

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. Kathryn 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 commission.

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

Michael Lambek, President
Rebecca Lester, Secretary

Ellen Badone, President-elect
Kathryn Geurts, Treasurer

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

Ellen Badone, President	badone@mcmaster.ca
Michael Lambek, Past-president	lambek@utsc.utoronto.ca
Kathryn Geurts, Treasurer	kgeurts@gw.hamline.edu
Rebecca Lester, Secretary	rjlester@artsci.wustl.edu

Board members from December 2005

Jon Bialecki(student rep)	jbialeck@weber.ucsd.edu
Andrew Buckser	bucksera@soc.purdue.edu
Simon Coleman	s.m.coleman@sussex.ac.uk
Beth Conklin	beth.a.conklin@Vanderbilt.Edu
Charles Hirschkind	chirschk@berkeley.edu
Susan Kenyon	skenyon@butler.edu
Adeline Masquelier	amasquel@tulane.edu, adelinemasquel@yahoo.com
Rosalind Shaw	rosalind.shaw@tufts.edu

Editor for AN column

Simon Coleman	s.m.coleman@sussex.ac.uk
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Web site coordinator (until changeover)

Deborah Shephed	sheph005@umn.edu
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List-serve coordinator

Jon Bialecki	jbialeck@weber.ucsd.edu
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Book Series Editor

Robert Hefner	rhefner@bu.edu
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Former Presidents

Tom Csordas	tcsordas@ucsd.edu
Janice Boddy	jboddy@interchange.ubc.ca

submitted by Michael Lambek, December 13, 2005