

**Call for Papers for the
78th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion**

Location: Seattle, Washington
Renaissance Seattle Hotel, 515 Madison Street
Date: August 20-21, 2016

Theme: Exploring Diversity: Varieties of Religion and Nonreligion

Given the location of the 2016 ASR conference and recent research about the predominance of nonreligion in the Pacific Northwest, a program theme focusing on the intersections of religion and nonreligion is fitting. The dramatic increase in those who identify as ‘nones’ or nonreligious on surveys about religious identity may be indicative of a new normal in the religious landscape in many countries. It also raises important questions about the study of religion and nonreligion, both methodological and theoretical. While there has long been a debate in the social sciences over secularization as a theory to explain religious change, there may be other theoretical explanations for why nonreligion is increasing. Likewise, much remains to be explained about how such an increase will change the role of religion in politics, education, healthcare, law, and other social institutions. Further, what does it mean to be religious in this context? Is religious identity and religion itself also shifting and changing? In addition to the theoretical concerns, methodological challenges are also emerging. How, for example, does one find and study those who are unaffiliated with organizations? What are the similarities and differences in the contours of lived religion and non-religion? Are there better ways to measure the degree to which people, organizations, communities, countries and cultures can be described—or describe themselves—as religious or nonreligious? Do current surveys contain adequate measures to capture the diversity among the nonreligious, or, for that matter, among the religious?

Papers and discussion sessions on all topics within the sociology of religion are welcome, but especially those related to the meeting theme, including, but not limited to the following: the shifting religious landscape; religion and power; lived religion and nonreligion; measuring religious diversity; capturing religious and nonreligious identities; social institutions and religion; the geographies and spaces of religion and nonreligion; the role of sexuality and gender in a changing religious landscape.

DEADLINES: Session Proposals are due by March 31, 2016 (submit to program chair). Paper Proposals and abstracts are due by April 30, 2016 (submit through the ASR website Member Portal at www.sociologyofreligion.com). Meeting registration is due by July 1, 2016.

PROGRAM CHAIR: Ryan Cragun, The University of Tampa, ryantcragun@gmail.com