

# ASA SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

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

## From the Chair

The sociology of religion section is alive and well. Total membership is well over 500, the section is attracting young scholars (with over one third of the membership being students), and our sessions at the annual meeting continue to attract excellent papers. The 2004 program was no exception. I want to thank Cecilia Menjivar, Chris Ellison, Mike Emerson, and Jen'nan Ghazal Read for the strong program assembled in 2004.

In 2005, we have much to celebrate. First, this is the centennial celebration for the American Sociological Association. Founded as the American Sociological Society in 1905, the Society contributed to the building of social science institutions, despite a most unfortunate acronym. Following an official name change in 1959, the membership more than doubled in the 1960s to 13,357 (possibly a spurious relationship), dropped in the 1980s, and has recently shown a modest rebound to about 13,000 members. But 2005 is also a celebration year for our section. Officially formed in 1995, this is our decennial celebration. Both the ASA and our section are planning strong programs for these celebrations.

The 2005 program committee for our section includes Darren Sherkat, Penny Edgell, John Bartkowski, and Lisa Pearce. Rather than limiting submissions to specific themes, they are calling for any paper in the sociology of religion. We want the best the sociology of religion has to offer. Papers that address major topics in sociology and the study of religion are especially encouraged, but we welcome all submissions. Sherkat, Edgell, and Bartkowski will review each submission, and Pearce will organize the roundtables. Along with the four program sessions and numerous roundtables sponsored by our section, the Aging and Life Course section is organizing a session on "Religion and Aging Through the Life Course". Ellen Idler will serve as organizer and presider of this session. Finally, the joint ASA/ASR sessions and other general ASA sessions make additional contributions to this alluring menu of choices. The 2005 ASA meeting will have much to offer sociologists of religion.

I am also pleased to report that the Association for the Study of Religion (ASR) will be meeting one day later than usual. Because our section will be hosting sessions on the last day of the ASA meeting, the ASR council voted to overlap three of the four days ASA is meeting. The ASR meeting will close on August 15<sup>th</sup> with the ASA religion section hosting sessions on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This should allow sociologists to attend and contribute to both meetings.

Finally, I have several notes of thanks to offer. Thanks to the many members of the section who so willingly agreed to serve on the section committees. A complete list of the committees is given elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks to Rodney Stark for providing financial support for the Graduate Student Paper Award and student registration fees. We are grateful for this ongoing support. And, thanks to Steve Warner, Helen Rose Ebaugh, and others who have helped to prepare me for serving as section chair.

**ROGER FINKE**  
2005 ASA Sociology of Religion Section Chair

*Roger Finke is Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at The Pennsylvania State University. He is the author with Rodney Stark of The Churching of America 1776-1990 (Rutgers University Press, 1992) and Acts of Faith: Explaining the Human Side of Religion (University of California Press, 2000). A second edition of The Churching of America is forthcoming. Since 1996, Roger has directed the American Religion Data Archive, an on-line repository of data on churches and church membership, religious professionals, and religious groups funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.*

## Inside

PAGE 2

Section Officers  
Religion in China

PAGE 3

2004 Award Winners  
2005 Award Nominations

PAGE 4

Business Meeting Minutes

PAGE 5

Call for Papers  
Note from ASR Program Chair

PAGE 6

Committee Assignments

PAGE 7

Silverman Obituary  
Member News and Notes

PAGE 8

Employment Announcements  
From the (New) Editor

## Section Officers 2004-2005

### Chair

Roger Finke, rfinke@psu.edu

### Chair-elect

Christopher Ellison, cellison@jeeves.la.utexas.edu

### Past-chair

R. Stephen Warner, rswarner@uic.edu

### Secretary/Treasurer

Richard Wood, rlwood@unm.edu

### Council

John T. Bartkowski, bartowski@soc.msstate.edu

Kraig Beyerlein, kbeyerl@email.unc.edu

Michael O. Emerson, Michael.O.Emerson.6@nd.edu

Sally Gallagher, sgallagher@orst.edu

Cheryl Townsend Gilke, ctgilkes@colby.edu

Jerry Park, Jerry\_Park@baylor.edu

Mark Regnerus, regnerus@prc.utexas.edu

David Yamane, ASR2005@wfu.edu

### Newsletter Editor

Kevin D. Dougherty, dougherty@calvin.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.*

internationally renowned scholars each gave five lectures. Professor Eileen Barker of the London School of Economics, an authority of new religious movements, lectured in the first week. Professor Dean Hoge of The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, an expert on mainline Protestant churches and the Catholic Church, lectured in the second week. Their lectures focused on sociological research principles, methods and theories in the study of religion, and used their own studies to illustrate the process of planning and carrying out research projects. Each of the lectures had consecutive Chinese interpretation and lasted about 3.5 hours. Professor Joseph Tamney of Ball State University, the President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, gave the opening lecture on "modernization and religious change in Chinese and Western societies." Professor Patricia Wittberg of the Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, editor of the *Review of Religious Research*, introduced major journals in the social scientific study of religion in the West. In addition, several leading Chinese scholars in religious studies each gave a two-hour talk. More than 60 people participated in the Summer Institute. Most of them were university faculty members and graduate students from over 20 provinces throughout China.

In conjunction with the Summer Institute, the first ever Symposium of Chinese Sociology of Religion was held in Beijing on July 10-11, 2004. The theme was "Sociology of Religion in China: Current Status and Future Directions." Several scholars from the United States, Britain, Italy and Hong Kong participated in the symposium. About 30 Chinese scholars or graduate students submitted papers and made presentations. Some papers made retrospective and prospective comments on the development of the sociology of religion, and consensus were that they needed major Western works in the sociology of religion translated into Chinese, and that exchanges with American and European sociologists of religion should be increased. Some papers reported fieldwork studies of churches, temples, and communities, or surveys of religious converts. A focal point of the Symposium was discussing whether sociological theories developed in America and Europe were applicable in China. Many Chinese scholars remarked that this first symposium of the sociology of religion was a breakthrough, appreciated the opportunity for getting together to exchange views and empirical findings, and expressed the desire to hold the Symposium and the Summer Institute again.

Anyone interested in getting involved, or having any suggestion or comment, please contact Fenggang Yang at yang@soc.purdue.edu or (765) 464-8040.

### Reference

Yang, Fenggang. 2004. "Between Secularist Ideology and Desecularizing Reality: The Birth and Growth of Religious Research in Communist China." *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* 65 (2): 101-119.

## The Sociology of Religion in China: Recent Development

BY FENGGANG YANG, Purdue University

A variety of old and new religions are flourishing in China. Although religious research by Chinese scholars has significantly increased, there is a glaring lack of research on religions in China today. One of the important obstacles "is the lack of a sophisticated methodology. Most religious research scholars in China today migrated from other disciplines of the humanities, especially philosophy, literature and history. They commonly lack training in social scientific methodology" (Yang 2004:115). Responding to this need, Professor Fenggang Yang of Purdue University, in collaboration with Professor WEI Dedong of the Renmin University of China, Beijing, organized a summer institute to introduce theories and methods of the sociology of religion to Chinese academia.

The first "Sino-US-European Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion" was held at Renmin University of China, Beijing, on July 12-25, 2004. Two



## 2004 Award Winners

### **Distinguished Book Award**

Philip S. Gorski, *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe* (University of Chicago, 2003).

Selection Committee: Kevin Christiano (chair), Joy Charleton, and Wesley Perkins

### **Distinguished Article Award** (co-winners)

David Smilde, "Skirting the Instrumental Paradox: Intentional Belief Through Narrative in Latin American Pentecostalism," *Qualitative Sociology* 26 (Fall 2003): 313-329.

Robert Wuthnow, Conrad Hackett and Becky Yang Hsu, "The Effectiveness and Trustworthiness of Faith-Based and Other Service Organizations: A Study of Recipients' Perceptions," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43 (March 2004): 1-17.

Selection Committee: Richard Wood (chair), Wendy Cadge, and Michael Young

### **Student Paper Award**

Melinda Denton (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "Gender and Marital Decision Making: Negotiating Religious Ideology and Practice," *Social Forces* 32 (March 2004): 1151-1180.

Selection Committee: Dan Olson (chair), Marilyn Krogh, and Prima Kurien

## **Nominations for 2005 Awards**

Submission deadlines for section awards are still several months away, so consider this an early invitation. The Religion Section makes three annual awards for outstanding scholarly contributions: Distinguished Book Award, Distinguished Article Award, and Student Paper Award. All nominees are required to be members of the ASA section. See the information below for more details.

### **Distinguished Book Award**

Books published during the calendar year of 2003 or later are eligible for the 2005 award. Self-nominations are welcome. Letters of nomination to Kevin J. Christiano, Chair of the Committee, and a copy of the nominated book sent to each Committee Member must be received no later than March 15, 2005.

- Kevin J. Christiano, Department of Sociology, 443 Decio Faculty Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556-5644, Kevin.J.Christiano.1@nd.edu.
- Joy Charlton, Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081.
- Fenggang Yang, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 700 W. State Street, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059.

### **Distinguished Article Award**

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters published during the calendar year of 2003 or later are eligible for the 2005 award. Self-nominations are welcome. Letters of nomination to Wendy Cadge, 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, 2005.

- Wendy Cadge, Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Harvard University, 34 Kirkland Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, wcadge@latte.harvard.edu.
- Michael P. Young, Department of Sociology, University of Texas, Austin, 1 University Station A1700, Austin, TX 78712.
- James Beckford, University of Warwick, Sociology, Coventry, United Kingdom, CV4 7AL.

### **Student Paper Award**

Either published or unpublished papers are eligible, but 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 2004 or 2005 to be eligible for the 2005 award. Self-nominations are welcome. Letters of nomination to Daniel Olson, Chair of the Committee, and a copy of the nominated article to each Committee Member must be received no later than April 1, 2005.

- Daniel Olson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, IN 46634, dolson@iusb.edu.
- Patricia Wittberg, Indiana University (IUPUI), Department of Sociology, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
- David Smilde, University of Georgia, Department of Sociology, Baldwin Hall, Athens, GA 30602-1611.

## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, August 16, 2004, San Francisco

Chair Steve Warner called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. 82 people were in attendance.

Opening announcement: Sad news of Bill Silverman (Secretary/Treasurer, 2002-2004) having passed away very suddenly on August 3, 2004 of unknown causes. Few details available. Warner noted his courtesy and professionalism in service to the Religion Section, and personal thoughtfulness and value to many people in this Section. (See p. 7 for reprint of obituary.)

Preliminary minutes were taken at last year's meeting and are available; due to Silverman's death, we do not have final minutes available at this time.

No final budget currently available, but appear to be on solid financial footing. Some \$1700 carried over in the budget, and have spent less than budgeted on plaques and newsletter. We are over-budget for the reception and need to make some decisions regarding planning for reception for next year.

Thanks offered to Jen'an Read for her organization of the outstanding quality and quantity of Roundtables today. Sessions on Immigration (organized by Cecilia Menjivar), Family (Chris Ellison), and Race/Ethnicity (Michael Emerson) later today. Also, reception (joint with International Migration section) at 6:30 p.m. For first time, reception is to be held in the ASA hotel, to better locate the Section within the broader ASA. International Migration subsidizing the reception significantly more than we are, plus wine donation from Taylor/Francis, their publisher. Invited feedback on whether this is a good idea or not, food arrangements, facilities, etc.

Budget for next year should allocate at least \$1500 for the reception, unless we have way too much food tonight.

### Nominations Committee Report:

Elected new officers

Chris Ellison, Chair  
Richard Wood, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mark Regnerus, Council  
David Yamane, Council  
Jerry Park, student representative on Council

### Membership Committee Report:

Down slightly from last year: 500 to 495. About one-third (176) are student members, which helps generate more sessions for the Section, though not much for budget.

### Next year's Annual Meeting:

Helen Rose Ebaugh noted that ASR will meet fully simultaneously with ASA next year, offering a strong recruitment opportunity for the Section. Our section day next year will be last day (Tuesday); reception will be on Monday night.

### Newsletter Report:

David Smilde did wonderful job on newsletter this year; Kevin Dougherty now in place as new editor. Dougherty noted his plans: primary purpose is not offering another forum for detailed scholarly discussions, but a setting wherein we keep networks strong. Especially open for new research, new publications, invitations for conversations and discussions. Fall edition due date is October 1, 2004. Spring deadline is Feb. 1, 2004.

### Awards Committee:

Winners should have been announced at ASA Awards event, but were not announced there this year due to some late decision-making by at least one committee and section chair's absence from country when ASA asked for winners. Winners to be announced tonight:

Kevin Christiano reported on the Section's Book Award: Committee was Kevin Christiano (chair), Joy Charleton, and Wesley Perkins. Winner: *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe* by Phil Gorski (University of Chicago, 2003). Book argues that disciplinary practices of Calvinism are central in explaining the success of key states in early modern Europe; book is "best described as one part Calvin and one part Foucault." Written citation to be given tonight. Warner noted that all 3 members of Book Committee were new this year, against past practice of having at least one holdover from year to year.

Richard Wood reported on the Article Award: Committee was Richard Wood (chair), Wendy Cadge, and Michael Young. Process: 11 nominated articles reviewed by committee, evaluated on theoretical contribution, appropriateness of methodology, and substantive importance. Committee took unusual step of naming co-winners of the Best Article Award in the Sociology of Religion, with winners representing contrasting methodological approaches, substantive interests, and research settings: David Smilde for "Skirting the Instrumental Paradox: Intentional Belief Through Narrative in Latin American Pentecostalism." *Qualitative Sociology*. 26:3 (Fall, 2003) 313-329; this article shows how particular aspects of narrative allow religious converts to overcome the paradox involved in "believing" something for instrumental reasons.

# Call for Papers



100th Annual Meeting | Philadelphia, PA | August 13-16, 2005

The **Sociology of Religion Section** will sponsor four regular sessions in 2005 and will devote another session for roundtables. This year we hope to offer the "best of" the sociology of religion. Submissions are open to any topic in the sociology of religion. Darren Sherkat, Penny Edgell, and John Bartkowski will review all papers submitted and organize them into four sessions. Lisa Pearce will organize the roundtables. Questions about the program can be directed to Darren Sherkat (sherkat@siu.edu), but please remember that the ASA requires that all submissions must be made via the online submission system. The deadline for paper submissions is January 15, 2005.

The **Aging and Life Course Section** is organizing a session on "Religion and Aging Through the Life Course." Contact Ellen Idler (idler@sociology.rutgers.edu) for more information.

**Joint ASA/ASR Session.** "Class Dimensions of Religious Belief and Practice" is a proposed session for the 2005 annual meetings of the American Sociological Association and the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Relevant papers from any perspective or substantive area are welcomed. For consideration, submit abstracts by January 1 to Bill Mirola at mirola@marian.edu or mail to Dept. of History and Social Science, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222-1997.



**2005 Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, August 13-15, Radisson**

Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Papers are invited on a broad range of issues in the sociological study of religion relating to the theme "Religion, Politics, and the State at Home and Abroad." The program seeks to include papers that address substantive, theoretical, normative, and methodological issues in the sociology of religion. Session proposals are due by January 15, 2005. Paper abstracts of 150 words or less are due by February 15, 2005. Please email submissions to ASR Program Chair David Yamane at ASR2005@wfu.edu. For more information, see [www.sociologyofreligion.com](http://www.sociologyofreligion.com).

## A Note from the ASR Program Chair

It is my privilege to be organizing the program for the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) next summer in Philadelphia. In addition to the Call for Papers (see left column or ASR website at [www.sociologyofreligion.com](http://www.sociologyofreligion.com)), I want to call your attention to a unique feature of the 2005 ASR meeting: ***it starts the same day as the ASA meetings, rather than one day before.***

The ASR meeting in 2005 runs from August 13-15. This change was made to facilitate participation of ASR members in ASA Religion Section day, which falls on August 16. But this three day overlap with the ASA meetings also provides a unique opportunity for members of the ASA Religion Section to get involved with the Association for the Sociology of Religion meetings.

It is my understanding that there is far from perfect overlap in the membership of these two important professional organizations, so I see this as a good opportunity to develop more and stronger relationships between us.

If you have any questions about or suggestions for the 2005 ASR program, please be in touch.

DAVID YAMANE, ASR2005@wfu.edu

## 2005 International Institute of Sociology World Congress.

Papers are invited for a regular session on "Religions Without Frontiers" at the 2005 International Institute of Sociology World Congress, July 5-9, in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of the Congress is "Frontiers of Sociology". There will be three plenary and 18 semi-plenary sessions. The "Religions Without Frontiers" session will explore the unparalleled mixture of faiths and religious practices increasingly characterizing societies throughout the world. Interested participants should send an abstract/proposal for a paper to Roberto Cipriani at [rcipriani@uniroma3.it](mailto:rcipriani@uniroma3.it). The submission deadline is November 30, 2004. The best three to five proposals will be chosen to be presented at the congress. General information about the congress can be found at [www.SCASSS.uu.se/iis2005](http://www.SCASSS.uu.se/iis2005).

Minutes, continued from p. 4

The second article award went to Robert Wuthnow, Conrad Hackett and Becky Yang Hsu for "The Effectiveness and Trustworthiness of Faith-Based and Other Service Organizations: A Study of Recipients' Perceptions." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43:1 (March 2004) 1-17; this article considers the perceptions of public agencies, faith-based organizations, nonsectarian organizations, and congregations among recipients from which they have received services, showing that recipients see congregations as most trustworthy and effective, public agencies as least so (controlling for the portfolio of contacts of each recipient).

Dan Olson reported on the Student Article Award: Committee was Dan Olson (chair), Marilyn Krogh, and Prima Kurien (in place of Mark Chaves, recused because several candidates were affiliated with his department): 17 articles submitted. Winner was Melinda Denton (UNC-Chapel Hill) for "Gender and Marital Decision Making: Negotiating Religious Ideology and Practice" in *Social Forces* 32:3 (March 2004) 1151-1180. Article shows that both evangelical women and evangelical men espouse highly gender-specific *ideal* roles in marriage, but in fact their *practices* do not differ from non-evangelicals.

Warner announced that in future, winners will be announced publicly ahead of time in the ASA Awards announcements.

#### Sections Committee Report:

ASA changing dues allocation back to doing so on basis of total number of members on September 30, 2004. This is change back to historic pattern, after recent experimentation with 3-year rolling average, which made little difference.

#### Report on Idea of Naming Awards:

Rhys Williams made motion, after friendly amendment, that the Chair of the Section appoint a committee to consider and bring to Council a recommendation for names for the Section awards. Passed unanimously.

#### Passing of Gavel to New Chair Roger Finke:

Thanks expressed to Steve Warner for his service as Chair.

#### Plans for next year:

Possibility of co-sponsoring a session with Family Section, approved in principle by Council this morning. Nothing definite yet, but it looks possible.

We are on last day next year, so we face a challenge of sponsoring sessions that will have a broad appeal to all sociologists. Invited suggestions for sessions for next year. One idea from floor: some analysis of role of religion in

November 2004 elections, swing voters, etc. Also, feedback on reception: location, co-sponsorship, etc. Council's sentiment is to have a co-sponsored reception, and to have it in ASA hotel, even at greater cost. Lastly, feedback and ideas on building Section membership. One-third of members as students reflects vitality of the Section, but we want to be sure to continue building, and ideas are welcome.

Moved to adjourn and approved unanimously at 12:10 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD WOOD, Secretary/Treasurer-elect

## **Committee Assignments 2004-2005**

### **Roundtable Organizer**

Lisa Pearce, l Pearce@email.unc.edu

### **Program Committee**

Darren Sherkat (Chair), sherkat@siu.edu

Penny Edgell, edgell@umn.edu

John Bartkowski, bartkowski@soc.msstate.edu

### **Book Award Committee**

Kevin J. Christiano (Chair), Kevin.J.Christiano.1@nd.edu

Joy Charlton, jcharl1@swarthmore.edu

Fenggang Yang, yang@soc.purdue.edu

### **Article Award Committee**

Wendy Cadge (Chair), wcadge@latte.harvard.edu

Michael P. Young, myoung@mail.la.utexas.edu

James Beckford, syred@ice.csv.warwick.ac.uk

### **Student Paper Award Committee**

Daniel Olson (Chair), dolson@iusb.edu

David Smilde, dsmilde@uga.edu

Patricia Wittberg, pwittber@iupui.edu

### **Committee for Naming Section Awards**

Rhys Williams (Chair), rhys.williams@uc.edu

Nancy Ammerman, nta@bu.edu

Helen Rose Ebaugh, ebaugh@uh.edu

Chris Ellison, cellison@jeeves.la.utexas.edu

### **Membership Committee**

Melissa Wilde, mwilde@indiana.edu

Dawne Moon, moon@socrates.berkeley.edu

### **Nominating Committee**

Steve Warner (Chair), rswarner@uic.edu

Wendy Cadge, wcadge@latte.harvard.edu

Helen Rose Ebaugh, ebaugh@uh.edu

Jerry Park, Jerry\_Park@baylor.edu

## Death of Secretary/Treasurer Bill Silverman (1959-2004)

From 2004 Section Chair Steve Warner...

It is my sad duty to report to the Religion Section the untimely death of our secretary/treasurer, William "Bill" Silverman, at home in Jericho, New York on August 3, 2004. His death was sudden and unexpected to his family and a shock to all of us in the ASA and ASR. Bill, known as "Bud" to his family, was 65 years old. He is survived by his brother, Robert, and members of Robert's family. A native of Minneapolis, Bill received undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota before teaching at New York University and various colleges in the New York and New Jersey systems. Most recently he was employed by the Federation of Organizations in West Babylon, NY, a non profit organization providing services to the mentally ill and elderly. He was a long-time member not only of our section but also of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Services were held in Minnesota.

## Member News and Notes

*Member News and Notes will 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.*

**Susan A. Farrell**, Kingsborough Community College, was promoted to full professor. She is also the coordinator of the Sociology Area in Behavioral Sciences and co-directs the Women's Studies program at Kingsborough in Brooklyn, NY.

**Janja Lalich**, California State University, Chico, *Bounded Choice: True Believers and Charismatic Cults* (University of California Press, 2004).

**Bob Mahoney**, Rockhurst University, is interested in hearing from scholars doing work in the area of religious and spiritual influences on personal and public decision-making in the United States. He also is looking at this in the context of Catholic culture. To begin a conversation about shared research interests in this regard, please contact Mahoney at bob.mahoney@rockhurst.edu.

**Gerardo Marti**, Davison College, *A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church* (Indiana University Press, forthcoming December 2004).

**Jen'nan Ghazal Read**, University of California at Irvine, *Culture, Class, and Work among Arab-American Women* (New York: LFB Scholarly Publications, 2004). The book is part of a series on "The New Americans: Recent Immigration and American Society," edited by Steven J. Gold and Ruben G. Rumbaut.

Read also published, "Family, Religion, and Work among Arab-American Women," in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67 (November 2004), pages 1042-1050.

**Monika Wohlrab-Sahr**, Universität Leipzig, has two recent publications in English. "Still the Most Areligious Part of the World: Developments in the Religious Field in Eastern Germany since 1990," with Thomas Schmidt in the *International Journal of Practical Theology* 7 (2003): 86-100; and "Integrating Different Pasts, Avoiding Different Futures? Recent conflicts about Islamic religious practice and their judicial solutions" in *Time & Society* 13,1 (2004), pages 51-70.

**Robert Woodberry**, University of Texas at Austin, successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation, *The Shadow of Empire: Christian Missions, Colonial Policy, and Democracy in Post-Colonial Societies*, in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

---

### A Message from the Membership Committee

*Please remind your graduate students (and colleagues who may be new to the field or whose memberships may have lapsed) to join the Religion section. Students join for free!*

Sincerely,  
Melissa Wilde and Dawne Moon

---

## Employment Announcements

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of advanced Assistant or beginning Associate Professor, to start as early as July 1, 2005. Strong candidates will have built strong records of empirical research in the field of social stratification, particularly in sex and gender, and will have interests in comparative and international studies. We will also give preference to applicants whose research focuses on either labor markets and occupations or health disparities across race and class. Successful candidates must exhibit strong commitment to research and publication and show potential for excellence in teaching. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, four letters of recommendation, and samples of recent papers and published work to: Chair, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, CB# 3210, Hamilton Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3210. Deadline: Postmarked by November 15, 2004. UNC-CH is an equal opportunity employer and is strongly committed to the diversity of our faculty and staff. <http://www.unc.edu/depts/soc/>

### University of Southern California

The Program in American Studies and Ethnicity of the University of Southern California announces one position in the area of Arabs or Muslims in the United States at the assistant or associate rank. Preference will be given to those whose academic work focuses on Arab and/or Muslim populations both in the United States and outside of U.S. borders. Special attention will be given to applicants who could hold joint appointments with departments of History, International Relations, Religion, or Sociology. Applicants should have a Ph.D in hand by June 2005. Please submit application, including letter, vita, names of three referees, and a 10-15 page writing sample to Prof. Leland Saito, Search Committee Chair, Program in American Studies and Ethnicity, WPH 303, USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089-4033. Review of applications will begin November 1 and continue until the position is filled. USC is an AA/EOE employer.

## From the (New) Editor

Greetings from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Calvin College! My tenure as newsletter editor begins with this fall edition. I appreciate the fine work of outgoing editor David Smilde. He brought to the Religion Section innovative ideas for the newsletter and capably implemented them. I hope to build on David's foundation.

My vision for this publication is to provide a forum for networking sociologists who share an interest in the study of religion. The newsletter can serve as a medium for on-going dialogue and relational connections, beyond professional meetings and peer-reviewed journals. We may never run notices of weddings and births, but we will celebrate the advancement of our field through section actions, short probing articles, and news of professional achievements among colleagues.

I come to this task enthusiastically. It was a fascination with religion that drew me to sociology. Reading Bellah, Wuthnow, Stark, and others convinced me that the theories and methods of sociology offered a valuable skill set to investigate the forms and functions of religion in contemporary society. During graduate school at Purdue University (1997-2003), I came to

focus on religious organizations, specifically congregations. My research explores issues of participation, growth, and change in congregations. National associations, like the ASA Sociology of Religion Section, contributed significantly to my professional development. I am pleased now to participate in the development of new generations of sociologists of religion.

Things may look a little different with the newsletter as I continue to experiment with layout and design. The late arrival of this fall edition bespeaks of the challenges associated with any transition. I hope to minimize future complications. Please feel free to contact me with any comments, suggestions, or contributions. The spring newsletter will come out in February.

Submissions should be sent to me at [dougherty@calvin.edu](mailto:dougherty@calvin.edu) by February 1. I look forward to expanding my own social network as we interact through these printed pages.

KEVIN D. DOUGHERTY, Calvin College

### Submission Deadlines:

October 1 for Fall Newsletter

February 1 for Winter Newsletter

June 1 for Spring Newsletter