Section Annual Report Form

Briefly provide the information requested on the form below. If the question does not apply to your Section, please note that it is “not applicable” instead of leaving it blank.

Please try to keep the responses to questions below as succinct as possible.

I Please provide, names and e-mail addresses of the Section officers and board members during the period covered:

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Schattschneider, Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eschatt@brandeis.edu">eschatt@brandeis.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misty Bastian, Treasurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:misty.bastian@fandm.edu">misty.bastian@fandm.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephan Palmie, Past President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:palmie@uchicago.edu">palmie@uchicago.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Mariella Bacigalupo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anab@buffalo.edu">anab@buffalo.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:balzerm@georgetown.edu">balzerm@georgetown.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Christopher Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulcjo@umich.edu">paulcjo@umich.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Richman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krichman@nd.edu">krichman@nd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aisha Khan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ak105@nyu.edu">ak105@nyu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Caldwell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lissa@ucsc.edu">lissa@ucsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Klassen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pklassen@utoronto.ca">pklassen@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Wiener, President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjwiener@unc.edu">mjwiener@unc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1) Provide the most recent membership numbers and list any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership:

Number of Members

Factors affecting Membership: We continue the slight downward trend first noted in our 2008 report, with two fewer members this year than last year. However, since membership had been increasing steadily from a total of 559 in November 2004, 558 in November 2005, and 618 in November 2006, this does not seem to represent more than tendency also found in other, larger sections, whose membership has likewise been affected by the economic downturn. SAR continues to be a vibrant mid-sized section. We remain hopeful that the biennial meeting in the spring of 2011 and a workshop in Montreal may attract some new members.
2) Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication
sponsored budgets, if applicable). Also list any factors you think are affecting your
Section's finances:

Financial Balance: $42,165.53

Publications: (if applicable) ______ not applicable__ x _____

Factors affecting Finances: This year we did not have a freestanding meeting, and
our budget appears to be in good shape. The major concern remains maintaining
membership.

3) List the titles of your Section’s AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored
sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it
participated. Check with your program chairs if needed: When providing session
information please note if these are invited or co-sponsored and if the later please
list them.

   Sessions:

   1) Invited Session: “Circulation and Syncretism: Metaphors of Movement in the
       Blending of Belief”  Organizer: Nicholas Harkness, University of Chicago

   2) Invited Session: “(Extra)Ordinary Miracles: Explorations in Traditional
       Christianities” Organizer: Anthony Shenoda, Harvard

   3) Invited Session: Double Panel Co-Sponsored by SAR and AES: Muslim Circuits,
       Western Spaces, Organizers: Alisa Perkins (UT Austin) and Dr. Zain Abdullah (Temple
       University)

   4) Invited Session: Roundtable: Belief, Participation, Circulation: Challenges in
       Participant-observer Fieldwork with Evangelical and Charismatic Christianities
       Co-organizers: Jon Bialecki (UCSD), Robin Shoaps (University of Toronto), Henri Gooren (Oakland
       University)

   Other Events:

   In addition, SAR sponsored 17 non-invited sessions and held both a Board and Business meeting. At
   the Business meeting we handed out the Geertz Prize.

4). List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

   1) not applicable; meeting is biennial
5) List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section, if applicable (please provide the title of the award, date presented, and full name, affiliation, and title of the project/paper/accomplishment of the awardees):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Project/Paper/etc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geertz Prize</td>
<td>11/19/10</td>
<td>Janet McIntosh</td>
<td>Brandeis University</td>
<td>The Edge of Islam: Power, Personhood and Ethnoreligious Boundaries on the Kenyan Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
<td>11/19/10</td>
<td>Douglas Rogers</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>The Old Faith and the Russian Land: A Historical Ethnography of Ethics in the Urals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6) Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following:

1) Undergraduate and/or graduate students: Election of a new graduate student representative to the Board. We continue to keep our membership fees low to attract student members.

2) Early career scholars: Two colleagues in the early stages of their careers were elected to the board, one as an officer. In addition, several early career scholars submitted prospectuses and/or manuscripts to our book series editor.

3) Independent scholars:
7). Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities:

8) Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for

Website: Our website is the major public face of the Society. On it we offer basic information about SAR and its activities; offer some information about the history of the society; provide information about current officers and dates served; offer information about joining the listserv; have a link that explains the Geertz Prize and lists prizewinners; and provide information about the book series we publish with Palgrave, with a list of titles and information on how to contact Laurel Kendall, currently the series editor. Finally, we provide information about our biennial meeting, with links to register and reserve a room, as well as about submissions for section sponsorship for the annual meetings of the AAA.

Listserv: The Board makes use the listserv to send messages about upcoming events (the call for papers for the annual meetings of the AAA and for our biennial conference; announcement of the annual Geertz Prize competition). In addition, members make use of the listserv to find other members who might be interested in joining panels, and to make announcements about both forthcoming conferences or workshops of potential interests to other members as well as to announce their own recent publications.

9) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

We amended Article VI of our bylaws to increase the term served by the Treasurer to three years (with the option to run for re-election). This ensures some continuity in an important position, especially in relation to our biennial meeting.

III What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

2011 will be a busy and exciting year. This spring we will be holding our biennial meeting in April, at La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe. The deadline for submission of abstracts will close in one more week. The meeting includes our Rappaport Lecture, and there will be a reception in the Society’s honor at a museum nearby. In addition, we expect that several undergraduate students from a nearby community college will be attending the meetings, volunteering their labor in handing out programs in exchange for a waiver of their
registration fees. We are very pleased by the community interest our conference seems to be generating.

We plan to offer at least one workshop at the AAA meetings in Montreal, on teaching the Anthropology of Religion, which we anticipate will be especially helpful to both graduate students and early career faculty members.

Laurel Kendall continues to review many manuscripts for our book series. In 2010 five manuscripts went under contract and six additional ones were reviewed, so we anticipate a robust publication schedule for 2011. Finally, we plan to talk about other ways we might speak as a society to matters of public concern.

IV Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted:

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly leadership?

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board?

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff?

One issue that emerged at a meeting with Palgrave McMillan at the AAA in New Orleans. Does the AAA receive money from our contract with Palgrave, and if so what (if any) portion of that comes to the section?