

From the Editor: Virtual Issue

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, our publisher (Wiley) offered to post a virtual issue and it became my task to suggest the titles to be included. The selection of titles is limited to articles published since the year 2000, when Wiley began publishing the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Selecting a few articles from eleven volumes is not an easy task and I suspect many people will offer good reasons for including different articles. But let me make the case for the articles included in this virtual issue.

First, as a reflection of an ongoing effort to improve the quality of research on the social scientific study of religion, I have included three articles aimed at educating people about the research and publishing process. Of the two From the Editor selections, one offers a checklist for improving the chances a manuscript will be considered for publication, the other lays out a model for writing substantive reviews. A third article written by Chris Smith, makes the case for improving the quality, value, and cumulativeness of our scholarship.

Second, the presidential addresses for the previous three years are included. As you may remember, Dean Hoge passed away before he could give his presidential address in 2008—hence we include only the presidential addresses given in 2009 (Mark Chaves), 2010 (Kathrine Meyer), and 2011 (James Beckford).

Third, four scholars were invited to write a forward looking article on the study of religion. Robert Wuthnow (2011) focuses on religious discourse. Justin Barrett (2011) introduces the cognitive science of religion as a possible future in the psychology of religion. Wendy Cadge, Peggy Levitt, and David Smilde (2011) make a case for rethinking concepts and methods in the sociology of religion. Finally, Laura Olson (2011) suggests new directions in the study of religion and politics.

Finally, going back through eleven volumes, I have identified articles which had been well received (based on citation counts) and/or which represent the variety of directions research on religion has taken in the recent past. For example, two papers are included simply because they have produced over 100 citations since their publication in 2003. The two papers, however, also represent typical research areas—religion and health/well-being (Hackney and Sanders 2003) and adolescent religiosity (Smith 2003).

The 2000, 2001, and 2002 articles are all top cited articles for each year. The research focused on religious capital (Park and Smith 2000), fundamentalism and right-wing authoritarianism (Lathe, Finkel, and Kirkpatrick 2001), religion and health/wellbeing (Pargament, Tarakeshwar, Ellison, and Wulff (2001), and religiosity and spirituality (Marler and Hadaway 2002).

Kraig Beyerlein's (2004) analysis of the impact of conservative Protestantism on educational attainment was the most highly cited article in the 43rd volume and represents a current line of research—a number of articles on the same topic has been published in the last few years.

The year 2005 was a banner year for the psychology of religion in JSSR. We include two articles from psychologists, one on prosocial behavior (Saroglou, Pichon, Trompette et al. 2005) and one on personality correlates of attitudes towards Christians and Muslims (Rowatt, Franklin, and Cotton 2005). But I also include Yang's article (2005) on conversion to Christianity in urban China. Many have suggested that much of the social scientific research on religion is focused on the West. This article represents a needed expansion beyond the West in the study of religion.

The selection in 2006 is representative of the influence of economists in the study of religion. Typically on the margins, the economists have made major contributions to the study of religion of late and this is one example (McCleary and Barro 2006).

My own biases may be most evidence in articles published in the recent past (2007-2011), primarily because citation counts prove less reliable. The Houtman and Aupers (2007) article is included because of the focus on 14 western countries; the Saroglou and Munoz-Garcia article (2008) is reflective of the continuing focus on personality and values among psychologists, but also because of the continuing interesting in religion *and* spirituality. The moral community paradigm is prominent among sociologists, and thus the Hill (2009) article is also included. Hill and Olson's piece (2009) reflects the continuing dominance of rational choice theories in contemporary studies. Smits, Ruiter, and vanTubergen (2010) write about Islamic immigrants in Belgium. The Chaeyoon, MacGregor, and Putnam (2010) article received the 2011 Article of the Year Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

The 2011 selection is an article on mysticism among Chinese Buddhist Monks and Nuns (Chen, Q, Wood, and Watson (2011). Finally, I include an article from the first issue of the 51st volume. Gender does not receive enough attention in the scientific study of religion and this article points us in a new direction altogether (Martin, van Gunten, and Zablocki (2012).

Park, Jerry Z. and Christian Smith. 2000. To whom much has been given. . ." Religious capital and community voluntarism among churchgoing Protestants. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 39(3):272-286.

2001

Laythe, Brian, Deborah Finkel, Lee A. Kirkpatrick. 2001. Predicting prejudice from religious fundamentalism and right-wing authoritarianism: A multiple-regression approach. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 40(1):1-10.

Pargament, Kenneth I., Nalini Tarakeshwar, Christopher G. Ellison, Keith M. Wulff. 2001. Religious coping among the religious: The relationships between religious coping and well-being in a national sample of Presbyterian clergy, elders, and members. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 40(3):497-513.

2002

Penny L. Marler and Clark K. Hadaway. 2002. "Being religious" or "being spiritual" in America: A zero-sum proposition? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 41(2):289-300.

2003

Smith, Christian. 2003. Theorizing religious effects among American adolescents. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42(1):17-30.

Hackney, Charles H. and Glenn S. Sanders. Religiosity and mental health: A meta-analysis of recent studies. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42(1):43-55.

2004

Beyerlein, Kraig. 2004. Specifying the impact of conservative Protestantism on educational attainment. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 43(4):505-518.

2005

Rowatt, Wade C., Lewis M. Franklin, and Marla Cotton. 2005. Patterns and personality correlates of implicit and explicit attitudes toward Christian and Muslims. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44(1):29-43.

Saroglou, Vassilis, Isabelle Pichon, Laurence Trompette, Maruke Verschueren, and Rebecca Dernelle. 2005. Prosocial behavior and religion: New evidence based on projective measures and peer ratings. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44(3):323-348.

Yang, Fenggang. 2005. Lost in the market, saved at McDonald's: Conversion to Christianity in urban China. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:4(423-441).

2006

McCleary, Rachel M. and Robert J. Barro. 2006. Religion and political economy in an international panel. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 45(2):149-175.

2007

Dick Houtman and Stef Aupers. 2007. The spiritual turn and the decline of tradition: The spread of post-Christian spirituality in 14 western countries, 1981-2000. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46(3):305-320.

2008

Vassilis Saroglou and Antonio Munoz-Garcia. 2008. Individual differences in religion and spirituality: An issue of personality traits and/or values? *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 47(1):83-101.

2009

Hill, Jonathan P. 2009. Higher education as moral community: Institutional influences on religious participation during college. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(3):515-534.

2010

Smits, Fransje, Stijn Ruiters, and Frank van Tubergen. 2010. Religious practices among Islamic immigrants: Moroccan and Turkish men in Belgium. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(2):247-263.

Lim, Chaeyoon, Carol Ann MacGregor, and Robert D. Putnam. 2010. Secular and liminal: Discovering heterogeneity among religious nones. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(4):596-618.

2011

Chen, Zhou, Wen Qi, Ralph W. Hood, Jr., and P. J. Watson. 2011. Common core thesis and qualitative and quantitative analysis of mysticism in Chinese Buddhist Monks and Nuns. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(4):654-670.

2012

Martin, John Levi, Tod van Gunten, and Benjamin D. Zablocki. 2012. Charisma, status, and gender in groups with and without Gurus. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(1).

