

**Religious Research Association  
Communications and Publicity Associate Call for Applications  
March 13, 2020**

The Religious Research Association invites applications for a Communications and Publicity Associate.

**Organization Description**

The Religious Research Association (RRA) is a professional organization of academic and religious professionals working at the intersection of research and practical religious activities. As an interfaith and international association its members include college, university, and seminary faculty; religious leaders; organizational consultants; laypersons; and other professionals interested in the intersection of religion and society.

**Position Description**

The new position has a dual function of strengthening outreach and communication to existing members and publicizing what RRA and its members do to a larger audience. The person selected for this position will work directly with the Association's Executive Officer, webmaster, and a volunteer "advisory team" during the initial phase of this effort. The person should be comfortable working both inside and outside the academy; experienced using social media and other communication technologies; and skillful in constructing interpretative stories from research articles and datasets. Candidates must be an RRA member and can be a doctoral student, researcher, faculty member, denominational staff person, or consultant committed to the applied social scientific study of religion.

The position will run on a trial basis from May 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, with potential for renewal. The Association will pay the Communications and Publicity Associate a stipend of \$6,000 in 2020. The expectation is that this person will work for roughly 7 hours a week on RRA communications and publicity. The Association will also provide \$1,000 for the person to attend the annual meeting.

Duties of the position include:

1. *Establish, populate, and manage an RRA Facebook Page.* Draw on existing affiliate sites for content to post such as The Wheelhouse, Faith Communities Today, SSSR, ASR, Pew, ARDA, US Religion Census, PRRI, etc. Create new content at least weekly based on journals, national meeting presentations, or other research from members. Posts should be aimed at an applied audience including clergy, denomination executives, and religious practitioners.
2. *Create a YouTube channel.* Move existing RRA videos to the new channel. Stream RRA sessions from the annual meeting. Record and post the H. Paul Douglass Lecture. Link to other relevant channels.

3. *Maintain the @ReligResearch Twitter account.* Tie the existing Twitter feed to the RRA website, Facebook, and other social media platforms. Tweet about new material at least 2-3 times a week. Promote the feed at the annual meeting.
4. *Assist the RRA webmaster* in creating a way for members to submit news and updates through the RRA website. Help update the website to include the Twitter feed and material from Facebook and YouTube. Expand pages of news about members.
5. *Solicit news and information from members* (about grants, research, publications, etc.) to share via the website and social media.
6. *Relaunch the RRX listserv.* RRX used to operate as a simple email listserv where participants could ask and answer questions about religion research pertinent to religious practice. It has been dormant for several years.

### **Skills and Qualifications**

- Knowledge of and experience in social media methods and web practices.
- Familiarity with the field of the applied social scientific study of religion and the religious landscape, including clergy, congregations, and denominations.
- Attention to detail and maintaining exacting standards to ensure accuracy and uphold the professional standards of the Association.
- Skill in project development and self-directed management.
- Professional judgement and ability to communicate research clearly and concisely in written form.

To apply, email a cover letter, resume, and two references to Scott Thumma at [sthumma@hartsem.edu](mailto:sthumma@hartsem.edu). The cover letter should describe your interest in the position, past social media/web experience, and any links to materials that you have created or co-created. Review of applications will begin April 15, 2020 and continue until the position is filled.