

Context of Religious Research

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF RRA! The RRA is weathering the past year's economic downturn without too much pain. This would not be possible if it were not for our new members and our very loyal older members. I am in the process of trying to locate an early membership list so I can send a personal thank you to those members whom we seldom see. I suspect that some of these maintain their membership because they enjoy reading the Review of Religious Research, or because they have some sense of support for the discipline—or both. For whatever reason, thank you.

These thoughts about older members came to mind when at our Denver meeting I saw two former colleagues who I knew were members, but whom I had never seen at an RRA meeting. One of them told me he had been a member since 1975, but this was the first meeting he had attended and been a participant. Naturally, as a friend, I felt it my responsibility to help both colleagues spend their money wisely and suggested to them that the RRA was an organization worthy of receiving a contribution.

The RRA is fortunate that some people do contribute money above their dues, which will rise slightly for the coming year. Others tear up the checks they receive for services to or awards from the association. Thank you to those persons too. Some of you may think I am overdoing the thank-yous. I am not. As president it became very apparent to me how much this organization is dependent on volunteers and how much a gift of \$1,000 or \$50 means to the organization. I thank all of you who have made financial contributions to RRA during these difficult times. I would also like to thank Peter Beyer, Deborah Bruce, Kirk Hadaway, Charles Zech, Jack Carroll, Bob Woodberry, Chris Ellison, and Kevin Daugherty whose term on council or a committee ended with this fall's meeting. I note also with thanks for his service and sadness at the death of our Publications Committee Chair, Joe Tamney, a few weeks after our meeting, which his illness prevented him from attending.

Looking to the future and our meeting in Baltimore: Deborah Kapp is working hard on setting up an excellent program on the topic of "Religion in Unsettled Times." Please help Deborah by submitting a session or a paper for a session. Elsewhere in this issue of Context you will see that a search has begun for a new editor for the Review of Religious Research. We want to thank Tony Blasi for his work as editor and are sorry to see him leave. Bill Swatos, our executive officer, continues to make my work easy, and I continue to try not to make his life too "interesting."

I hope to see as many of you as possible in Baltimore. Let me know how you think the RRA can serve you better.

Keith M. Wulff

FUNDING

Constant H. Jacquet Research Awards

The RRA will make \$18,000 available this year for applied and basic research. Priority is given to applied projects, and funding over \$4,000 to any one proposal is granted only in cases of exceptional significance. In this competition, applied research is defined as a project that has an identifiable organizational or institutional client who will use the research results for specific goal-centered activities—and will sign off on the proposal. We especially encourage proposals from scholars who are in the early stages of their careers, as well as proposals from students.

Funding may be used for research expenses and release time, but not for supplemental income or capital equipment. Because funds are limited, applicants are also encouraged to seek support from alternative sources of funding. Applicants are required to be members of the RRA. Full-time students may join the Association at the time they submit their application. All others must hold membership in the RRA for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.

Applications must include four hard copies of: (a) an Awards Application Form, completed and signed; (b) a narrative summary of the proposed project, no longer than five double-spaced, typed pages; and (c) a one-page detailed budget. Materials will not be returned.

The required Grant Application and Membership Application Forms can be obtained from the RRA website—<http://rra.hartsem.edu>. The site also provides the address information for submitting your materials. Your application must be received by 1 April 2010.

Applicants will be notified of the disposition of their applications within 60 days and will be asked to submit a written acceptance of their awards within two weeks of notification. Recipients should plan to expend the grant within one year after accepting the award and should note RRA support in all reports of the research for which they received the grant. Award recipients are encouraged to submit their research reports for possible publication in the Review of Religious Research, subject to editorial review. If an article is not submitted to the RRR, a narrative of the research and its findings will be expected instead.

The 2009 awardees were Joshua Brahinsky (University of California), Melissa Wei-Tsing Inouye (Harvard University), Alexei Krindatch (Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute/Graduate Theological Union), Jared Peifer (Cornell University), and Jeremy Uecker (University of Texas).

Of the 18 applications that were received in 2009, seven were considered seriously deficient, while another six had weaknesses that excluded them from the “high quality” category. If you are interested in applying for a Jacquet award, it is important that you read the application materials carefully both to ensure that you are eligible and that your application is in order and timely. The chair of the Jacquet Committee is Michael Cieslak (mcieslak@rockforddiocese.org). Other members are Deborah Kapp and Mary Lou McNamara.

Joseph H. Fichter Research Awards

The Association for the Sociology of Religion will make available \$23,000 this year for promising research in the areas of gender issues, women and religion or feminist perspectives on religion. Applicants must have been members of the ASR in 2009 and be current members at the time of application. (Thus if you are not a member of ASR as you read this, you may not apply in the 2010 cycle. This announcement is included here for information purposes in respect to future applications—i.e., if you want to apply in the future, you need to join now.) Although it is undergoing reconstruction, the ASR Web site address remains www.sociologyofreligion.com. Fichter Grant proposals may be in any amount at or below the total funding available.

SSSR Awards and Grants

The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion has authorized several thousand dollars for its 2010 research awards competition. These separate grant and awards programs for students and for those who already hold the doctorate and for foreign scholars to attend the RRA/SSSR annual meeting. As with RRA and ASR awards, applicants must in all cases be SSSR members and in some cases there is a one-year advance membership requirement. See www.ssrweb.org.

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Results of the 2009 RRA general elections are: President-elect, John Bartkowski; Secretary: Marjorie Royle; Directors-at-Large, Alexei Krindatch and Scott Thumma; Nominating Committee, Elaine Howard Ecklund and Helen Rose Ebaugh

The 2010 Nominating Committee seeks your input. This year a Nominations Chair, two Directors-at-Large, two Nominating Committee members, and a Publications Chair will be elected. If you wish to offer a name (including your own), contact Patricia Wittberg, Sociology, Cavanaugh 303, 425 University Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46202; pwittber@iupui.edu. The remaining members of the committee in addition to those just elected are Katie Day and D. Paul Johnson. The Committee needs to have your suggestions by 1 April for fullest consideration.

EDITOR SEARCH

Far and away the most important item on the 2010 agenda of RRA is the selection of a new editor for the Review of Religious Research. The Review is our public face, and the work of the editor is crucial to how that is seen. We seek a new editor to begin with the 2011 cycle (volume 53), hence to be prepared to receive manuscripts from December 2010 forward. The Publication Committee (Nancy Nason-Clark, chair, Patricia Wittberg, and Jim Lewis) is charged to bring a recommendation to the 2010 Board meeting. A prospectus detailing the requirements for and benefits of the editor's position may be obtained by contacting the Executive Office—William_Swatos@baylor.edu. If you are at all interested in this role or know someone whom you believe would be, write in for this document. We would like to have the applicant pool defined by the end of May.

MEETINGS

The 33rd Implicit Religion Consultation at Denton Hall, Yorkshire, will be held 7-9 May. The 2010 conference has several themes. See www.implicitreligion.org.

The Association for the Sociology of Religion will meet 13-15 August at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. The theme is Religion, Identity, and Place. The session proposal deadline is 31 January; paper proposals must be in by 28 February. ASR membership is required of at least one author for pro-gram participation. Gerardo Marti is program chair. Submissions should be sent to ASR2010@augustana.edu.