

AGENDA

ASR COUNCIL MEETING

4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Friday, August 19, 2016
Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Salon A, 2nd Floor

Michael Emerson presiding on behalf of Lori Beaman

- 1) Review of minutes from last year's ASR Council Meetings, which were approved by email vote of Council. (pp. 2-8) – Michael Emerson.
- 2) Nominations Committee Report on the results of the 2016 ASR Elections (p. 9) – Melissa Wilde.
- 3) Incoming President Elect's report on 3-year appointments to ASR's Standing Committees and their incoming chairs (p. 10) – Dan Olson.
- 4) Program Committee's announcement of the Call for Papers for next year's Annual Meeting in Montreal and the Furfey Lecturer (p. 11) – Michael Emerson and Di Di.
- 5) Executive Officer's Report (pp. 12-16) – Jim Cavendish.
- 6) Program Chair's Report (pp. 17-19) – Ryan Cragun.
- 7) Editor's Report (pp. 20-26) – Gerardo Marti.
- 8) Publication Committee's Report (pp. 27-32) – Melissa Wilde.
- 9) Publisher's Report (see attached pdf file) – Trish Thomas.
- 10) Membership Committee Report (pp. 33-35) – Andrea Henderson.
- 11) International Liaison Committee Report (the Gallagher Travel Grants) (pp. 36-37) – Gladys Ganiel.
- 12) Fichter Award Committee Report (pp. 38-39) – Richard Pitt.
- 13) McNamara Student Paper Award Committee Report (pp. 40-41), Sabrina Danielsen.
- 14) Distinguished Article Award Committee Report (pp. 42-43) – Nicolette Manglos-Weber.
- 15) Lifetime Achievement Award Committee Report (p. 44) – Rhys Williams.
- 16) ASR's Investment and Spending Policy (pp. 45-46).

**ASR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FIRST COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, August 20, 2015

4:00-8:15 p.m.

Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

Present: Melissa Wilde (President), Lori Beaman (as President-Elect), James Cavendish (as Executive Officer), Grace Yukich (as Program Chair), Ryan Cragun (as Incoming Program Chair), Gerardo Marti (as editor), and Voting Council members Kevin Dougherty (2015), Rebecca Kim (2015), Prema Kurien (2015), Christopher Bader (2016), Evelyn Bush (2016), Michael Emerson (2016; also Incoming President-Elect), and Milagros Pena. Also in attendance were representatives of the following Standing Committees: Alex Bierman (Distinguished Article Award Committee) and Rhys Williams (Lifetime Achievement Award Committee). Patricia Thomas, Executive Editor of the Humanities Journals of Oxford University Press, was also in attendance.

Absent: Christopher Ellison (Past President), and Council members Richard Flory (2017) and Guiseppe Giordan (2017).

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Melissa Wilde, who asked those present to review the minutes of the ASR Council Meetings that took place in 2014. All voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Jim Cavendish then presented Christopher Ellison's report of the Nominations Committee, which announced the winners of the ASR elections in 2015. (Readers of these minutes may refer to the 2015 Council Packet on the ASR website for a complete listing of the winners.) Chris had mentioned that it is sometimes difficult to recruit people to stand in nomination to Council because all nominees must be willing, if they are elected, to attend all Council Meetings during their 3-year term as a member of Council. Council considered whether attendance should be made more flexible in order to broaden the pool of people who would be willing to serve, but ultimately agreed that attendance at all Council meetings should continue to be an expectation for serving on Council. When future chairs of the Nominations Committee solicit nominees to Council, they should continue to emphasize that attendance at Council meetings for the 3-year term is an expectation of office, and that if they foresee that they cannot fulfill this commitment, they should not stand in the elections.

Melissa Wilde then presented her President's Report, which announced the new members of ASR Standing Committees. (Readers of these minutes may refer to the 2015 Council Packet on the ASR website for a complete listing of the winners of the elections and the appointments by the President.) As a follow up to Melissa's presentation, Jim Cavendish proposed a way of simplifying the appointment of committee members and committee chairs. Currently, By-Law I, Section 2 states that "At each annual meeting, new members (of Standing Committees) shall be appointed by the outgoing President, the chair shall be designated by the incoming President."

Jim explained that the Executive Officers of ASR believe that this method of appointment is not as simple or as logical as it can be. On one hand, having the incoming President appoint the

chairs of these committees makes sense because he/she will be working with the chairs during his/her term as president. On the other hand, it doesn't make sense because the person the incoming President might like to serve as chair may not be a person who is currently sitting on the Standing Committee, and therefore may not have experience working on the committee or with its members.

To solve this issue, and thus ensure that ASR's standing committees have chairs who are both appointees of the president and have experience working on the committee, Jim Cavendish proposed that the By-Law be amended to grant the incoming president-elect of ASR the authority to appoint a new member of each standing committee who will serve as a regular member of the committee during the first year of his/her 3-year term, as the chair of the standing committee during the second year (i.e., the year when the President-Elect who appointed him/her is President), and as the "past chair" during the third year. According to Jim, this would simplify the process of appointments because it would, in effect, give the incoming president-elect the power to both appoint a new member of each committee and decide who he/she would like to serve as that committee's chair during the year of his/her presidency. It would also make the three-year terms of these standing committee members much clearer because their terms will run parallel to the terms of the presidents who appointed them. Council discussed this, agreed that this would be a good change to the By-Laws, and authorized Jim to include the proposed amendment in the next election cycle.

Following Melissa Wilde's Presidential Report, President-Elect Lori Beaman announced the theme for next year's conference, and Ryan Cragun, next year's Program Chair, distributed the Call for Papers. Ryan described how the theme of "Varieties of Religion and Nonreligion" was very appropriate given the location of next year's meeting in Seattle, WA. Lori announced that Linda Woodhead would be the Furfey Lecturer next year.

Jim Cavendish then summarized his Executive Officer's Report, which can be read in the 2015 Council Packet available on the ASR website. He described the accomplishments of the Executive Office over the preceding year, including his work with the Development Committee in thinking about ways in which the Annual Meetings might be able to pay for themselves in the future. Melissa Wilde suggested that one way to increase revenue would be to have a fee structure that was based on members' annual income, much like ASA.

Council member Milagros Pena then raised the possibility that ASR Annual Meetings overlap even more with ASA, but not with the Religion Section Day itself, as a way of increasing attendance at our Annual Meetings. Melissa agreed that having the two meetings overlap would be beneficial for those attending both meetings so people with children or with limited travel budgets wouldn't have to be away from home for a long period of time. Jim said that really it is only when the ASA Religion Section is on the first day or second day of the ASA meetings that this becomes problematic. It was a problem in 2014 when the ASA Religion Section Day fell on the first day of ASA, and it was agreed at that time that perhaps ASR should meet during the two days after the ASA Religion Section day rather than keeping to the policy of always meeting two days before the ASA Religion Section day. The next time this will be an issue is in 2018 when ASA and ASR will be meeting in Philadelphia. ASR had tentatively planned, following previous practice, on having its meeting during the two days before the ASA Religion Section day, but because the ASA Religion Section Day will fall on the first day of ASA in 2018 and on the second day of ASA in 2019, members of Council agreed that it might be best to move the dates of ASR's Annual Meeting to the two days after the ASA Religion Section

Day in those years. It was agreed, however, that in no circumstance should ASR hold its Annual Meeting after the ASA meetings have concluded. In other words, it would be okay to hold the ASR meeting after the ASA Religion Section day when the ASA Religion Section day falls on the first or second day of the ASA meetings, but the ASR meetings should not be scheduled for after the ASA Religion Section day when the Religion Section day falls on the third or fourth day of ASA. Such a view is supported by the attitudes of the membership as expressed in the 2014 ASR Membership Survey.

Grace Yukich, the 2015 Program Chair, then presented her Program Chair report. Melissa thanked Grace for serving as Program Chair, and Grace thanked members of Council for being so supportive as she was putting the Program together. Grace said that she tried to organize as many panels herself beforehand. Grace suggested that one way to organize Author-Meets-Critics sessions in the future would be for the Program Chair to contact the publishers and ask the publishers which books they think would be fitting to feature in the Program. Melissa suggested that perhaps we should consider asking someone besides the Program Chair (e.g., an assistant to the Program Chair or the book review editor) to organize the Author-Meets-Critics sessions. Grace also brought up the fact that it was difficult to get people to serve as conveners and suggested that perhaps it should be an expectation that members of Council will convene at least one session during the conference since they are expected to be at the meeting already. A couple members of Council suggested that we encourage those who propose sessions for the conference to consider inviting graduate students as well as more seasoned scholars to be on their panels so that they are not composed simple of those who have become well-known for their focus in a particular topic area. Melissa suggested that maybe panel organizers should be mandated to include a graduate student on their panels or among the presenters.

The Program Chair's Report was followed by Editor Gerardo Marti's report on the journal. He started off by thanking Penny Edgell and Kevin Dougherty for serving as Associate Editors. He then summarized his report (which can be found in the 2014 Council Packet), and stated that he's been somewhat disappointed with the quality of the reviews he receives from manuscript reviewers. He stated that reviewers have tended to not be very critical, which then makes his job difficult because he would like to accept only those manuscripts that are of the highest quality.

Gerardo reported that he's taking a number of steps to increase the number of citations of SOR articles and improve the overall impact factor of the journal. He said that he's asked OUP to offer more free articles on the journal webpage, with more frequent rotations of those articles. He also asked ASR to consider taking a number of additional actions to improve exposure to the journal, such as distributing a Table of Contents to ASR members by email, notifying ASR members of Advance Access articles by email, and encouraging authors to distribute their research to colleagues more widely. Trish Thomas stated that, for its part, OUP does offer electronic Table of Contents alerts for ASR members who sign up for it, but OUP cannot automatically enroll people to receive these alerts.

Melissa and Milagros proposed that during the next cycle for membership renewal we offer people the option of opting out of receiving the printed paper copy of the journal. Milagros motioned that this take place as soon as possible, the motion was seconded, and all voted in favor. Jim said that he would implement this recommendation before the next membership renewal cycle.

Melissa and Jim then asked Trish Thomas to leave the room while Rebecca Kim and the Council discussed the Publication Committee's report which summarized the proposals ASR received from various prospective publishers of the journal. Because December 2016 marks the end of ASR's current contract period with Oxford University Press, it was important for the Publications Committee to solicit proposals from a variety of prospective publishers so the Publications Committee and Council could make an informed decision about whether to remain with Oxford University Press by re-entering a new contract, or move to a different publisher. Jim stated that OUP would very much like to renew the contract with ASR, and that OUP would be willing to compose a competitive proposal if it could learn in better details what the other publishers' proposals contain. Rebecca Kim then summarized the Publication Committee's report.

Trish Thomas, representing Oxford University Press, then presented the Publisher's Report and informed us that OUP is very interested in retaining *Sociology of Religion* as one of its journals. A full description of the contents of these reports is available in the 2015 Council Packet.

In the absence of Brian Stark (chair of the Membership Committee), Damon Mayrl (chair of the International Liaison Committee), Orit Avishai (chair of the Fichter Award Committee), and Kevin McElmurry (chair of the McNamara Student Paper Award Committee), Jim Cavendish then summarized these committee reports. These reports were then followed by Alex Bierman's Distinguished Article Award Committee report, and Rhys Williams' Lifetime Achievement Award Committee report.

Melissa Wilde thanked everyone for their service to ASR and their contributions to a successful meeting and adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ASR GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, August 22, 2015
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Present: James Cavendish (as Executive Officer), Lori Beaman (as President-Elect), and several other members of Council, of the Standing Committees, and approximately 40 members.

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Jim Cavendish, who welcomed everyone, and summarized briefly the highlights of the reports that were presented at the First Council Meeting. (Readers of these minutes can refer to the 2015 Council Packet available on the ASR website to see the highlights.) Jim stated that one of the goals of the Development Committee is to increase the investment accounts of the Association to the \$1 million mark because once we attain this goal, the Association will no longer have to pay any fees for the management of the investment accounts. Furthermore, a \$1 million endowment would produce sufficient interest to increase the funding given through the Fichter Research grants.

Grace Yukich spoke briefly about her experience as Program Chair and expressed her appreciation to all of those who contributed to the program. A couple people in the audience stated that they appreciated the fact that there was an overlap in the days that ASA and ASR were meeting. Jim then thanked Grace for the work she did as Program Chair.

Gerardo stated that the number of submissions to the journal has gone up substantially, which is good because it allows the editorial team to be more selective in the articles it accepts. Gerardo said that he doesn't believe that the journal will become an online journal, but the journal has explored the option of open-access articles.

Brian Starks, chair of the Membership Committee, said that the Mentoring Lunch at this year's meeting was very popular among our graduate student members. He also announced the Women of ASR event that was scheduled for that evening.

One member asked why ASR doesn't approach the McNamara Student Paper Award the same way that SSSR approaches its graduate student paper award as a way of increasing graduate student involvement in our Annual meeting. He stated that the review committee in SSSR selects the best paper from among papers that had been submitted for presentation at the Annual Meeting. If someone hadn't submitted the paper for presentation, then the paper wouldn't be considered for the award. Jim Cavendish said that this was an interesting idea and perhaps something that Council should consider during one of its upcoming meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

ASR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SECOND COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, August 23, 2015

7:00 - 8:15 a.m.

Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

Present: Lori Beaman (as incoming President), Melissa Wilde (as outgoing or Past President), , James Cavendish (as Executive Officer), Grace Yukich (as Program Chair), Gerardo Marti (as editor), voting Council members Christopher Bader (2016), Evelyn Bush (2016), Milagros Pena (2017), Mary Ellen Konieczny (2018), Lisa Pearce (2018), Jeremy Uecker (2018), and non-voting (outgoing) Council member Kevin Dougherty (2015).

Absent: Michael Emerson (incoming President-Elect), and voting Council members Richard Flory (2017) and Guiseppe Giordan (2017).

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 a.m. by incoming President Lori Beaman, who asked everyone to go around and introduce themselves. She congratulated Michael Emerson on his election as President and welcomed the new members of the Council.

Lori Beaman then asked Grace Yukich to discuss how she thought the Annual Meeting went. Grace said that she thought the meeting overall went very well, but noted that many of the sessions were not well attended. Jim Cavendish stated that, aside from one session in which only the presenters were in attendance, attendance at sessions ranged from sessions with as few as 5 audience members (not including the presenters) to sessions with as many as 42 audience members (i.e., the ASR/ASA Joint Session on Religion and Race in American). Five sessions had only 5 audience members, nine sessions had only 6-7 audience members, five sessions had 8-10 audience members, eight sessions had 11-15 audience members, and the remainder had

over 15 audience members. Milagros Pena stated that she doesn't think that the low attendance is due to overlap with ASA.

Melissa Wilde stated that although the mentoring lunch seemed to be a great success, the ASA Religion Section has begun a practice of matching mentors and mentees. Kevin Dougherty stated that this matching practice of the ASA Religion Section didn't go as well as they originally hoped because they didn't properly screen the people invited to serve as mentors. Some mentees, for instance, had more publications than the mentors they had been assigned to. Kevin said that, if ASR ever considers matching mentees with mentors, it would be important to screen the mentors.

Milagros (Milly) Pena stated that she thinks it is better to have "mentoring events" such as our mentoring lunch rather than one-on-one mentors because there are inherent risks of a graduate student having a mentor outside the circle of his/her advisors at their home university.

Lori then described the theme of next year's Annual Meeting, and stated that it will be important to announce this theme and the Call for Papers in the Seattle area so that many scholars and students residing in the Seattle area will want to participate.

Lori presented her goals for the following year, which include:

1. Attracting more graduate students and international scholars to join ASR and attend our Annual Meeting. She said that it is particularly important to try to attract international scholars from Latin America.
2. The unfinished business carrying over from the previous Council meeting. These items included:
 - a) a proposal that the Gallagher Travel Grants be separated into funds set aside for international scholars and funds set aside for graduate students. Jim suggested that this issue might be resolved simply by clarifying how the website presents these awards and possibly also be sending out email communications that reiterate the fact that these travel funds are available to graduate students as well as international scholars.
 - b) a proposal from Kevin Dougherty that an ad hoc committee be created that would be concerned with issues related specifically to student members. Kevin said that this could start out as an ad hoc committee, and then if it seems like if it is something that should be made permanent, we could revise the By-Laws to make it a Standing Committee. Jim stated that if the proposed committee is to be composed of graduate students, before it could become a Standing Committee we would have to revise the Constitution which states that the Standing Committees are to be composed of regular members, not graduate student members. Kevin stated that a graduate student committee could be charged with: 1) brainstorming about ways to recruit more graduate students to the Association; 2) planning mentorship events; and 3) recommending to the Program Committee which of the graduate students who applied for the Gallagher Travel Grants should be considered for funding. Lori said that she would move forward in forming a graduate student committee to serve on an ad hoc, experimental basis, and that she knew a graduate student would be very media savvy and would be probably be willing to chair such a committee. Melissa Wilde motioned for the creation of such an ad hoc committee, the motion was seconded, and all voted in favor.

- c) whether to award the Distinguished Article Award to the best article in the field of sociology of religion or to the best article that was published in *Sociology of Religion*. Milly stated that if the award was given to an article published in the journal it would highlight the journal and encourage people to publish in it. Kevin Dougherty said that he would really like to see the award given to an ASR member, and Chris Bader said that he thought it made the most sense to give the award to an article published in our journal. Melissa Wilde stated that she likes the idea of giving it to an article published in our journal because the ASA Religion Section and SSSR are already giving Chris Bader motioned that the Distinguished Article Award go to an article that has appeared in the *Sociology of Religion* journal. Milly seconded, and all members of Council, except Mary Ellen, voted in favor of this motion.
- d) the need to review our contract with Brill and the future of the *Religion and the Social Order* book series. Lori said that Brill is keen on continuing to publish the series, and because Bill Swatos has announced that he is discontinuing his editorship of the series, she will solicit applications for a new series editor. It was agreed that Lori Beaman would compose a call for a new editor of the book series, and that she would summons the support of an ad hoc committee to select this editor. Melissa, Mary Ellen, Kevin, and Milly then discussed the pros and cons of having a monograph series, but Melissa said that based on the Publications Committee's conversations with Rich Wood (who is the co-editor of a monograph series in religion and politics), having a monograph series is an awful lot of work. Melissa made a motion that Council authorize Lori Beaman to begin a search for a new editor of the *Religion and Social Order* book series. The motion was seconded, and all voted in favor.

There being no other business, Lori Beaman adjourned the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Cavendish
Executive Officer

Nominations Committee Report

July, 2016

TO: Officers and Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Melissa Wilde, Past-President of ASR

Re: Nominations Committee and Election Results

The Past-President's primary duty is to chair the Nominations Committee. Joining me on the 2016 committee were Mary Jo Neitz and Bill Mirola. They provided generous assistance in nominating a strong ballot of candidates.

I am especially grateful to those who agreed to stand for election. Very few nominees declined their nominations, which made the committee's work much easier than it might have been. It says something good about our association that so many strong candidates were eager to serve.

In February, the committee submitted the following ballot. As before, President-Elect candidates were asked to submit a short statement of their vision for ASR in addition to the standard bio. The election closed on June 1 with 89 members casting ballots. The elected candidates are highlighted in bold below.

President-Elect

Dan Olson
Milagros Peña

Council Member

Ruth Braunstein
Todd Nicholas Fuist
Inger Furseth
Gladys Ganiel
Kevin McElmurry

Melissa Wilde
ASR Past-President

2016-2017 ASR Committee Appointments Made by Incoming President Elect Dan Olson

Year in parentheses indicates the year that person's term expires

Names in bold are the incoming chairs of the committees

Publications Committee

Terrence Hill (2017)

Elaine Howard Ecklund (2018)

Christopher Ellison (2017)

Joy Charlton (2019)

Development Committee

Ted Long (2017)

Michael Emerson (2018)

James Cavendish (2019)

Membership Committee

Gabriel Acevedo (2017)

Michael Wilkinson (2018)

Katie Corcoran (2019)

International Liaison Committee

Jean Beman (2018)

Damon Mayrl (2017)

Elisabeth Arweck (2019)

Program Committee

Di Di (2017)

Michael Emerson (as incoming President)

Rachel Kraus (as Executive Officer)

Joseph Fichter Award Committee

Richard Pitt (2017)

Cathy Holtmann (2018)

Dawne Moon (2019)

Robert McNamara Award Committee

Sabrina Danielsen (2017)

Aida Ramos-Wada (2017)

Stuart Wright (2019)

Distinguished Article Award Committee

Mark Chaves (2017)

Rahsaan Maxwell (2018)

Chaeyoon Lim (2019)

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

Rhys Williams (2017)

Amy Adamczyk (2017)

Michele Dillon (2018)

Nancy Ammerman (2019)

ASR is grateful for the contributions of the individuals who served as chairs of committees during 2016, and for the service of those whose terms of service expired this year.

Call for Papers

79th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

Location: Montreal, Quebec
InterContinental Montreal, 360, St-Antoine West
Date: August 12-14, 2017
Program Chair: Di Di, Rice University

Theme: Religion and Division: Causes, Consequences, and Counters

Nearly daily, it seems, religion makes news across the globe. From long-term conflicts, to terrorist acts, to racial segregation, to conflict with other social institutions, to intra-religious battles, we witness the dividing power of religion.

But though perhaps reported less, religion also daily counters division. From movements to create diverse congregations, to peace movements, to non-violence, to demonstrations of forgiveness, to massive movements for justice, we witness the uniting power of religion.

What is the impact of religion on division and unity? Why and when does one or the other occur? The very same religion can be used for divergent purposes. As social scientists of religion, our responsibility is to understand the role of religion in the social world. We must understand when it tends toward division and conflict, why, and the implications. And we must understand when religion tends toward unity, peace, and justice, why this occurs, and the implications.

This year's annual meeting is open to all topics within the sociology of religion, but especially welcomes sessions and papers focusing on any aspects of religion and division, conflict, or violence; religion and unity, peace, justice, and other social movements. In so doing we can move to greater knowledge on these central issues, issues impacting humanity around the globe.

DEADLINES: Session Proposals should be sent to Di Di, 2017 Program Chair, at dd20@rice.edu by **March 31, 2017**.

Paper Proposals and abstracts are due by **April 30, 2017**. **Please submit these through the Member Portal of the ASR website at www.sociologyofreligion.com.**

Anyone who wishes to have his/her session or paper proposal considered by the Program Committee must be a member of ASR. Anyone whose paper or session has been accepted must register for the conference through the Member Portal of the ASR website by July 1, 2017, for inclusion in the final program.

ASR Executive Officer's Report

August, 2016

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Jim Cavendish, Executive Officer

RE: Report on the State of ASR

Activities and Accomplishments

Among the accomplishments of the Executive Office during 2015-2016 were the following:

- 1) I continued to upload various ASR documents to the website to enable greater access to valuable information about the Association's history and our financial operations.
- 2) I traveled to Montreal in the spring to conduct site-visits at various hotels, which resulted in ASR entering into a contract with the InterContinental Montreal Hotel.
- 3) I completed the IRS Tax Form 990 for IRC 501(c)6 organizations and posted it to the website at <http://www.sociologyofreligion.com/about/financial-transparency/>
- 4) I worked with the staff of the Seattle Renaissance Hotel to ensure the success of this year's Annual Meeting. I'm happy to report that we have filled a sufficient number of sleeping rooms so ASR won't suffer any penalties due to attrition.
- 5) We negotiated and signed a new contract with Oxford University Press for the publication of *Sociology of Religion*.
- 6) I worked with the EO Search Committee, comprised of Melissa Wilde, Lori Beaman, Michael Emerson, and Christopher Ellison, to identify and hire a new executive officer for the Association.

Many aspects of the association continue to flourish. To highlight a few:

- Our Program Chair this year, Ryan Cragun, did an excellent job putting together a fantastic program. One-hundred-and-ninety-seven (197) papers are scheduled to be presented in a total of 70 sessions.
- In this year's Editor's Report, Gerardo Marti reports that *Sociology of Religion* continues to be highly selective in accepting manuscripts, and the impact factor of the journal rose from 1.00 to 1.217, making it highly favorable in relation to our comparison journals.
- The Publications Committee did an excellent job vetting the proposals of various publishers, and eventually decided to recommend that Council accept the proposal of Oxford University Press.
- Andrea Henderson and the Membership Committee report that the Membership committee will again sponsor a Women of ASR (WASR) "Meet and Greet" event at this year's meeting.
- With over 46 countries now represented among ASR's members, the Association and its journal enjoy an international reach unprecedented in its history.

Financial Status of the Association

Comparing ASR's 990 Forms year-to-year reveals that ASR's assets are strong and continue to grow.

ASR's Assets as of....	Year End, 2014	Year End, 2015	Year End, 2016
Cash (non-interest bearing)	\$72,378	\$103,924	\$111,670
Savings and temporary cash investments	\$2,515	\$2,522	\$2,530
Investments	\$535,531	\$503,042	\$527,071
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$606,903	\$615,230	\$647,945

Based on these data and a review of bank statements, the overall financial standing of ASR can be characterized as strong. While our net assets have increased, the value of ASR's American Funds accounts was slightly lower at year end, 2015, partly because of the performance of the stock market, but partly because of ASR drawing dividends from these investment accounts (i.e., automated payments sent to our Business Checking account) which slightly exceed our current expenses.

Last year, you'll recall that ASR's Development Committee and EO James Cavendish conducted a review of the financial status of ASR. Via conference calls (including one with our financial advisor John Synder of Station Capital), we discussed how to increase ASR's endowment and revenues. These conversations resulted in the following recommendations from the Development Committee:

- To stay with the American Funds "family" of accounts. Although John Snyder invited us to consider shifting some of our investments into a Jackson variable annuity (which would allow for investments in things like real estate and precious metals), after listening to the advice of a couple other financial advisors, we decided to stay with the American Funds. Our American Funds accounts have had an 8.4% annualized rate of return, they are sufficiently diversified, and unlike annuities, they have an extremely low maintenance fee (less than 1%). The maintenance fee will become even lower (close to 0%) once we reach the magical \$1 million mark. Furthermore, when ASR invested in these accounts, it very shrewdly purchased Class A type shares, which allow us to move our investments easily within the American Funds family with very little cost. Also, unlike annuities, we can add money to these investment accounts at any time, and withdraw money if we need to.
- To begin to make our Annual Meeting self-sustaining (i.e., the Annual Meeting should be able to pay for itself). The EO has taken the first step in this direction by purchasing our own AV equipment. The Development Committee is in the process of creating a plan to further accomplish this objective, which will likely include recommendations about increasing registration fees and acquiring additional sponsors for our receptions. We will have a plan on the table in the upcoming months for Council to consider.
- As the Annual Meeting becomes more self-sustaining, to decrease the amount of money we draw in income from the American Funds so the endowment continues to grow.

Budget

Page 16 presents the budgets from past years, the anticipated budget for 2016.

As you can see from this budget sheet,

- The 2014 and 2015 budget years closed with a surplus. This is because:
 1. ASR drew more in income from its American Funds accounts than was necessary.
 2. ASR's operating expenses decreased slightly because of increased use of electronic systems for processing payments and communicating with members.
 3. ASR's annual meeting expenses decreased because of greater efficiencies and the use of our own AV equipment.
- 2016 and 2017 are expected to close with surpluses as well, because of the same factors cited above, but also because ASR's Council is considering raising membership fees beginning in 2017.

Among the things that I think will help increase ASR's financial resources even further are:

- 1) We should cut back on the percent of income we draw annually from our investment accounts in the form of dividends. In 2014, the Development Committee submitted and Council approved an "Investment and Spending Policy" which recommends that ASR draw no more than 4% of the value of our investment accounts (what would be approximately \$20,000) on an annual basis. As you can see, ASR is not quite within that recommendation, and so I will be talking with John Snyder, our financial advisor, about lowering the percentage drawn from the American Funds to below 4%.
- 2) We are fortunate this year to have received a check for \$2k from The Louisville Institute for co-sponsorship of one of our receptions and the opportunity to advertise and promote their grants programs. I think it would be excellent if we could convince LI to do this annually, and think of other organizations which might also like to have a presence at our Annual Meetings. For the first time since I've been EO (and perhaps the first time ever), the Pew Research Center has rented a table in our Book Exhibit Area, and it would be great if we could get more organizations and publishers involved in our Exhibit, not only as a way of increasing revenue, but for increasing the overall vitality and visibility of ASR. I wonder, for instance, if the ARDA would be interested in having a display in our Book Exhibit.
- 3) I think the time is ripe for ASR's Development Committee to begin approaching some of ASR's longtime (almost life-long) members and ask them if they would be interested in either making a sizeable donation to ASR to fuel its grants programs or to naming ASR in their wills. Perhaps we could also have a more general fundraising campaign.

Items Requiring Council Action

- Council should review the proposed budget for 2016 and discuss whether they would like to see any changes.

- At either this meeting or by the end of 2016, Council should approve the 2017 budget, as either currently proposed or revised through Council discussion.

ASR's Annual Budgets, 2013-2015, Anticipated 2016, and Proposed 2017

Prepared by James Cavendish for Council Meeting 2016

Income	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Anticipated	2017 Projected & Proposed
<i>Income from Contributions/Fees and Gifts</i>					
Membership Fees	16,454	15,905	19,050	19,000	19,000
Donations (or unused Fichter Awards)	-	2,000	716	-	-
Total Income from Contributions and Gifts	16,454	17,905	19,766	19,000	19,000
<i>Income from Annual Meeting</i>					
	<i>New York</i>	<i>San Fran</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Montreal</i>
Registrations (incl breakfast)	10,177	20,930	11,600	12,547	12,000
Book Exhibits	1,300	1,000	1,150	1,719	1,000
Advertisements in Meeting Program	400	600	400	200	200
Oxford Sponsorship of Reception	500	500	500	500	1,000
Brill Sponsorship of Reception	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Sponsors of Receptions		1,200	1,000	2,000	-
Sponsors of Individual Sessions			300	-	-
Total Income from Annual Meeting	12,877	25,230	15,950	17,966	15,200
<i>Income from Publications & Royalties</i>					
Oxford Royalties	50,000	51,652	52,864	50,000	55,000
Oxford Stipend for Editorial Office Support	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	15,000
Processing Fees	200	-	-	-	-
Royalties (non-Oxford)	3,308	1,511	1,485	1,500	1,500
Brill Royalties			5,882	1,187	1,000
Total Income from Publications	63,508	63,163	70,231	62,687	72,500
<i>Investment Income</i>					
Income from Dividends and Interest	22,244	29,865	25,247	20,000	15,000
Total Investment Income	22,244	29,865	25,247	20,000	15,000
Total Income	115,083	136,163	131,194	119,653	121,700
Expenses					
<i>Operating Expenses</i>					
Executive Officer Salary	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	12,000
Office Help/Rachel's anticipated course buy-out	-	2,000	-	500	3,000
Social Security	-	-	-	-	-
Office Expenses (mail, PayPal, Constant Contact, etc)	2,973	1,623	1,581	1,500	1,500
Consulting Fees	-	325	475	-	500
Total Operating Expenses	12,973	11,448	9,556	9,500	17,000
<i>Website Upgrades</i>	6,100	-	-	438	
<i>Annual Meeting Expenses</i>					
	<i>New York</i>	<i>San Fran</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Seattle</i>	<i>Montreal</i>
Audio Visual	12,095	1,027	3,744	932	-
Audio Visual Shipment Fee			303	650	650
Receptions/Food & Beverage (& penalty in 2012)	34,116	32,667	22,159	25,000	20,000
Office Help (Registration desk, name tags)	925	895	1,718	1,000	1,000
Program Assistant	2,230	195	-	-	-
Program Printing	1,510	849	581	998	900
Site Selection and Travel (EO)	2,500	1,705	611	639	650
Travel Reimbursements for Officers & Program Chair	5,665	3,483	3,050	4,000	4,000
Room Costs for Officers, Program Chair, Furfey Lecturer		5,232	3,889	8,000	5,000
Meeting Supplies	125	239	223	250	250
Total Annual Meeting Expenses	59,166	46,292	36,277	41,470	32,450
<i>Journal & RSO Expenses</i>					
SOR Mailing	18,889	18,889	16,796	17,000	17,000
Editor's Stipend	7,500	10,000	10,000	12,500	12,500
Book Review Editor Stipend	2,750	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Editor's Budget	5,000	3,524	4,545	5,000	5,000
Reimbursement of Editor's expenses		566	500	500	500
Reimbursement of Book Rev Editor's expenses		-	-	-	-
RSO		-	-	-	-
Total Journal & RSO Expenses	34,139	36,979	35,841	39,000	39,000
<i>Award Expenses</i>					
<i>Awards</i>					
Fichter Research Grants	17,663	16,622	15,199	12,000	12,000
Gallagher Travel Grants	4,971	1,529	3,489	5,000	6,000
McNamara Student Paper Award	500	500	500	500	500
McNamara Awardee's Room	418	-	-	-	-
Best Article Award		500	500	500	500
Furfey Lecture	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Distinguished Career Award?	-	-	-	-	500
Total Award Expenses	24,552	20,151	19,688	19,000	20,500
Total Expenses	136,930	114,870	101,363	108,970	108,950
Total Income	115,083	136,163	131,194	119,653	121,700
Annual Surplus/Loss	(21,847)	21,293	29,831	10,683	12,750
Total Assets at End of Year	588,819	610,424	609,488		

Program Chair's Report

August 15, 2016

TO: Association for the Study of Religion
FROM: Ryan T. Cragun, 2016 Program Chair
RE: 2016 Program Chair Report

Program Overview

At the time this report was prepared, there were a total of 70 sessions on the ASR program. These sessions included 197 original papers. We have 20 more sessions than last year. Some of the increase is due to the higher number of "author-meets-critics" sessions (14 this year compared to 8 last year). However, most of the increase is due to more papers being submitted for the conference. We have 17 more regular sessions (i.e., sessions made up of papers that were submitted independently and were then organized by the Program Chair). We had so many sessions that we had to request two additional meeting rooms for all 10 time slots and were unable to accommodate any Presidential Panels and just a single Professional Development Session this year. We also rejected several papers that were not sociological in orientation, but still had more papers than in the previous three years. Below is a detailed breakdown of this year's sessions and how they compare to the last three years.

Session Type	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pre-Organized Sessions				
Author-Meets-Critics	7	8	8	14
Program Chair-Solicited & Proposed Paper Sessions	11	5	15	13
Professional Development Sessions	0	3	3	1
Total Pre-Organized Sessions	19	16	26	28
Chair-Organized Sessions				
Regular Sessions	27	29	21	38
Presidential Panels	1	2	1	0
Joint ASR-ASA Sessions	2	2	2	4
Total Sessions	49	49	50	70
Papers Scheduled to be Presented	152	135	142	197

Process:

Lori Beaman asked me to be the program chair fairly early in the process of putting the program together. Together, we developed the theme of the conference: Exploring Diversity: Varieties of Religion and Nonreligion. Given the location, our shared interests, and the rise of nonreligious individuals around the world, we thought including "nonreligion" and "diversity" in the theme made a lot of sense and might attract some scholars to the conference who do not typically attend. Based on the number of sessions I organized relating to

nonreligion and secularization, I think our plan worked. While Lori and I organized several sessions related to nonreligion and secularization, we also had enough papers submitted on these topics independently that I was able to organize several additional sessions on the topic of nonreligion. We also organized several sessions that specifically address the topic of diversity. We made some changes to the program schedule in order to better accommodate the evening lectures and the receptions that follow them. This involved adjusting the times for the paper sessions slightly from last year's program. Our goal was to insure that the lectures (Presidential/Furfey) would be sufficiently early such that the receptions that follow them would not run so late as to preclude the possibility of people going out to dinner afterward.

While I'd like to think that our exciting theme and Lori's magnetic personality are the primary factors that resulted in such a sizable turn out for the conference, there were a few other factors that likely contributed to the large number of papers and sessions. First, Fenggang Yang submitted three pre-organized sessions that were tied to a workshop he put together. Second, Jason Singh volunteered to work with me on the Program as the Associate Program Chair. In light of the 2015 Program Chair's report noting the time involved in organizing Author-Meets-Critics (AMC) sessions, I asked Jason to help with those sessions. Jason did a wonderful job finding both books related to the theme of the conference (e.g., those of Christel Manning and Lois Lee) and recruiting excellent critics for the sessions. As previously noted, the higher number of AMC sessions also increased the number of total sessions. Third, requiring individuals to submit their proposals through the online portal does substantially increase the odds of those individuals both being members and actually attending. Fourth, as is always the case with conferences, we had a number of people withdraw their papers. However, I think requiring individuals to register for the conference early effectively reduced the number of people who withdrew and forced them to do so fairly early in the process, allowing me to make the necessary adjustments to the program. Those who withdrew typically did so for very legitimate reasons (e.g., serious health concerns). In other words, they did not take their participation in the conference lightly. Finally, it may also be the case that lots of people wanted to travel to Seattle, a very hip city. There are likely other factors as well, but I think these are the primary reasons why we have as many sessions as we do this year.

Issues:

Based on the report of the Program Chair from 2015, I believe the primary issues the Program Chair faces remain fairly consistent from year-to-year. Here are the main issues/difficulties:

1. The biggest issue is coordination with the ASA on joint sessions. To begin with, the Religion Section of the ASA contributes nothing to the organization of these sessions. They basically get the benefit of the work of the ASR President and Program Chair without contributing anything in return. Second, these sessions have to be organized far in advance, well ahead of all the other sessions. That, in itself, isn't a major problem, but it does mean that the Program Chair and ASR President have to plan really far in advance. Third, the liaison with the ASA isn't always that responsive. This year may have been particularly challenging in this regard as the liaison changed in the process of getting this organized. We also got different answers from different people, as the former liaison approved four joint sessions but the new liaison was unaware of this and thought we were only supposed to have two. Fourth, the time of the joint sessions is awkward. Due to the specific time slots on the ASA program, there is really only one time slot that overlaps well between the ASR program and the ASA program. As a result, all four of the joint sessions (2 each day) were organized for

the same time slot. I'm not sure there is a solution for this, but it does mean that ASR attendees will be forced to choose between the various joint sessions rather than be able to attend all of these sessions. Fifth, there were some concerns about whether session participants in sessions taking place in the ASA hotel had to register for the ASA conference. This came up repeatedly as the ASA emails every individual listed on the program multiple times telling them that they need to register for the conference or they will be dropped from the program. We eventually were able to confirm the policy on this issue*, which allows an individual participating in JUST the joint session to participate in that session without registering for the ASA conference. The Program Chair for 2017 should be aware of this issue and the corresponding policy so they can assuage the concerns of any joint sessions they organize. Given the challenges with these sessions, it was a boon that the participants we recruited for these sessions were very agreeable and accommodating. (In all honesty, I'm not entirely sure why we bother to organize these co-sponsored sessions. They are a serious challenge and I'm not sure I understand what the benefit is to the ASR.)

2. The online portal for submitting session proposals works okay. It's not perfect and there are problems, but it did what it needed to. The problems are very similar to those reported last year. The Program Chair cannot download all of the sessions by zirsself. However, I did get the web-programmer to send me a CSV file (basically an Excel spreadsheet) of all of the submissions the day after the deadline, so I didn't have to download each submission individually. There are still issues with non-standard characters causing problems with the system and formatting. This should be fixed. Finally, a new issue did arise this year that was a little weird. We had one or two people submit their proposals very early (in 2015) and they ended up in the submission queue for the 2015 conference rather in the 2016 queue. I didn't realize what had happened until I had posted a first draft of the program and these individuals emailed to inquire as to why their papers were not included. I was able to accommodate these two individuals and their papers, but it was awkward admitting that I had never received their paper proposals.
3. Recruiting individuals to convene the sessions is a bit difficult. I ended up following the 2015 Program Chair's approach and simply assigning one of the session participants to be the convener for about half of the sessions I organized.

Conclusion:

The above issues aside, I think the organizing of the conference went fairly well. I want to thank Lori Beaman for her help throughout this process. As noted, Jason Singh's contributions were invaluable. A student worker at my university, Jimmy Uteg III, formatted the program and created the index. And, of course, Jim Cavendish was an amazing resource!

*This is the official policy of the ASA on this: "Any participant listed on the ASA Annual Meeting program in a Joint ASA/ASR session that is held at the ASA venue who is also on the ASA program in any other capacity must register for the ASA meeting. Other participants on a Joint ASA/ASR session held at the ASA venue are not required to register. As with all ASA sessions, the "organizer" of a ASA/ASR joint session is not a participant role and does not require ASA registration unless the organizer is also a participant on the joint session and/or on the ASA program in another capacity requiring registration."

Editor's Report August 2015– August 2016
Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review

August 1, 2016

Prepared by: Gerardo Martí (Davidson College)

I. Editor, Book Review Editor, Associate Editors, and Editorial Board (Institution/Date term ends)

Editor in Chief:

Gerardo Martí (Davidson College/December 2018)

Book Review Editor:

Rebecca Y. Kim (Pepperdine University/December 2018)

Associate Editors:

Kevin Dougherty (Baylor University/December 2018)

Penny Edgell (University of Minnesota/December 2018)

Editorial Board Members:

Nancy Ammerman (Boston University/December 2017)

Eileen Barker (London School of Economics/December 2017)

John Bartkowski, University of Texas at San Antonio (December 2017)

Kraig Beyerlein (University of Notre Dame/December 2018)

Alex Bierman (University of Calgary/December 2017)

Philip Brenner (University of Massachusetts, Boston/December 2018)

Wendy Cadge (Brandeis University/December 2017)

Nanlai Cao (Remin University of China/December 2018)

James Cavendish (University of South Florida/August 2018)

Michael Emerson (Rice University/August 2017)

Patricia Snell Herzog (Rice University/August 2017)

Jonathan Hill (Calvin College/December 2017)

Rachel Kraus (Ball State University/August 2017)

Agata S. Nalborczyk (University of Warsaw/December 2018)

John O'Brien (New York University, Abu Dhabi/December 2018)

Atalia Omer (University of Notre Dame/August, 2017)

Rachel Rinaldo, (University of Colorado (December 2017)

Philip Schwadel (University of Nebraska, Lincoln/December 2018)

Susan Crawford Sullivan (College of the Holy Cross/August 2017)

Jenny Trinitapoli (University of Chicago/December 2017)

Jeremy Uecker (Baylor University/December 2017)

R. Stephen Warner (University of Illinois, Chicago/December 2017)

James Wellman (University of Washington/August, 2017)

In addition, this year, I successfully incorporated broader international representation, with special thanks to Lori Beaman for her thoughtful recommendations:

Elisabeth Arweck (University of Warwick/December 2018)

Anna Halafoff (Deakin University Australia/December 2018)
Lene Kühle (Aarhus University/December 2018)
Michal Pagis (Bar Ilan University/December 2018)
Jasjit Singh (University of Leeds/December 2018)

More than any other quality, the willingness to respond quickly and provide detailed reviews and recommendations for other reviewers is most appreciated from Editorial Board members, and the board members continue to be responsive and helpful. The Associate Editors – Penny and Kevin – have been truly outstanding in their readiness to work quickly, the thoroughness and care of their judgments, and their thoughtful feedback on the broader issues in managing the journal. A special thanks to Rebecca for diligent management in solicitation and publication of book reviews for the journal.

In the past year, I recruited many new board members. In general, I strived to recruit board members who had already demonstrated excellence in reviewing for the journal; in particular, I sought reviewers who are timely in responding to invitations, timely in turning in reviews, and whose reviews indicate detail, rigor, and careful reading of manuscripts. I was especially interested in recruiting scholars that complimented the expertise of the existing board (for example, expertise in Jewish and Muslim dynamics). I also sought to balance quantitative and qualitative methodological expertise, to include a broad range of research specialties, to consider diversity in length of tenure in their scholarship, as well as considerations of gender balance and geographic breadth. I believe that I was mostly successful, drawing on scholars well beyond my own circle of relationships, although expertise with international surveys (like the European Values Survey) is still lacking on the board. Also, international scholars who would provide timely, thorough, and rigorous reviews are a challenge to locate or gain commitment.

I continue making an effort to stagger invitations of new members to more evenly spread the terms of board members. To that effort, I intend to recruit 3-5 more board members whose terms would begin in January 2016, therefore their term would expire December 2019.

Although Jim Cavendish is an Editorial Board member, he again deserves special mention for his service to the journal through his role as Executive Officer of ASR. Jim has been very responsive when necessary in regard to a varied and important issues related to the journal and my editorship. His largely unseen service is much appreciated. I trust Rachel Kraus in her new role also will serve the journal very well.

II. Manuscript Flow

The journal continues to be highly selective in accepting manuscripts. In 2015-2016 there was a decrease in submissions from the previous year, which may be bringing the number of submissions back in line with expectations (since previous year, the submissions may have been inflated in part due to invitations to submit to the special issue). In other words, for 2015-2016, the number of manuscripts decreased to levels that are more consistent with our general trend. I also further decreased the number of second “Revise and Resubmits.” Therefore, while the absolute number of original submissions decreased in relation to the immediate past, the overall selectivity of the journal remains very high, with an acceptance rate of **11.7%**. I view this slight increase in acceptance rate (from 8.3% last year) as positive, especially since very low acceptance rates could discourage potential authors from submitting.

- 174 manuscripts in total (new and revised submissions) were processed on or after August 1, 2015. The total for the previous year was 230 (and the year before 170, and previous before that was 145). This is a **24% decrease** over last year, yet a **2.4% increase** over two years.
- 139 original (new) manuscripts with a submission date on or after August 1, 2015—a decrease of 48 from the previous year (26% decrease), but an increase of 29 from the year before (a 26% increase).
 - Of the 139 that have editorial decisions, 97 were rejected (70%, a lower percentage compared to 82% last year), 12 were given “major revision” status (8%, down from 15% last year, yet consistent with 9% previous year), and 2 were given “minor revision” status (1%, nearly equal to 2% last year). Other than the Furfey Lecture, no manuscripts were accepted outright this year.
- 34 revised manuscripts with a submission date on or after August 1, 2015—a decrease of 9 from the previous year. This may indicate a slightly greater selectivity in the previous year or it may indicate more authors who are not following through on an R&R.
 - Of the 34 revised manuscripts that have decisions: 16 were accepted (49%, up from 44% last year), 4 were given “major revision” status—that is, a second “major revision” (12%, down from 42% yet consistent with 12% from previous year year), 10 were given “minor revision” status (30%, down from 42%, yet consistent with 31% from previous year), and 3 were rejected (9%, down from 11% last year, and well down from 19% the previous year).
- Of all manuscripts that received an editorial decision on or after August 1, 2015, **11.7% (17/145) were accepted** (this includes the Furfey Lecture), slightly up from 8.3% last year. If I remove manuscripts that were rejected because of their inappropriateness (lack of proper formatting, no evidence of membership or submission fee, excessive page length, not blinding the manuscript properly, etc.), that would remove 16 submissions (last year there were 36); of the submissions that were successfully submitted, 13% (17/170) were accepted.

III. Time from Submission to Editorial Decision

In last year’s report, I stated that given the priority and nearly daily time I give to editorship of the journal, I believed it was not possible to process manuscripts faster. In addition, I found that any significant lag times were due to waiting for reviewers to respond to invitations and to turn in their evaluation of manuscripts. I stated that as my editorship continued that these times were unlikely to grow shorter, rather they might increase—at least slightly.

As predicted, the times for processing manuscripts increased this year. The lag is entirely due to the response times of reviewers to invitations as well as for reviewers to submit their evaluations. I continue to reach out to scholars who are not part of usual circles, and I continue to expand the reviewer database with scholars whose expertise would benefit the journal. I have also been a bit more patient in waiting for scholars to respond to invitations (they now receive 3 separate emails for any manuscript invitation) and for evaluations (up to 4 weeks past the

overdue date). Finally, a few unusual cases where the wait times for decisions have been extraordinarily long “throw off” the averages. Consequently, overall average decision times have lengthened slightly. Even if the processing of manuscripts is a bit longer, I still consider the efficient times from submission to editorial decision a significant achievement of my editorship, especially since I still typically assign four reviewers per original manuscript, and the quality of the reviewers assigned is typically very high.

- Among new submissions, nearly all editorial decisions are sent back to authors within 4 to 10 weeks of the submission date (an increase from 4 to 8 weeks last year).
 - Rejected manuscripts averaged 30 days from submission date to editorial decision date. This compares to 23 days last year, and 33 days the previous year before that.
 - “Major revision” decisions averaged 66 days from submission date to decision. This compares to 49 days last year, and 51 days the previous year before that.
 - “Minor revision” decisions averaged 105 days (compares to 50 days last year last year).

- Among revised submissions,
 - “Accepted” decisions average 9 days (compared to 1 day last year) from submission to decision.
 - “Minor revision” (a 2nd R&R or “conditional acceptance”) decisions average lag is 39 days (compared to 25 days, and 56 days the previous year before that).
 - “Major revision” decisions (a 2nd R&R) average time to decision is 42 days (compared to 6 days last year, and 38 days the previous year before that).
 - “Reject” decisions average lag is 31 days (compared to 47 days last year and 58 days the previous year before that).
 - The lengthening of lag times is in part to due to mostly discontinuing my asking authors to “finalize” their manuscript with suggestions/expectations for very slight revisions.

- The time from acceptance to publication online in Advance Access remains approximately 4 - 5 weeks; from Advance Access to print remains roughly 3 - 6 months. Note: This may lengthen with the transition to a new typesetter on the part of OUP in Summer 2016.

IV. Impact Factor

Summary of Impact: The impact factor went up this past year from 1.00 to 1.217. This continues SOR surpassing the “1.0” level on the impact factor rating for a fourth year. To provide a familiar point of comparison, JSSR moved from .958 to 1.231 and RRR moved from .406 to .414 during this same period. The impact factor of SOR remains **highly favorable in relation to our comparison journals**.

Like previous editors, I am committed to do what I can to see that the increase in visibility and impact continues. For example, I strongly endorsed the electronic distribution of TOC and Advance Access Articles to all ASR Members because the sooner others are aware of newly published scholarship, the sooner they will be cited. I thank Jim Cavendish for regularly including links to SOR’s most recent issue of the journal in our email announcements.

Other initiatives to promote visibility (and citation) this past year include:

- More frequent rotation of “Free Articles” from the journal OUP home page
- Working with OUP’s marketing to promote the journal and specific articles through their many electronic venues, in addition to “Advance Access” and banner features
- Calls for Papers for Special Topics (last year’s invited essays published in 74.4 and this year’s “Dissertations in Progress”; this year’s to be published soon “Does Social Theory Need Religion?”)
- As of May 2016, beginning Twitter feed of recently published articles @SORJournal

More detail: *Sociology of Religion* ranks 50 out of 142 in Impact Factor in the Sociology journals category of the ISI rankings. (Last year, *Sociology of Religion* ranked 52nd out of 142 in Impact Factor in the sociology journals category of the ISI rankings.) The 5-year Impact Factor is 1.564, ranking *Sociology of Religion* 56 out of 142 sociology journals. (Last year, the 5-year impact factor was 1.363, ranking 55 out of 142 sociology journals.)

Sociology of Religion:

The 2015 (latest) impact factor is 1.217

2009 = .56
2010 = .91
2011 = .86
2012 = 1.08
2013 = 1.667
2014 = 1.00

Comparison with JSSR:

The 2015 (latest) impact factor is 1.231

2009 = .92
2010 = 1.34
2011 = 1.34
2012 = 1.39
2013 = 1.15
2014 = .958

Comparison with RRR:

The 2014 (latest) impact factor is .414

2009 = .29
2010 = .47
2011 = .45
2012 = .34
2013 = .50
2014 = .406

V. Final Considerations

Editorial team: Having been voted in to continue my editorship a further three-year term (active through the end 2018 – which would be a transition year for a new editor who would be selected by the end of 2017), I invited the Associate Editors, Kevin Dougherty and Penny Edgell, also to continue in their roles, as well as Rebecca Kim in her role as Book Review Editor. I am pleased that they all have agreed to continue. I remain sensitive to any changes that may occur and would simply solicit new people if it becomes necessary.

Impact factor and the number of articles per issue: If you recall, in honor of the 75th Volume of the journal, the Associate Editors and I solicited eight essays from a range of scholars (younger to more established, various arenas of scholarly focus, gender and racial considerations, etc.) for a special Winter 2014 75.4 issue that reflected on a key question of interest to our readership and within our discipline more broadly: “Why should sociologists care about the study of religion, and how does the study of religion enrich the discipline as a whole?” As anticipated, these essays were well-received and broadly read. The essays were shorter, and there were more of them, which means eight articles appeared instead of a typical four or five. To make room for this invited issue, and to prevent considerable lag of publication from regular submissions, it was decided to increase the number of articles in the first three issues by one. In a previous Editor’s Report, I cautioned that additional articles published in 2014 could result in a “dip” in our impact factor, as the number of articles may be higher before the citations for those articles “catch up.” I also stated that our trajectory and increased articles could be positive for the calculation of future impact factor scores since the attention received from the Winter 2014 issue was very encouraging. I have also written a few short articles as Editor. Looking at the current Impact Factor, we can now say that the additional articles did not decrease our Impact Factor – it actually increased over last year. In other words, the good news is that citations of these additional articles allow the journal to sustain a strong Impact Factor.

OUP production lags: In Summer 2016, OUP changed the company doing typesetting for SOR from Techset to Cenveo. This aspect of production handles everything from acceptance of a manuscript to its publication and involves many steps (specifically, obtaining author license, converting tables and figures, typesetting, communicating with authors, communicating with editors, incorporating and ensuring all corrections, printing cover/masthead/table of contents, final electronic and print publication). While this is a crucial aspect of journal management, these production processes are beyond the control of the Editor. Unfortunately, the transition process has not been smooth. Although OUP sent a brief email indicating a delay in the production of 77(2), the email failed to indicate the scope of the problem or the potential consequences for the publication of the forthcoming issue. The problems were compounded by the lack of proactive communication from OUP to help us all manage the consequences. Problems were encountered by Rebecca, Jim, and myself rather than anticipated. For example, the “ASR News and Announcements” page was proofed so late that it was decided to pull it from the issue since information for the upcoming ASR annual meeting was now irrelevant. A number of other errors in processing, in addition to “behind the scenes” shifts occurring at Cenveo without our knowledge added to the delays. What had been a very smooth process is now caught up in disentangling confusion in well-established processes. What added frustration was the remarkable vagueness that a problem existed at all. I have called and emailed fairly extensively since July; Rebecca has also been in contact with OUP as book reviews have been affected as well. Jim sent a very clear message to OUP regarding the consequences of the delay for the ASR News and Announcements page. As of this writing, OUP has put the journal on a special alert, and the hierarchy chain is involved in attempting to monitor and correct the problems that have emerged. Rebecca and I were on a recent conference

call with OUP to further discuss the issues and corrections being put in place. As of writing this report, I am still waiting for an official date of publication (which no one has been able to provide), and it is possible that timelines for 77(3) will be affected as well. Unless SOR is the only journal experiencing these issues - in which perhaps all of this has been a surprise - it seems much better counsel and even hand-holding has been needed. This continues to be so. In the meantime, Rebecca and I continue to be attentive (even aggressive) in making sure OUP remains true to their commitment to restore confidence in what had been a smooth process. Furthermore, I specifically requested that OUP work quickly and creatively to provide exposure to the journal and recent articles to off-set any lag to potential citations – citations that affect the calculation of our impact factor.

Despite recent production problems, I am generally pleased with the quality of the journal, and I am glad to see the mix of topics, methodologies, and author seniority in submissions.

I continue to welcome feedback.

Publications Committee Report 2016

August 2016

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion
FROM: Melissa Wilde, Chair
RE: Report to Council on the activity of the Publications Committee for 2015-2016

The Publication Committee was comprised this year of Richard Wood, Terrence Hill, Elaine Howard Ecklund, Christopher Ellison, and Melissa Wilde (chair)

Actions taken in Fall, 2015

The following correspondence summarizes the activities of the Publications Committee during 2015-2016.

November 10, 2015

Dear Members of the ASR Council:

I'm writing on behalf of the Executive Officers of ASR to ask for your votes on a couple different items that will influence the future direction of the Association and our journal. These items are as follows:

- 1) Whether to renew our contract with Oxford University Press as the publisher of *Sociology of Religion* or to enter into a new contract with Routledge/Taylor & Francis;
- 2) Whether we negotiate with Gerardo Marti to renew his editorship of *Sociology of Religion* for another term or solicit applications for a new editor;

Our deadline for making a decision about these items is the end December, 2015, which is when we are contractually obligated to inform OUP of a decision to move to another publisher.

If any of you are on the committees that have been discussing these matters, then you may have already formed an opinion about them and you may be ready to cast your votes. Assuming, however, that most of you need some background before voting, I'd like to take a moment to summarize the major issues involved with each item.

Item 1: Contract with a publisher of the journal.

As you know, the Publications Committee has been working for over a year to determine whether ASR should renew its contract with Oxford University Press or move to another publisher. The committee solicited proposals from five different publishers, and it received proposals from four – University of Chicago, SAGE, Routledge/Taylor & Francis, and OUP (see attached documents for a summary of the specifics of each contract proposal). Because Chicago and SAGE's proposals did not match or exceed OUP's, and because ASR has not been dissatisfied with OUP, the committee narrowed its focus to Routledge/Taylor & Francis and OUP, and engaged in intense negotiations with each. All of us were hoping that the Publications Committee would reach a consensus on which of the two publishers to recommend to Council, but it appears that the committee is split between the two, and it is

ultimately up to you – the members of Council – to determine which of these two publishers offers the kinds of advantages that you think will be most beneficial for the Association and our journal in the years ahead. Melissa Wilde, the chair of the Publications Committee, sent the following message to me last week:

From: Melissa Wilde [mailto:mwilde@sas.upenn.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Rich Wood <rlwood.unm@gmail.com>
Cc: Cavendish, James <jcavendi@usf.edu>; Hill, Terrence D. <terrence.hill@soc.utah.edu>; Christopher Ellison <Christopher.Ellison@utsa.edu>; Elaine Howard Ecklund <ehe@rice.edu>; lori.beaman@bell.net; Emerson, Michael O <moe@northpark.edu>
Subject: Re: Final Vote on Routledge or Oxford

Dear Jim,

The Publications Committee is (finally!) ready to make a recommendation to Council. After much research and discussion, we ended up with a tie, with two members in favor of staying with Oxford and two members in favor of moving to Routledge. As Chair, I'm abstaining from voting.

Given the fact that the Development Committee (which is not officially a part of these deliberations, but whose opinions will certainly matter to Council) was unanimous in its opinion that the greater amount of money offered by Routledge did not justify a move, I suspect that Council will vote to stay with Oxford, but, I think given the fact that we as a committee did not come up with consensus means that Council will need to weigh both proposals themselves to make the final decision.

Please let me know if you need anything from us, and thank you for the opportunity to serve our association.

Best,
Melissa

So, it is now Council's duty to weigh both proposals and make a decision. As you will see when reviewing the attached documents, Routledge/Taylor & Francis is clearly offering ASR a better financial package than OUP. While T&F is offering ASR \$400,000 in guaranteed (and perhaps as much as \$550,000 in expected) revenue over a five year period, OUP is offering \$350,000 in guaranteed revenue (i.e., a \$50,000+ difference). Furthermore, because T&F is offering to not charge ASR for the subscriptions of our members who opt-out of receiving the print version of the journal (but who would still receive it electronically), ASR stands to save between approximately \$15,000 and \$55,000 in expenses over the next five years if it goes with T&F. These two factors mean that ASR stands to gain between \$65,000 and \$250,000 over the next five years if it goes with T&F. In order for ASR to enjoy the maximum amount (\$250k over five years), T&F's optimistic projections of "expected income" would have to come to fruition and 90% of our members would have to opt out of the print version of the journal. Because these are unknowns, we can't anticipate precisely how much we will gain financially by moving to T&F; all we can say is that we'd gain at least \$65k over the next five years and potentially

much more. This represents, at a minimum, an additional \$13k in revenue per year, which is a 10% increase in our annual revenue. This money could be used to build our endowment with the hope of offering our members more benefits and services and to provide more adequate compensation packages for the editorial team and the executive office. It would also allow us to keep the costs to our members low for dues and meeting registrations.

The benefits of staying with OUP, as presented by various members in the deliberations, are:

- 1) ASR has been working successfully with OUP over the last several years, though we have every indication that we could work successfully with T&F. Editors who work with OUP and T&F both express high levels of satisfaction;
- 2) staying with OUP would free us from the disruptions of a change, though both OUP and T&F have assured us that they would help make the transition as smooth as possible;
- 3) in our recent negotiations OUP has agreed to improve on the terms of our current contract, including, as you can see in the attached Excel file, increasing the royalty payments to ASR from 35% of revenue to 40% of revenue annually, providing a \$10 reduction in the price of subscriptions to the journal for each member who opts out of the print version of the journal, increasing our guaranteed minimum on royalties from \$50k to \$55k annually, and increasing the editorial stipend from \$10k to \$15k annually (though not all of these match what T&F has offered);
- 4) OUP is a university press rather than a commercial press and is therefore regarded by many to be more prestigious. *Sociology of Religion* has made an impressive climb in reputation with OUP, while the impact factors of JSSR (Wiley) and RRR (Springer) have slipped. The other journals and books associated with OUP have higher prestige overall.
- 5) Our current editor, Gerardo Marti, has a preference for staying with Oxford, but he is not insistent. He cites such things as his comfort in working with the OUP staff, the lack of turnover among OUP staff relative to some other publishers, OUP's high prestige, and the care with which OUP makes its decisions.

As you can see, there are good reasons for going with either of the two publishers, and that is why the Publications Committee is split in its recommendation. It's now up to Council to decide which path would be best for the Association. When you are ready to make a decision, please respond with your vote to either: 1) Stay with OUP; or 2) Move to Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

Item 2: Contract with the editor of the journal.

On October 27, 2015, the Executive Officers of ASR received the following email from Gerardo Marti (which I have edited somewhat for brevity):

From: Marti, Gerardo [mailto:gemarti@davidson.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 12:48 PM
To: Melissa Wilde <mwilde@sas.upenn.edu>; Cavendish, James <jcavendi@usf.edu>; Lori Beaman <lbeaman@uottawa.ca>; Emerson, Michael O <moe@northpark.edu>
Subject: re Sociology of Religion Editorial Term - extension or renewal or transition
Importance: High

Dear Melissa, Jim, Lori, and Michael,

It is my honor to serve as editor of the journal, and as you may know, my editorial term ends 2016. Given that an editorial transition should be in place a year prior, a decision should be made by the end of 2015 whether I am to continue or be replaced as editor of SOR (similar to the timeline of previous transitions). The timing of the decision is important whether the journal shifts publishers or remains with Oxford because OUP is going through its own growth and redesigns in their journal division (new initiatives, continued addition of journals associated with OUP, radical expansion of their institutional sales team, streamlining alongside expansion of production processes, etc). The decision is also important since the Book Review Editor and the Associate Editor terms are associated with the Editor in Chief – should I continue, I would need to secure the cooperation of these roles, or find replacements. If another editor steps in, those recruitments should happen within a few months of their taking the position.

On my part, there are two considerations regarding my editorship: First, the potential of extending or renewing my term. Second, the editorial stipend for my position.

Extending or renewing term: The work of editing is quite time consuming and requires behind-the-scenes discussions, negotiations, and working through various kinks which are not seen by ASR members or Council or even the Editorial Board. I've made the journal central to my daily schedule, and responsiveness has been a high priority within that – so the integration and focus of my editorship is fairly constant. As my responsibilities at my institution continue to increase, my research continues to “chug along,” and my invitations for speaking and consulting continue to expand, I have some hesitancy to renew a full term that would take me through 2019. This simply reflects some uncertainty in saying “yes/no” to various opportunities and not being able to fully see four years down the road. It could be that extending my term through 2017 or 2018 - - especially after we are firmly rested with a publisher for the coming 5 years -- may work better since delaying an immediate decision would have the benefit of distributing the work and priorities of the Pub committee over time (settle publisher 2015/2016, consider new editor 2017/2018).

Editorial stipend: My editorial stipend was established in my original contract at \$10,000. I note the considerations given at the time in determining that figure as a “starting point”:

- *Sociology of Religion* receives approximately 120 manuscripts/year, publishes 500 printed pages/year, and had a 2011 impact factor of .861. The \$10k figure, therefore, seems like a fair starting point, but this could be increased over time with an increase in the number of manuscripts received, pages published, and/or the impact factor of the journal.

Two years later, and drawing from the most recent Editor's Report, SOR now receives 230 manuscripts/year (a 192% increase), published significantly more pages in 2014 with about 650 pages (to accommodate the special issue; this year looks to be closer to 540 pages), and a notably higher impact factor of 1.667 (2013) and 1.00 (2014) – better than JSSR. This is in addition to the initial work of recruiting Rebecca Kim as Book Review Editor and Kevin Dougherty/Penny Edgell as Associate Editors. In addition to these, I have accomplished goals toward increasing the visibility of the journal by 1)

successfully negotiating with OUP a more frequent rotation of “Free Articles” from the journal OUP home page from NEVER to 4x’s per year, 2) successfully negotiating with OUP to increase the number of “Free Articles” from one to three, 3) strongly advocating for electronic distribution of TOC (which is now occurring through ASR office) and Advance Access to ASR Members (which is being worked through now in our discussions of electronic copies of journal with discussion of contract renewal with publisher), and 4) implementing Calls for Papers for Special Topics (last year’s invited essays published in 74.4 and this year’s “Dissertations in Progress”). In addition, and consistent with another set of goals I laid out, I successfully recruited for diversifying the Editorial Board, especially building a much stronger international representation (LAST year, bringing on Eileen Barker, Nanlai Cao, Agata Nalborczyk, and John O’Brien – and THIS year I recently secured additional commitments from Elisabeth Arweck, Anna Halafoff, Lene Kühle, Michal Pagis, and Jasjit Singh). Now, nine out of 28 members of the Editorial Board are from institutions outside the USA (note that ALL non-US Board Members were recruited by me; none have been continued from the previous editor).

Related to stipend, note that I am provided annual Editorial Assistant funds of \$5,000. However, I found much higher priority in using the funds for other items: Specifically, Year 1 paying for page budget overages (which were much greater than anticipated due to changes in OUP invoicing our costs) and a laptop to help ensure connectivity and continuity away from my office; Year 2 so far some page overages. In short, a portion of the \$5,000 allotted for Editorial Assistant could be re-apportioned toward the editorial stipend. I believe JSSR provides stipends to its two Associate Editors, and they carry significant responsibility for managing manuscripts; for SOR, all functions are handled exclusively by me the editor except when adjudication is required (or a rare instance of potential conflict of interest with a manuscript author).

I serve at the pleasure of the ASR Council. Should this be my transition year, I hope to go out on a good note, having achieved some of my key goals for the journal beyond mere continuation and strengthening this very stimulating and very powerful venue for the expansion of our scholarship.

How shall we proceed?

Gerardo

After receiving this letter, the Publications Committee on October 29 voted unanimously to recommend to Council that ASR “negotiate with Gerardo Marti to renew his editorship of *Sociology of Religion* for another term.” As Melissa Wilde stated: “It is an understatement to say that the journal is thriving under his leadership. We request that Council meet, or exceed, the very reasonable terms presented in his most recent communication about this matter.”

As members of Council, you are asked to vote on this recommendation. If Council votes in favor of negotiating with Gerardo to renew his editorship, then it seems that the best way to retain Gerardo as editor would be, at a minimum, to reappportion some or all of his editorial budget (i.e., \$5,000) toward an increase in his stipend and perhaps provide small stipends (perhaps in the range of \$1,000) for each of his two Associated Editors.

When you are ready to make a decision, please respond with your votes. With respect to the contract renewal, please vote to:

1) Authorize the Development Committee to begin negotiations with Gerardo for the renewal of his editorial contract until 2019, if he is willing, or at least extend it to 2017/18; or

2) Request the Publications Committee to begin a search for a new editor of the journal.

Note: In informal discussions that the Executive Officer has had with Gerardo, Gerardo seems willing to serve for another term if he is simply given complete discretion in how he uses the \$5,000 editorial budget, thereby allowing him to decide on an annual basis whether he wants to use some or all of it to increase his own stipend, to provide stipends to his Associate Editors, or to pay for other things related to the journal (e.g., hiring an editorial assistant, purchasing additional pages for the journal, etc.). It seems like this should be a minimum compensation package. The Development and/or Publications Committee(s) might want to compare compensation packages to editors of other journals before reaching a final decision about Gerardo's compensation (provided that Council approves the Publication Committee's recommendation to renew Gerardo's editorship).

Next Steps

The Development Committee has been working on a detailed proposal for ensuring that the Association can meet its expenses for 2016 while simultaneously building our endowment. The specifics of that proposal, which may include recommendations to increase our membership dues and/or meeting registration fees, will depend in part on how Council votes with respect to these two issues.

ASR Membership Committee Report 2016

July 28, 2016

TO: Officers and Council Members of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

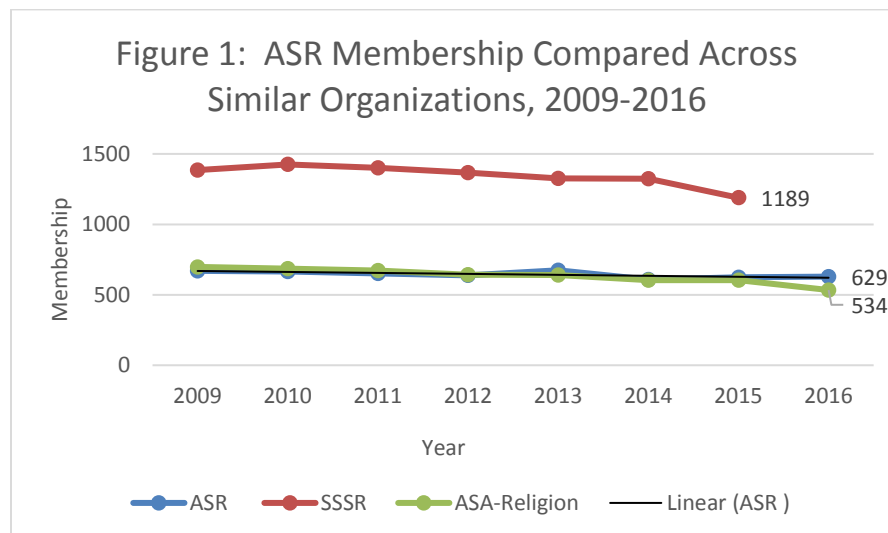
From: Membership Committee members – Andrea Henderson (chair), Gabriel Acevedo, and Michael Wilkinson.

Membership Information

As of July 2016, there were 629 members in the association. See Table 1. In addition, roughly 26% of the association was comprised of “student/ ISA-C” members. In ancillary analysis, 70% (n=441) of the association’s membership reside in the US; however 41 different countries are also represented in the association’s body. To date, almost 40% of the ASR membership is women, compared with 42% of ASA’s religion section. No additional data on the demographics of the organization are available at this time.

	Total	Students (%)	Female (%)
2009	669	---	---
2010	665	---	---
2011	652	---	---
2012	639	---	---
2013	674	186 (27.5%)	---
2014	608	176 (28.9%)	---
2015	625	191 (30.5%)	---
2016	629	163 (25.9%)	249 (39.5%)

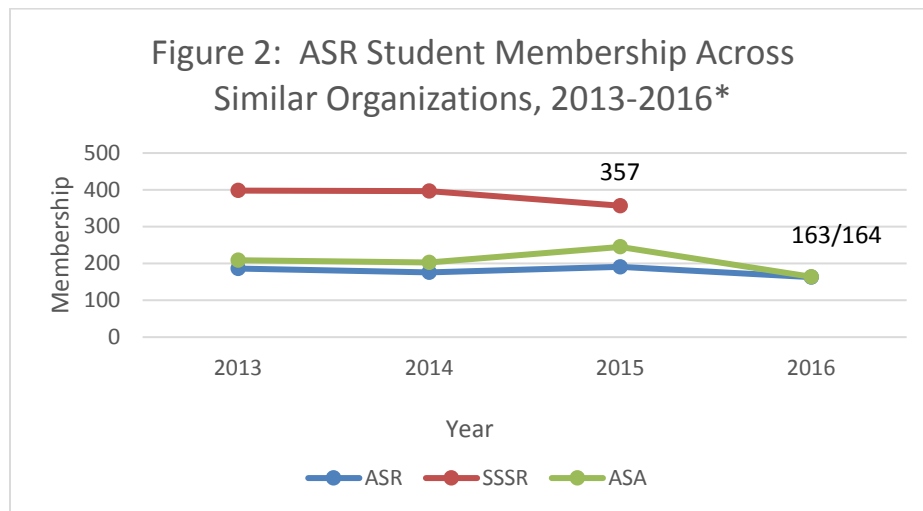
Over the past 7 years, ASR membership has declined slightly. See Figure 1. However, over the past two years, from 2015-2016, ASR membership has remained relatively stable. Related organizations have seen similar declines in membership across this time period. To date, ASA’s religion section has slightly fewer members than ASR (Δ 95). Data for SSSR 2016 was unavailable.



Graduate Students

Since 2013, the association has made serious efforts to increase graduate student participation at the annual conference. It appears that these efforts have paid off. See Figure 2. The association's graduate student membership has remained relatively stable in recent years ranging 30 to 26%. In 2016, roughly 26% of the association's membership is classified as "student and ISA-C members." Compared with the previous year, the association saw a slight decline in "student" membership with a net loss of 28 student members.

Continued efforts to recruit and maintain graduate students are needed. For example, in 2015, former president Melissa Wilde in partnership with ASA's religion section, organized a mentoring luncheon. Such internal efforts and additional efforts to publicize to other associations may help in ensuring continuity in graduate student membership.



*Note: ASR combines student and low-income membership; SSSR figures are guestimates based on information provided by SSSR leadership.

Please note several methodological concerns. First, the above "student" numbers include both student members and "ISA category C" members together, since both groups pay \$15 dues. Unfortunately, the current membership data does not allow for disentangling these two groups. In the future, separate categories - i.e., student and ISA category C - would be useful for collecting more accurate information. Second, the membership numbers are cumulative "point in time" measures, the 2016 figure will continue to rise over the course of the year as more members sign up. Thus, the best numbers for comparison are end-of-year membership numbers. However, since membership committee reports are due each summer, end of year figures are not provided in membership committee reports.

Women of ASR

In 2015, the Membership Committee sponsored a “Women of ASR (WASR) meet-and-greet” event at the annual conference. Past president, Melissa Wilde, generously help support the event. Three former presidents of ASR were also in attendance, and the event was well received: 27.5% (n=32) of the female conference attendees participated. The event was intended to create a space within ASR concerned with the specific needs (i.e., retention, mentorship, research collaborations) of women in the field. Several attendees voiced that opportunities to meet and make connections at the annual conference were “challenging” and that more spaces like the WASR were needed.

The Membership Committee will again be sponsoring the Women of ASR meet-and-greet event at the 2016 annual conference. At this time, there are no formal plans to approach the Development Committee for additional funds to support the WASR initiative. However, future investments in the WASR event should be considered seed (or investment) money to help get this initiative off the ground.

Future Business

Future business considerations for the Membership Committee:

- 1) In 2014, the council agreed that professional opportunities for graduate students attending the annual conference should be emphasized, and a professionalization session at the 2015 conference was organized. Unfortunately, no panels on professionalization were organized for the 2016 conference due to program space limitations. In the future, additional panels targeting graduate students *and* junior faculty should be emphasized. These panels should speak to the specific issues and needs facing scholars of religion, including: “Navigating the Job Market,” “Getting Grants” and “Creating a Research Agenda”
- 2) Along similar lines, creating opportunities for members, specifically graduate students and junior faculty, to network and build collaborations should also be considered a top priority. In 2015, ASR in partnership with ASA’s religion section, organized a mentoring luncheon, such initiatives create opportunities to connect with members both inside and outside the association. Professional panels on “Creating and Sustaining Networks and Collaborations” may be a useful direction, as well as luncheons and additional meeting opportunities.
- 3) In 2013, ASR began a serious push to increase its membership, particularly among its graduate students. In this same vain, future initiatives that aim to increase diversity and inclusion across multiple identities and research orientations may go a long way towards strengthening membership. For example, the Membership Committee has sponsored a Women of ASR (WASR) event with great reception. Additional events geared toward the recruitment and retention of members across gender, race-ethnicity, and sexual orientation is warranted. Specifically, outreaching to other organizations, including Association of Black Sociologists and Social Problems, that hold their annual meetings along-side ASR, as well as the creation of a Diversity Committee that ensures that the organization’s services and activities support the goal of a more diverse ASR community may be fruitful.

International Liaison Committee Report 2016

July 14, 2016

TO: Officers, Members of the Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Gladys Ganiel, chair

RE: Report to Council on the activity of the International Liaison Committee for 2015-2016

The International Liaison Committee was comprised this year of Gladys Ganiel, Queen's University Belfast (chair), Damon Mayrl, Universidad Carlos II de Madrid, and Jean Beaman, Purdue

Background

The primary task of the International Liaison Committee is to provide input into selecting the international scholars and graduate students who receive the Ralph A. Gallagher Travel Grants (total amount of \$6000). This funding was intended primarily to cover expenses at the conference hotel, though international applicants were also permitted to allocate some of the money to airfare. Based on the experience of previous years, Council encouraged us to award fewer grants in larger amounts (maximum \$1000 per grant) so that international scholars would be more likely to receive sufficient funding to enable them to actually attend the conference.

To allow the Committee to make an informed choice among candidates, applicants were required to submit a CV, statement of need, extended abstract (1000-1500 words), and evidence they could attend the meeting in the event of receiving an award. The call indicated that applications would be evaluated based on the quality and contribution of the papers; that we would prioritize applications from graduate students needing to travel a farther distance; and that we would prioritize applications from international scholars with a research and publication record.

2016 Experience

To encourage submissions from international applicants, the Committee advertised the call through the listservs and social media outlets of kindred organizations, including the European Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Research Network, ASA Religion Section, ISA RC22 mailing list, and Diaspora mailing list. On behalf of the committee chair, ASR also sent a direct email to all international scholars on our email list, reminding them to apply for the grant in advance of the deadline.

We received nine applications total by our deadline of April 15 (two were received shortly after the deadline but due to exceptional circumstances, we considered them). The overall total of 11 applicants is one higher than in 2015.

Four of the applications came from international faculty, five from domestic graduate students, and two from international graduate students. The geographical spread of the international candidates was wide, including six countries on five different continents. The Committee shared the application files among themselves through an electronic folder.

The committee ranked the four international applicants, and the seven graduate student applicants, separately, and recommended awarding \$1000 to our top two international candidates, and \$1000 to an international graduate student. We recommended awarding \$750 to the top four ranked domestic graduate students, *or* awarding the four graduate students \$500 each, leaving \$1000 that could be distributed among the two remaining international scholars, or \$1000 to one or the other of them. [The applications of these two international scholars were solid, but both had previously received a Gallagher award.]

The Program Committee accepted our first recommendation – two international scholars, the international graduate student, and four domestic graduate students, with the caveat that the dollar figures would be converted into nights at the conference hotel (four nights for international scholars/students, two-three nights for domestic graduate students), to help us meet our room bloc.

Recommendations

Overall, the Committee's work proceeded smoothly and quickly. However, we encountered a problem we had last year: some recipients of the Gallagher Grants were subsequently found not to have submitted a regular abstract to the conference. We then contacted these applicants and informed them that they must submit an abstract to be considered for the award. We suspect this was because they thought that applying for the Gallagher Grant was simultaneously to submit a proposal to the conference. We recommend adjusting the language of the call to make sure applicants know these are separate application processes.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys Ganiel
Chair, International Liaison Committee
Research Fellow in Conflict Transformation & Social Justice
Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice
Queen's University Belfast
19 University Square
Belfast, N. Ireland, BT7 1NN
United Kingdom
G.Ganiel@qub.ac.uk

Fichter Award Committee's Report

July, 2016

To: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion
From: Richard Pitt, chair of Fichter Research Grant Committee
RE: Report to Council on the Activity of the Fichter Research Grant Committee for 2016

2016 Activity Summary

The Fichter Research Grant Committee was comprised of two members (Cathy Holtmann and Elfriede Wedam) and a chair (Richard Pitt). Originally Jeremy Thomas was assigned to the committee, but withdraw from it. He was replaced by Elfriede. We received 18 proposals; last year we received 26. One was from a research team, ten were from graduate students, and four were submitted by scholars outside of the U.S. We decided to fund three proposals at \$3000 and a fourth at \$2871.

Sadiq Bhanbhro (Sheffield Hallam University)

Original Request: \$2871

An Exploration of the Notions of Honor and Shame in Islam and their Relations to Honor Killings of Women and Girls in Pakistan and within Pakistani Community in United Kingdom

Margaret Clendenen (Brandeis University)

Original Request: \$4980

Considering Cultural and Religious Change in Understandings of Same-Sex Marriage: An Examination of State and National Level Same-Sex Marriage Activism

Sarah Drier (University of Washington)

Original Request: \$5001

When Worlds Collide: How African Church Leaders Navigate Between Transnational Expectations and Local Demands to Advance or Resist Women's Rights

Landon Schnabel (Indiana University-Bloomington)

Original Request: \$3000

Gender, Religion, and Social Risk: Do Social Psychological Risks and Rewards Explain Gender Differences in Religion

As a committee, we were satisfied with both the quality of the applications and the breadth (methodologically, theoretically, and subject) of the proposals. Clearly, applicants understand what we're trying to do with the grants. There was only one that seemed outside of the scope of the award. The range in the amount of money requested was \$1524 to \$8955. While all of the proposals were below the \$12,000 available for us to distribute, this committee (like past ones) seemed committed to fund as many of our top applicants as possible, even if that meant not funding some in full. I don't see that approach changing. Therefore, I would probably second last year's chair, Orit Avishai's, suggestion to encourage applicants to consider capping their request at about \$5000.

Even with only three members (last year's committee had four), we were quite consistent in our evaluations of the applications. Each committee member separately evaluated each applicant

based on three of our own priorities (e.g., degree to which proposal was Fichteresque, the feasibility of the proposal, and urgency of the problem being analyzed). We then averaged the nine evaluations. Two proposals scored highest among the set and were also chosen among all three reviewer's top five proposals. The next two highest rated proposals were among two reviewers' top five proposals. Given the high level of support for those four proposals, we decided to support all four at \$3000.

Thanks to Jim Cavendish for quickly responding to some administrative issues the committee encountered and to the two committee members for their assiduous expeditiousness during this selection process.

McNamara Award Committee Report

July 2016

TO: Officers and Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion
FROM: Sabrina Danielsen, Chair
RE: 2016 Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award Results

Dear Officers and Council Members,

I am pleased to report that 15 outstanding papers written by graduate student members of ASR were submitted for the 2016 McNamara Student Paper Award. These papers demonstrate a breadth of topic and approach and a vitality with the sociology of religion subfield.

Committee members reviewed all 15 submissions in a two-stage selection process. First, each committee members selected a short list of four papers from the original pool of 15. With significant overlap in members' selection, this produced a short list of six finalists. The six finalists are listed below. Second, each committee member ranked their top three papers in order. There was remarkable consensus among the three committee members at this step, with the ranking of the top three papers very clear. The second and third place runners up are listed below.

Our selection for the 2016 McNamara Award is the paper "Secularism and Fertility Worldwide" by Landon Schnabel of Indiana University – Bloomington. Mr. Schnabel has been notified of our decision and will be presenting his paper at the 2016 ASR Annual Meeting.

Best,

Sabrina Danielsen, Chair

Aida Ramos-Wada, Committee Member

Kathleen Jenkins, Committee Member

2016 Finalists:

Second Place Runner-Up:

Rachel Ellis

University of Pennsylvania

"Daughters of Christ in the D.O.C.: Religion and Self-Efficacy Among Incarcerated Women"

Third Place Runner-Up:

Dane R. Mataic

The Pennsylvania State University

"For God's Creation: The Framing Processes of Christian Environmental Activism in Oklahoma"

Other finalists (unranked)

Benjamin T. Gurrentz

Pennsylvania State University

“Family Formation and Integration into Congregational Social Networks: Challenging Conventional Wisdom”

Clayton Fordahl

SUNY at Stony Brook

“The Post-Secular: Paradigm Shift or Provocation?”

Bob Thomson

Baylor University

“More than Friends and Family? Estimating the Direct and Indirect Effects of Religiosity on Substance Use in Emerging Adulthood”

Distinguished Article Award Committee Report

July, 2016

TO: Officers and Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion
FROM: Nicolette Manglos-Weber, Chair
Re: Distinguished Article Award Committee Report

Dear Officers and Members of Council,

For the third year a distinguished article award was given to an outstanding article published in the sociology of religion in the past two years. For the first time, papers were considered apart from a nomination process, and were eligible on the basis of being published in the association journal, *Sociology of Religion*, between the dates of January 1, 2014 and April 30, 2016.

Due to the publication timeframe, the Winter issue of 2013 was also published within this date range, as was the Summer of issue of 2016. With the input of the ASR executive officer, the committee members decided to consider articles from the Winter 2013 issue but not the Summer 2016 issue, on the basis that we would not have access to the Summer 2016 articles in the early part of our deliberations, and it would also be difficult to gauge their impact. This resulted in 50 original articles over 11 journal issues being considered.

As in the past, articles were evaluated on the basis of their scholarship, with attention given to theoretical innovation, broad relevance to the subfield, and the quality of empirical analyses.

The decision making process was as follows: each member read all of the articles under consideration and made a list of five they believed were worthy of the award. We then ranked the articles by the number of nominations received. As this did not produce a clear winner, the committee chair asked the members to rank the five articles with at least two nominations in order of preference. This produced two frontrunners, and committee members were split on which should receive the award. After some discussion of the merits of each over email, the decision was made to select one as the winning paper and give the second an honorable mention.

The winning paper is: Smilde, David and Matthew May. 2015. "Causality, Normativity, and Diversity in 40 Years of U.S. Sociology of Religion: Contributions to Paradigmatic Reflection." *Sociology of Religion* 76(4):369-88. The paper was chosen because it contributes new data to old discussions, namely whether and how the subfield adequately represents diverse religious traditions, advances normative questions, and deals with meta-theoretical issues of causality. The committee felt the article would have lasting impact into the future, as these issues are and will likely continue to be central to the field. As an illustration of this, one of the committee members had already used the piece in a graduate seminar. In addition to the certificate, an award of \$500 was split between the two authors.

An honorable mention goes to: Driessen, Michael D. 2014. "Regime Type, Religion-State Arrangements, and Religious Markets in the Muslim World." *Sociology of Religion* 75(3):367-94.

The committee would like to bring four items forth for the Council's consideration for future competitions:

1. *Size of committee.* The committee totaled four members, which in this case resulted in a split decision when selecting between two potential winners. Although we were able to reach a consensus, this was largely due to the gracious concessions of several members who were willing to give the award to their second pick. In order to prevent future such occurrences, the committee discussed the possibility of limiting the number of members to three. Since three of the committee members are currently scheduled to rotate off in 2017 and one is scheduled to rotate off in 2018, downsizing the committee in this way would require one member to rotate off early, without making any new nominations to the committee for the 2016-2017 year.

2. *Length of time period under consideration.* As noted above, because of the determined dates of eligibility, papers were considered as far back as the Winter 2013 issue of the journal, resulting in a two and a half year period of eligibility. Given that one major point of consideration is potential impact on the field, it is possible that comparing articles over such a long time period may favor the articles published earlier, for which more information is available about impact. Alternately, because articles published earlier were also considered in a prior year for the same award, it is possible they may be disadvantaged in the minds of committee members on a second consideration as articles that were not selected as winners in that previous year. Either way, it might be fairer to consider articles over a one-year period of publication only, limiting the award to recent articles and considering each article in only one round of the award.

3. *Eligibility rules.* The committee was somewhat ambivalent about the new criteria of limiting the award to those articles published in the ASR journal. Some feel this does a good job of increasing the visibility of the journal and encouraging strong submissions, while others feel that it unnecessarily limits the pool of articles that can be considered the most important in a given time period. Regardless, whether or not these eligibility rules are retained, awareness of the new rules could be enhanced. The committee received a number of direct nominations from authors for articles that were both automatically considered as publications in the ASR journal and for articles that were not eligible.

2015-2016 Distinguished Article Award Committee: Nicolette Manglos-Weber, Chair, manglosweber@ksu.edu. Mark Chaves, mac58@soc.duke.edu. Alex Bierman, aebierma@ucalgary.ca. Maxwell Rahsaan, rahsaan@email.unc.edu.

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee Report

Committee:

Amy Adamczyk, John Jay College, CUNY

Michele Dillon, University of New Hampshire

Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University Chicago (chair)

In 2015, the committee put together a proposal for the Association for the Sociology of Religion to sponsor a "Lifetime Achievement Award." The proposal was presented to ASR Council in Chicago, and following discussion was approved.

I was asked to chair the first committee that would give such an award, and I agreed.

I am sorry to admit, however, that was the last thing I did about it last academic year. The Call for Nominations was not drafted nor disseminated. No nominations came in; no award was handed out.

This past summer, I wrote both Lori Beaman and Jim Cavendish, confessing my sin and asking whether they wanted me to take on those duties this year, with an eye to presenting the inaugural award in 2017. They both agreed. I, in turn, contacted Amy Adamczyk and Michele Dillon, and they also agreed to serve on the committee again, this time making the first award.

We plan to:

- a) Draft a Call for Nominations in Fall 2016;
- b) Distribute the Call in late 2016, and early 2017;
- c) Get nominations by April 2017;
- d) Make a decision, and communicate it to the Executive Officer, in time for the August 2017 ASR meeting.

It is my understanding that President Dan Olson has asked Nancy Ammerman to participate on the committee, with the plan for her to assume the chair when I finish, thus the committee will coordinate with her.

I promise it will be done this year.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION INVESTMENT AND SPENDING POLICY

I: Investment Objective

The investment objective for the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) assets is to provide current income to support the programs of the Association and to achieve growth of principal and income over time that will preserve or increase purchasing power.

II: Asset Allocation

Based upon historical evidence that equity type investments have produced substantially greater returns net of inflation than returns from fixed-income investments such as bonds and money market securities, the primary emphasis should be on equity related investments, with fixed-income securities normally comprising no more than forty percent of investment assets.

III: Equity Investments

Equity investments will normally constitute sixty percent of the investment assets. The principal category of equity investments will normally be no-load or low-load mutual funds investing in high quality, investment grade stocks in companies that are financially sound and that have favorable prospects for earnings growth. The portfolio of investments may be made through a single mutual fund family or through separately managed funds with proven records of superior results over time.

IV: Fixed-Income Investments

Investments in fixed-income securities will not normally exceed forty percent of the investment assets as a long term guideline. These investments shall normally be made through the purchase of shares in investment grade no-load funds.

V: Tactical Asset Allocation

While the normal asset mix of investment securities shall be at or near the ratio of sixty percent equities to forty percent fixed-income securities, the actual market exposure to stock and bonds may vary from 0% to 100% on a shorter term basis through strategies normally referred to as tactical asset allocation. Such tactical asset allocation shall not be employed for the purpose of short-term market timing. Rather, the objective of tactical asset allocation is to make conservative re-allocations that will improve portfolio performance during major market trends.

VI: Statement of Social Responsibility

It shall be the objective of the Development Committee to invest in equities and fixed income securities that are in keeping with the objectives of ASR. To achieve this objective, it shall be the responsibility of the Development Committee to periodically review with its financial advisors the mutual fund families in which it invests and determine whether there are ways to invest in more socially responsible funds without placing the Association at financial risk.

VII: Spending Policy

It is the intention of this policy that investment returns shall equal or exceed the sum of spending from the assets plus inflation. Therefore, the general spending policy of ASR is to allocate to the support of its programs a share of investment assets that will permit maintaining or increasing the value of the investments over time adjusted for inflation.

In order to preserve current assets and assure for long range growth that will hedge against inflation, it shall be the policy of ASR to maintain a spending discipline that does not exceed 4% of the fair market value of the investments using a twelve quarter trailing average.

Whenever higher net-returns of the most recent twelve quarter trailing period exceed 4% and reliable forecasts project into the future net returns of greater than 4%, the Development Committee may recommend either a fix-sum dividend or an increase in the percent of monies available to the Executive Council for allocation to projects of ASR.

VIII: The Development Committee of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

The Development Committee, like other Standing Committees of ASR, shall consist of at least three members each of whom serves a three-year term. The President, at the end of his/her term, shall appoint a new member to succeed the member whose three-year term is expiring. The Executive Officer and President shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Development Committee.

The Development Committee shall have general responsibilities for reviewing the financial policies and practices of the Association and shall report such recommendations as they may periodically have to the Executive Officer and Executive Council.

The Development Committee is responsible for selecting an investment manager(s), supervising the investments, monitoring adherence to investment policy guidelines, at least once a year having a short-term consultation with an appropriate outside financial consultant, and recommending to Executive Council any changes in investment policies. The Executive Officer is responsible for timely execution of investment decisions and for forwarding financial statements to the Committee.