

Summer 2007

Volume 1

Issue 2

ASREC Update



The Newsletter of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture

2007 Meeting Promises to be the Largest Yet

The sixth annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture will be held November 2-4, 2007, in conjunction with the meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association at the Hyatt Regency Tampa in Tampa, Florida.

This year's conference promises to be the biggest ASREC meeting yet. In the past several years, ASREC has had two meeting rooms to use during each timeslot, but this year we will be having presentations in three rooms during some timeslots. This has allowed program chair Tom Smith to include nearly 80 papers on this year's schedule.

If you are a presenter, you need to email a copy of your paper to your session's convener, presenters, and the ASREC office (conference@asrec.org) by October 1. Overhead and laptop projectors will be available in all meeting rooms. Also, please remember that all ASREC program participants must be current members of



The Tampa Skyline. Photo courtesy of the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau.

SSSR or RRA in order to participate.

In addition to the record number of papers, this year's schedule also includes two book sessions and the ASREC presidential address by Roger Finke on Saturday afternoon.

This year's conference, of course, will include the traditional annual favorites. The TANSSTAFL lunch will be held from 12:00-1:00 on Saturday, November 3. Two socials will be held from 9:00-11:00 PM on Friday

and Saturday as well giving ASREC members plenty of time to socialize and catch up on each others' whereabouts.

Conveners Needed

A number of sessions for the upcoming conference currently lack a convener/discussant. If you are willing to serve in such a capacity, send an email to conference@asrec.org as soon as possible. If you have

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Getting Ready for Tampa

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received a copy of the preliminary program, please indicate which session(s) you would be most interested in leading.

Preregistration

Preregistration is currently available on the SSSR website: www.sssrweb.org. The registration fee for SSSR/RRA members is \$55.00 with the student/emertus fee being \$25.00 for members who register in advance. The on-site registration fees will be \$70.00 and \$40.00, respectively.

The Hotel

The Hyatt Regency Tampa is the host hotel for this year's conference. The Hyatt is located in downtown Tampa and just a few minutes from Hillsborough Bay.

The conference rates for the hotel are \$109 for single, \$134 for double, \$159 for triple, and \$189 for quadruple occupancy. The SSSR is offering a roommate service; email sssr@iupui.edu if you are interested in sharing a room.

You can book your hotel room online at <http://tamparegency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/tpartsssr2007> or by phone at 813-225-1234.

Travel Considerations

Tampa International Airport is the major airport serving the Tampa Bay area. Twenty carriers have regular flights to and from Tampa including all of the major American carriers and several international carriers like Air Canada and British Airways.



The Tampa Skyline at Dusk. Photo courtesy of the Tampa Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The hotel does not offer free shuttle service to and from the airport. The Hyatt recommends using Blue One Transportation. Reservations need not be made in advance. Simply call the transportation hotline (813-333-3598) when you arrive in Tampa. Rides are \$12.00 for individuals or \$10.00 per person when sharing a ride. A cab ride from the airport to the hotel costs about \$22.00.

Sneaking Away

For those of us who like to sneak away from the conference to explore the host city, November is a wonderful time to be in Tampa. The average high temperature is 78°, and the average low is 57°. We can also expect little in the form of precipitation as Tampa only sees an average of five days with rain during the month.

The Tampa Bay area is home to several excellent tourist attractions, many of which are located within walking distance of the Hyatt Regency. The Tampa Museum of Art is located a mere

four blocks northwest of the Hyatt on Ashley Drive. The Museum is located next to the Hillsborough River and a seven-acre riverfront park and sculpture garden. It includes a wide range of artwork from Greek and Roman antiquities to contemporary Floridian artists. And for the true art lovers in our ranks, St. Petersburg is home to the Salvador Dalí Museum.

The Florida Aquarium is located approximately one mile to the east of the Hyatt on Channelside Drive. The aquarium is home to nearly 5,000 animal and plant species including octopi, sharks, stingrays, otters, alligators, and penguins.

Finally, for those of us who might just want to get away for a nice leisurely stroll or run, the Hyatt is only blocks away from an eight mile long cement trail along Bayshore Boulevard that offers wonderful views of Hillsborough Bay, Davis Island, and downtown Tampa.

From the Editor

Thank you very much for all of the positive feedback I received for the first issue of *ASREC Update*. Editing the first issue was truly a journey into uncharted waters for me, so I certainly appreciated all of the feedback.

I would also like to thank all of you who submitted your recent accomplishments to me for publication in this issue. While it is apparent from the number of people who contacted me that we are a very productive bunch, I know that many of you had publications, got tenure, and finished a degree without telling me. Please remember that you do not have to wait until a reminder is sent out before sending in an accomplishment. I am happy to accept them at any time and will be certain to get them in the next issue. I can always be reached by email at paul.olson@briarcliff.edu. Do not be bashful.

Also, if you have an idea for an article or regular column (especially if you would like to write it), or would like to write an editorial, just let me know. Because the *Update* is an electronic publication, we face few of the spatial limitations that print publications do and can be fairly accommodating.

On a final note, I wish each of you the best of luck as summer comes to a close and we prepare for the 2007-2008 academic year. I hope that your fall terms get off to a wonderful start. I look forward to seeing you in Tampa.

- Paul Olson

IJRR Breaking Disciplinary Boundaries

Through unfortunate accidents of academic history, the social sciences were separated into an archipelago of departments and fields. In an effort to overcome these unfortunate divisions, the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* was founded in 2005 to publish high quality, original research by scholars regardless of their field. So far, twenty-one papers have appeared, and they fully exhibit the journal's commitment to excellence as well as its interdisciplinary mission. We invite you to visit and see for yourself: www.religjournal.com.

Consistent with its high scholarly standards, *IJRR* pays authors \$1,000 for an article. Even so, subscriptions are free and all subscribers may download an unlimited number of copies of any article in an attractive format that fully approximates printed pages. Of course, *IJRR* is a peer-reviewed publication and each article receives professional copy-editing.

IJRR is funded by the Stark/Roberts Foundation and is published in cooperation with the Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University. William H. Swatos, Jr. is the managing editor.

- Rodney Stark

A Sampling of IJRR Articles

Currently Available in Volume 3 (2007):

- *Stephen V. Monsma. "Religion and Philanthropic Giving and Volunteering: Building Blocks for Civic Responsibility."
- *Christopher P. Scheitle. "Organizational Niches and Religious Markets: Uniting Two Literatures."
- *William H. Jaynes. "Religion, Intact Families, and the Achievement Gap."

Some Contributions to Volumes 1 & 2 from ASREC Members:

- *Christopher Bader and Paul Froese. 2005. "Images of God: The Effect of Personal Theologies on Moral Attitudes, Political Affiliation, and Religious Behavior."
- *Bainbridge, William Sims. 2005. "Atheism."
- *Sean F. Everton. 2005. "Social Mobility and Sect Transformation: Testing the Regression-to-the-Mean Hypothesis."
- *Anthony Gill. 2005. "The Political Origins of Religious Liberty: A Theoretical Outline."
- *Brian J. Grim and Roger Finke. 2006. "International Religion Indexes: Government Regulation, Government Favoritism, and Social Regulation of Religion."
- *Laurence R. Iannaccone. 2006. "The Market for Martyrs."
- *Richard Sosis. 2005. "Does Religion Promote Trust? The Role of Signaling, Reputation, and Punishment."

Member Updates

Christopher D. Bader, Baylor University, has recently had articles appear in and has articles forthcoming in *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, and *Review of Religious Research*. He also has two book chapters appearing soon: "Case Studies in Deviant Behavior" in *Extreme Deviance* (edited by Erich Goode) and "UFO Abduction Support Groups" in *Alien Worlds: The Sociological Study of UFO Religions* (edited by Diana Tumminia).

Colleen E. H. Berndt, San Jose State University, completed her Ph.D. in Economics from George Mason University in May 2007 and was awarded a tenure-track position at SJSU. In June, the Mercatus Center published her policy paper "Is 'Fair Trade' in Coffee Production Fair and Useful? Evidence from Costa Rica and Guatemala and Implications for Policy." She has also had a paper, "Hostile Territory: High-tension Religion and the Jewish Peddler," accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.

Dan Hungerman, University of Notre Dame, spent the spring semester visiting the National Bureau of Economic Research, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His paper (joint with Jon Gruber) examining the charitable activities of churches during the Great Depression was published in the *Journal of Public Economics* in June. He

will be on sabbatical this fall, working on topics related to economics and religion.

Larry Iannaccone and **Michael Makowsky**, George Mason University, had their article "Accidental Atheists? Agent-Based Explanations for the Persistence of Religious Regionalism" published in the March 2007 issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Sriya Iyer, Cambridge, will have a paper, "Religion and Economic Development," included in the second edition of *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* edited by Steven Durlauf and Lawrence Blume. Dr. Iyer's article is an overview of the development of the topic of economic development and religion.

Leo Krasnozhon, George Mason University, has been selected as Presidential Scholar in Economics for the second year in a row. He has also been inducted into the Phi Beta Delta honor society for international scholars.

Evelyn L. Lehrer, University of Illinois-Chicago, recently published "Religion and High School Graduation: A Comparative Analysis of White and Black Young Women" in *Review of Economics of the Household*.

Esa Mangeloja, University of Jyväskylä, recently published "Economic Growth and Religious Production Efficiency" in *Applied Economics* and has a working paper, "Preaching to the Choir? Economic Analysis of Church Growth," available from the Euro-

pean Network on the Economics of Religion (PER Working Paper 07/02).

Michael McBride, University of California-Irvine, has a forthcoming article, "Club Mormon: Free-riders, Monitoring, and Exclusion in the LDS Church," in *Rationality and Society*.

Will McBride, George Mason University, has completed a master's in economics from GMU and has begun work on his dissertation.

Paul Olson, Briar Cliff University, was awarded a summer stipend from the Louisville Institute for his "Keeping the Faith, Changing the Church" project. He also received the Bonaventure Award from BCU for his commitment to the integration of student curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Jared Rubin, California State University, Fullerton, completed his Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in June and will be an Assistant Professor at CSUF beginning in August.

Syed Akhter Hussain Shah, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, has completed his Ph.D. His thesis, "Resource Allocation among Consumption, Labour Supply, Human Capital, Social Capital and Religious Human Capital: Theory and Empirical Analysis," was completed

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under the supervision of Eatjaz Ahmad, Muslehud Din, and Syed Nisar Hussain Hamdani.

Murat Somer, Koç University, has a forthcoming article, "Moderate Islam and Secularist Opposition in Turkey: Implications for the World, Muslims and Secular Democracy," in *Third World Quarterly*.

J. Robert Subrick, James Madison University, recently completed a post-doctoral with the Mercatus Center and Center for the Economic Study of Religion at George Mason University and will be a Visiting Assistant Professor at JMU starting this fall. He has recently published or have had papers accepted in *Constitutional Political Economy*, *History of Political Economy*, the *Indian Journal of Economics and Business*, and the *Review of Austrian Economics*. He and Scott Beaulier have a forthcoming book entitled *The Making of an African Exception: How Botswana Escaped the African Tragedy*.

Carolyn M. Warner, Arizona State University, published a book, *The Best System Money Can Buy: Corruption in the European Union* (Cornell University Press). Her article (with Manfred W. Wenner), "Religion and the Political Organization of Muslims in Europe" also recently appeared in *Perspectives on Politics*.

Employment Opportunities

Coordinator of Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks applicants for the position of coordinator of its Research Services office. Responsibilities include coordinating research operations, supervising staff, conducting surveys and other research, disseminating findings, and working with other church leaders.

An M.A. degree in a social science or related area is required; a Ph.D. is preferred. A minimum of five years experience (with a Ph.D.) or ten years (with an M.A.) in social science research is also required, preferably in an applied setting, with experience directing projects and managing other researchers. Requisite skills include knowledge of research methods and fa-

miliarity with data analysis software (e.g., SPSS); report writing and oral presentation skills; ability to interpret research results for persons with limited knowledge of research methods or statistics; understanding of and respect for Christian principles.

Applicants should send a letter of interest along with a curriculum vitae to Antissa Riley, Human Resources, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon St, Louisville KY 40202. For more information on Research Services, go to www.pcusa.org/research; for more information on the coordinator position, contact Jack Marcum, jmarcum@ctr.pcusa.org or 502-569-5161. Screening begins immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Starting date is January 2, 2008.

Research Associate Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Georgetown University

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University is seeking a research associate to join an interdisciplinary team of researchers who conduct social scientific research related to the Catholic Church. The position involves survey and/or demographic research and data analysis and requires strong analytical and writing skills. Applicants with a Ph.D. in sociology, political science, demography, economics, psychology, or education and knowledge about the

Catholic Church are especially well suited for this position.

The ideal candidate also has an understanding of Hispanic/Latino culture and proficiency in Spanish. Ph.D. level appointments will be made as Georgetown research faculty at the appropriate rank. Applicants seeking a part-time position will also be considered.

Send curriculum vitae and writing sample to Mary E. Bendyna, RSM, Ph.D., Executive Director, CARA, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20007; FAX: 202.687.8083; email: cara@georgetown.edu.

Employment Opportunities

Project Manager National Study of Youth and Religion University of Notre Dame

The National Study of Youth and Religion at the University of Notre Dame is seeking to hire a Project Manager (official Notre Dame title is Program Manager) to run the post-wave3 respondent tracking and other project-related tasks.

The job involves working with the Principal Investigator of the National Survey on Youth & Religion (Christian Smith) to supervise data collection activities, communicate with and track survey respondents, and manage grant budgets, interfacing with the co-investigators, budget staff, programmer, student research assis-

tants, and programs and research specialist. She or he will also write research and annual reports for public dissemination, manage press inquiries, and keep the project website updated. Research and data management experience a must. The position is funded to last for 2-3 years at least. Here is a chance to work with a team of scholars on a major, national, panel study of American religion among (now) young adults.

A more detailed explanation of the tasks and salary range can be found at the Notre Dame Human Resources website: http://hr.nd.edu/employment/job_opportunities.shtml (search on NSYR Project Manager).

Specific questions about the job can be emailed to Chris.Smith@nd.edu.

Call for Papers

Social Forces Special Section on “New Directions in the Sociology of Religion”

Social Forces seeks papers for a special section on New Directions in the Sociology of Religion, planned for the March 2008 issue. Original papers demonstrating promising new avenues of inquiry in the sociological study of religion are invited for review. Papers must be theoretically creative and empirically based.

The special section will be edited by Christian Smith. Papers will be reviewed by the special section editor, the *Social Forces* editor,

and will be peer reviewed by at least one blind reviewer.

The deadline for submitting papers is October 1. Manuscripts should be limited to 5,000-9,000 words, including references and endnotes, and should be e-mailed as a Microsoft Word attachment to Social_Forces@unc.edu. It is essential that you note that the submission is for the special section on sociology of religion. Submission fees for this section are waived.

A more detailed version of the call for papers and general submission guidelines can be found online at <http://socialforces.unc.edu>.

Funding Opportunity

The Louisville Institute, a Lilly Endowment funded program housed at Louisville Seminary, offers a variety of grants and stipends to scholars and religious leaders conducting research on issues pertaining to American religious life.

A number of funding opportunities are available from the Louisville Institute including Christian Faith and Life grants, summer stipends, dissertation fellowships, first book grants for minority scholars, religious institutions grants, and general grants. Each program has a different deadline with the summer stipend program having the earliest (October 15) followed closely by the Christian Faith and Life Grant (November 15).

If you are interested in Louisville Institute grants, fellowships, and stipends, visit their website at <http://www.louisville-institute.org>.

Visit ASREC Online

For more information about ASREC and the annual conference, to view the preliminary conference program, to renew your membership, to contribute to the working papers group, to view the extensive bibliography on the economic study of religion, or to find information about the economic study of religion in general, go to <http://www.religionomics.com/erel/>.

The ERel, ASREC, and CESR websites have all recently been updated and are ready for your viewing!