

## **ASR News & Announcements**

James Cavendish, Executive Officer

Greetings of the New Year! 2013 marks the 75th anniversary of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, and we're planning to use our meeting in Manhattan this year to begin our celebration. The Presidential Address will be given by Fred Kniss, and the Furley Lecture will be delivered by Nancy Ammerman. Our hotel will be the Doubletree Metropolitan, which is part of the Hilton group in New York City, and there are several reasons why you'll want to stay there:

- 1) ASR was able to get a phenomenal rate — just \$179/night for rooms with one queen- or king-sized bed, and just \$199/night for rooms with two beds, and no extra charges for additional occupants.
- 2) The Doubletree is offering free WiFi for our members.
- 3) The Doubletree is an easy 13-minute walk from the ASA conference hotels, and just around the corner from Rockefeller Plaza and St. Patrick's Cathedral.
- 4) Staying in the ASR conference hotel is a great way to support our Association. As you may know, ASR's ability to get our meeting rooms at a low rate is dependent on our members staying in the ASR conference hotel, so please show your support by staying at the Doubletree.

You can register for the meeting through the new Member Portal on the Web site ([www.sociologyofreligion.com](http://www.sociologyofreligion.com)), where there is also a link for you to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention the ASR Conference when you make your room reservations so you can take advantage of our low room rates and free WiFi.

The Spring season is the time for elections in ASR, and we will elect our 2015 President – that is, the person who will take office at the end of our 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where Christopher Ellison will be President. In addition, we will elect three new Council members, whose terms will begin at the end of this year's annual meeting and continue through the first Council meeting of 2016. Beginning this year, elections will take place through the new Member Portal of the Web site, with an announcement sent to all members by email shortly before the election with more detailed instructions and the deadline for submitting your votes.

The candidates, who have been selected by this year's Nominating Committee, are as follows:

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

**Melissa Wilde** (Ph.D. UC Berkeley, 2002) is associate professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the processes and factors that direct religious change. Her research associated with *Vatican II* (Princeton University Press, 2007), won SSSR's Distinguished Book Award in 2008 and Article Award in 2005. Her current book, *Birth of the Culture Wars: How Race Divided American Religion* (forthcoming, UC Press), argues that the politics of sex and gender today divide the religious field because of how race and class intersected with American religions in the early Twentieth century. She was program chair for ASR's annual meeting in 2009, is currently the chair of ASR's Publication Committee, and is or has been a Council member for SSSR (2012-2015), and ASA's Religion (2005-2008) and Culture (2007-2010) sections.

**Rich Wood** (Associate Professor of Sociology, University of New Mexico) writes on the cultural and institutional bases of democratic life, especially those linked to faith communities. *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2002) won the 2003 ASA award for outstanding book in the sociology of religion. Wood has led major funded research on religion and politics in the United States and Central America, and recently oversaw a census of all institution-based community organizing efforts in the U.S. Current writing addresses the latter two terrains, plus a book analyzing how democratic engagement impacts congregational life. Wood teaches the sociology of religion, social theory, and ethnographic research methods; mentors graduate students; and co-edits the *Cambridge Studies of Social Theory, Religion, and Politics*. Wood has served various roles within ASR, SSSR, the ASA Religion Section, and as President of the UNM Faculty Senate.

## CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL

**Christopher Bader** is a Professor of Sociology at Chapman University and affiliated with the Institute for Religion, Economics and Culture (IRES). He was principal investigator of the first two waves of the Baylor Religion Survey, a nationwide survey of U.S. religious beliefs. He is associate director of the Association of Religion Data Archives ([www.theArda.com](http://www.theArda.com)), an online archive of religion survey data funded by the Templeton Foundation and Lilly Foundation and supported by Penn State University and Chapman. Christopher specializes in the sociology of religion and deviant behavior. He has published, to date, 30 articles in the fields of sociology, deviance, criminology, the sociology of religion and education.

**Evelyn Bush** is an associate professor of sociology at Fordham University. Her research and teaching interests lie at the intersections of religion, social movements and international relations. Her current research focuses on the use of international religious freedom policy as a tool for advancing U.S. national security objectives, and the implications of the security frame for the human rights of women within religious communities. She is also a collaborator on a project titled “Religious Nongovernmental Organizations at the United Nations,” funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK, which focuses on influence, legitimacy and accountability among religious actors at the UN. Her work is interdisciplinary, and has appeared in *Social Forces*, *Sociological Theory*, the ARDA, and several edited volumes on international relations.

**Michael Emerson** is the Allyn and Gladys Cline Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University. He has previously served as Chair of ASA’s section on Religion. He is the author or co-author of several articles and books on the sociology of religion including *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*, *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States*, and *Faith Matters: What Sociology Teaches Us about Religion in Our World*.

**Patricia Snell Herzog** is a postdoctoral fellow at Rice University whose research interests include religion, giving & community participation, children & youth, and contextual effects. Prior to her current position, she was the assistant director for the Center for the Study of Religion & Society at the University of Notre Dame, where she concurrently completed her doctoral degree. Her research project experience includes the National Study of Youth & Religion, Northern Indiana Congregation Study, and the Science of Generosity. She was the editor for the ASA Sociology of Religion section website for five years and now serves as a

member of the *Sociology of Religion* editorial board. She has published with and reviewed for the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, and *Oxford University Press*.

**Rachel Kraus** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Affiliated Faculty with Women's and Gender Studies at Ball State University. Her current research examines spirituality in female-dominated artistic leisure through a case study of people who belly dance. Her other work includes investigations of religion and delinquency, religious views of sexuality, and the intersection of religion and politics. Rachel's research appears in several religion and general sociology journals, including, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Implicit Religion*, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, *Symbolic Interaction*, and *Sociological Spectrum*. Rachel has been an active member of ASR for the past nine years. She is currently on the editorial board of *Sociology of Religion*, and she served as Chair of the Robert McNamara Student Paper Award Committee (2011-12) and as ASR Program Chair (2007). Along with her involvement in ASR, Rachel is Vice-President Elect of the North Central Sociological Association.

**Philip Schwadel** is Associate Professor of Sociology at University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Before coming to UNL, he received his PhD from Pennsylvania State University and was a Postdoctoral Researcher with the National Study of Youth and Religion. His research focuses on the intersections between religion, social status, social contexts, and social change. Much of his research examines the association between social class and religious beliefs, practices, and affiliations. He pays particular attention to how social contexts influence these relationships, incorporating congregational influences and, more recently, the role of social networks. He also explores the changing nature of American religion. Addressing discrepancies

between theory and methods, his research assesses the independent impact of both time and generations on changes in religion and, more specifically, in the association between social class and religion.

## **ASR GRANTS 2013**

Your attention is also called to ASR grant programs that are available at this time:

**Joseph H. Fichter Research Grants** are available to ASR members involved in promising sociological research on women in religion or on the intersection between religion and gender or religion and sexualities. For the 2013 competition, a total of **\$24,000** is available to be awarded. Dissertation research qualifies for funding, as does postdoctoral research by junior and senior scholars. All submissions, including the proposal, budget, c.v., and statement of qualifications, must be submitted electronically to **Helen A. Berger**, Chair of the 2013 Fichter Grant Committee, at [haberger@brandeis.edu](mailto:haberger@brandeis.edu) by May 1, 2013. See the Web site for further instructions and details.

**Ralph A. Gallagher Travel Grants** are offered to assist faculty colleagues from outside North America and students without regard to locale to attend the ASR annual meeting. Gallagher grants are limited to a maximum of \$500 per recipient and are intended to cover on-site expenses. Gallagher grantees must be members of ASR and stay a minimum of two nights in ASR's meeting hotel. Persons who have had a paper accepted and wish to apply for a Gallagher Grant should communicate this desire to the Program Chair, **Kelly Chong**, at [kchong@ku.edu](mailto:kchong@ku.edu), and to the Executive Officer, **James Cavendish**, at [jcavendi@usf.edu](mailto:jcavendi@usf.edu), by April 30, 2013. See the Web site for further instructions and details.

The **Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award** in the amount of \$500 is given annually to recognize an outstanding graduate student member's paper in the sociology of religion. An additional \$500 in receipted expenses is provided to the winner of this award if s/he attends the 2013 annual meeting to present the paper. All submissions must be in English and submitted electronically to **Kathleen Jenkins**, Chair of the McNamara Student Paper Award Committee, at [kejenk@wm.edu](mailto:kejenk@wm.edu) by June 1, 2013. Further instructions for submission are available on the ASR Web site, [www.sociologyofreligion.com](http://www.sociologyofreligion.com).