Society for the Anthropology of Religion Annual Report, 2005

1. Accomplishments

Membership
As of the November 2005, SAR had 376 regular and 182 student members, for a total of 558. This is virtually identical to last year, when the membership was 559 at this time, and 550 the year before.

Finances
The finances of the SAR are very healthy. Kathyrn Geurts’s’ Treasurer’s report tabled at the annual meeting put our assets (presumably from the standing at October 31, 2005) at $27,688. Expenses from the annual meeting remain to be deducted from this amount. The board has begun discussing how to spend some of our assets. Expenses of our stand-alone meeting in Vancouver came to $5607.54 but we took in $5,575 in registration fees. We do not have the expense of a regular publication.

Elections
In the spring elections, Kathryn Geurts was re-elected as Treasurer. Simon Coleman and Rosalind Shaw were each elected to a second two-year term on the Executive Board and Beth Conklin and Andrew Buckser were each elected to the Board as well.

AAA Annual Meeting
Our program committee consisted of Sue Kenyon (chair), Charles Hirschkind and Ellen Badone. All our sessions but one were accepted. Our invited session was held over from last year. It was organized by Michael Lambek and Adeline Masquelier and entitled “Religion and the Social Imaginary in Times of Crisis.” It was well attended as was the reception following our business meeting. This year we changed at the last minute from a cash to an open bar and invited a number of honoured guests, including some publishers.

Spring Meeting
Our spring meeting was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, April 8-12, 2005 at the Chateau Granville Hotel. This was an excellent location. The hotel was unionized and moderately priced and the staff were extremely helpful. The theme of the meeting was “Religion, Ethics, and Morality: Coextensive, Complementary, or Conflicting.” Maurice Bloch delivered the Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion and Michael Lambek delivered the Presidential address and also organized a plenary panel on the conference theme. The program committee was expertly chaired by Adeline Masquelier with assistance from Simon Coleman and Andrew Walsh and advice from Susan Sered. Janice Boddy and John Barker provided local arrangements. All are to be commended for their hard work, especially Adeline. We also thank Khara Minter and numerous student volunteers for their help. For the first time we awarded prizes for the best student abstracts. Gretchen Pfeil was awarded $500 and Ryan Schram and Jessica Lowen each $100.

List-Serve and Website
The listserv address continues to be <sar@weber.ucsd.edu> and Jon Bialecki continues to run it. We have sent news to members by this means but unfortunately many members have not signed up. Deborah Shepherd and Anthony Galt have kindly continued to help out with the website but we plan to change this and link it up to the AAA site. We have discussed hiring a professional to set it up.

**Outreach**
Ellen Badone has begun discussions with representatives from the American Academy of Religion. Michael Lambek joined the AAA governance commissioon.

**Changes in Bylaws and Governance Structure**
None.

2. Future plans

**AAA 2006**
Program committee is chaired by Charles Hirschkind and includes Sue Kenyon and Adeline Masquelier.

**Spring Meeting, 2007**
We have begun looking into our next spring meeting. Ellen Badone has checked out a few sites and we are leaning towards Santa Fe or Nashville. The conference will be planned by Ellen with a committee including Simon Coleman, Beth Conklin, and Adeline Masquelier.

**Nominating committee**
Our next slate will include candidates for president(-elect), secretary, and 4 board members, including a new student representative. The nominating committee is chaired by Rosalind Shaw, with assistance from Ellen Badone, Andy Buckser, and Charles Hirschkind.

**Book Series**
The SAR sponsored book series “Contemporary Anthropology of Religion,” published by Palgrave-Macmillan and edited by Robert Hefner, continues to grow. Several books that were in the pipeline last year have since appeared. Bob Hefner has worked hard with each of the authors and is actively seeking new manuscripts. We continue to have discussions with the publisher and are examining ways to better promote the series.

**New Initiatives**
At our recent board meeting we formed a committee to look into the establishment of a book prize as well as an annual student paper prize.

**Anthropology of Religion Section Officers, 2004-05**

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<tr>
<th>Michael Lambek, President</th>
<th>Ellen Badone, President-elect</th>
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<td>Rebecca Lester, Secretary</td>
<td>Kathryn Geurts, Treasurer</td>
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Board Members, 2004-05
Jon Bialecki (student rep)  Simon Coleman
Charles Hirschkind  Susan Kenyon
Adeline Masquelier  Rosalind Shaw
Joel Robbins  jrobbins@weber.ucsd.edu
Susan Sered  susan@sered.name

Officers from December 2005

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submitted by Michael Lambek, December 13, 2005