for research on "Faith and Trust in the Emerging Market Economy in China."

Dissertation in the Pipe

Tia Noelle Pratt, "Finding A Place at the Table: Identity Formation Among African-American Catholics," Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Fordham University.

The African-American religious experience and American Catholicism have long been fruitful topics of sociological inquiry. Until recently, the point at which the two topics converge has been largely ignored. This dissertation seeks to give voice to a group overlooked in these two copious bodies of social scientific literature. Using multiple methodologies and a grounded theory approach, I examine how Black Catholics take their dual heritages and combine them into a singular identity. This approach focuses on pastoral leadership, liturgy, lay involvement, and commitment to social programs as key factors in the construction of a Black Catholic identity. This study adds to the growing body of disparate identity literature by offering an analysis of how Black Catholics negotiate their seemingly incompatible identities. In addition, this study adds a racial dimension to the discussion and expands on the religious aspect of disparate identity literature.

Christian Smith to Direct Notre Dame Center for the Study of Religion

Christian Smith is joining the faculty of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN, after 12 years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Smith will become the William R. Kenan Distinguished Chair of Sociology and the Director for the Notre Dame Center for the Study of Religion, housed in the Department of Sociology.

The University of Notre Dame is strongly committed to building up its Center for the Study of Religion and is investing significant resources to that end. For example, Smith will lead in the hiring of at least two new faculty positions in the sociology of religion in the next few years. The National Study of Youth and Religion, over which Smith has been a Principal Investigator since 2001, will move with Smith to Notre Dame, thus becoming a joint project of Notre Dame and UNC-Chapel Hill, with Lisa Pearce as co-PI. Notre Dame is also the home of the new Panel Study of American Religion and Ethnicity, a major, national, longitudinal, multi-level survey of American religion directed by David Sikkink, in collaboration with Michael Emerson at Rice University. Numerous research grants and projects are now running through the Notre Dame Center and more are expected in the future. The overall goal of these efforts is to develop Notre Dame into a major, national center for top-quality training, research, and publishing in the sociology of religion.

Inquiries about the developing program and Center for the Study of Religion at Notre Dame can be directed to chris.smith@nd.edu.

Employment Announcement

University of Notre Dame.

The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track, assistant or associate professor position with research interests in sociology of religion, beginning August 2007. Notre Dame is strongly committed to building its Center for the Study of Religion into a major center of primary data collection, research training, and scholarly publication in the social sciences. We seek a candidate with evidence of an ambitious research program and excellent teaching skills to make a distinctive contribution to building the Center. The successful candidate will join a highly active community of faculty colleagues and graduate students in sociology of religion, and enjoy a highly supportive institutional infrastructure for their work. Applications from new PhDs and scholars with some experience, particularly from women and minority candidates, are welcome. Review of applications will begin on September 15, 2006 and continue until the position is filled. Please send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and two examples of written work to: Christian Smith, Religion Center Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, 810 Flanner Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. The University of Notre Dame is an international, Catholic, research university, and is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Call for Papers

The Amish in America: New Identities & Diversities.

An international conference, hosted by The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania), June 7-9, 2007.

The conference will focus on the changing nature of Amish identity and the growing diversity of Amish life in North America. Conference planners welcome proposals for papers or poster sessions on topics related to any facet of the Amish experience in America. Proposals are invited from all academic disciplines as well as from practitioners who provide services to the Amish. Presentations may cover historical as well as contemporary themes.

For each paper or poster session provide a title, a one page abstract of 150 to 200 words, and a one page resume with full contact information and institutional affiliation. Submit proposals to Donald B. Kraybill at kraybilld@etown.edu by November 1, 2006. The program committee will screen proposals and inform presenters of the committee's decision by January 10, 2007. For more information, consult the Young Center's website at www.etown.edu/youngctr, or e-mail Donald B. Kraybill at kraybilld@etown.edu.

International Society for the Sociology of Religion Conference, Leipzig, Germany, July 23-27, 2007,

Roberto Cipriani, Université de Rome 3, is convening two sessions (described below) and invites persons interested in participating to contact him at rciprian@uniroma.it.

VISUAL SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION. Sociological methodology applied to religious phenomena has some limits in data presentation, without a visual support as visible proof of real dynamics. The session will be organised through papers on the theme and presentation of movies, photographs, slides, videos, etc. Discussion will analyse scientific aspects, methodologies, techniques and teaching of visual sociology of religion.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF RELIGION. Sociologists of religion have a lot of experience concerning quantitative data, percentages, numerical tables, statistical means. But many times their conclusions are not plausible and need a more qualitative approach. Actually religion as an individual affair should be analysed by more precise and specific tools. Sociologists are invited to find rigorous solutions in particular through the possibility of computer-assisted content analyses.