



March 2009

GORABS Newsletter

Volume 31 Number 1

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

GORABS online journal

Page 1: GORABS online journal and

Page 2: Symposium: Challenges for the Geography of Religion in the 21st Century

Page 3: Member news

Pages 4-5: GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in Las Vegas

Page 5: Don't miss the first GORABS annual lecture ...

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 GORABS bibliography is now available on the GORABS website. Thanks to John Kostelnick for all of his work in putting this together.

The Working Group Religionsgeographie of the German Geographical Society has a list of new publications (books and articles, mainly in English and German) on the geography of religions on its website which is regularly updated -

<http://www.religionsgeographie.de/literatur.htm>
If you have new items please send them to reinhard.henkel@geog.uni-heidelberg.de.

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

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



Symposium: Challenges for the Geography of Religion in the 21st Century (post-congress event of the Second European Geographical Congress EUGEO 2009 in Bratislava)

August 17-19, 2009 at Prešov, Slovakia

The symposium will be held in the third largest Slovak town, which is very important religious center with Greek-Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran bishoprics.

Organiser: University of Prešov in cooperation with the Slovak Geographical Society

Contact persons: prof. RNDr. René Matlovič, PhD., e-mail: matlren@unipo.sk; RNDr. Kvetoslava Matlovičová, PhD., e-mail: kveta@unipo.sk; PhDr. Ľudmila Adamová, e-mail: adamoval@unipo.sk

Contact adress: Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Prešov, Ul. 17. novembra 1, 081 16 Prešov, Slovakia, tel. +421 51 757 0691, <http://www.fhpv.unipo.sk/kagerr/>

Topics: The conference brings together geographers and other specialists who are interested in the geography of religion for a discussion on current developments in this discipline. Following priority themes will be discussed:

1. Geography of religion and its impact on the geographical thought.
2. Development of the geography of religion in the various national traditions.
3. The phenomenon of the religious tourism.
4. The religious diversity and cultural identity.

Contributions covering issues outside priority themes are also welcome.

Preliminary programme:

17.8.2009 - arrival to Prešov; registration; short study excursion (religious infrastructure in Prešov) - duration 3 hour; Cocktail Dinner Party

18.8.2009 - opening, session I, session II, session III, concluding; Dinner

19.8.2009 - Full day tour (two alternatives) - duration 10 hours

(I. : Prešov - Žehra - Spišská Kapitula - Levoča - Kežmarok - Litmanová - Ľutina - Prešov)

(II. Prešov - Svidník - Ladomírová - Bodružal - Nižný Komárnik - Bardejov - Hervartov - Prešov)

Expected number of participants: 20 Language: English

Fee: 100 € (cover: short study excursion, cocktail dinner party, refreshment during proceeding, publication of contributions in *Folia Geographica*)

Date to remember: deadline for registration: on May 31, 2009

deadline for abstract submission: on May 31, 2009

deadline for registration for full day tour: on May 31, 2009

Member news

Rana P.B. Singh - The *Global Congress* on "World's Religions after September 11 - An Asian Perspective": 17 - 19 January 2009, held at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The main outcome of the Congress has been an Asian reflection on Human Rights discourse in the form of a proposal for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions as supplement to the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The themes included were 'religions and civilization dialogue', 'religions and human right', 'religion and ethics', and 'religion and ecology'. The panel on 'Religion and Ecology' was organised by a GORABS member Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (Banaras Hindu University, India), who gave a special address on "Uprooting Ecospirituality in Hindu Tradition: Ecological Cosmology and Sustainability for the 21st Century."* Another paper presented that drawn attention was by Rana P.B. Singh on "Mahatma Gandhi's Vision of Sustainable Development: Message for the World's Ecological Order." For further info contact Prof. Rana P.B. Singh ranapbs@gmail.com

International Conference on "*Resource Development and Environmental Change: Emerging Issues and Challenges*": 27 to 29 January 2009, held at Dept. of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. A special panel on 'Ethical domain, Belief systems and Environmental Concerns' was organised by a GORABS member Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (Banaras Hindu University, India), who gave an address on "Heritage Resources of India: Issues of Development, Concerns and Challenges"

Jim Norwine (Regents Professor of Geography at Texas A&M University-Kingsville) has a special-issue monograph in the current (fall 2008) issue of Religion and Education entitled "Dueling Weltanschauungen: Contemporary Collegiate Worldviews Part I." The article summarizes 20 years of surveying undergraduates around the world about personal values, argues that today's college students mostly share, in varying degrees, a hybrid worldview that is equal parts traditional, modern and postmodern. An excerpt will be viewable shortly at: uni.edu/coe/jrae/. Part II, which keys on the pros and cons of diversity, especially religious diversity, will appear in the winter issue, available in about two months. For further information please contact Jim at kfjrn00@tamuk.edu.

Mike Ferber is now at The King's University College in Edmonton, AB. His new contact information is as follows:

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Forthcoming publication:

Bailey, Adrian R., Brace, Catherine and Harvey, David C., (in press) Three

geographers in an archive: positions,

predicaments and passing comment on

transient lives. Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in Las Vegas...

3449 Reflections on The Geography of Religion: Faith, Place and Space Session #1

is scheduled on Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in North Hall N110, Las Vegas Convention Center

Organizer(s): Michael Ferber - The King's University College and Mark Bjelland - Gustavus Adolphus College

Chair(s): Michael Philip Ferber - The King's University College

1:00 PM Introduction: Michael Philip Ferber - The King's University College

1:05 PM Introduction: Roger W. Stump - SUNY - Albany

1:20 PM Author(s): *James D. Proctor - Lewis and Clark College

Geographies and Spiritualities of Ecotopia: Seeking and Dwelling in Oregon Communities

1:40 PM Author(s): *Edward H. Davis - Emory & Henry College

Halal Meats and Muslim Territoriality in the U.S.

2:00 PM Author(s): *David J Rutherford, PhD - University of Mississippi

Religious Applications to the Non-Religious

2:20 PM Author(s): *Michael Philip Ferber - The King's University College

Trevor Harris - West Virginia University

'Emerging' Solutions to the Problem of Scale in Geography of Religion

3549 Reflections on The Geography of Religion: Faith, Place and Space Session #2

is scheduled on Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in North Hall N110, Las Vegas Convention Center

Chair(s): Mark Bjelland - Gustavus Adolphus College

3:10 PM Cristina Notaro - CUNY Graduate Center

Multi-faith Sacred Space

3.30 PM Amanda Rees, Ph.D. - Columbus State University

Urban Planning, Religious Territoriality, and a Secular State: H.R.H. Prince of Wales and the Community of Poundbury

3:50 PM Heidi Hoernig, PhD - INRS-UCS

Frédéric Dejean, PhD Candidate - INRS-UCS and Paris X-Nanterre

Emerging urban geographies of places of worship: an interreligious comparison of Montreal, Toronto and Paris

4:10 PM Daniel H. Olsen - Brandon University

Reflecting on the Importance of Pilgrimage, Tourism, and the Sacred Site Management

4:30 PM Mark Bjelland, Ph.D. - Gustavus Adolphus College

Congregations and the Geographies of Religious Diversity

3649 Reflections on The Geography of Religion: Faith, Place and Space Session #3

is scheduled on Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in North Hall N110, Las Vegas Convention Center

Chair(s): Mark Bjelland - Gustavus Adolphus College

5:20 PM Author(s): *David J. Butler - University of Limerick (UL), Ireland

"The Church with No Name": Christian Conventions and House Church Networks in Ireland

5:40 PM Steve Butcher - Kent State University

Pluralistic Geographical Imaginaries in Inter-Faith Dialogue Explored Through Embodied Realism

6:00 PM Jamie S Scott, Professor - University of Newcastle

"Representing Sacred Space: Pilgrimage, Tourism and Literature"

6:20 PM Roger W. Stump - University at Albany - SUNY

Scales of Religious Action in Christian Reconstructionism

6:40 PM Discussant: Roger W. Stump - SUNY - Albany

More GORABS sponsored sessions at the AAG in as Vegas...

6133 Evangelical Public Political Performances

Friday, 3/27/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Skybox 205, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Organizer(s): Tristan Sturm - UCLA and Jason Dittmer - University College London

Chair(s): Jason Dittmer - University College London

8:00 AM Author(s): *Justin Wilford - University of California Los Angeles

Purpose Driven Publics: The Saddleback Civil Forum and the New Evangelical Public Square

8:20 AM Author(s): *Ethan Yorgason - Brigham Young University-Hawaii

Chiung Hwang Chen - Brigham Young University-Hawaii

The General Conference as a Site of Mormon Geopolitical Performance

8:40 AM Author(s): *Tristan Sturm - UCLA

Performing the Geopolitics of the End of the World in the Holy Land

9:00 AM Author(s): *Hannes Gerhardt - University of West Georgia

The Problematic Synergy Between Evangelicals and the U.S. State in Sub-Saharan Africa

9:20 AM Discussant: Carolyn Gallaher - American University

***** Don't miss the first GORABS Annual Lecture ... *****

GORABS Annual Lecture: theoretical shifts, global shifts and the changing geographies of religion by Professor Lily Kong (National University of Singapore)

is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in Capri 116, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Organizer(s): Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

Chair(s): Edward H. Davis - Emory & Henry College

Plus, the GORABS AGM ...

4818 Geography of Religions and Belief Systems Specialty Group Business Meeting

is scheduled on Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Capri 105, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

This is a very important meeting. Ed Davis will become the Previous Chair from 2009-2011 with Peter Hopkins and Elizabeth Olson becoming GORABS co-Chairs from 2009-2011. We hope to be able to recruit a new Secretary/Treasurer to serve for the next two years as well as to appoint board members and a graduate student representative. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Peter Hopkins (peter.hopkins@ncl.ac.uk).