

Sociology of Religion



Newsletter of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association

Richard Flory, Editor

From the Chair

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Have you ever gone to a reception—and felt out of place, knowing almost no one? It is socially awkward to say the least. If you are an outgoing person, you can use your charm and force of personality to meet people and overcome that initial awkwardness.

But we are not all like that. So in order to create some structure to help us meet each other, based on the ideas of our conference planning team and some of our members, we are going to try something a bit different at this year's reception. It is an idea that won the day because it involves minimal change from what we already do.

At the reception, we will have preprinted badges. One group of badges will say "Socialize me, I'm new." The other group of badges will say "Resocialize me, I'm a veteran." We want to encourage the veterans to talk with at least one new person during the reception. We also hope people will expand their social circle and invite someone new to join their group for dinner after the reception. We shall consider this year's reception

a test case to see if it works in helping us better integrate with one another.

And why should we care about meeting each other? For the same reason we hold such meetings at all—our scholarship benefits immeasurably from being part of a network of scholars: We better learn about, and are able to access funding opportunities, we come up with ideas and projects we otherwise wouldn't, and we can access each others' expertise, to name a few advantages.

Our section day is Tuesday, August 11, but two of our sessions will be held the afternoon of Monday, August 10. Our section reception will be held on Monday, August 10 at 6:30 PM. Check the program for the exact location.

I am looking forward to our sessions, and to learning the state of the art of our field. See you soon.

Michael Emerson, Rice University

Section Officers 2008-2009

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The Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association encourages and enhances research, teaching, and other professional concerns in the study of religion and society

Visiting Professor Opportunity

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO seeks applicants for the inaugural Visiting Professor of Roman Catholic Studies, with appointment at the rank of Visiting Professor, Visiting Associate Professor, or Visiting Assistant Professor. Term will begin January 2010 or August 2010, for a term of one semester or one academic year. The University of New Mexico is a major public research university with a highly diverse student body. To apply, go to <http://www.unm.edu/jobs/> and refer to posting number 0801946. **For best consideration, submit application materials by September 1, 2009.** The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educator.

Announcements

The Association of Religion Data Archives (www.thearda.com) invites ASA Religion Section members to submit their course syllabi and student project ideas for a new website feature that will facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources among instructors who teach in the area of religion. All submitted materials will be credited to their authors. If you would like to submit your materials please email it as a Word (.doc) file to arda@pop.psu.edu. In addition to your name, affiliation and email address, please provide a brief description of the syllabi or assignment.

2009-2010 Section Officers Elected



Chair-Elect

Jay Demerath

Emile Durkheim Distinguished Professor Emeritus
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Council Member

Lisa Pearce

Associate Professor of Sociology
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



Council Member

D. Michael Lindsay

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Rice University

Chet Bowie, Sr. Vice President and Director of Economics, Labor and Population Studies is pleased to announce that sociologist Christian Smith of the University of Notre Dame will add a supplemental module to the 2010 General Social Survey. The module is focused on religious identification, faith, volunteering, and charitable giving. The GSS is a national survey of American adults that has been conducted by NORC since 1972 with core support first from the Russell Sage Foundation, and subsequently from the National Science Foundation. It has received additional funding from other government agencies, universities, and private foundations over the years. Tom Smith is the Director of the General Social Survey and Natalie Suter is the Project Director.

2009 Annual Meeting



Religion Sessions at 2009 Annual Meeting

The 2009 ASA meeting program includes many religion-themed presentations, panels, and sessions. Basic information on each Religion Section Session, as well as other religion-themed sessions is listed below by date and time. For more complete information about the meeting program, you can click on the following links for the [2009 Meeting Page](#) or for the [Online Program](#).

Religion Section Session Schedule

Monday, August 10

- 2:30-4:10** Religion Doing, Religion Being
4:30-6:10 Religion, Race, Class, and Family Life
6:30 Section Reception

Tuesday, August 11

- 8:30-10:10** Debate, Conflict, and Context in Religion
10:30-11:30 Religion Roundtables.
 Table 1: Diversity and Religion
 Table 2: On the Secular and the Sacred
 Table 3: Religion across Borders
 Table 4: Religion, Gender, and Family
 Table 5: Religion and the Culture Wars
 Table 6: Religion, Health, and the Body
 Table 7: Religious Identity Construction and Management
 Table 8: Religious Influence on Political Attitudes and Participation
 Table 9: The Religious Self
 Table 10: Weber, Charisma, and Capitalism
 Table 11: Ethnographic Studies of Religion
11:35-12:10 Business Meeting
12:30-2:10 Council meeting
2:30-4:10 Religion at the Edge: Expanding the Boundaries of Sociology of Religion

Other Sessions on Religion

Saturday, August 8

- 2:30-4:10** Regional Spotlight Session. The 1969 Counter-Convention at the Glide Memorial Church: A Forty Year Retrospective.
4:30 – 6:10 Author Meets Critics Session. *God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing Religious Landscape* (New Press, 2008) by Peggy Levitt.

Sunday, August 9

- 2:30-4:10** Religion

Monday, August 10

- 8:30-10:10 AM**. Regulating Race and Religion in a Global Context.
8:30-10:10 AM. Communities of Faith, Immigration and Mobilization
10:30-12:10 PM. The New Politics of Religious Communities: Managing Diversity

Member News

People

Wendy Cadge (Brandeis University) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Brandeis University.

Jualynne E. Dodson (Michigan State) received 2009 Michigan State University Award for Excellence in Enhancing Global Competency. It is the first time the University has made such an award.

Tugrul Keskin has been appointed assistant professor in International and Middle Eastern Studies at Portland State University. He will begin his new position in Fall 2009.

Tugrul Keskin has been awarded the Sociologists without Borders Distinguished R.H. Tawney Award and will receive this award in the ASA meeting in San Francisco.

Fred Kniss will be leaving his position as Chair of Sociology at Loyola University Chicago on July 1 to become Provost at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA. His new e-mail address is fred.kniss@emu.edu.

Rhys H. Williams has accepted a position as Professor and Chair of Sociology at Loyola University Chicago. He will also direct the McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion, located within the sociology department. After July 1, 2009 he may be reached at: RHW, Dept. of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago, IL 60626. Phone: 773-508-3459; E-mail: RWilliams7@luc.edu.

Member Publications

Roberto Cipriani (University of Rome), "Religions in Europe", *Religion*, 39, 2, pp. 109-116.

Jualynne Dodson (Michigan State) [*Sacred Spaces and Religious Traditions in Oriente Cuba*](#) (University of New Mexico Press, 2008).

Ahmet T. Kuru (Columbia University), [*Secularism and State Policies toward Religion: The United*](#)

[*States, France, and Turkey*](#) (New York: Cambridge University Press, April 2009)

Ahmet T. Kuru (Columbia University), "Secularism, State Policies, and Muslims in Europe: Analyzing French Exceptionalism," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (October 2008).

Peggy Levitt (Wellesley), [*God Needs No Passport: Immigrants and the Changing American Religious Landscape*](#) (The New Press, paperback edition, 2009).

Ziad Munson (Lehigh University) [*The Making of Pro-Life Activists: How Social Movement Mobilization Works*](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Victor Roudometof (University of Cyprus), (Ed.) "Negotiating Church – State Relations in Cyprus"/ Evolution des relations entre Eglise et Etat a Chypre. Special Issue of *Social Compass*, Volume 56 Issue 1, pp. 5-83.

Victor Roudometof (University of Cyprus), "Orthodoxy and Modernity in Cyprus: The 2006 Archepiscopal Elections in Historical Perspective," *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (24) 2, pp. 189-204.

Will Samson (Georgetown College), [*Enough: Contentment in an Age of Excess*](#) (David Cook Publishing, 2009).

Donald Swenson (Mt. Royal College), "The Canadian Catholic charismatic renewal." 2009. In M. Wilkinson (ed.), [*Canadian Pentecostalism*](#) (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Donald Swenson (Mt. Royal College), [*Society Spirituality and the Sacred: A Social Scientific Introduction*](#) (University of Toronto Press, second edition, 2009).

Edward Tiryakian (Duke University), [*For Durkheim: Essays in Historical and Cultural Sociology*](#) (Ashgate Publishing, 2009).

Edward Tiryakian (Duke University), "Global Altruism: Some Considerations" in Vincent Jeffries (ed.), [*Handbook of Public Sociology*](#) (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009).

Dissertations

Defended

Paul V. Stock, "The Original Green Revolution: The Catholic Worker Farms and Environmental Morality."
Department of Sociology, Colorado State University.

Áine F. Lórié, "Sacred Belief and Secular Health: A Study on Religion and Mental Illness in Modern Irish Society,"
School of Political Science and Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway

In the Pipe

Will Samson is beginning work on his dissertation analyzing the social movement aspects of the "New Monasticism."

From the Editor

It's already July, and before we know it, we'll be in San Francisco enjoying what promises to be a great conference. The Program Committee, Michael Emerson, Jen'nan Read, and Gerardo Marti, have done an excellent job of putting together what will certainly be interesting and engaging sessions, and I am looking forward to hearing the presentations.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that despite the current economic environment, there are still several research funding opportunities out there. In particular, for those who are interested in studying global Pentecostalism, there is still time to write and submit letters of intent for the Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative, based at the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at USC (usc.edu/crcc/pcrri) before the August 1, 2009 deadline.

Related to this initiative, I chose the photographs on this month's masthead to represent in part, the history and reach of Pentecostalism, and its ability to adapt to different social, cultural and economic situations (and perhaps to encourage you to think about a potential research project on Pentecostalism). Looking at the photos from left to right, 1) The Bonnie Brae House, where William Seymour first held his prayer meetings that led ultimately to, 2) the Azusa Street Revivals, which spawned, among many other personalities and their institutions, 3) Aimee Semple McPherson and the Angelus Temple, as well as, 4) the many small Pentecostal congregations all around the world like this one, "Casa de Luz," in Bahia de los Angeles, a small fishing village (600 population) in Baja California, Mexico.

Feel free to contact me with your comments, suggestions and contributions for the newsletter. The Fall issue will be out in October, and I'll need your submissions by October 1.

RICHARD FLORY, University of Southern California