

Nominations Committee Report, 2016-2017

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

FROM: Lori G. Beaman, Past-President of ASR

Re: Nominations Committee and Election Results

The Past-President is charged with the task of chairing the Nominations Committee. Joining me on the committee were James Beckford and Joy Charlton, who were essential to the process of identifying well-qualified candidates.

We are grateful to those who agreed to stand for election.

In November the committee submitted the following ballot. As before, candidates for President were asked to submit a short statement of their vision for ASR in addition to a bio. Candidates for Council submitted a bio only. The election closed on June 1, 2017 with 85 members casting ballots. The elected candidates are highlighted in bold below.

President

Paula Nesbitt

Lynn Davidman

Council Member

Elisabeth Arweck

Solange Lefebvre

Jualynne Dodson

Ryan Cragun

Doug Ezzy

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Beaman

ASR Past-President

President-Elect's Report

August 2017

Montréal, Québec

Dan Olson

There are three topics I would like to discuss.

1. In your packet you should have a copy of the call for papers. Jerry Park has agreed to be my program chair for the 2018 annual meetings in Philadelphia. The theme is "Strengthening Weak Ties to other Sociological Subdisciplines."

Although we usually have had a joint session with ASA (more on that below), a major goal of our 2018 meeting will be to increase our interaction with ideas and researchers from outside the subfield of sociology of religion. I think that such interactions can benefit both the sociology of religion and sociology more generally.

Jerry and I are planning a number of "Presidential sessions" in which Jerry and I invite panelists and paper presenters who can address linkages between sociology of religion and the findings and theories of other sociological subdisciplines. Some of these Presidential sessions would be panel discussions, some of them might focus on research findings that engage the linkages between sociology of religion and a particular different subfield of sociology, for example crime and delinquency, health and aging, etc. the goal of these sessions will be to explore ways in which the sociology of religion could gain from these other subfields and ways that the other subfields might benefit from sociology of religion. I'm hoping that these sessions can stimulate our creativity and enhance our research and thinking.

I may be contacting some of you with requests for names of panelists who you think could contribute to these kinds of discussions, or the names of researchers outside of the sociology of religion whose work you believe should be presented at our conference. Please feel free to initiate contact me or Jerry with regard to any session ideas you have or any names of potential contributors to these Presidential sessions.

2. At our council meeting last year we discussed our frustration with trying to work with ASA in planning joint ASR-ASA sessions. Although these sessions have been, I think, symbolically important in linking us to the broader discipline of sociology, the planning for them has not been easy. Last year we raised the issue of whether the sessions were worth the amount of trouble required to get them on the ASA program. **There will be no joint ASA-ASR session at the 2018 meetings in Philadelphia.**

I will admit that part of the reason for not having this session is that the deadline for proposing a session topic and finding participants in time to meet ASA's scheduling deadlines snuck up on me in February at a time when I was (in my role as Director of Graduate Studies for the Sociology Department at Purdue) very busy with recruitment of new graduate students. Additionally, Jerry and I had not yet worked out the theme for the 2018 meetings and I was not able to propose a reasonable topic in time to meet ASA's deadlines. I apologize to the Association for this lapse on my part.

However, given that the theme of the conference for 2018, and the plan of the program is specifically aimed at highlighting linkages to the larger discipline of sociology, I think that some of the functions that were met by the joint ASA-ASR session will be more than made up for by the special presidential sessions around the conference theme.

I'm not proposing that we terminate future ASA-ASR joint sessions. I'm only announcing that there will be no such session in 2018. Future ASR presidents and their program chairs can, of course, reinstitute these sessions if they desire.

3. Because my hope is to invite some participants to the Presidential sessions who usually would not come to our conference, **I'm asking permission from the Council to allow me to waive (in no more than five cases) the membership requirement (and possibly the conference registration requirement) for conference participants who appear on the program.** I would consider such waivers on a case-by-case basis and would only give them to people who could substantially strengthen our program and our conversation with non-sociologists of religion but who would otherwise be reluctant to become members and pay a conference registration fee simply for one session.

Here's my rationale. In the case of a few potential participants who could truly be an asset to our program and the program theme, but who would not otherwise attend our conference and pay our membership fees, I would not be able to offer them a stipend for participation. In a few such cases, I would at least like to be able to waive our membership fee and possibly our conference registration fee. As I say, I don't imagine that this would apply to very many people but I think that it should apply to a few people whose contributions to the program would likely outweigh the loss of income to the Association from waving their fees.

Before offering such waivers, I would probably consult others in the Association to get their opinions concerning whether the contribution of a particular participant would merit a waiver of our fees.

**2018 Call for Papers
80th Annual Meeting of the
Association for the Sociology of Religion**

Location: Philadelphia, PA
Hotel: Sofitel Philadelphia, 120 S 17th St
Date: August 11-13, 2018 (welcome reception on the 11th)
Program Chair: Jerry Z. Park, Baylor University

Theme: Strengthening Weak Ties to other Sociological Subdisciplines

The sociology of religion is sometimes accused of being isolated by relatively low levels of mutual influence between itself and other sociological subdisciplines. Assuming that disciplines and subdisciplines benefit from exposure to alternative schools of thought, frames of reference, concepts, social networks, data, and theories, the 2018 program theme aims to strengthen our theoretical and social ties to other sociological subdisciplines. As always, we invite sessions and papers dealing with any topic of interest to sociologists of religion.

Appeal for Papers with Links to Other Subdisciplines

We especially invite papers that utilize approaches, theories, data, and insights developed outside of the sociology of religion to help explain religious phenomena or use aspects of religion to explain non-religious social phenomena. Some examples might be religion AND . . . adolescent development, crime, culture, demography, economics, environment, family, gender, immigration, inequality, aging, health, mental health, race, rural sociology, sexualities, theory, etc.

Appeal for Sessions with Presenters/Discussants from Other Subdisciplines

We especially invite proposals for sessions with invited presenters or panelists whose research identities are not primarily within the sociology of religion but who can discuss mutually beneficial linkages of data, theories, and insights between the sociology of religion and other subdisciplines.

DEADLINES: Session Proposals should be emailed to Jerry Park, 2018 Program Chair, at jerry_park@baylor.edu by **March 31, 2018**. Paper Proposals and abstracts are due by **April 30, 2018**. **Please submit these through the ASR website at www.sociologyofreligion.com.**

PLEASE REMEMBER: Membership in the ASR is generally required of anyone who wishes to have his/her session or paper proposal considered by the Program Committee. Anyone who presents a paper, organizes and/or convenes a session, serves as a session panelist, or is part of the ASR Program is typically expected to both be a member of the ASR and register for the conference by **July 1, 2018**. When asking people to participate in a session you wish to organize, please be sure they are aware of these guidelines. Please contact the 2018 Program Committee with any questions about these guidelines prior to your submission or agreement to participate in a session. You may email Dan Olson (dsolson@purdue.edu), Jerry Park (jerry_park@baylor.edu), or Rachel Kraus (ASREO@bsu.edu).

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

FROM: Rachel Kraus, Executive Officer

RE: Report on the State of ASR

I approached my first year as Executive Officer of ASR as a time to learn as much as I could about the behind the scenes operations of the association and build upon an outstanding foundation. I asked a lot of questions and became more familiar with our various electronic processes and the capabilities of our website. At the conclusion of the first year, I have two immediate goals/priorities:

- a. Secure hotel contracts a few years out (2 and ½ to 3 rather than 1 and ½) to keep our association and room rate costs as low as possible (especially given that we have some very expensive cities coming up in the next few years).
- b. Move our website, membership processes, and meeting registrations forward. Unfortunately, I experienced several glitches on our website resulting in a lot of unnecessary communication with members who are rightfully confused by our current registration and membership processes. To be more specific, some of the most problematic issues are:

- 1) The website does not automatically update when people renew their membership or join the association for the first time. This is important because once people renew their membership or join the association, they sometimes are looking for immediate access to member only materials, such as voting in elections, viewing the journal, or submitting an abstract for the conference. Since they currently have to wait for the website to be manually updated, they are sometimes concerned that their payment didn't go through, which results in 1) unnecessary multiple payments and/or 2) concern that they aren't able to access the members only benefits for which they paid. I'd like to enhance our website so memberships are automatically updated, if possible.

- 2) Registering for our annual meeting has been a nightmare. When people register on our website, they are not always directed to PayPal. This means that people think they have registered for our annual meeting, but they have not paid for the registration. Since the website tells them that they are already registered, they believe they are fully registered. My band aid fix for this situation has been to include an automated message that tells people that they initiated their registration on the website, but they need to pay the registration fee to complete their registration. I have directed people to log into their PayPal account, and this has seemed to work well. Some people have also paid by checks. I have also used the invoice feature of Quickbooks, which has not given anyone problems (even those members who could not use PayPal because PayPal would not recognize their international credit cards). I have also included this registration information in all of my email newsletters. Similar to membership payments, the website does not update registrations. I have to manually tell the website who has paid. Unfortunately, the website does not let me update some people's payments (see a. below). I'd like to enhance our website so that members are automatically directed to PayPal so they can pay for their registration at the same time that they register. My goal is for the website to more accurately reflect both membership and registration payments.

- 3) There is also a glitch in our website that does not allow me to manually update some registrations. I have sent numerous examples to our current webmaster and he is not able to fix the glitch. This glitch creates an additional level of confusion and a lack of organization.

- 4) Unfortunately, I believe the ASR and our current webmaster have grown in different directions. The vast majority of our webmaster's clients are large national and international organizations that pay

hundreds of dollars for monthly maintenance agreements (in his words “95% of my clients don’t look like you.”). Because the ASR does not have a monthly maintenance agreement (the webmaster has told me that he doesn’t think we need a monthly maintenance agreement), we are not a priority for the webmaster and his company. Therefore, work may or may not be done for us in a timely fashion and several problems that I have experienced with the website have not been able to be fixed. After careful consideration, I am recommending that we move to a different webmaster.

During my first year, I completed two site visits for our future conferences. The ASR typically conducts site visits about 1 and ½ years before a meeting (for example, the site visit for Montreal was conducted in the Spring of 2016). We all are aware that our conference hotel rates can be expensive given that we meet in large cities and during the summer (prime tourist season for many locations). One of my goals for the ASR is to keep our hotel costs as low as possible to encourage our attendees to stay in our hotel and to help maintain ASR’s excellent financial standing. We are able to get better rates on hotels (lower room rates, more reasonable Food and Beverage minimums) and have more availability for hotels the farther out we book. In our 2014 member survey, the two most desirable qualities for the ASR hotel were cost and proximity to the ASA hotel(s). Scouting hotels as early as possible helps us better meet both of our members’ preferences of ASR hotel. Since I booked our 2018 and 2019 hotels, I plan to conduct site visits for our 2020 hotel in the Fall of 2017 (I will work on this site visit immediately following our Montreal conference).

I am happy to report that I have secured very competitive rates for both our 2018 and 2019 meetings.

- a. 2018: Sofitel Philadelphia, excellent downtown location, .7 miles from ASA hotel
 - i. Aug. 11 (welcome reception; first council meeting) – Aug. 14 (2nd council meeting)
 - ii. ASA: Aug. 11 – 14; Religion Section day 1 (Aug. 11)
 - iii. \$195 for a king or double room for our entire room block (double rooms are \$215 on Aug. 10 - 11).
- b. 2019: Park Central New York, doors away from one of the ASA hotels
 - i. Aug. 11 (welcome reception; first council meeting) – Aug. 14 (2nd council meeting)
 - ii. ASA: Aug. 10 – 13; Religion Section day 2 (Aug. 11)
 - iii. \$185 for a king and \$205 for a double room for our entire room block
- c. 2020: San Francisco TBA
 - i. Proposed: Aug 14 (welcome reception; first council meeting) – Aug. 17 (2nd council meeting)
 - ii. ASA: Aug. 15 – 18; Religion Section day 3 (Aug. 17)

Di Di, our Program Chair and our President, Michael Emerson, have put together an excellent program. Following recent trends, we will have 7 concurrent sessions in the same time slot. In response to some concerns that were expressed in Seattle, the specific times for the sessions have been altered slightly to closer approximate the timing of the ASA sessions. This change should allow for smoother transitions between the ASA and ASR conference, especially for the joint ASA/ASR sessions.

Many other aspects of the association continue to flourish. *Sociology of Religion* continues to climb in the rankings. The current impact factor of our journal is 1.370, with a 5 year impact factor of 1.614. Congratulations to Gerardo for his tremendous service as the journal’s editor.

This year’s committee reports are a testament to each committee’s hard work to make their operations more efficient and identify areas in need of improvement. There is not one committee whose work has not been stellar.

Regarding our membership: As of July 25, 2017, we have 406 active professional members and 181 active student/low income members for a total of 587 members. Unfortunately, this number reflects a slight decline from our membership numbers in past years that ranged from the low to the mid 600s. However, the general trend for membership in the ASA Religion Section and the SSSR in recent trend has also been one of slight decline. So although it’s not ideal for our membership numbers to be slipping, the trend we are seeing is on par with other associations.

The Finance Committee (or what our Constitution calls the “Development Committee”) developed a plan for a new membership fee structure and increase in registration rates. Council decided that this year, we would implement the new membership fee structure and we would raise registration rates for our 2018 meeting. This plan corresponds nicely to the increasing costs of our 2018, 2019, and no doubt, our 2020 meetings. The new membership fee structure that was implemented this year is as follows:

ONE YEAR PROFESSIONAL

- \$60 (annual salary less than \$50,000)
- \$70 (annual salary between \$50,001-\$75,000)
- \$80 (annual salary between \$75,001-\$100,000)
- \$90 (annual salary more than \$100,000)

TWO YEAR PROFESSIONAL

- \$105 (annual salary less than \$50,000)
- \$130 (annual salary between \$50,001-\$75,000)
- \$155 (annual salary between \$75,001-\$100,000)
- \$175 (annual salary more than \$100,000)

STUDENT/LOW-INCOME COUNTRY RESIDENT

- \$20

Council also approved a three-year membership option. However, there weren't enough available categories in our PayPal account that would allow for additional categories. When I begin working with a new webmaster, I will talk with him about how we may be able to make the three year membership option available. The three year professional membership categories approved by council are as follows:

- \$145 (annual salary less than \$50,000)
- \$185 (annual salary between \$50,001-\$75,000)
- \$230 (annual salary between \$75,001-\$100,000)
- \$260 (annual salary more than \$100,000)

There were a few retired faculty members who asked if we had an option for retirees. I discussed this question with the Finance Committee, and we concluded that people in retirement will have different incomes, so they can place themselves in whatever category best fits their income. For retirees who were looking for less expensive option, I did offer them a three-year membership at the lowest Professional Member price (pointing out that per year, our rate is lower than the current annual ASA retiree membership fee of \$50).

Regarding the raising of registration fees: Council approved a two-year tier in registration fee increases. The current registration fees are \$35 for students and \$70 for everyone else. The approved registration fee increase is as follows:

CATEGORY 2017 2018

Students	40	50
All Others	95	140

Since we did not raise registration fees in 2017, do we want to use a two year system of 2018 and 2019 or implement in 2018 the approved 2018 amounts?

So, what does the financial status of ASR look like at the current time? ASR's assets at the current time are summarized below:

<i>Banking Accounts</i>	<i>Value as of 7/14/17</i>
ASR's Checking Account at Forum Credit Union	125,668
ASR's Savings Account at Forum Credit Union	2.00
PayPal Account	2,578
Total Value of Banking Accounts	\$128,248
<i>American Funds Accounts</i>	<i>Value as of 6/30/17</i>
Washington Mutual Investors Fund-A (Fund #01)	112,912.99
The Bond Fund of America-A (Fund #08)	105,947.33
American High-Income Trust-A (Fund #21)	110,772.00
Capital World Growth and Income Fund-A (Fund #33)	109,329.98
SMALLCAP World Fund-A (Fund #35)	119,272.15
American Funds Money Market Fund-A (Fund #59)	11,214.71
Total Value of American Funds Portfolio	569,449.16
TOTAL ASSETS	\$697,697

The Association is in very good financial shape. In large measure, this financial stability is due to the interest we earn on our investments, our cost savings in member services through the use of our website instead of regular, postage-paid mailings for dues mailings, ballot mailings, etc., and the revenue that is generated from our journal. Furthermore, I have started writing our letters of invitation to international scholars using PDF signed letters that are emailed (ASA has been using this method for awhile). Not having to pay international postage for these letters is another cost-savings strategy. I am happy to report that our hotel room block sold out in early July. Although this means that not everyone who wants to will stay at our conference hotel, we will not have to pay a penalty for room attrition and we will receive maximum complimentary room nights. Not paying room attrition penalties and receiving up to 8 complimentary room nights also saves our association money.

Without a doubt, the most important item in this report is my sincere thanks to Jim Cavendish for his consistent and frequent assistance with the EO transition. I continue to be grateful for Jim's patience, dedication to the ASR, and his sincere desire to see our association thrive. Jim has been an incredible source of information and assistance. Furthermore, I thank council, committee members, and the ASR membership base for their patience during this transition period. I am grateful for everyone's perseverance through various rough patches, particularly concerning our website. Thank you, Jim, and everyone, for welcoming me into this new role.

PREVIOUS YEARS' BUDGETS AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2018

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

	2012 Denver	2013 New York	2014 San Fran	2015 Chicago	2016 Seattle	2017 Montreal to date & projected	2018 Philly Proposal
Revenue/Income							
Contributions, Gifts Total	20,267	16,454	17,905	19,766	23,023	24,435	25,000
Memberships	19,455	16,454	15,906	19,050	23,023	22,635	25,000
Donations; Unused Fichter	812		2,000	716		1,800	
Program Service Revenue Total	121,978	76,385	88,393	86,181	70,320	86,417	90,461
Publications Total	111,163	63,508	63,163	70,231	52,354	70,812	71,261
Journal submission fee						455	450
Processing Fees	200	200					
Oxford Royalties	107,724	50,000	51,652	52,864	50,000	55,000	55,000
Oxford Stipend for Editorial Support		10,000	10,000	10,000		15,000	15,000
Brill Royalties				5,882	1,187	412.14	412
EBSCO Royalties						184.94	185
Cengage						131.14	130
Copyright Clearance						83.95	84
Non-Oxford Royalties	3,239	3,308	1,511	1,485	1,167		
Annual Meeting Total	10,815	12,877	25,230	15,950	17,966	15,605	19,200
Registrations (incl breakfast)	10,815	10,177	20,930	11,600	12,547	12,405	15,000
Book Exhibits		1,300	1,000	1,150	1,719	1,000	1,000
Program Ads		400	600	400	200	200	200
OUP Co-sponsor Reception		500	500	500	500	-	-
Brill Co-sponsor Reception		500	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Louisville Instit. Co-sponsor Reception					2,000	2,000	2,000
Other Reception Sponsors			1,200	1,000			
Session Sponsors				300			
Investment Income Total (dividends, interest)	12,911	22,244	29,865	25,247	19,317	42,377.88	42,000
Total Revenue/Income	155,156	115,083	136,163	131,194	112,660	153,229.88	157,461
Expenses							
Grants Total	20,000	24,552	20,151	19,688	16,121	19,000	20,500- 22,000
McNamara		918	500	500	500	500	500
SoR Article			500	500	500	500	500
Lifetime Achievement						500	500
Gallagher		4,971	1,529	3,489	3,250	4500	6,000-7,500
Fichter		17,633	16,622	15,199	11,871	12,000	12,000
Furfey		1,000	1,000			1,000	1,000
Salary/Stipends Total	12,000	20,250	23,500	21,500	24,000	31,500	33,500
Executive Officer	5,500	10,000	7,500	7,500	7,500	12,000	12,000.00
EO Course Buyout						3,500	3,500
Executive Officer Office Help			2,000				2,000

Soc of Relig Editor	5,000	7,500	10,000	10,000	12,500	12,500	12,500
SoR Book Review Editor	1,500	2,750	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other Expenses Total	90,371	92,128	71,219	60,175	66,962	63,010	83,704
Management/Website Total		6,100				825	8,000
Office Total	6,876	2,973	1,948	2,056	1,707	4,590	1,804
Constant Contact						480 (40/mo)	480 (40/mo)
Wordpress						200	200
Quickbooks						325/year	425/year
American Express Fee						0	179
Articles of Incorp. Renew						50	50
Office Expenses/Supplies			1,623	1,581	1,269	3,315	250
Consulting Fees			325	475	438	300	300
Travel Total/EO Site Select	3,000	2,500	1,705	611	2,309	1,200	1,500
Conference/Ann Meet Total	54,706	56,666	44,587	35,667	47,641	9,515 USD 29,500 CAD	49,520
AV		12,095	1,027	3,744	1,896	2,500 CAD	2,500
AV Shipment				303	1,167	3,000	1,000
Food and Beverage	43,706	34,116	32,667	22,159	34,093	22,000 CAD	30,000
Registration workers	2,500	925	895	1,718	1,260	1,000	1,000
Awards						115	120
Name tags, ribbons						200	200
Standard supplies		125	239	223	110	200	200
Room Costs (Officers, Program Chair, Furfey,			5,232	3,889	3,964	4000 CAD	5000
Program Assistant	2,000	2,230	195				2,000
Program Printing	2,000	1,510	849	581	1,094	1,000 CAD	1,000
Meet Travel Reimburse	4,500	5,665	3,483	3,050	4,057		
President						750	1,000
President - Elect						500	500
EO						750	1,000
Furfey						750	1,000
Journal Editor						750	1,000
Program Chair						750	1,000
Future Program Chair						750	1,000
Other Journal Expenses Total	25,789	23,889	22,979	21,841	15,305	17,380	22,880
Payment to OUP for member subscriptions	19,455	18,889	18,889	16,796	15,225	17,380	17,380
Editor's Budget	5,000	5,000	3,524	4,545			5,000
Reimburse Editor's Expenses (journal related gatherings at annual meeting)			566	500	80	500	500
RSO	1,334						
Depreciation Total					667	667	630
Total Expenses	122,371	136,930	114,870	101,363	107,083	114,177	139,834
Total Income	155,156	115,083	136,163	131,194	112,660	153,229.88	157,461
Total Income - Expenses	34,119	-21,847	21,293	29,831	5,577	39,123	17,627

2017 Notes:

- Brill co-sponsored the 2017 presidential reception, and they sent us \$1,000 from 2016
- Louisville Institute co-sponsored the presidential reception
- Book exhibits:
 - Scholars Choice: 2 tables
 - Brill: 2 tables
 - Spring: 1 unstaffed table
 - OUP: 2 tables
 - NYU: 1 unstaffed table
- Program Ad: Berghahn Books
- Declined Gallagher awards: Alexander Gardner-McTaggart returned \$1,000; Serhan Tanriverdi returned \$500 so we did not award \$1500 that was part of our budget
- Expenses, Supplies: We purchased a new laptop for Gerardo's SoR editorial work for \$3,115.00; I estimated another \$200 for paper, toner, etc. used at Ball State
- Conference/Annual Meeting: We are no longer mailing letters of invitation (I email signed PDF letters – ASA has been using the PDF method for years without issue), so we don't have mailing expenses beyond shipping
- AV: Some AV is required for hotel union contracts (this is also the case in Philadelphia and NYC). Hotel AV services were hired to help set up and dismantle our AV equipment, prepare the room for two speakers (including use of hotel speakers and microphone for optimal sound quality), and a tech on-site to help trouble shoot any AV issues that may arise during the conference.
- AV shipment: we hired a broker agency to help with shipment and customs (the most highly recommended company in Canada), so the shipping fee is higher than it has been in earlier years
- Consulting fees: I'd like to consult with my personal accountant to assist with the budget and taxes. I've already spoken with him about whether he can assist me with our type of organization. He has other clients like us.
- Travel expenses for officers and others is an estimate based on current information.
- Depreciation for 2018 considers the laptop we purchased for Gerardo in 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Kraus

TO: Association for the Sociology of Religion

FROM: Di Di, 2017 Program Chair

RE: 2017 Program Chair Report

Program Overview

At the time that this report was prepared, the Association for the Sociology of Religion 2017 Annual Meeting Program has been created with a total of 67 sessions. We have had 3 fewer sessions than last year, but 17 more sessions than the year before that one. Most of the decrease from the number of sessions last year was due to the decrease of individual submissions. This year, we received 111 individual submissions, leading to 25 regular paper sessions; the number of regular paper sessions is 13 fewer than last year. However, at the same time, we have received 20 pre-proposed sessions, a 7-session increase from the previous year. Below is a detailed breakdown of this year's sessions compared to the last three years.

Session Type	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pre-Organized Sessions				
Author-Meets-Critics	8	8	14	15
Program Chair-Solicited and Proposed Paper Sessions	5	15	13	20
Professional Development Sessions	3	3	1	3
Total Pre-Organized Sessions	16	26	28	38
Chair-Organized Sessions				
Regular Sessions	29	21	38	25
Presidential Panels	2	1	0	0
Joint ASR-ASA Sessions	2	2	4	4
Total Sessions	49	50	70	67
Papers Scheduled to be Presented	152	142	197	181

Process

The President of ASR, Michael Emerson, developed the theme of the conference to be "Religion and Divisions: Causes, Consequences, and Conflicts." Based on the sessions that I have organized related to this theme, and the number of proposed sessions that I have received, the theme of this year's conference is broad enough to attract a number of scholars who address this topic from different perspectives with empirical focuses on religion in different geographical locations, such as Canada, Latin America, South Korea, Europe, and China. And, while being sufficiently broad, the theme is also specific enough to attract papers that discuss timely issues about religion, such as religion and (non)violence.

We made some changes to the program schedule. First, per the requests from some participants, we changed the time slots on the program so that they largely overlap with the ASA time slots. This change makes it easier for participants attending both ASR and ASA to go back and forth between the two conferences. To accommodate this change, we have had to schedule to business meetings in the early morning on August 14th and have also had to slightly change the schedule of the presidential address, Furfey lecture, and receptions.

Second, Michael and I have also made efforts to broaden the empirical focuses of the sessions being held in this conference. Substantively, we have organized Author-Meets-Critics sessions that cover a range of topics, including Islam, lived religions, religion and family, and religion and race, as well as a book that provides a historical overview of the development of sociology of religion. Geographically, we welcomed sessions that addressed non-Christian religions outside North America. We have scheduled sessions about religion in China, South Korea, Latin American, and Europe.

Third, we sought to make this conference a significant space for sociologists of religion to seek professional development, and to that end, we've scheduled three professional development sessions this year. Two of them are proposed sessions on teaching the sociology of religion and seeking funding in the sociology of religion. Michael and I organized the third session about surviving grad school and navigating the job market, which will provide useful tips for both junior and senior graduate students.

Issues:

While the whole process went fairly smoothly, we encountered a few issues worth noting.

1. The biggest issue is the number of Author-Meets-Critics sessions in the conference. Michael and I began to invite authors to participate in the Author-Meets-Critics sessions in November 2016, and we successfully recruited eight authors to present

their books in these sessions (sadly, one of them was forced to withdraw his participation due to upcoming travel arrangements). Yet, when soliciting session proposals, we received another eight proposals for Author-Meets-Critics sessions. We didn't want to reject any of the proposed Author-Meets-Critics sessions, given that they are all presenting exciting new research in the sociology of religion and cover a broad range of substantive and geographical areas, but we were worried that the number of Author-Meets-Critics sessions exceeds the "cap" of our conference. For future conferences, we may consider (1) whether there should be a maximum number of Author-Meets-Critics sessions in each conference; and (2) we may consider whether we need to establish an earlier deadline for Author-Meets-Critics session proposals.

2. The online portal for paper submissions worked fine this year, except for a few unrecognized words. The issue that I have encountered is with the submission of papers in pre-proposed sessions versus individual submissions. According to an instructive document for the Program Chair, I asked presenters in proposed paper sessions to submit their paper abstracts, but not everyone did so. Additionally, there was not a column differentiating paper submission for pre-proposed sessions from individual submissions. I needed to go back to the session proposals and manually highlight the paper submission for pre-proposed sessions before sorting the remaining papers into sessions.
3. While the previous program chairs have indicated the difficulty in recruiting session conveners, this was not a big issue for this year's program organization. The new function of the online submission system allows presenters to indicate whether they are willing to serve as session conveners, and I usually assigned them to be conveners in their own sessions. Afterwards, I emailed a few people to see if their schedule would allow them to serve as session conveners in other sessions as needed. The whole process went very smoothly and was not time-consuming at all.

Conclusion:

I think program organization went pretty well this year. I would like to thank Michael Emerson and Rachel Kraus for their incredible help throughout the process.

International Liaison/Gallagher Grants Committee Report 2017

July 21, 2017

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

FROM: Jean Beaman, Chair

RE: Report to Council on the activity of the International Liaison/Gallagher Grants Committee for 2016-2017

The International Liaison Committee was comprised this year of Jean Beaman (Purdue University), Damon Mayrl (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), and Elisabeth Arweck (University of Warwick)

Background

The primary task of the International Liaison/Gallagher Grants Committee is to provide suggestions for 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 (about \$250 per night), though international applicants were also permitted to allocate some funds for airfare costs.

Similar to 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 single document with their CV, an extended abstract to the ASR conference of 1000-1500 words, a statement of financial need, and evidence they could attend the meeting should they receive 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.

2017 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 and the ASA Religion Section.

We received ten applications total by our deadline of April 15. The overall total of 10 applicants is one higher than in 2016. Five of the applications came from domestic graduate students and five of them came from international scholars. The geographical spread of the international applicants was wide, including Brazil, Argentina, Norway, and Austria. The Committee shared the application files among themselves through a Dropbox folder.

The Committee considered and ranked the international scholars and graduate students separately. Based on need, we recommended awarding \$1000 to two of the international scholars, \$900 to one international scholar, \$600 to one international scholar, and \$500 to another international scholar. In terms of the graduate students, we recommended awarding \$500 each to four of the applicants.

After the awards were made, two of the awardees – one a graduate student and another an international scholar – were unable to attend the ASR meeting due to last-minute complications beyond their control. As such, these funds were added to the funds for next year's awards.

Recommendations

Overall, the Committee's work proceeded smoothly and quickly. One issue we confronted was confusion among some applicants who did not submit a regular abstract to the conference. This likely was because some applicants assumed applying for the Gallagher Grant was the same as submit to the conference. We recommend adjusting the language of the call to make sure applicants know these are separate application processes. Secondly, after consulting with Executive Officer Rachel Kraus, we recommend having separate calls for the graduate travel grants and the international scholar grants in terms of what the funds can be used for. For the graduate students, we believe it is reasonable to award grants in terms of the number of nights in the ASR hotel. For the international scholars, we suggest awarding up to \$500 to defray costs of airfare with up to two nights in the ASR hotel (or conversely, no funds for airfare costs and up to four nights in the ASR hotel). This recommendation comes from international scholars who often preferred to use the funds for airfare versus hotel costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Beaman
Chair, International Liaison/Gallagher Grants Committee
Purdue University
Department of Sociology
700 W. State St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907
beamanj@purdue.edu

2017 McNamara Committee Report

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

FROM: Sabrina Danielsen, Chair

RE: 2017 Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award Results

Dear Officers and Council Members,

I am pleased to report that 18 outstanding papers written by graduate student members of ASR were submitted for the 2017 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 18 submissions in a two-stage selection process. First, each committee members selected a short list of four-five papers from the original pool of 18. With significant overlap in members' selection, this produced a short list of three finalists who were selected for short list by at least two committee members. These finalists are listed below. Second, the committee discussed these top three papers to select the winner. There was much consensus within the committee about the paper winner. Our selection for the 2017 McNamara Award is the paper "The Gender Pray Gap: Wage Labor and the Religiosity of High-Earning Women and Men" by Landon Schnabel of Indiana University—Bloomington. Mr. Schnabel has been notified of our decision.

Best,

Sabrina Danielsen, Chair

Aida Ramos, Committee Member

Stuart A. Wright, Committee Member

2017 Finalists:

Second Place Runner-Up:

Simon Brauer

Duke University

"The Surprisingly Predictable Decline of Religion in the United States"

Third Place Runner-Up:

Lindsay Glassman

University of Pennsylvania

"In the Lord's Hands': Divine Healing and Embodiment in a Fundamentalist Christian Church"

2017 Distinguished Article Award Report

Committee:

Mark Chaves (Chair)

Rahsaan Maxwell

Chaeyoon Lim

Winner: Barron, Jessica M. 2016. "Managed Diversity: Race, Place, and an Urban Church." *Sociology of Religion* 77:18-36.

The Committee reviewed all of the articles in volume 77 of the journal.

The process went smoothly, so I don't have any recommendations re process.

I do recommend, though, that the name of this award be changed to "Outstanding Article in *Sociology of Religion*," or something like that. "Distinguished Article Award" seems inappropriately broad now that only SOR articles are eligible.

Committee Report – August 2017
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution to the Sociology of Religion
Rhys H. Williams – committee chair

Committee:

Amy Adamczyk, John Jay College, CUNY
Nancy Tatom Ammerman, Boston University
Michele Dillon, University of New Hampshire
Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University Chicago (chair)

In 2016-17 the Association for the Sociology of Religion's Lifetime Achievement Award Committee accomplished the following:

- a) Drafted a Call for Nominations in Fall 2016;
- b) Distributed the Call in late 2016, and early 2017;
- c) Set a nominations deadline of May 15, later extended to May 30;
- d) Considered the received nominations, made a decision on an inaugural winner, and communicated that decision to the ASR Executive Officer and President.

The entire process worked exactly as we had envisioned it, except for the fact that we received very few nominations, despite extending the deadline and having the EO issue another one or two email blasts announcing the award. The process for nomination is simple: 1) a letter of nomination, providing a rationale for the potential recipient; and 2) an up-to-date curriculum vitae of the nominee. The call for nominations put no restrictions on who could be nominated, and it specifically discouraged other letters of support. Thus, we thought we had made the process as simple as possible.

The only explanation I can provide is that the award is new and is not yet well known. We hope, and reasonably expect, that the announcement and presentation of the inaugural award prompts increased interest and nominations in coming years. I perhaps made a mistake by having the email announcements bundled with other announcements from the executive office, rather than composing and disseminating some individual messages about the new award. That might be a good plan for next year.

Despite the small number of nominations, the committee was unanimous in its approval of the inaugural recipient, James A. Beckford, Professor Emeritus of Sociology from the University of Warwick, UK. Professor Beckford has exactly the kind of c.v., and impact on the sociology of religion for over four decades, that the award was designed to recognize. The presentation will be made during the opening night reception during the 2017 annual meeting in Montreal.