

Conference Updates

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CONFERENCES

American Academy of Religion (AAR): 30 October–1 November 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The AAR is one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to the academic study of religion. The group's annual meeting brings together over 7,500 scholars from some 70 program areas, including new religious movements. General questions can be sent to the Annual Meeting Program Director, at annualmeeting@aarweb.org (phone: 1-404-727-3049). More information can also be found at the AAR website at <http://www.aarweb.org>. The 2011 annual meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, concurrently with the Society for Biblical Literature.

American Historical Association (AHA): 6–9 January 2011, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The AHA is the largest historical society in the United States, and its annual meeting is the largest gathering of historians in the United States. The 125th annual meeting in Boston features the theme “History, Society, and the Sacred.” More information can be found on the organization's website at <http://www.historians.org/>. Future meetings will be held in Chicago (2012), New Orleans (2013), and Washington D. C. (2014).

Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR): 13–15 August 2010, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The theme for this year's meeting will be “Religion, Identity, and Place.” “Place” is both a geographical and social location that also has religious meaning. We can see its dynamics in the processes accompanying immigration, but we can also see them as people try to pass their faith on to future generations or develop a new religious identity themselves. New places mean encounters with new and different religious others, with effects on identity that range from the syncretic to the defensive. The dynamics of place and religion have obvious implications for citizenship and national identity, as many religious groups have commitments that put them in tension with the nation. Similarly, different faith traditions have different relationships to and conceptions of the body in both the spiritual and

material/technological worlds. Papers and discussions have been invited on a broad range of issues in the sociological study of religion relating to the meeting theme including, but not limited to, the following: religion and immigration; transnational identities and religious practices; religion and citizenship; religion, identity, and the body; sacred spaces and sacred places; the rise of the Internet and “placeless” religion; nationalism as religion; race, religion, and community; voice, place, and religious experience; religion in personal, public, and collective identities; and religious identity development. More conference information is available at <<http://www.sociologyofreligion.com>>.

Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR): 9–11 September 2010, University of Torino, Torino, Italy. The theme for the conference will be “Changing Gods: Between Religion and Everyday Life.” The conference will assess the current situation, and consider the fate of religious and spiritual groups as they change and relate to everyday life in an increasingly multicultural and transnational world. Topics will include: change in old and new religions; religion and everyday life; societal responses to religious diversity and pluralism; religious movements between mainstreaming and marginalization; religion, spirituality, and the body; religion online and online religion; magic, esotericism, and the sacred; bio-religion and politics; prayer and everyday life; young generations; lifestyles, religion, and the sacred; gender and the sacred; the emergence of issues involving marriage (gay marriages and plural marriages) in religious debate; and the emergence of new movements and groups. Papers will come from a variety of perspectives, including sociology, history, anthropology, psychology, law, and religious studies. Further details about the conference may be found at <<http://www.cesnur.org>>.

Communal Studies Association (CSA): 30 September–1 October 2010 New Harmony, Indiana, USA. CSA meetings include papers about historic and contemporary communal societies, as well as tours of nearby historical communal settlements. The theme for this year’s conference will be “The Architecture of Community.” Architecture, in the fullest sense of the word, will be the theme of this conference, including not only the physical structures used by communitarians, but also the social, religious, and political organization of their communities. Held at the southern Indiana site of two prominent intentional communities, one founded by the German Pietist Harmony Society and the other by the social reformer Robert Owen, the site of the conference will give attendees examples of various types of architecture. Tours of the New Harmony site will be included in the program. For more information see the CSA website at <<http://www.communalstudies.info>>.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion/Religious Research Association (SSSR/RRA): joint meeting 29–31 October 2010, Sheraton Baltimore City Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The guiding theme for the 2010 meeting of the SSSR will be “Religion in Global Perspective.” Religious identities, belief systems, and institutions have been transformed by globalization, and globalization has accelerated the rate of this transformation. This conference will examine topics such as how economic liberalization and migration interact with the religious aspects of society and individuals’ lives. More information can be found at <<http://sssrweb.org>>. As is customary, the Religious Research Association will be meeting concurrently with the SSSR. The 2010 RRA conference theme will be “Religion in Unsettled Times.” Although it can be argued that all times are to some degree unsettled, recent times have been tumultuous for many in the United States and other societies. Literal and figurative tsunamis have provoked change, realignment, and new practices. Such dynamics are not new, but they do raise questions about what roles religion plays as societies experience dislocation of various sorts. The analysis of how religious individuals and organizations act in the face of perceived crises can add to our understanding of the interaction between religion and its contexts, and can shed light on many of the current challenges with which religious institutions wrestle. See <<http://rra.hartsem.edu>> for more information. (A preliminary program for both the SSSR and RRA meetings can be found at <<http://www.sssrweb.org/pdf/2010preliminaryprogram.pdf>>.)

Society for Utopian Studies: 28–31 October 2010, Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. The Society for Utopian Studies is an international, interdisciplinary association devoted to the study of utopianism in all its forms. Scholars and practitioners representing a wide variety of disciplines and endeavors are active in the association and approach utopian studies from such diverse backgrounds as American studies, architecture, the arts, classics, cultural studies, economics, engineering, environmental studies, gender studies, history, languages and literature, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, and urban planning. The Society encourages participation from those involved in communal living and other utopian arrangements. Meetings of the Society for Utopian Studies are ideal occasions for intellectual interchange in a co-operative, non-competitive, congenial, and convivial environment. Milwaukee, the location of this year’s meeting, was a key site during the 1960s and 1970s for civil rights marches, particularly around the open housing movement. From 1897 through much of the twentieth century, the city was governed by a succession of Socialist mayors, elected on their platform of practical, “sewer socialism.” And Wisconsin itself and its midwestern neighbors have long been home to experiments in intentional communities. For more information, see <<http://www.utoronto.ca/utopia/meetings.html>>.