

## *Context of Religious Research*

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### FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear RRA Colleagues

Preregistration materials for our **annual meeting in Kansas City, 22-24 October** should arrive in your mail from the SSSR office shortly. The preliminary program is already available through our Web site: <http://rra.hartsem.edu>. We will continue the traditional three-day layout of sessions, wherein we begin on Friday morning and continue into early Sunday afternoon. I hope you were already planning on attending-but if you were not, then I hope that seeing the program will change your mind! As usual, the worst thing I can see about it is that there are so many good offerings that choice making will be a challenge. Our program chair, John Bartkowski, has put together an excellent series of offerings. For the first time that I can remember, we have been able to run a full track of sessions addressing the program theme, **Linking Social Action and Religious Research**, which clearly indicates a resonance with the interests of our membership. We also have a full track of general sessions. I have found the SSSR program chair uniquely cooperative this year, and I hope John has too. (If you don't have time to go through the whole program, the RRA sessions are tracks 6 and 7 throughout.) This year Nancy Nason-Clark will deliver her Presidential Address (Friday evening).

An important part of the summer issue of *Context* is the Nominating Committee's slate of officers. Tony Blasi and the nominating committee you elected have assembled an able list of candidates. This year's slate includes a new Nominating Committee chair, as well as members of our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. Your ballot must be **received** by **21 September** in order to be counted. Envelopes are provided for this purpose. Note that there is also a By-laws amendment, submitted by the Board of Directors last fall. **Current By-laws appear on our Web site.** Some of you will find a dues notice instead of a ballot. Having your dues paid by 5 August will bring you a ballot.

When you look at your envelope, you will also notice that the Executive Office has a new address, which means that the Executive Officer has moved-in April to be exact. We are still largely living out of boxes, but I am extremely happy to be back in the Midwest. You can Google or Yahoo to see where Galva actually is. For social-scientific interest, it is very close to the nineteenth-century utopian community of Bishop Hill, and has kindred Swedish roots. My own take is that Galva is where the colonists came who would rather get money than get holy. In any case, we celebrated our hundred-fiftieth birthday on July Fourth.

## CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

**DEAN HOGE**, Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University, 1970, is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Life Cycle Institute at the Catholic University of America. From 1969 to 1974 he served as assistant professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, before coming to Catholic University, where he has taught ever since. His principal books are *The Future of Catholic Leadership* (1987), *Vanishing Boundaries: The Religion of Protestant Baby Boomers* (co-authored with Benton Johnson and Donald Luidens, 1994), *Money Matters: Personal Giving to American Churches* (co-authored with Charles Zech, Patrick McNamara, and Michael Donahue, 1996), *Young Adult Catholics* (co-authored with William Dinges, Mary Johnson, and Juan Gonzales, 2001); *American Catholics* (co-authored with William D'Antonio, James Davidson, and Katherine Meyer); and *Evolving Visions of the Priesthood* (co-authored with Jacqueline Wenger, 2003). He is a past president of the RRA.

**D. PAUL JOHNSON**, Ph.D., Sociology, University of Illinois, is Professor of Sociology and Chair of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at Texas Tech University. He is a past president of the RRA and was editor of the *Review of Religious Research* 1990-1999. He is a frequent participant in the annual meetings of RRA and other professional associations. His articles have appeared in such journals as the *RRR*, *Sociological Analysis* (now *Sociology of Religion*), *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *Deviant Behavior*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, and others. He is author of *Sociological Theory: Classical Founders and Contemporary Perspectives* (1981) and is now working on a textbook in contemporary theory. Other current projects include generational differences in religiosity, local church cooperation in social service activities, and micro/macro linkages as reflected in accounts provided by agents and advocates in organizational and social movement contexts to rationalize their actions.

## CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JOHN P. BARTKOWSKI**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Mississippi State University, received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin in 1997. Much of his work examines the connections between religion, family, and social welfare. His most recent books include *Charitable Choices: Religion, Race, and Poverty in the Post-Welfare Era* (NYU 2003) and *The Promise Keepers: Servants, Soldiers, and Godly Men* (Rutgers 2004). He is also the author of *Remaking the Godly Marriage: Gender Negotiation in Evangelical Families* (Rutgers 2001). John has published articles in *SoR*, *JSSR*, *RRR*, and *Social Forces*, among others. He has served as Chair of the Membership Committee for SSSR for the past three years, as RRA 2004 Program Chair, and has recently been elected to ASR Council. His current projects include

books on Latter-day Saint teen religiosity and on evangelical parenting, and a comparative ethnography of religious youth groups.

**PETER BEYER** is Professor Religious Studies in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. He has been a member of RRA since 1989 and has served a previous term on the Board, and also as a committee chair for ASR, SSSR, and ISSR/SISR. His publications include *Religion and Globalization* (Sage) and the edited volume, *Religion in the Process of Globalization* (Ergon), and numerous articles. His areas of specialization include religion and globalization and sociological theory of religion. He is currently working on another volume on religion and globalization and is conducting qualitative research into Christian, Muslim and Buddhist youth in Canada. He has also recently completed a study on religious identification in Canada using Canadian census data.

**VICKY GENIA**, Psy.D., Counseling Psychology, University of Northern Colorado, 1989, is currently a staff psychologist at Student Counseling and Psychological Services, University of Nevada Las Vegas. She has been an RRA member since 1988, and has served as a peer reviewer for the *Review of Religious Research*. Her main interest is in working with religious and spiritual issues in psychotherapy. She has published a book, *Counseling and Psychotherapy of Religious Clients: A Developmental Approach*, and a number of articles on working with religious individuals in secular settings.

**BARBARA ZAJAC** completed her Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside, and is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology at Indiana State University. Her areas of specialization include religion, theory, and community. Her research has appeared in the *Review of Religious Research*, and includes the process of becoming a nun, as well as the meaning of community. Other projects include local community organizations and university-community partnerships. In progress also is a study of factors influencing the success of sociology honor society chapters, Alpha Kappa Delta, for which she has served as advisor at Indiana State. Her professional memberships in addition to AKD and the RRA, include SSSR, ASA, and the Pacific Sociological Association. She has served as a reviewer for *Sociological Theory* and the *RRR*.

## **CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**JULIE MANVILLE** is a Visiting Fellow in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University, where she researches church responses to prostitution law reform as well as the internment of Lutheran pastors during the World Wars. She is also currently co-editing a book on Dutch migrants to Australia. She completed her masters in sociology of religion at the University of Washington and Ph.D. in anthropology of religion at the University of Western Australia. She has published in *Sociology of Religion*, and has a forthcoming publication on Australian Lutherans. She has worked as a consultant for projects as varied as evaluating a female genital mutilation community awareness program to identifying possible

religious and cultural bias in neuropsychiatric interview schedules. She regularly attends RRA/SSSR meetings.

**JOHN O'HARA** has been the Research Analyst for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and a member of RRA, since 1975. He has served in the past as chair of both the Nominations Committee and the Jacquet Awards Committee. He is also a past president of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. Among his most recently completed projects were two multid denominational studies, one on new church development and another on clergy who left parish ministry. He received his undergraduate degree in education from Southwest Missouri State University, and his M.A. in urban studies from St. Louis University.

**PATRICIA WITTEBERG**, Ph.D., sociology, University of Chicago, 1982, is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis. She has been an RRA member since 1984, has served as Secretary of the Association from 1995-1997, and is currently the editor of the *Review of Religious Research*. Her main interest is the study of religious organizations (especially Catholic religious orders), and she is finishing a book manuscript on the effect which withdrawal from their schools and hospitals has had on both Catholic orders of sisters and Protestant orders of deaconesses.

**STUART A. WRIGHT** is Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies & Research and Professor of Sociology at Lamar University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 1983 and was NIMH research fellow at Yale before arriving at Lamar. He is the author of *Leaving Cults* (SSSR, 1987) and editor of *Armageddon at Waco* (University of Chicago, 1995). He has over 30 publications in scholarly venues and has served widely as an expert on religion and violence, including the Congressional hearings on Waco, the bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh, and the Branch Davidian civil trial. He is currently completing a book on the mobilization of the Patriot movement leading up to the Oklahoma City bombing. For over a decade he also served as media link for RRA and SSSR.

## **BY-LAW AMENDMENT**

To add a Section 7 to By-law IV, Standing Committees, to establish a new Standing Committee:

The Publication Committee shall be responsible for general oversight of the *Review of Religious Research* as the Association's official publication. It shall recruit and evaluate candidates for the position of Editor of the journal and recommend nominees to the Board of Directors. It may also recommend publication policies to the Board and provide consultation to the Editor as appropriate. Other related responsibilities may be assigned by the Board as needed. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson plus two members. The Chairperson will thereby be a member of the Board of Directors. Terms of office will be four years for the Chairperson and staggered four-year terms for members. The Chairperson shall be elected by the membership from a slate of

candidates selected by the Nominating Committee that should normally include at least two candidates. Members will be selected by the incoming President.

Implementation: If the amendment passes, the first election of a Chairperson shall take place in the summer of 2005. The sitting president shall appoint one committee member to a two-year term, the newly elected president in the 2005 election shall appoint one committee member to a four-year term, with the procedure detailed in the by-law to be adopted thereafter.

## **CONFERENCES**

***British Association for the Study of Religions*** (BASR), 50th Anniversary Conference, Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, 13-16 September. See <http://basr.org.uk>.

***Beyond Abuse: Creating Peace and Safety in the Christian Home***, 24-26 February, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA, seeks session and paper proposals: [eelliott@cox.net](mailto:eelliott@cox.net).