



April 2008

GORABS Newsletter

Volume 30 Number 1

NEWSLETTER
CONTENTS

GORABS online journal

Page 1: GORABS online journal and Religion and Society Research Programme

Page 2: Message from the Chair

Page 3: Member news

Page 4: Association or Religion Data Archives

Pages 5-6: GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in Boston

Page 7-8: Minutes of GORABS AAG Specialty Group Business Meeting

Page 9: David E Sopher New Scholar Award

The Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers invites submissions for its on-line journal, *Geographies of Religions and Belief Systems*. The journal, published once a year, features substantive articles, commentary, book reviews, and debate. Editorial Board members represent a wide range of geography of religion and religious studies approaches and include John Corrigan, Julian Holloway, Lily Kong, David Ley, David Livingstone, Carolyn Prorok, James Shortridge, and Roger Stump. All papers will be double-blind reviewed.

Please visit the specialty group's website for information

(<http://gorabs.org>) regarding length, format, and other particulars.

Questions may be directed to Elizabeth J. Leppman, editor, at ejleppman@windstream.net. Please consider submitting a paper based on recent research, collaborations, debates, or presentations at appropriate academic conferences for the 2008 edition.

The **Religion and Society** Research Programme is a collaborative venture between the AHRC and the ESRC in the UK. Together these research councils have contributed £12.3m to fund research of the highest quality on the interrelationships between religion and society. The Programme aims to foster collaborative research across the arts, humanities and social sciences; to build capacity in the study of religion; to engage interested parties beyond the academy; to further understanding of religion in a complex world. The programme started in January 2007 and will end in December 2012. Visit the website at www.religionandsociety.org.uk

VISIT GORABS ON THE INTERNET

Webpage:

<http://gorabs.org/>

Listserv:

To subscribe to the gorabs listserv simply send an email to listserv@listserv.wvu.edu with "subscribe gorabs firstname lastname" in the body of the message or send your request to Michael Ferber at mike.ferber@mail.wvu.edu



Please send comments, questions, letters, and newsletter submissions to Ed Davis, GORABS Chair, ehdavis@ehc.edu



Message from the GORABS Chair: Anglo-American Insularity

Like all of Western society, the AAG is guilty of a narrow Anglo-American focus, but GORABS shows signs of positive change toward more diversity. Consider the 29 papers scheduled for the eight GORABS-sponsored sessions at the AAG meeting in Boston this year. First, the sessions include scholars from: Tanzania, Singapore, Germany, Turkey, Israel and Ireland (I may have missed some others). Second, much research is or was conducted in places far from Britain and the US. Some of the areas of focus are: Peru, Russia, Turkey, Germany, Southeast Asia, East Africa, Ireland and Guatemala. Yes, these still constitute a minority of the participants, and the majority of scholars and perspectives are still from the US or Britain. But this is an improvement over AAG meetings of twenty years ago.

What can we do to further broaden geographical scholarship? We ought to be reaching out to find and support scholars in under-represented regions. Scholars in the underdeveloped countries rightly mistrust such overtures, for they have witnessed exploitation of many forms. One scholar in Ghana told me he provided a large data set to a geographer in the US, only to be un-credited in a range of subsequent publications. But the fortunes enjoyed by Western scholars - relatively strong research funding, access to vast amounts of data and research support - could significantly improve the scholarship going on in poor regions. We are morally obligated to both seek the truth AND help our neighbors. GORABS members are able to do this better than many scholars: our interest in religions and belief systems requires us to work comparatively. We must seek out examples from multiple cultures if we are to say anything worthwhile. We should therefore do all we can to be the leader in broadening the "worldliness" of the AAG. At this year's business meeting I will propose that we create a significant travel scholarship for foreign scholars. Please join us (Wednesday, April 16th, 7:00 - 8:00 PM) in a conversation on how best to further crack our discipline's insularity!

Ed Davis, chair, GORABS Specialty Group, Emory & Henry College, Emory, Virginia, USA

The 2009 International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society

International Academic and Community Conference on Animals and Society, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, University of Newcastle, Callaghan NSW 2308 AUSTRALIA. For further information, please contact: Dr Rod Bennison, Conjoint Academic, Co-convenor 2009: rod.bennison@newcastle.edu.au; website: www.mindinganimals.com

Member news

Jennifer Kopf, Assistant Professor of Geography, Department of History and Geography, West Texas A&M University, is teaching a course in Prague this summer. The course is "Islam and the shifting map of Europe", an upper-level undergraduate Geography course. It will cover basics of Islam, historical connections between Islam and Europe, Islam in each of several regions within Europe, the diversity of Muslim practices, and some European issues (migration, changing townscapes, EU expansion, and Kosovo's independence bid). The program is connected with the Lessing Institute, www.lessinginstitute.com. Cost to the students is \$3500, and scholarships of \$500 or \$1000 are available.

Ju Hui Judy Han, a PhD candidate in geography at UC Berkeley, will be presenting two conference papers in the spring: "The Neighbor and the Unreached: Spatio-temporal Politics of Korean Short-term Missions" at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies in Chicago in April, and "(Deadly) Politics of Charity, (Profitable) Economies of Suffering: Korean Evangelical missionaries in peril" at the annual Cultural Studies Association meeting in New York City in May. "Missionary," the comics version of her dissertation will be published in *Aether: the Journal of Media Geography*.

Jim Norwine (Regents Professor of Geography) will deliver Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Annual Faculty Lecture on 17th April. Entitled "Dueling Weltanschauungen", it summarizes his ongoing twenty-year study of shifting undergraduate worldviews and values. Among other findings, his research team has found that American and most other contemporary undergraduates share worldviews that are mixtures of traditional, modern and postmodern values (a sample of Palestinian students in Gaza was a notable exception); that self-referentiality as a locus of authority is the clearest divide between the modern and postmodern; that many student Weltanschauungen reflect an inchoate "anti-hegemony" tilt; and, that environmentalism appears to be emerging as an alternative worldview, i.e., in some instances the value of environmental well-being even trumps self-referentiality. He will present shorter versions of this work at the C.S. Lewis Seminar at Oxford in late July and at the International Geographical Union Congress in Tunis in August. The monograph will be published in two parts this year by Religion and Education. Please contact Jim Norwine at kfjrn00@tamuk.edu for further information.

Michael Ferber is nearing completion of his dissertation on Scale in the Geography of Religion and has been appointed Assistant Professor of Geography and Director of the Environmental Studies Program at the King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Association of Religion Data Archives

The ARDA launches interactive mapping

The Association of Religion Data Archives, located at www.theARDA.com, is excited to announce its partnership with Social Explorer to provide its users the ability to interactively explore maps based on religious and demographic data. Currently available on the ARDA's site, the **U.S. Maps** feature allows you to map the overall religious adherence rate and the adherence rate for specific religious groups for 2000, 1990, and 1980. These data are based on the Religious Congregations and Membership studies collected by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, located at www.asarb.org. In addition, you can create demographic maps based on common social, demographic and economic indicators. All of the maps are interactive and allow for zooming, moving, and searching between locations. Social Explorer, located at www.socialexplorer.com, will also feature the religious data in the maps on their site.

To try out the new feature go to www.theARDA.com and click on "Geographic Profiles." Enter your region

The Association of Religion Data Archives introduces new look and new features

The Association of Religion Data Archives is excited to announce a new look and many new features. Two of the most significant new features are the GIS U.S. Maps and the Learning Center. Partnering with Social Explorer (www.socialexplorer.com), the ARDA now provides a U.S. Maps tool that allows for interactive mapping of demographic data by census tracts and religious adherence data by counties. All of the GIS maps allow for zooming, moving, and searching across locations and let you create customized demographic and religious reports.

You will also find an expanded Learning Center. The Learning Center contains many new Learning Modules for classroom use and now includes a Dictionary of Religious and Statistical Terms. The new Center also offers multiple interactive tools, including the Compare Yourself Survey that allows students and others to compare themselves to the U.S. population on a variety of religious indicators. A more complete overview of the many new features and upgrades is provided below.

- **Learning Center**...includes downloadable Learning Modules, a Glossary of Religious and Statistical Terms, and multiple interactive tools.
- **GIS Mapping**...using tools developed by Social Explorer, GIS maps allow you to visually see the social, economic, demographic, and religious landscape of neighborhoods, cities, states, regions, and the entire United States.
- **Multi-Country Comparisons**...easily select up to seven nations to receive a comparison of their social, demographic, economic, and religious characteristics.
- **Compare Yourself Survey** ... allows individuals' to see how their answers compare to other Americans taking a national survey.
- **Denominational QuickStats**...centralized location for information on U.S. denominations. Includes information on mergers and schisms, membership data, changes over time, and distribution across the country.
- **New Data** ... data and other information were updated in our National Profiles and our U.S. Denominations feature.
- **New Design** ...The homepage now provides easy access to some of the most popular resources on the ARDA site. Using drop-down menus, the new homepage now allows for faster access to the ARDA's various content and tools.

The Association of Religion Data Archives
 Authoritative Information Made Accessible

www.theARDA.com

GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in Boston...

Spatial Polity and Practice in the Anglican Communion - Tuesday, 4/15/08, 4:20 PM - 6:00 PM

Organizer & Chair: Michael R. Glass - Pennsylvania State University

4:20 PM Ian T Douglas, Ph.D., *Challenges and Possibilities for the Anglican Communion: The Changing Geography of a Worldwide Christian Community*

4:40 PM Teresa Reilly, University of Calgary, *"The fruit of our elders' dreams...": lights and sidelights on the geo-story of Indigenous Episcopacy in Canada, the United States and New Zealand*

5:00 PM Christopher Trott, University of Manitoba, *Anglican Space/Inuit Space: Managing Differential Understandings of Space in the Mission Encounter*

5:20 PM Discussant: Michael R. Glass, Pennsylvania State University

Religions, Nature, Landscapes - Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Organizer and Chair: Edward H. Davis, Emory & Henry College

10:10 AM Janel M. Curry, Calvin College, *God and Nature: An Analysis of Post Katrina and Asian Tsunami Sermons*

10:30 AM Olaf Kuhlke, University Of Minnesota, Duluth, *Nature, Landscape, and the Construction of Sacred Space in Masonic Ritual*

10:50 AM Edward H. Davis, Emory & Henry College, *The Garden in Current Theology and Geography*

11:10 AM Discussant: Jennifer Kopf, West Texas A & M

Religions, Places, Spaces - Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM

Organizers: Edward H. Davis, Emory & Henry College, Cristina Notaro, CUNY Graduate Center;

Chair: Janel M. Curry, Calvin College

1:00 PM Roger W. Stump, SUNY Albany, *Spatial Discourse and Action among Unconventional Religions*

1:20 PM Mark Bjelland and Bradley Utecht, Gustavus Adolphus College, *Beyond the Parish Bounds: The Changing Faces and Spaces of Minneapolis' Lutherans*

1:40 PM Cristina Notaro, CUNY Graduate Center, *Approaching Interfaith in the Geography of Religion*

2:00 PM Crista M. Livecchi, SUNY Albany, *Conversion or Community? Understanding the Spatial Distribution of Megachurches*

2:20 PM Discussant: Peter E Hopkins, Newcastle University, UK

Teaching about Islam, against the "War on Terror" - Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM

Organizer and Chair: Jennifer Kopf, West Texas A & M

3:10 PM Jennifer L. Fluri, Dartmouth College, *The Corporeal Marker: Politics, Pedagogy, and Epistemologies of Islam and Feminism*

3:30 PM Ellen R. Hansen, Emporia State University, Darla J. Mallein, Emporia State University, *Teaching About Women in Islam*

3:50 PM Jennifer Kopf, West Texas A & M, *Images in Islam in Introductory Geography Textbooks*

4:10 PM Anna Mansson McGinty, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, *Breaking down "otherness" in the classroom*

Specialty Group Business Meeting - Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

More GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in Boston...

Religion, age and everyday life I - Thursday, 4/17/08, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Organizers: Elizabeth Olson, University of Edinburgh, Peter E Hopkins, Newcastle University

Chair: Elizabeth A. Olson, University of Edinburgh

8:00 AM Elizabeth A. Olson, University of Edinburgh, Peter Hopkins, Newcastle University, Giselle Vincett, University of Edinburgh, Rachel Pain, Durham University, *Faith, football and sectarian stories in Scotland: rethinking the meanings of religion from young people's perspectives*

8:20 AM Catherine Duce, University of Durham, *Transnational religion and the everyday lives of indigenous older people in the Peruvian Andes*

8:40 AM Peter J. Hemming, University of Leeds, *Exploring religion and spirituality in children's everyday school spaces: some ethical and methodological considerations*

9:00 AM Deborah A. Phillips, University of Leeds, *Speaking Up: Young British Muslim Women's Negotiation of 'Self' through Constructions of Home*

9:20 AM Discussant: Peter E Hopkins, Newcastle University

Religion, age and everyday life II - Thursday, 4/17/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Organizer & Chair: Elizabeth A. Olson, University of Edinburgh

10:10 AM Introduction: Elizabeth A. Olson, University of Edinburgh

10:15 AM Alexandra Sellassie Antohin, University of Alaska Fairbanks, *Forward to the Past: The Future of Orthodox Identity in Russia*

10:35 AM David J. Butler, University College Cork, Ireland, *Childhood and Religion: Experiences of Protestant households in West Cork, Ireland since 1920*

10:55 AM John S. Benson, Minnesota State University Moorhead, *The Mission Field: Impact of an Ideological Landscape on the Religious Development of Missionaries and their Children*

11:15 AM Discussant: Lily Kong, National University of Singapore

Geographies of the Secular Public I - Friday, 4/18/08, from 12:20 PM - 2:00 PM

Organizer(s): Nicolas Howe, UCLA, Joshua Comaroff; *Chair:* Nicolas Howe, UCLA

12:20 PM Introduction: Nicolas Howe, UCLA

12:25 PM Justin Wilford, UCLA, *The Rise of "New Paradigm" Evangelicalism: Postsuburbia as a Counter-Secularization Strategy*

12:45 PM Nicolas Howe, UCLA, *Secular Law and Civic Landscape*

1:05 PM Jonathan M. Smith, Texas A&M, *American Infidelity: The Historical Geography of Secular Humanism in the United States*

1:25 PM Lynn A. Staeheli, University of Edinburgh, Don Mitchell, Syracuse University, *Regulating Faith and Transgressing Secularism on the Street*

1:45 PM Discussant: Denis E. Cosgrove, University of California

Geographies of the Secular Public II - Friday, 4/18/08, from 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Organizers: Nicolas Howe, UCLA, Joshua Comaroff; *Chair:* Joshua Comaroff

2:30 PM Introduction: Joshua Comaroff

2:35 PM Nitzan Shoshan, Univ of Chicago, *Making a Place for the Secular (Ultra-)Nation in East Berlin*

2:55 PM Joshua Comaroff, UCLA, *Making and unmaking the secular public*

3:15 PM Edgar Wunder, Heidelberg University, *Is secularization a self-limiting process? Some theoretical considerations and empirical evidence based on spatial disparities of religiosity*

3:35 PM Banu Gokarikel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Public space, the headscarf ban and women's Islamist activism in Istanbul*

3:55 PM Discussant: Faisal Devji, New School for Liberal Arts

Minutes of GORABS AAG Specialty Group Business Meeting

18 April, 2007, San Francisco, CA, USA - Members Present: (The list was accidentally picked up by an unknown member so we don't know exactly who was there!) For sure the following were present: David Butler, Ed Davis, Reinhard Henkel, Peter Hopkins, Chris Limburg, Darrel McDonald, Elizabeth Olson, Caleb Parker, David Rutherford, Tristan Sturm, others whose names were lost.

1. Called to order at 7:10 pm by David Rutherford.
2. Minutes from the 2006 Meeting presented by Ed Davis and approved.
3. Financial Report presented by David Rutherford
4. Activity Report presented by David Rutherford and Ed Davis
- a) Volume 1, Issue 1 of *Geographies of Religions and Belief Systems* (online journal), edited by Elizabeth Leppman was posted on the GORABS website in October 2006, with 3 papers and 2 book reviews. Dr. Leppman reports that as of April 18 we have 2 submissions for the 2007 issue. She urges all members to consider submitting a paper, so that we can have a stronger journal with more papers. See www.gorabs.org.
- b) Tristan Sturm and Chris Limburg asked that the group consider making a special theme issue - all members present were in support of this idea.
- c) Two issues of the GORABS newsletter were published in 2006 edited by David Rutherford. Thank you, David!
- d) The GORABS website continues to be updated and contains considerable info, mastered by Mike Ferber. Mike would like to begin passing these duties to another GORABS member. Darrel McDonald volunteered.
- e) Nine sessions were GORABS-sponsored at the 2007 AAG meeting.
- f) Big news! A new book, *Geographies of Religion*, edited by Mike Ferber and Carolyn Prorok, will be published by Sage soon. The authors in this book will include: Jeanne Kay Guelke, Daniel Olson, Michael Pacione, Jesse Rouse, Sue Bergeron, Len Guelke, Michael Ferber, Tristan Sturm, Gregory Levine, Carolyn Prorok, William Norton, Thomas Tweed, and Rob Kruse.
5. Awards presented by Ed Davis
 - a. Robert Stoddard Award for Service and Research is not given this year. The award was established in 2004, first awarded to Robert Stoddard in 2005, awarded to Carolyn Prorok in 2006. There were no nominations for this year.
 - b. David Sopher New Scholar Award was given to Ramin Zamanian.
6. Elections for board members and officers facilitated by Ed Davis
 - a. These officers are continuing or required no election:

Chair for 2007-2009 =	Ed Davis, replaces David Rutherford
Previous Chair for 2007-2009 =	David Rutherford, replaces Mike Ferber
Board Member 2006-2008 =	Tristan Sturm
Board Member 2006-2008 =	Darrel McDonald
 - b. These offices required election:

Secretary/Treasurer 2007-2009 =	Peter Hopkins & Elizabeth Olson
Board member for 2007-2009 =	Mike Ferber
Board member for 2007-2009 =	David Butler
Grad Student Rep, 2007-2009 =	Chris Limburg
7. Forum - facilitated by David Rutherford

Members present discussed the following ideas: spending the uncommitted funds we have in our account; a Paper-poster session for the 2008 AAG meeting; a panel session on the new book for the 2008 AAG; abstracts to go in the Newsletter; a List-serve with the subject line "Geography of Religion"; inviting David C. Harvey to speak at next AAG; inviting Lily Kong to speak at next AAG, giving her the Stoddard award; changing the Sopher paper award announcement and deadline?; mention the word count/specifics
8. Adjourned by David Rutherford at 8:10 pm - followed by a social at an Indian Restaurant