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Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 642

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

The SAR hit a record high number of members in April 2013, at the time of our biannual Spring meeting in Pasadena, when we had a total of 760 members. By September (the latest figures I have been able to get) that number had fallen to 642, but it is still about a hundred more members than we have had in this month in previous years. Clearly, interest in attending the biannual meeting drives up our membership, as does the current importance of religion in current events and new political configurations.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 56,799.34

Publication Sponsored budgets.
Our section does not have journal, although we do have an affiliated book series with Palgrave, now re-titled Contemporary Anthropology of Religion. Two new editors joined us this year, Don Seeman and Tulasi Srinivas, and they have created a new board for the series. They are also encouraging more senior authors to submit "experimental" manuscripts, to make the series more prominent because of name association, as well as continuing to encourage younger scholars finishing their first book. The book series does not generate any revenue for SAR, but it is an important part of what the Society does to promote new scholarship on religion.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

The SAR Treasury has continued to grow during the past two years. We started with $47,610.37 in September 2011 and by September 2012 we added $6,758.61 to our account. By November 2013 we had a total of $56,799.34 in the account. This growth in funds is attributable to an upward swing in our membership numbers and income earned from an SAR-sponsored workshop on using GPS technology.

Membership numbers are the highest they have ever been. Our previous high-water mark was 2007-2008 at around 630 members. In fact, this past April and again in June, we reached a 760-member mark that has only declined slightly in the interval. This year’s increase is welcome news, but the number of graduate students has declined slightly. Instituting a new student paper prize this year was one way to reach out to students, and as are the workshops. Student participation at the Spring Meeting in Pasadena was reasonably high, about 20% of the total.

Our most significant expense in 2013 was the Biannual Spring meeting in Pasadena, California, which cost a total of $17,590. The revenue anticipated was $9,500 with an anticipated attendance level of about 100 people (which is consistently what we have tended to have) but actual revenues from registration were $7250. We used other SAR revenues to pay for travel and honoraria. While the SAR usually only pays for the President’s travel, in this case I as the President lived locally, so I chose to re-allocate all travel funds to bring speakers in the Presidential Panel to come. Our Rappaport lecturer, J. Lorand Matory, came from North Carolina, and the other Presidential panel members came from Boston and from England. Both of the ones who came from England were able to get other entities to pay part of their travel, however, so those costs were kept down.

We tried to save money by not paying the hotel to provide audio-visual services but instead borrowing video projectors from neighboring educational institutions, including USC, UCSD and the Fletcher school. This was successful, but we did have to pay the hotel to provide the screens and electronic cables, and even this minimal level of support was a significant expense.

We also spent about $2910 on the AAA meeting in November, and $650 on the Geertz prize, plus an additional $200 on the student paper prize. The total revenue for 2013 through the end of September was $9145, and the total expenditures were $8510, with a net gain of $635.
Since the SAR does not have any publications, and does not receive any income from our book series with Palgrave, our budget is relatively straightforward.

Sessions:

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.

Session Type: Invited
Session: 3-0015 FIRST NATIONS AND EMERGING RELIGIOUS FUTURES: GLOBAL PENTECOSTALISM IN NATIVE NORTH AMERICA Thursday, November 21, 2013: 8:00 AM-9:45 AM Conference Room 4C (Chicago Hilton)

Session Type: Invited
Session: 2-0475 THE SOCIAL LIFE OF PRAYERS: CURRENT AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS FOR AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF CHRISTIANITY Wednesday, November 20, 2013: 4:00 PM-5:45 PM PDR 2 (Chicago Hilton)

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for Medical Anthropology
Session: 6-0225 POST-SECULAR LIFE: THE SPIRIT OF SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY. Sponsored by: Society for Medical Anthropology and Society for the Anthropology of Religion Sunday, November 24, 2013: 8:00 AM-11:45 AM International Ballroom North- Access through Lobby Level (Chicago Hilton)

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Workshop organized by David Meek from the University of Georgia: 5-0710 CONSTRUCTING SPATIAL ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH DESIGN Saturday, November 23, 2013: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM PDR 1 (Chicago Hilton)

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion
Date: 11/23/2013
Recipient: Michael Lempert
Affiliation: Anthropology, University of Michigan
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Discipline and Debate: The Language of Violence in a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery

Award: Geertz Prize Honorable Mention
Date: 11/23/2013
Recipient: Shirin Hamby
Affiliation: Brown University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Our Bodies Belong to God

Award: Student Paper Prize in Anthropology of Religion
Date: 11/23/2013
Recipient: Guy Shalev
Affiliation: University of North Carolina
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Two Paths to Grace: Negotiating Charisma in the Sufi
Order of Nazareth,

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
Incomplete

List spring meeting activities
From April 11-14, we had our biannual Spring meeting in Pasadena, California. There were 104 registered participants, as well as four external speakers who were not formally registered. Here is the program of the three day meeting:

Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Religious Syncretism and Synergies

Biennial Meeting, Pasadena, California
April 11-14, 2013
Conference Schedule

Thursday April 11

5:00pm San Gabriel Foyer (Pasadena Hilton) Registration

4:00–7:30pm San Gabriel Foyer Book Display

6:00–8:00pm San Gabriel Foyer Evening Reception

Friday April 12

7:30a San Gabriel Foyer Registration
7:30a–5:00p San Gabriel Foyer

**Book Display**

8:00–9:30 San Diego Room

**Esoteric Encounters, Occult Mixtures and Ritual Inventions in African Diasporic Spiritual Tradition**

Organizer: Polk, Patrick A. (University of California, Los Angeles)


Dorman, Jacob S. (University of Kansas) “Polycultural Rhizomes not Syncretic Roots: Interracial Individuals of African Descent and the 1920s Formation of Black Spiritual Churches as Polycultural Bricolage.”

Derby, Lauren (University of California, Los Angeles) “Imperial Idols: French and U.S. Revenants in Haitian Vodou.”

8:00–10:45 Pacific Ballroom A

**Syncretism as Theory: Deleuzian Assemblages, Affects, Intensities and Virtualities in the Anthropology of Religion (Part 1)**

Organizer: Jon Bialecki (University of California, San Diego)

Bialecki, Jon (University of California - San Diego) “Anthropological Virtuality’s Virtuality: Why a turn to Deleuze in the Anthropology of Religion?”

Rudnyckyi, Daromir (University of Victoria) “Assemblages of Expertise: Knowledge and the
Impasse of Islamic Finance

Bielo, James (Miami University) “The Creative Aspect of Creationists”

Clement, Julien (Musée du quai Branly) “Religion and modality of action in Samoa: a perspective from Deleuze and Guattari”

BREAK – 9:30am-9:40am

Haug, Jordan (University of California – San Diego) “Pleasing God and Offending Kin: The Immanent Ethics of Taboo Violations in Misima, Papua New Guinea”

Reinhardt, Bruno (University of California, Berkley) “A Christian ‘plane of Immanence’? flow, intensity, and desire in Pentecostal Christianity”

Discussant: Joel Robbins, University of California San Diego

9:30–10:30  San Diego Room  The Politics of Religious Mixture in the Black Atlantic

Organizer: Todne Thomas Chipumuro (University of Vermont)

Willis, John Thabiti (Carleton College) “New Masks, Wives, and Rituals in a Yoruba Town”

Chipumoro Todne (University of Vermont) “Syncretism and Its Discontents: Black Evangelicals and the Ambivalence of Institutional Change”
Shamanism, Christianity, and the State
Chair: Hill, Jonathan (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)

Gonzalez, Toni (California State, Los Angeles) “The Religious Connotations of Chultuns”


Bishop, Joyce (California State University, Sacramento) “Asking for the Virgin's Hand: An Indigenous Interpretation of Christmas”

Abse, Edward (Virginia Commonwealth) “Seeing double in Mazatec shamanic visions: Schismogenetic transformations of syncretism in a Catholicized Mesoamerican religion”

BREAK – 10:40 am-10:50 am

García Molina, Andrés (University of California, Berkeley) “The Yajé Harmonica: A study in syncretism, synergy, and agency”

Hill, Jonathan (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale) “Conversion as Rupture, Conversion as Preservation: Exploring the Paucity of Syncretistic Religions in Indigenous Amazonia”

Mustafina, Raushan (N. Gumilyev Eurasian National, Kazakhstan) “Religious traditions of the Kazakhs”
10:00–12:30 Pacific Ballroom C

**Tradition and Faith, Discourse and Change**

Chair: Gonsalves, Roselle (University of Calgary)


Landes, David “The Impossibility of Tradition”

Nagle, Jim (Portland State University) “Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Latin Mass and the Narrative of War”

Gonsalves, Roselle (University of Calgary) “The Social Diaspora: Rebuilding Communal Identity for Goan Catholics in the Canadian Diaspora”

10:30–12:30 San Diego Room

**Indigenous Christianity and Evangelical Christians**

Chair: Marshall, Kimberly (University of Oklahoma)

Marshall, Kimberly (University of Oklahoma) “Soaking Songs and Musical Resonance: Navigating Continuity and Discontinuity with Diné (Navajo) Pentecostals”

Howell, Brian (Wheaton College) “Anthropology and the Making of Billy Graham”

Santos, Jorge (MetroState) “Historical Trauma and the Rejection of Syncretism”
Reynolds, Lydia (Biola University) “The Curse of the Dragon: Theological Shifts in the Cosmology of a Modernizing Sikkimese Hill Tribe and the Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Christianity”

Hammons, Christian (University of Southern California) “Animism and the Art of Not Being Governed in Sumatra”

10:45–12:30 Pacific Ballroom A

**Roundtable on Anthropologists in Religious Studies Departments**

Organizer: Hoskins, Janet (University of Southern California)

Participants:

Janet Hoskins (University of Southern California), Ellen Badone (McMaster University), Rosalind Hackett (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Katherine Zubko (University of North Carolina, Asheville), Lucia McSpadden (Pacific School of Religion), Joseph Hellweg (Florida State University), Aaron Greer (Pacific University), Juliane Schober (Arizona State University), Catherine Wanner (Penn State University), Mayfair Yang (University of California, Santa Barbara), Hillary Kaell (Concordia University), Joseph Blankholm (Columbia University), Don Seeman (Emory University)

12:30–2:30 LUNCH

2:30–4:30 Pacific Ballroom A

**Roundtable on Material Objects and Christian Identities**

Organizer: Hillary Kaell (Concordia University)

King, Rebekka (Emory University) “Experiencing the Bible and Exhibiting History: Translation and Tradition as Evangelical Affect and Material Culture”

Fisher, Amy E. (University of Toronto) “No-home, No-glass: Crossed-out objects and Christian friendship in an urban shelter”

Kaell, Hillary (Concordia University) “Private Devotion, Public Space: Quebec’s Roadside Crosses and the Modern Self”

Nabhan-Warren, Kristy (University of Iowa) “The Cursillo Weekend: The Experience of Materiality and Spiritual Intimacy in Three Days (and Beyond)”

Zwissler, Laurel (Central Michigan University) “Sex, Love and an Old, Brick Building: A United Church of Canada Congregation Narrates Its Past”

3:00–4:30 San Diego Room Conversion and Return Conversion

Chair: Ozgul, Ceren (CUNY Graduate Center)

Ozgul, Ceren (CUNY Graduate Center) “Is Sincerity Secular?: The Politics of Armenian Return Conversions in Turkey”

Ozyurek, Esra (University of California, San Diego) “Being German, Becoming Muslim: Religious Conversion, Salafism, and Belonging”
Stephan, Christopher and Teruko Mitsuhara (University of California, Los Angeles) “Krishna works in mysterious ways”: Is it Syncretism? The case of Hare Christna”

3:00–4:00 Pacific Ballroom B

**Religion, Education, and Ethics**

Chair: Cappy, Christina (Wisconsin-Madison)

Cappy, Christina (Wisconsin-Madison) “At the Intersection of Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics: The Role of Ubuntu in South African Public Policy”

Brahinsky, Joshua (University of Santa Cruz) “Cultivating Discontinuity: Pentecostal Pedagogies of Yielding and Control”

5:00pm San Gabriel Lecture Hall

**Presidential Lecture**

Janet Hoskins (University of Southern California) “From Implicit to Explicit Syncretism: Vietnamese Caodaism and Debates about Religious Mixing”

Saturday April 13

8:00a San Gabriel Foyer

**Registration**

8:00a– 5:00p San Gabriel Foyer

**Book Display**

8:30–10:30 Pacific Ballroom B

**Religious Creativity, Eclecticism, and the Arts**

Chair: Zehner, Edwin (Walailak University)

Zehner, Edwin (Walailak University) “Hybridity” in Thai Society and Religion:
Limits of a Concept

Moro, Pamela (Willamette University) “Thai Music, Dance, and Religion in Diaspora: Synergetic Performance and the Production of Heritage at Transnational Buddhist Temples”

Ginossar, Sagi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) “Change is the law of nature”: Innovations in a Western Himalayan cosmology


Weibel, Deana (Grand Valley State University) “Syncretism in the Service of Colonialism: The Universalizing Approach of Religious Creativism”

8:30–10:30  Pacific Ballroom C

Syncretism, Religion, and Community Development

Organizer: Lampe, Frederick P. (Northern Arizona University)

Gajaweera, Nalika (University of California, Irvine) “Buddhist cosmopolitan ethics and Transnational Secular Development in Sri Lanka”

Luthy, Tamara (University of Hawaii at Manoa) “Restoring the Sacred: The Transnational Politics of Environmental Action in Vrindavan, India”
Jain, Pankaj (University of North Texas) “Role of Religion in Sustainable Development of the Indian Pilgrim cities”

Lampe, Frederick P. (Northern Arizona University) “Milk and Malevolence: Kinship Networks, Community, and Development in East Africa”

8:30–12:30 San Diego Room Towards an Anthropology of Catholicism: Carnality, Ambiguity, and ‘the Homely’

Organizers: Mayblin, Maya (University of Edinburgh), Napolitano, Valentina (University of Toronto), and Norget, Kristin (McGill University)

Muelebach, Andrea (University of Toronto) “The Catholicization of Neoliberalism”

Mayblin, Maya (University of Edinburgh) “Failure and Contagion: the gender of sin in contemporary Catholicism”

Lebner, Ashley (University of Toronto) “Catholicism, syncretism, secularism: the denominal purifications of the Brazilian religious field”

Reesink, Misia Lins (UFPE - Brazil) “Being Catholic Abroad: Portuguese-speaking Catholic Migrants in the Netherlands.”

Napolitano, Valentina (University of Toronto) “Catholic migrant pedagogies and historical catachresis”

BREAK – 10:30 am-10:45 am
Hoenes, Eric (University of Arkansas) “The Paradox of Charismatic Catholicism: Rupture and Continuity”

Campos, Roberta Bivar C. (UFPE – Brazil), and Joaquim Izidro do Nascimento (UFPE-Brazil) “In Juazeiro do Norte (Ceará-Brazil)

Our Lady Mother is God: a Marian feminism?”

Christine Thu Nhi Dang (University of Pennsylvania) “Vocal Redemption: Traditional Choral Music in the Contemporary Catholic Church of Senegal”

Norget, Kristin (McGill University) “Brown-skinned Saints, Papal Kisses, & the Enchantment of Universal Truths in Post-secular Mexico”

8:30–12:30 Pacific Ballroom A

**Political Theologies: Intersections with Secularism, Nationalism, and Other Religions**

Organizer: Yang, Mayfair (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Luehrmann, Sonja (Simon Fraser University) “What Came First, Politics or Theology? Carl Schmitt, the Ancient Egyptians, and the Theologization of Seeing in Post-Soviet Russia”

Soboslai, John (University of California, Santa Barbara) “The Burning Buddhas; Political Theology and Self-Immolation in Tibet”

Yang, Mayfair (University of California, Santa Barbara) “Sovereign Power, Celestial Bureaucracy, and the Political Theology of the Masses in China”

BREAK – 10:30 am-10:45 am


Wanner, Catherine (Penn State University) “Syncretic Secularism: Ritual Life in Soviet Borderlands”

Mahadev, Neena (Johns Hopkins University) "Policing Miracles: Christianities and the Constraints of Sri Lankan Nationalism”

Greer, Aaron (Pacific University) “Epic Politics: The Political Theology of the Ramayana in the West Indies”

10:30–12:30 Pacific Ballroom B

Charismatic Leadership and Political Positioning

Chair: Hickman, Jacob (Brigham Young University)

Roy, Arpan (California State University – Los Angeles) “No God But . . . : Secularizing the Palestine Solidarity Movement”
Spencer, Belinda (Brigham Young University)  
“An Issue of Legitimacy: Hmong Religious and Ethnonational Borders in Northern Thailand”

Hickman, Jacob (Brigham Young University)  
“The Art of Being Governed: Managing the Soul of General Vang Pao through the Rituals of Aspirational Statecraft”

Evans, Nicholas (University of Cambridge)  
“Islamic disputation and the creation of a pious sociality”

10:30–12:30 Pacific Ballroom  
**Syncretic Muharram: Shi’i Muslim Minorities and the Performance of Ethnicity and Nationalism;** Organizers: Leichtman, Mara (Michigan State University) Rahimi, Babak (University of California, San Diego)

Alrebh, Abdullah (Michigan State University)  
“Ashura in Qatif, Saudi Arabia: Shi’i Ritual in a Conservative Sunni State”

Rahimi, Babak (University of California, San Diego) “Burning Muharram: The Case of Iranian-Arab Rituals of Shi‘i Mourning in Bushehr”

Eshaghi, Peyman (Institute for Imamite Studies, Gent, Belgium) “Protocol Instead of Catastrophe: Global Standards, Community Interests and “Structured” Ashura in Contemporary Turkey”

Leichtman, Mara A. (Michigan State University) “The Africanization of Ashura in Senegal”
Discussant: Bridget Blomfield (University of Nebraska-Omaha)

12:30–2:30  LUNCH

2:30–5:00  Presidential Panel and Discussion

San Gabriel Lecture Hall

Joel Robbins (UC San Diego/Helsinki) “For Theory in Syncretism: Structure and Value in the Creation of Religious Mixtures”

Charles Stewart (University College London) “Creolization, Ritual and Syncretism”

Robert Weller (Boston University) “What Counts As the Same? Memory, Mimesis, and Metaphor in Chinese Syncretisms”

5:15  Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion

San Gabriel Lecture Hall


6:30 - 8:00  Reception with Cash Bar

San Gabriel Patio
Sunday April 14

8:30–10:30 San Diego Room

Contemplative Ethnographies

Organizers: Seeman, Don (Emory University) and Karlin, Michael (Emory University)

Seeman, Don (Emory University) “Kosher Meditation: Towards a Comparative, Ethnographic Contemplative Studies”

Ramsay, Tamasin (Monash University) “Seeking Authentic Spiritual Practice: Changing Phenomena in the Brahma Kumaris”?


Karlin, Michael (Emory University) “Hasidic Psychology: Life Coaching as Contemplative Practice”

8:30–11:00 Pacific Ballroom A

Ethnicity, Religion and Cultural Differences

Chair: Crosson, J. Brent (University of California- Santa Cruz)

Crosson, J. Brent (University of California-Santa Cruz) “Religious Synergies Without Syncretism: Healing, Harm and Solidarity through Difference in Trinidad”

Evrard, Amy Young (Gettysburg College) “Forming a Christian Identity in Oman”
Theodoropoulos, Anastasia (University of New Mexico) “Wholly Brazilian and Wholly Orthodox: Paradoxes of Simultaneity in Brazilian Orthodox Christianity

Premawardhana, Devaka (Harvard University) “Symbiosis: Asian Theologian Alyosius Pieris’ Critique of Syncretism and its Relevance for Anthropology”

Swazey, Kelli (University of Hawaii, Manoa) “‘Returning’ culture to the church: Christian responses to the public redefinition of the relationship of religion and culture in representations of regional identity in North Sulawesi, Indonesia”

9:15–11:00 Pacific Ballroom B

Weber’s Theory of Value and the Study of Religious Moralities as they Engage with a Society of Alternatives

Organizer: Dulin, John (University of California, San Diego)

Williams, Leanne (University of California, San Diego) “Doctrinal Dis-ease: Thinking Weber on religion, value and class in urban Zimbabwe”

Dulin, John (University of California, San Diego) “Instrumental Motivation and Value Motivation among Jewish-Christian Hybrid Communities in Northwest Ethiopia”

Parker, Ian (University of California, San Diego) “Conservation and ethnics of care in Northwestern New Guinea: towards a plurality of values or competing moral topographies?”
Discussant: Daromir Rudnyckyj (University of Victoria)

10:30–12:00 Pacific Ballroom C

**Economy, Development, and Recovery**

Chair: Scott, Rachelle (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Scott, Rachelle (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) “The Beckoning Spirit of Thailand: Locating Nang Kwak in Thai Religious Spaces”

Dunstan, Adam (University at Buffalo) “Toxic desecration: indigenous knowledge and environmentalism in the battle for a sacred mountain”

Kornfeld, Moshe (University of Michigan) “Interfaith Synergies and Boundary Maintenance in Post-Katrina New Orleans”

**Mentorship:**

*Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)*

**Undergraduate and/or graduate students.**

The SAR honored three people with awards this November—a winner and honorable mention for the Geertz Prize, and a prize for the best student paper. One important change we made to the student paper prize was that we now allow students who have presented papers at the Biannual SAR Spring meeting (which was in Pasadena in 2013) as well as at the AAA to submit their papers. The papers are evaluated by a jury of their peers---other graduate students----and the award is presented at the November Business meeting.

We also held a special round table discussion at our Biannual meeting to talk about the large number of our members who are teaching in Religion departments rather than Anthropology departments. This is partially because the job prospects within Anthropology have been poor, but it is also because ethnographic methods are considered new and exciting in Religion departments, which are increasingly turning to the study of "lived religions". The panel was very well attended, and it should be noted that about half of our current SAR Executive Board members are among those teaching in Religion departments (Amira Mittermaier, Simon Coleman, Mayfair Yang, Hillary Kaell, etc.).

**Early career scholars.**
The Palgrave book series primarily attracts early career scholars, since it offers a model of editing which is supportive and compassionate as well as demanding. The winners of the Geertz prize and honorable mention this year were also both first time book authors (although that is not a formal requirement for the prize). At least half of the participants in the Pasadena Spring Meeting were early career scholars, although it was good to also have a number of senior scholars involved.

**Independent scholars.**

Independent scholars can register for the SAR at a reduced rate, and they are invited to participate in all of our activities --- panels at the AAA, nominating books for the Geertz prize, and preparing and presenting at panels at the Spring Biannual meeting.

**Outreach:**

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.

We have discussed meeting at the same time with one of the other sections of the AAA. This has been done once with the AES (which was so much larger than the SAR that one person who attended that meeting said meant that the SAR was "drowned" in a sea of other papers), and also with SPA. Since we are on the same every other year calendar as the SPA, this is the section we have collaborated with the most in the past, especially since our membership tends to overlap considerably with theirs. There was discussion of more collaborations at our Board meeting, but it was also felt that the society gains its identity from the Biannual Meeting, so it might not be a good idea to do this more than occasionally.

The fact that the American Academy of Religion meets at the same time as the AAA is a perennial issue, as is the meeting of the Africanist society (which requires the presence of several of our board members). It is hard to see how this can be successfully resolved.

**Communications:**

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.

The SAR website (Http://www.aaanet.org/sections/sar) has been established for some time with current webmaster Jordan Haug. It is where be have our by-laws, information on current officers and deadlines and submission procedures for the Geertz prize. The Biannual meeting is also announced on the website, and this past year we posted not only the program of the Biannual meeting but also all fo the relevant abstracts (since these were not actually published in any other format).

Our List serve is reasonably active, mainly with calls for papers on religion related topics and sometimes with book announcements and conferences being organized. Not all members of SAR are on the listserve, since they need to register for it separately. If that registration could somehow be made automatic (when someone joins the Society at the AAA website), our communications with our members might be improved.

**Governance:**

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.
We did not make any formal changes in governance in 2013, but we did invite the President Elect to be very much involved in planning the Spring Biannual Meeting. Joel Robbins served as Program Chair for the meeting, and was also a member of the Presidential Panel on the second day of the conference.

One change we did make was in the procedures for evaluating the Geertz prize. We switched from a system where members of the prize committee received only a subset of the books submitted (which they ranked as teams) to a system where publishers would send all of the books directly to the members of the prize committee, so that they would all have the opportunity to pull a promising book out of the pile and make a case to have it become one of the finalists. This was discussed first in a small task force made up of Joel, Janet and previous chairs of the Geertz prize committee, and then in the Executive Board meeting as a whole. After experimenting with this new format, we might discuss whether or not it has been successful in future meetings.

Initiatives:

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

We are encouraged by the fact that our membership is growing, and we hope to continue the collaborations that we have already established with a number of other groups. Our new President, Joel Robbins, may want to increase the international profile of the SAR (especially since he is now based at Cambridge University in the UK). We do have a number of board members who teach in Canada (two) as well as one who teaches in the West Indies.

Ask AAA:

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 Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

Our revenue base is pretty much only registration fees for the meetings and section membership. Since we have chose to keep the section membership fees very modest ($15), this means that we have a slender revenue base—especially in contrast to many other sections which are soaking up a lot of money from journal publications.

Our membership has been growing and we did break even on our recent Spring Meeting, but finances are a perennial concern. It would be nice if the editors for the Palgrave series could be compensated in some way. I think these issues are typical for a "medium sized" section like ours, but I do want to the draw them to the attention of the Executive Committee.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

I am wondering whether it would be possible to clarify how the AAA would deal with a situation where we did not break even on our biannual spring meeting, since both I and the previous President Margaret Wiener wondered about this issue, but were not sure how it would be resolved. Fortunately, it did not arise, but always seems a possibility.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

I have appreciated support from Kim Baker and Suzanne Mattingly, but I think it would be helpful to send reminders and the relevant links to the Section Presidents:

(1) About three weeks before the AAA annual report is due
(2) About three weeks before it is necessary to schedule the Business and Board meetings
(3) About three weeks before nominations are due for the annual elections.

The website may have all this information, but it is not always easy to find it.