

Sociology of Religion

Volume VI, Number 1

Fall 1999

FROM THE CHAIR

LOOKING TOWARD WASHINGTON, D.C.

Patrick McNamara

Is our section in good shape? A searching question for a new chair. A resounding "yes" is my response. Mary Jo Neitz did a great job setting up the program for Chicago. Our sessions were well attended; the feedback I heard was very positive. The joint reception with ASR was first-rate and I hope we can continue it next year. Our membership count as of September 1 this year is 507, of whom approximately a third (160) are students, a good sign for continuing growth. In fact, we now rank 17th in membership out of the 40 ASA sections. By the time read this, ASA will probably have our October 1 count on the basis of which we are allotted sessions (we would have to reach 600 before we could add another session). I am also struck by the presence of so many younger faculty members in our section, some of whom--Peggy Levitt and David Yamane--are represented among next year's session organizers. This coming year's program in Washington, D.C. (Aug.12-16) ranges from the always engaging question of how religious meanings are maintained, the relationship of sexuality to religion and the obviously timely issue of America's burgeoning immigrant populations and religion. This last topic could include, I would think, how new religious institutions arise to serve these populations and how older ones adapt and reach out. The two sessions on sexuality and on population are co-sponsored with those sections, reflecting the last year of a two-year commitment to work with them. This arrangement has served us very well" Co-sponsorship with other sections enhances the visibility of our section, a relative newcomer among longer-established ones.

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Patmac@unm.edu

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Hartford Seminary
Nta@hgc.edu

Past Chair: Mary Jo Neitz
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socneitz@showme.missouri.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Adair Lummis
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R. Steven Warner (02)
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Rswarner@uic.edu

1. Social Networks and the Maintenance of Religious Meaning

Organizer: C. Kirk Hadaway
United Church Board
700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115
Phone: (216) 736-3811
e-mail: hadawayk@ucc.org

2. Sexuality(ies) and Religion (Co-sponsored with the Sociology of Sexualities Section)

Organizer: Jodi O'Brien
Department of Sociology
Seattle University
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: (206) 296-5384
e-mail: jobrien@seattleu.edu

3. Immigration and Religion (Co-sponsored with the Population Section_

Organizer: Peggy Levitt
Department of Sociology
Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02481
Phone: (781) 283-2186
e-mail: plevitt@wellesley.edu

4. Roundtables:

Organizer: David A. Yamane
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I found the vitality of discussion at both meetings - of the council at breakfast Friday morning and of the section a couple of hours later -truly impressive. Several members expressed concern for how best to richest to graduate students interested in the sociology of religion, as well as those teaching in our area but not presently section members. A suggested starting point was to ask ASA to tabulate the institutions at which our graduate student members are enrolled. This might be step one in developing a network to help us identify individuals to whom we could send information about our section. A related but much broader question relates to mentoring students. Not a few graduate students are in departments that list no specialty in sociology of religion and may have but one faculty

member - perhaps none - whose special area is sociology of religion. These students might well benefit from contact with faculty members elsewhere willing to read a thesis or dissertation proposal or a paper written for professional meetings, and provide helpful feedback. If you are interested in being on a small committee to look into this possibility, please e-mail me (strikes me as a pretty daunting task!).

Madeleine Cousineau kindly volunteered to begin construction of a section Webster but is understandably reluctant to undertake this enterprise alone. Is anyone interested in working with her on this important task? Again, let me know. Outgoing chair Mary Jo Neitz heads this year's nominating committee whose members are Helen Rose Ebaugh, Christian Smith, and Nancy Eiesland. Finally, and by no means least, we are proud of our award winners for best book, best article, and best student paper.

One last note: only 40% of us voted last year for new section officers. Surely we can do better than that. And (REALLY finally), as my wife can ruefully testify, I am nearly addicted to e-mail. Keep in touch. Responses guaranteed. Suggestions welcome. It's not that difficult!

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION
SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 6,
1999, 9:30 A.M., CHICAGO HILTON, CHICAGO

Twenty-eight members attended the fifth annual business meeting of the Sociology of religion Section of the American Sociological Association. Mary Jo Neitz, Chair, opened the meeting, greeting those present.

Ruth Wallace, chair of the nominations committee which included Tony Blasi, Gene Burns, and Paula Nesbitt, reported that a total of nineteen names were submitted, which is good. However, getting these names took a lot of effort. She recommended that in the future all members take responsibility to nominate people. Through the ASA balloting procedure, she was pleased to announce that the Chair-elect is Nancy Ammerman, and the new Council members are Michelle Dillon and Steve

Warner. Wallace further remarked that there were 172 ballots mailed to the ASA office, constituting a 40% response rate from Section members. She understands that this is a fairly good response, but would like to see more of the members voting. Wallace expressed gratitude that Joe Tamney has accepted the position of newsletter editor, serving from 2000 to 2003. Mary Jo Neitz, the chair of the nominating committee for next year, asked that all members feel free to suggest names for positions at this meeting or subsequently when, reminded by a request in the forthcoming newsletter. The others members of this committee serving with her will be Helen Rose Ebaugh, Chris Smith, and (one other person to be announced).

Fred Kniss, the chair of the membership committee, announced that the updated Section brochures were available here, and were on the Section table in the ASA registration room. During the meeting, ASA offers section membership at half price. He was pleased to report that the membership numbers are fairly good, a little higher than last year. As of July 31 the Section has 503 members, 156 of whom are students. In order to get a fourth session, however, the Section must have at least 600 member by October 1, 1999. Kniss reviewed the discussion in the Council meeting regarding the offer of free Section memberships to students during the last two years. Students are not taking advantage of this, despite the fact that this year he sent out vouchers ahead of time to all students members. It was decided in Council meeting that this offer would be withdrawn as not worth the administrative work involved.

A discussion of some length followed about how best the Section might reach out to graduate students interested in and those who teach in the sociology of religion, but are not presently Section members. Helen Rose Ebaugh and Ruth Wallace in particular raised the question of how we could get a handle on the graduate students who might be interested in the sociology of religion, and then encourage and perhaps mentor them further? It seems there is no available listing of which institutions have faculty and graduate students interested in the sociology of religion. Pat McNamara asked Fred Kniss if he could find out the institutions at which our students members are currently enrolled. Kniss thought ASA could probably tabulate this. There was a further questions raised by members

about: 1) whether present student members would permit their e-mail addresses to be given out so that others might contact them; 2) whether it would be possible to find out where dissertations in the sociology of religion have been recently completed or are in process; and 3) how students interested in the sociology of religion, especially at institutions where they were alone in this interest, could be encouraged and mentored. Rodney Stark said he now supervises student dissertations being done at institutions other than his, and has noticed from checking through several hundred catalogs recently that if the sociology of religion is offered, very few of the people teaching it belong to any of the professional associations connected with the study of religion. Patrick McNamara is interested in organizing volunteers who have the time to read student papers from other institutions and give students feedback. He will appoint a committee to look into this further. Several discussed the use of the newsletter for asking for names of faculty who are directing dissertations in the sociology of religion and the titles and authors of recently completed dissertations. Mary Jo Neitz circulated a notepad asking for those who could to jot down names of persons doing or advising masters or doctoral theses in this area.

A number of those present talked about the potential value of the Section web site to recruit students and put them in touch with resources of persons or institutions. Mary Jo Neitz reported that at the Council meeting the web-site was discussed as needing development. Madeleine Cousineau agreed to chair a committee to work out some of the details of coordination with ASA web

site, and make some initial decisions about what should be on the Section web site. Cousineau suggested, however, that the web site is primarily for dispersion of general information Exchange of ideas and information with individual students is preferably and easier done using Listserv to dialog, which is under utilized.

Patricia Wittberg , chair of the awards committee, announced the winners for the best article and book award. The best book is by Lutz Kaelber Schools of Asceticism: Ideology and Organization in Medieval Religious Communities. The best article is by Mark Regnerus and Christian Smith "Selective Deprivatization among American Religious Traditions", Social Forces, June 1998 . The student paper award committee, chaired by Roger Finke, announced the winner is Jason Schnittker (Indiana University) When is Faith Enough?: the Effects of Religious Involvement on Depression." Fourteen students submitted papers for the student paper award. Many of these students papers are very good, leading the committee to award as well two "honorable mention" citations to: Robert Woodberry and Mark Regnerus both of the University of North Carolina.

Adair Lummis, secretary-treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2000, noting that the Section had a carry-over amount from 1998 of \$1,760.44. Any unused funds allocated by ASA to the Section this year will be carried over, and can be used as needed or as allocated for special costs such as the web-site. The budget was approved without dissent.

Mary Jo Neitz mentioned that although it

was too early in the ASA meeting to get a count of session attendance, it looked as if the round table sessions which took place right before the Business meeting went "spectacularly well" In addition to the two Section sessions on religion and institutions and religion and the family, she has organized joint sessions one with the Population and one with Sexuality session for this year and next. These joint session increases our visibility in the ASA program. Last year we voted to have the Council meet outside of our program slots allocated by ASA, giving us an extra hour for round tables. She asked if that was a policy the Section should continue. There was general affirmation to continue this with one change, if possible. This change is to follow the Council meeting directly with the Business meeting, having the round tables third, so as to better keep people in the room. This possibility will be looked into for the next year. Mary Jo Neitz, reminded those present of the time and place of the joint Section reception with Association for the Sociology of Religion, following her delivery of the ASR Furfey lecture.

Mary Jo Neitz then turned the meeting over to the new Chair, Patrick McNamara. He asked for volunteers interested in serving on Section committees, particularly the awards committee, to get in touch with him as soon as they could. He adjourned the Business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adair T. Lummis
Secretary-Treasurer
ASA Section on the Sociology of
Religion

Spotlight On Our New Chair

Patrick McNamara retired from the University of New Mexico in 1998. He is a past president of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. His books include *Conscience First, Tradition Second: A Study Of Young Catholics* (1992) and *Religion North American Style* (1997), co-edited with Thomas Dowdy. He is the recipient of 3 Lilly Endowment grants for studies of church financing. The first resulted in the publication of *Money Matters: Personal Giving In American Churches* (1996), co-authored with Dean Hoge, Charles Zech, and Michael Donahue, and *Plain Talk About Churches And Money* (1997) co-authored with Hoge and Zech. His most recent book, *More Than Money: Portraits Of Transformative Stewardship*, was published this fall (1999) by the Alban Institute. He is currently writing a book on Catholic parishes that have adopted a stewardship approach.

Congratulations To The Winners Of Our Student Awards

Graduate Student Paper Award Winner:

Jason Schnittker, Indiana University, "When Is Faith Enough?: The Effects of Religious Involvement on Depression"

Honorable Mention to:

Robert D. Woodberry, University of North Carolina, "A Crisis of Faith: Can We Research Religion If We Can't Trust What People Say?"

Mark D. Regnerus, University of North Carolina, "Re-Interpreting Religious Effects on Adolescent Educational Expectations and Achievement: A Multi-level Approach"

Congratulations to the Winner of our Distinguished Book Award

Lutz Kaelber 1998. *Schools of Asceticism: Ideology and Organization in Medieval Religious Communities*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press

Congratulations To The Winner Of Our Distinguished Article Award

Mark D. Regnerus and Christian Smith, "Selective Deprivatization among American Religious Traditions: The Reversal of the Great Reversal" pp.1347-1372 in *Social Forces*, June 1998.

Thanks To Those Who Have Served Our Section

Ruth Wallace who served as chair
and to Kevin Christiano
and Madeleine Cousineau who
served on council

Congratulations To Those Who Won In This Year's Election

Nancy Ammerman—Chair Elect

Michele Dillion and R. Steve Warner our new
council members

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2000 ASA MEETINGS

Please send completed paper by January 10, 2000 for consideration in our sections sessions to:

Sexuality(ies) and Religion (Co-sponsored with the
Sociology of Sexualities Section)

Organizer: Jodi O'Brien
Department of Sociology
Seattle University
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: (206) 296-5384
e-mail: jobrien@seattleu.edu

Immigration and Religion (Co-sponsored with the
Population Section)

Organizer: Peggy Levitt
Department of Sociology
Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02481
Phone: (781) 283-2186
e-mail: plevitt@wellesley.edu

Social Networks and the Maintenance of Religious
Meaning

Organizer: C. Kirk Hadaway
United Church Board
700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115
Phone: (216) 736-3811
e-mail: hadawayk@ucc.org

Roundtables:

Organizer: David A. Yamane
University of Notre Dame
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736 Flanner Hall
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e-mail: yamane.1@nd.edu

Grant Opportunities

SSSR

The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion will have some funds available for its year 2000 research awards, with a maximum of \$2000 for a single grant. At least one fourth of the awards will go to persons who are graduate students or have held the doctorate for less than five years. Awards are intended to cover research expenses, travel, student assistance and up to \$1500 in stipend. Applicants must have been SSSR members for at least one year at the time they submit proposals, which are limited to a maximum of five double-spaced, typed pages, including abstract and budget. The budget should include a rationale for expenditures. Grant recipients have two years to spend their awards and are expected to submit a brief report on their research. Chair of the research awards committee will be announced in the SSSR newsletter. Deadline for application: February 1; notification of results to applicants: April 1.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR 2000-2001

Religion and Immigration

The SSRC offers predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships for research on the relationship of religion to the incorporation of immigrants into American life. The goal is to foster innovative research that will illuminate how immigrant and native-born religious beliefs, practices, identities, groups, and institutions affect patterns of immigrant settlement in the United States. Funding is available to scholars of diverse disciplinary specializations and applicants are encouraged to, but not required, to adopt historical or transnational perspectives and to focus on religion as it affects immigrants' participation in American civic life.

International Migration to the United States

The SSRC offers predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships for research that will advance theoretical understandings of the origin, processes, and outcomes of immigrant and refugee settlement in the United States. Applicants are encouraged to develop the theoretical implications of their research by adopting comparative regional, group, and/or historical perspectives on a wide range of topics including, but not limited to the economic, political and socio-cultural transformation of the lives of both immigrants and native-born Americans.

Minority Summer Dissertation Workshop

Students from minority ethnic and racial backgrounds can apply for fellowships to participate in a three-week summer workshop designed to help their development of dissertation research projects and funding proposals on all topics related to international migration to the United States.

Applications must be postmarked by: January 12, 2000

For application forms and information regarding eligibility requirements contact:

Fellowships on Religion and Immigration

OR

Fellowships on International Migration to the United States

Social Science Research Council

810 Seventh Avenue

New York, NY 10019

USA

email: religion@ssrc.org or migration@ssrc.org

web: www.ssrc.org

Association for the Sociology of Religion: Fichter Award

applications are invited from scholars involved in promising research on women and religion. For the 2000 competition, a total of \$10,000 is available to be awarded. Awards are not normally made for dissertation research. Priority will be given to those who have recently earned the Ph.D.

Application Procedure

Applicants must be members of the Association for the Sociology of Religion at the time of submission. *Membership information is available from the ASR Executive Office, 3520 Wiltshire Drive, Holiday, FL 34691-1239. Phone 727-844-5990. Fax: 727-844-7332. E-mail: swatos@microd.com ASR web page: <http://www.sociologyofreligion.com/>*

A proposal of not more than five double-spaced pages should outline the rationale and plan of research. Review briefly previous research and theory that forms the background for the study, describe methods and timetable, and summarize succinctly what the research aims to discover. A detailed, one-page budget should be attached, indicating the amount being applied for and the exact purposes for which it will be used. Include a curriculum vitae.

Simultaneous submissions to other grant competitions are permissible if the applicant is explicit about which budget items in the Fichter grant proposal do not overlap items in other submitted proposals.

All submissions must be **postmarked** by MARCH 1, 2000. Awards will be announced by May 1, 2000.

Send four copies of the proposal, budget and c.v. to:

Mary Ellen Batiuk, Chair
Fichter Research Grant Committee
Department of Social and Political Studies
Pyle Box 1273
Wilmington College
Wilmington, OH 45177

Voice: 937-382-6661
Fax: 937-382-7077
Email: mebatiuk@wilmington.edu

Publishing

Sociology of Religion

As of January 1, 2000 *Sociology of Religion* will have new editors:

Please send your manuscripts to:

Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark
Editor, Sociology of Religion
Department of Sociology
University of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 4400
Fredericton, N.B.
Canada E3B 5A3

Inquiries, suggestions, or comments for the new editor are especially welcomed. These can be sent email to: nasoncla@unb.ca

If you are interested in reviewing books for *Sociology of Religion* please contact:

Lori G. Beaman
email beamlg@uleth.ca
Department of Sociology
University of Lethbridge
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Phone 403-329-2552
Fax 403-329-2085

Graduate students are encouraged to review books

Review of Religious Research

Review of Religious Research is looking for submissions examining religious beliefs, behaviors, or organizations, and/or the influence of religion on any aspect of social life. Review of Religious Research is an interdisciplinary journal now co-edited by Christopher G. Ellison of the University of Texas, and Darren E. Sherkat of Vanderbilt University. To submit, send 4 copies of manuscripts and an e-mail or disk version of the paper to Darren E. Sherkat, 1811-B Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN 37235. SHERKADE@CTRVAX.VANDERBILT.EDU . There is a \$15 processing fee for scholars who are not members of the Religious Research Association. Membership is only \$24, and information can be found at: <http://rra.hartsem.edu>.

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Press) Volume X** invites papers on

various dimensions of communities: discussions of
theoretical and methodological issues, and empirical
research, case studies and analyses of micro-macro
linkages, and critical studies on community
structure/change, problems, policy-planning and related
issues. ASR format, not more than 50 pages, three
copies. Submit papers before October 15, 1999. Contact:
The Editor:

Professor Dan A. Chekki
Department of Sociology
University of Winnipeg
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9
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e-mail: sociology@uwinnipeg.ca

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS AND UNTENURED FACULTY:

The Berkeley Journal of Sociology (BJS) invites submissions of well-researched, theoretically interesting papers on contemporary topics in sociology and related fields for Volume 44, 2000. We have decided to broaden our scope beyond the topical issues we have published in the last few years, although we continue to encourage attention to race, class, gender, culture, and political economy, and to international and cross-disciplinary perspectives.

The BJS is not only a forum for Berkeley students and faculty. Our mission is to provide graduate students and untenured faculty in the U.S. and internationally with a forum for publishing original, high quality sociological research. Students and faculty from departments outside the discipline of Sociology (e.g., political science, women's studies, anthropology) are encouraged to submit articles with a sociological orientation. Any research submitted to BJS should have a solid, empirical foundation and display some originality in the use of social theory. Researchers may want to include suggestions for constructing social policy, but these suggestions should be strongly supported by empirical sociological research. BJS strives to publish thought-provoking, intelligent scholarly work that can be understood by a widespread academic audience. Articles submitted to BJS should be free of both excessive jargon and discriminatory language. Send two copies by October 15th, 1999 to:

Berkeley Journal of Sociology
410 Barrows Hall #1980
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-1980

e-mail: thejournal@uclink4.berkeley.edu

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Fenggang Yang, *Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities* (Penn State University Press 1999).

Patrick McNamara, *MORE THAN MONEY: PORTRAITS OF TRANSFORMATIVE STEWARDSHIP* (Bethesda: The Alban Institute, 1999).

Articles:

Fenggang Yang, "ABC and XYZ: Religious, Ethnic and Racial Identities of the New Second Generation Chinese in Christian Churches," *Amerasia Journal* 25:1(1999):89-114.

MEMBER NEWS:

Fenggang Yang, beginning in September 1999, will be Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine 04104-9300, phone: 207-780-4754, email: fyang@usm.maine.edu

NOMINATIONS

The nominations committee will put together a slate of nominees for section officers for the election that will be conducted in the spring of 2000. We need your help in doing this. We invite members of the section to send us names to consider for the slate. We need nominations for chair, and council members including a student member of the council. The nominations committee consists of Mary Jo Neitz, chair, Helen Rose Ebaugh, Christian Smith, and Nancy Eiesland. Please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions (including yourself, if you are interested in standing for election).

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FOR THE WINTER 2000 ISSUE
OF THIS NEWSLETTER BY
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