

2023 Program Chair Report
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Ruth Braunstein, 2023 Program Chair

PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

Total sessions = 51

Individual paper submissions = 83

Complete session submissions = 23

Other invited sessions = 7

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Together with ASR President Gerardo Martí, I am happy to report that the program this year features paper sessions on a wide range of topics, featuring research on a diversity of religious traditions and regions of the world. We are pleased to have a handful of Author- Meets-Critics sessions, celebrating new books by our colleagues. And as always, we have the Furfey Lecture by Penny Edgell (University of Minnesota), and the Presidential Address by Gerardo Martí (Davidson College).

In addition to this, we added some new kinds of sessions on the program this year. Responding to concerns raised in previous years about declining attendance and lower engagement with our conference, we sought to create programming that would bring new faces into our association and also encourage attendees to spend as much time as possible at our meeting. We came up with two main ideas.

- First, in our Call for Papers we requested proposals for **symposia/mini-workshops**, which involved a set of two or more thematically linked sessions. We were very pleased with the proposals, and ended up including two day-long symposia in the program. Each is comprised of five thematically-linked sessions, which will meet in a single room over the course of an entire day. We are very grateful to the following colleagues for putting together such a rich slate of panels.
 - The **Symposium on Race and Religion**, organized by Oneya Okuwobi (University of Cincinnati) and Rachel Schneider (Rice University) will be held on Sunday
 - The **Symposium on Taking the Global South Seriously in the Sociology of Religion**, organized by Afe Adogame (Princeton Theological Seminary) and James Spickard (University of Redlands), will be held on Monday.
- Second, based on conversations with colleagues about how conferences have been most useful to them, we developed two kinds of experimental sessions that provide space for feedback on work-in-progress that is not always featured at conferences: book manuscripts and research instruments/plans.
 - Two **Manuscript-Meets-Critics** sessions will provide a rare opportunity for book writers to get public feedback on their manuscripts before publication

- One **Before-the-Field** session will provide space for a team of researchers to solicit feedback on their research plans before entering the field

These new formats are experimental, but our hope is that if they prove useful to our members, they may become a permanent feature of our Annual Meetings.

ISSUES:

While the whole process went fairly smoothly, we encountered a few issues worth noting.

1. **Online submission system.** Because the new ASR website is still under construction, we solicited conference submissions via an online form used in previous years. This process was extremely inefficient and encouraged errors by users and administrators alike. Not only were the submissions unwieldy to review, to organize into sessions, and to add to the program document, but the system offered no way to automate personalized messages to those who submitted proposals. *Everything* had to be done manually. My hope is that the new website will incorporate more robust conference registration functionality. But even if this is not possible, I have several very basic suggestions for how to improve the current form, including:
 - a. **Sending a confirmation email to all submitters including the details of their submission.** This option is available on even the most basic Google Form. It would prevent people from submitting multiple times, or contacting me repeatedly to confirm the details of their submissions because they had no record.
 - b. **Creating a submission form that outputs information in the same format as our program.** This would dramatically reduce the amount of manual formatting needed to get the information into the program.
 - c. **Enabling customized emails to conference participants,** which include the basic details of their submissions, their sessions, their membership/registration status, etc.
2. **Recruiting volunteers.** Based on previous reports, it seems that we used to ask presenters to indicate whether they are willing to serve as session conveners or volunteers when they submit their initial proposals. This did not happen this year. As a result, I created two Google Forms – one for volunteer mentors and one for conveners and registration desk workers – that we circulated via ASR emails and through social media. Luckily, we received more than enough volunteers for both, but this process felt a bit DIY. Future online submission systems should include the option for people to indicate their willingness to volunteer upfront.

NEXT STEPS:

I am hopeful that future leadership will continue to offer the new kinds of sessions that we developed this year. If they do, we have a few considerations to keep in mind.

Symposia

- A diverse range of potential organizers should be approached/recruited well in advance of the Call for Papers.

- While organizing a full-day symposium is a lot of work, we should be pitching ASR Symposia as an efficient and low-cost alternative to hosting a conference at one's own institution. For a small fraction of the costs of hosting a conference, ASR Symposia organizers may be able to pay for supplemental catering (the Symposium on Race and Religion is doing this this year), or to cover the membership and registration costs for their participants. If this model becomes sufficiently institutionalized, I could even imagine potential organizers including funding for ASR Symposia in grant applications.
- Supporting symposia will benefit ASR as well. To my knowledge, no other conferences offer this opportunity. This could be a key way that ASR distinguishes itself from other conferences and attracts participants. Based on this year's examples, these symposia are also likely to attract participants who do not typically come to ASR, and some of these people will hopefully return.

Experimental sessions

- The subjects of this year's Manuscript-Meets-Critics and Before-the-Field sessions were identified through word of mouth and conversations with religion editors about authors who were at the stage when such a session would be useful. In future years, this kind of recruitment could continue, but you may also wish to include these as formal options (along with Author-Meets-Critics) during the submission process.

Conclusion:

Thanks to Gerardo Martí and Rachel Kraus for their partnership throughout the process.

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT 2023

TO: Officers, Members of Council of the Association for the Sociology of Religion
FROM: Rachel Kraus, Executive Officer
RE: Report on the State of ASR

What I've been working on this past year:

- 1) Finished transferring our assets to Chase bank
- 2) Worked with Jim Spickard and our webmaster, Tom, on overhauling the ASR website. The website is now in our name.
- 3) Secured a hotel for our 2025 San Francisco conference
- 4) Working with the finance committee on our investments. We are now drawing 4% of our earnings, which are deposited directly into our checking account at Chase. This amounts to \$30,000 a year in "new" income.
- 5) Many behind-the-scenes daily tasks that accompany this position related to fielding member questions and issues with accounts, communicating with committees and the executive committee, and making various arrangements for the conference.

Upcoming Conferences

- 1) 2024 Montreal; ASA: August 10-13
 - a. Hotel Monville Montreal, August 9-11 ASR days, \$239 room rate (CAD), \$20,000 f and b minimum (CAD)
 - b. ASA Religion Section Day: August 12th (3rd day)
- 2) 2025 San Francisco; ASA: August 9-12
 - a. Hotel Nikko August 9-11 ASR days, \$269 room rate
 - b. ASA Religion Section Day: August 12th (4th day)
- 3) 2026 New York; ASA: August 8-11
 - a. August 9-11th ASR days
 - b. ASA Religion Section Day: August 8 (1st day)
- 4) 2027 Chicago; ASA: August 7-10

ASR EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S BUDGET 2023

The Association is in excellent financial shape. ASR's assets at the current time are summarized below:

<i>Banking Accounts</i>	<i>Value as of 7/31/2023</i>
ASR's Checking Account at Chase	\$109,000
PayPal Account	\$9,677
Total Value of Banking Accounts	\$118,677
<i>Mayflower Accounts</i>	<i>Value as of 7/26/2023</i>
Total Value of Mayflower Portfolio	\$846,069
TOTAL ASSETS	\$964,746

PREVIOUS YEAR'S BUDGET AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024

	2022 Los Angeles	2023 Philadelphia (as of 7/31/23)	2024 Montreal
<i>Contributions, Gifts Total</i>	22,432	15,462	20,000
Memberships	22,432	15,462	20,000
<i>Program Service Revenue Total</i>			
Publications Total	60,222	60,229	60,381
Journal submission fee	833	548	700
Oxford Royalties	42,708	43,000	43,000
Oxford Stipend for Editorial Support	16,000	16,000	16,000
Brill Royalties	260	260	260
EBSCO Royalties	162	162	162
Cengage	175	175	175
Copyright Clearance	84	84	84
Annual Meeting Total	30,348	27,464	27,750
Registrations	21,098	18,214	19,500
Professional	18,555	15,913	17,000
Student	2,543	2,301	2,500
Scholar's Choice	250	0	0
Pew	0*	250	250
OUP Co-sponsor Reception	1,000	1,000	1,000
Brill Co-sponsor Reception	1,000	1,000	
Louisville Instit. Co-sponsor Reception	3,000	3,000	3,000
Other Reception Sponsors	4,000 from ASA Religion Section	4,000 from ASA Religion Section	4,000 from ASA Religion Section
<i>Investment Income Total (dividends, interest)</i>	0	22,500	30,000
Total Revenue/Income	113,002	125,655	138,131
<u>Expenses</u>			
<i>Grants Total</i>	20,000	20,000	29,000
McNamara	500	500	500
SoR Article	500	500	500
Lifetime Achievement	1000	1000	1000
Gallagher	5,000	5,000	12,000

Commented [JS1]: 4% ?

Fichter	12,000	12,000	12,000
Furfey	1,000	1,000	1,000
<i>Salary/Stipends Total</i>	31,000	34,000	37,000
Executive Officer	13,000	13,000	13,000
EO Course Buyout	3,500	3,500	3,500
Executive Officer Student Worker	0	0	1,000*NEW
Soc of Relig Editor	10,500	13,500	13,500
SoR Book Review Editor	4,000*	4,000	4,000
Website Assistant			2,000*NEW
<i>Other Expenses Miscellaneous Total</i>	1,500	1,500	1,500
Management/Website & podcasts Total	2,603	2,320	1,000
Office Total	2,344	1,494	1,494
Constant Contact	540	540	540
Wordpress	250	350	350
American Express Fee	179	179	179
Articles of Incorp. Renew	50	50	50
Indiana business	50	50	50
Office Expenses and Supplies (BSU)	200	200	200
Consulting Fees (501c6, 501c3)	1000	0	0
Taxes	125	125	125
Conference/Ann Meet Total	61,188	67,800	68,600
AV	15,272	15,000	15,000
AV Shipment	750	500	500
Food and Beverage	29,505	35,000	35,000
Rooms (Officers, Furfey, Prog Chair, Life)	5,276	7,000	7,000
Registration workers	700	700	700
Furfey dinner	500	500	500
Awards	200	200	200
Name tags, ribbons	200	200	100
Program Assistant	0	0	500
Program Printing	1,000	1,000	1,000
Meet Travel Reimbursement	7,785	7,700	9,000
President	200	1000	1000
President - Elect	1000	500	500
EO	1000	200	1000
Furfey	1000	1000	1000
Lifetime Achievement	362	500	1000
Journal Editor	2,000	2000	2000
Program Chair	723	1000	1000
Future Program Chair	1,000	1000	1000
Secretary	500	500	500

<i>Other Journal Expenses Total</i>	14,114	14,000	14,000
Payment to OUP for member subscriptions	8,614	8,500	8,500
Editor's Budget (research assistant)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Reimburse Editor's Expenses (journal related gatherings at annual meeting)	500	500	500
<i>Future Hotel Payments</i>	11,330		26,330
Montreal			20,000 CAD (15,000 USD)
San Francisco	11,330		11,330
<i>Insurance (Gen liability, D&O)</i>	2,014	2,014	2,014
Total Income	113,002	125,655	138,131
Total Expenses	146,093	143,128	180,938
Total Income - Expenses	-33,091	-17,473	-42,807

Membership: As of July 31, 2023, we have 388 active members.

I am also very grateful to our Council Members, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members. Without their hard work and dedication, the conference and the work of the ASR would not be possible. Thanks so much!

Congratulations to Titus for his tremendous service as the journal's editor.

This year's committee reports are a testament to each committee's hard work to make their operations more efficient and identify areas in need of improvement. All committees' work has been stellar.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Thoughts about where to cut costs in the budget/add revenue? Approve budget.
 - o Recommendations/Options to Consider
 - Increase revenue: increase membership rates, increase conference registration rates, increase the percentage that we draw from our investments to 5% or more, seek out more co-sponsors for conference events (development/finance committee), actively seek donations (development/finance committee), fundraising (development/finance committee)
 - Decrease costs: reduce Gallagher awards, reduce conference reimbursements, occasionally meet with the SSSR/RRA rather than the ASA, have a conference every other year, have a virtual conference every other year, eliminate printed programs
 - o EO position: \$20,000 including money for a course release, \$1,000 for a student assistant, \$2,000 for a web assistant
 - o Add a Treasurer position to council?
- Go ahead for 2026 New York hotel?

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Kraus

ASR Website Update 2023

Jim Spickard

July 7, 2023

Three years ago, the ASR Executive Office asked me to review the ASR website and make suggestions for improvements. I did so, and I identified several areas that needed work. These fell into three categories:

1. Website functionality
2. Serious lack of updating
3. Aesthetic issues

Since my report, Rachel and I have completed much of the updating and link repair that the site needed. The aesthetic issues and the website functionality were harder to address because they depend on plugins that modify the WordPress engine on which the website is built.* Some of these had been abandoned by their creators and were thus seriously out of date; others lacked features that we desired. Over the course of the pandemic years, it became clear that the site needed a major overhaul.

That, however, was complicated by the fact that we did not fully control our own web domain, sociologyofreligion.com. To be brief, former Executive Officer Bill Swatos had purchased and registered that domain a few years into his long tenure (1997-2012). However, he neglected to share the registration details and password with his successor, and he fell ill and died before he could do so. Jim Cavendish and Rachel Kraus worked with Bill's son and executor to retrieve the domain, but they were unable to provide the paperwork that the domain registrar demanded in order to transfer the ownership to us. We thus decided to change the organization's web address to sociologyofreligion.org – a domain that Rachel had thoughtfully purchased for just such a situation.

The ASR now holds that domain in an account at *GoDaddy.com*, a domain registrar and website host. The website itself is managed by Tom Cuneo of MLT Technologies, Inc. (www.mltinnovations.com). Rachel, Tom, and I have the passwords for the domain account, the web hosting, and the back end of the website; these will become part of the Executive Officer's record book, along with our financial accounts, to insure that we do not lose access to our website again.

I began working with Tom last September on revising the website, focusing on web functionality. This involved:

- Changing to a new membership management system.
- Reorganizing the Member Dashboard.

* I shall spare Council a description of the various levels of code required to create a web presence: they include the WordPress engine and its accompanying PHP files, web themes, utility plugins, databases, cPanel or direct FTP access, hosting organizations, DNS servers, and domain registrars. If you want details, you can buy me a beer.

- Adding a better search plugin.
- Moving to a new PayPal interface that should increase foreign members' ability to pay fees (while avoiding bots that sign up for membership but leave no money).
- Increasing site security.
- Modifying submission forms so as to prevent the problems we had last year.
- Not breaking any of the things that were already working.

I had hoped to have this all finished by last December 1st. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. It also didn't happen by February 1st, when we hoped to have paper and session submissions hosted on the new site. This meant that we were stuck with the old site until registration closed. We did fix the submission forms, so they did most of what we wanted. But the full change-over had to wait until submissions were done so we could download the paper and session submission spreadsheets and the grant spreadsheets in full.

Since the change, Tom and I have been squashing bugs. We fixed a major one on July 3rd and another today, July 7th — the latter an issue that prevented members from downloading *SofR* articles from the Oxford website. We may find more bugs, but probably not major ones.

In the meantime, I have added two minor features that might make life easier for the EO and officers. They are:

- Email addresses for the Executive Officer, President, Secretary, etc. (asreo@sociologyofreligion.org, president@sociologyofreligion.org, ...). This might help them separate their ASR email from the rest of the things they are doing. Or mail could be forwarded automatically wherever they wish. Voluntary, but perhaps useful.[†]
- A system for uploading News and Announcement to the website by email. This lets Rachel automatically post the messages that she currently sends out by Constant Contact rather than having to enter posts by hand. It also keeps a better record of those messages than we currently have.

Moving forward, I have a few suggestions about process:

1. The Executive Officer and Secretary should make a concerted effort to keep the ASR Documents section of the website up-to-date. This is mainly a matter of posting Council Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports more quickly than has been our practice. Currently, Minutes & Reports are not posted until they have been approved at the August Council Meeting. That makes them a year old, and few people remember exactly what occurred. **I suggest that they be posted in draft form – clearly so marked – shortly after whatever meeting they record.** That way, Officers and Council Members have a chance to read them while they still remember what happened and can bring corrections to the

[†] We could alternately use named addresses for the various presidents – e.g.: Marti@sociologyofreligion.org, Yukich@sociologyofreligion.org, and Bruce@sociologyofreligion.org. This avoids the issue of people having to change email addresses when they 'graduate' from one status to another.

Secretary's and EO's attention. **Or we could have Council approve minutes within a month of a meeting,** making the draft postings unnecessary.

2. **I suggest that the EO, President, and Program Chair work with Tom during each autumn to modify the various submission forms that our members will use for the next year's conference and grant programs.** This year was better than last, but the Program Committee and grant committees should be able to specify what information they want and – subject to technical limits – the form in which they would like to receive it.
3. Our website manager, Tom, is very skilled but is also overextended, as he manages sites for several organizations. In my observation, needs to be reminded that things always take longer than he expects. I have had to push him about deadlines, which I do not enjoy. On the other hand, he does respond to emergencies, he is easy to work with, and he recognizes other people's expertise. **I suggest that we stay with him, as he is a lot better than some of the other web developers I know.**[‡] And we should not have to do a major web rewrite for another several years. It has helped that I know how to do all but the most technical stuff, but we could not have made the upgrade without Tom's effort and expertise.

In sum, it's not been a perfect transition, but it's been worthwhile. At this point, I suggest that next year's three Presidents (Past, Present, and Future) and Council think about site aesthetics and work with the Executive Officer and Webmaster to add whatever web functionality they think the ASR needs.

[‡] That story will cost you a second beer.

ASR REPORT FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

May 2023

This year's Nominations Committee consisted of Geneviève Zubrzycki, Rhys Williams, and Jim Spickard (Chair). We met by Zoom and email several times during autumn to consider possible candidates for President and for three Council seats. We used the committee's Google Drive folder, which contained the Nominations Committee Handbook, a near-complete list of election slates for 2013-2022, and candidate lists that Spickard gleaned from his (passive) involvement with the 2022 election.

We spent much of our deliberations assessing what we thought the ASR needs at this point in its history. Some of these are obvious, among them diversifying the organization's leadership, balancing the participation of younger and more established scholars, and finding candidates who can expand our intellectual 'footprint'. Some are less obvious, such as the need to find people who have wide contact networks that can bring in new member-participants but who are also already committed to and knowledgeable about the ASR. Another is the need to find leaders who are wise enough about organizational matters to be able to gauge the ASR's needs as they shift in coming years. We felt that our present need is to expand our membership and conference participation; we thus favored candidates whom we felt could attract new scholars to our activities while still guiding us organizationally.

After much deliberation plus consultation with ASR officers and others, we nominated the following scholars to run. All of them were good candidates for their positions. An asterisk before the name indicates those who were elected.

For President:

- Afe Adogame, Princeton Theological Seminary
- *Tricia Bruce, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame

For Council:

- *Rebecca Catto, Kent State University
- Abby Day, Goldsmiths, University of London
- *Jaime Kucinscas, Hamilton College
- Dawne Moon, Marquette University
- Mona Oraby, Howard University
- *Sadiah Saeed, University of San Francisco

Two comments for future committees:

1. We had more difficulty finding two candidates to agree to run for President than we did finding six candidates to run for Council. Presidential candidates tend to be busy, and fewer universities now reward faculty for professional service. Two scholars we asked said they would be happy to run in the future, but each had research leaves that would prevent them from serving in 2024-2025. Others had current commitments that intervened. In the end, we were able to find enough candidates with the specific skills that we think the ASR needs as we enter the post-pandemic era. As those skills change from year to year, we suggest that the next committee – and the officers and Council – think about what the organization will need in 2025-2026 and begin looking early.
2. To help the next committee, we updated the Election Slates document to include the 2023 candidates and left a worksheet with the names of those we considered for the various posts. (We deleted our comments on those names; the next committee will need to make its own judgments.) We suggest that future committees do the same – if only to make sure that future committees have some institutional memory on which they can build.

For the Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Spickard', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Spickard, Past-President and
Committee Chair, 2022-23

Association for the Sociology of Religion
Development & Finance Committee

2023 Report

Members

Tricia Bruce, University of Notre Dame (Chair)
David Voas, UCL Social Research Institute
Rhys Williams, Loyola University Chicago

Introduction

The ASR Development and Finance Committee is charged with responsibilities “to advance the Association’s long-term financial condition (including investments and fund-raising) and generate financial support for the annual meeting in its various locales.”

This year (2022-2023), the committee’s focus oriented especially around monitoring the rollout and reception of ASR’s recent reconfiguration of ASR investments. With extensive consultation from last year’s committee and Council approval, ASR moved its investments to Mayflower Advisors. The goals of this transition were four-fold: to (1) provide additional expertise and support; (2) prioritize “ESG” (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) funds; (3) increase returns; and (4) use the investments as an endowment rather than merely as a source of dividends income. This spawned a new, more active investment strategy for ASR.

Current Year Updates

Regarding the above stated goals of the transition to Mayflower Advisors:

(1) Provide additional expertise and support

Mayflower Advisors have created a dashboard for transparency and regular monitoring of ASR investments. Additionally, the EO and Chair of the Financial Committee met with Mayflower Advisors on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 11am ET to hear an overall update and ask any questions.

From this perspective, it appears as though Mayflower is fulfilling the expectations of ASR regarding professionalism, attentiveness, and relevant financial expertise.

(2) Prioritize “ESG” (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) funds

Last year’s committee suggested that future committees monitor ESG related metrics, such as:

- Overall ESG Risk level (to be maintained at negligible or low levels)
- Carbon Risk & Fossil Fuel Exposure (to maintain a low carbon designation)

- Where relevant metrics are available, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion measures, including Workers' Rights measures

Our portfolio appears to meet or continue to move in a positive direction regarding ESG funds. ESG funds were also less of a liability this year (as they can sometimes be). They performed better this year overall than last year, by comparison.

(3) Increase Returns

The market this year has been volatile, but ASR's mix of investments has proven resilient. Advisors relay that it was a "tale of two markets" – one that did really well and one that did "just okay."

The fact that we got out of some energy (etc.) stocks meant that we fared better than others. Our current portfolio risk level is a 58 (on a scale from 1 to 100).

The ending value of ASR's current investments is \$837,636.45 – a net year-to-date change of \$80,749.42. A detailed statement is available from the EO.

(4) Use the investments as an endowment rather than merely as a source of dividends income

ASR is opting for an endowment distribution on a quarterly basis, supporting the ongoing functionality and core mission of the association.

The EO reports that this distribution has been helpful, easing financial stress on the Association and supporting long-term sustainability.

Mayflower can also project incomes for us, as a means of scanning possibilities and assessing financial risk.

Recommendations

The committee advises that incoming Committee Chairs be added to the Mayflower dashboard early in their appointment, if possible (and outgoing Chairs, removed).

Future committees should continue to work closely with Mayflower while also monitoring the new endowment distribution strategy, mindful of ASR's changing financial landscape (in coordination with membership trends and publication funding streams).

The EO reports that the association is currently operating at a deficit, adding urgency to the need to introduce additional revenue streams. Next year's committee will likely want to explore potential co-sponsorships and donations, building relationships in the interest of solvency.

International Liaison Committee

Members: Roberta Ricucci (Chair); Abby Day, Pamela Prickett

After the criteria reviewed in 2022 and the suggestions to develop and improve ties and activities with other international organizations, the Committee had one main task in 2023: assessing and recommending applicants for funding.

1. Recommendations, results, reflections

Funding awarded to:

Di Gregorio, Bernard	West Virginia University
Musili, Telesia	University of Nairobi
Nweke, Florence	University of Lagos
Blanton, Matthew	The University of Texas at Austin
Winfield, Taylor	McGill University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal
Zrinscak, Sinisa	University of Zagreb

Two reflections:

- a) Comparatively with the previous year, there have been less applications: the organisation of all the main conferences in the field along the same year (ISA in Australia and SISR in Taiwan) may have had a negative impact on the participation. Collaborations with other Associations could be useful for improving the visibility of the grant. Indeed, it is important to improve the efforts in publicizing the funding opportunity. This year, the Committee has promoted the grant within several social channels addressing specifically young scholars (e.g. ESA – RN34, SAR/AAA, EARA, EERA, AERA): the outcomes will be visible if an ongoing activity of sharing news and post in various social channels will continue;
- b) According to the rules, each international scholar should be funded if he/she fits into the criteria regardless the career stage. Could be reasonable to think specific criteria for improving the early-career researchers' participation? And maybe a devoted event (e.g. PhD activities? A short training activity on grant writing?)

Recommendations:

- 1.1.1 Develop activities with international PhD programmes.
- 1.1.2 Provide leaflets and posts for various websites and conferences blogs.

Fichter Committee 2023 Report

Members: Landon Schnabel (chair), Courtney Irby, and Alpha Possamai-Inesedy

Overview:

We received 10 applications. As a first step we independently evaluated the applications according to a shared set of criteria (using the same metrics passed forward by previous Fichter committees). We then deliberated as a committee and selected the following three projects to fund:

- Ashley Josleyn French: “Young and Faithful: A Comparative Study of the Sexual Practices and Beliefs of Young Christian and Muslim Women in the United States”
- Samaneh Oladi Ghadikolaei: “Faith, Feminism, Family: Inside Iranian Women’s Sacred Activism”
- Lynette Moran: “Making the Case for Harmed: Collective Grief as Emotion & Object in the Methodist Schism”

Points of Consideration:

Our review and discussion of applications revealed a few points that warrant consideration.

1. **Discouraging Non-Sociological Applications:** A few applications were not sociological in their methods or the literature they engaged. The non-sociological applications were typically humanities and/or theologically oriented and typically cited little to no sociology (or even social science) of religion and had little to no relevance to sociological (or social scientific, broadly construed) approaches to exploring religion.

The call already says that the research should be sociological. But given the volume of such non-sociological applications, we suggest that it might be worth further emphasizing in some way in the call and any other communication about it.

2. **Allowed Costs:** Some applications requested funding for items beyond the scope of the stated call. While the call is generally clear on this point, one area lacking specificity is whether funding could cover lodging expenses during research travel.

We decided as a committee not to exclude applications that requested funding for lodging during research travel as we deemed it a direct research expense, akin to transportation. However, we suggest that future calls should clarify whether such expenses are eligible for funding. Our committee’s perspective is that lodging during research travel would be a reasonable cost to consider.

3. **Aligning Documents:** We noticed a few things on the internal documents (e.g., the “Fichter Award Committee Handbook”) that appear to differ from the current public call. These include dates (e.g., when applications are due and when applicants will be informed) and also whether awardees only or all applicants would be informed.

When they differed, we adhered to the details in the call for applications, as this was the information available to applicants. We recommend aligning the internal and public documents.

2023 Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award

Report to Executive Council

The 2023 McNamara Student Paper Award Committee consisted of myself as chair (Nicolette Manglos-Weber), Rachael Shillitoe, and Eman Abdelhadi. We reviewed 5 paper submissions, which marks a decrease from last year (9 submissions). Four submissions were made through the new online submission portal, and one was submitted via email directly to the chair. The submission system seemed to work well, although initially I (the chair) was not able to access the papers because of an issue with new changes to the website. I was then able to contact the webmaster to access the papers without trouble.

As a committee, we read the submissions separately and then named our top two choices to the group. Each member named the same top papers, though not in the same rank order. After some email discussion we agreed on our winner, given the paper's timeliness, richness of data, and quality of writing. The winner of the award is:

“(Mis-)Representing Christian Persecution: On the Political Misuses of Quantification in Advocacy,” by Miray Philips. The author was notified by email from the chair on July 5, 2023.

Using new ethnographic and interview data, this paper analyses the field of international religious freedom promotion, and the social process through which actors in this field create knowledge about Christian persecution. The author focuses on the deployment of data from the Pew Research Center and Open Doors, a Christian missionary organization, by knowledge entrepreneurs who represent Christians as the most persecuted religious group worldwide. The paper does an excellent job contextualizing this effort historically and politically, reflecting critically on the construction of statistical data as “knowledge,” and leveraging diverse types of qualitative data to investigate an unfolding social process, making an important contribution to the conversation about religious politicization and polarization in the United States.

Association for the Sociology of Religion
Distinguished *Sociology of Religion* Article Award Committee
2023 Report

Committee Members:

Jacqui Frost (Chair)

Korie Edwards

Jerry Park

Summary of Activities

The committee considered 18 of the 20 articles published in *Sociology of Religion* in 2022 for the Distinguished Article Award. The Furfey Lecture by Kelsey Burke and an editors' note by Gerardo Marti were excluded from consideration. Each member of the committee read all 18 articles and ranked them from 1-3 based on their contribution to the sociology of religion, their theoretical strength, their analytical rigor, and their originality. The rankings were then combined into a total score for each article and a list of highest to lowest ranked was created. The committee then met via Zoom to discuss the top 5 ranked papers to decide on a winner and an honorable mention. The committee talked through each of the top 5 articles' theoretical and empirical contributions and how important each piece was for moving the field of sociology of religion forward. A winner and an honorable mention were chosen and the winners were notified via email.

Awards Distributed

Winner:

Nilay Saiya and Stuti Manchanda. 2022. "Paradoxes of Pluralism, Privilege, and Persecution: Explaining Christian Growth and Decline Worldwide." *Sociology of Religion* 83(1): 60-78.

This year's winner uses a cross-national, time-series analysis of a global sample of countries to examine the effect of church-state relations on rates of Christianity worldwide. While there are longstanding assumptions that increased religious pluralism results in religious and secularization theorists have long asserted that religion declines in the modern world in part because it loses its privileged place in society, Saiya and Manchanda propose a new model for understanding the rise and decline of Christianity. They find that Christianity continues to grow, or at least thrive, in contexts of both religious pluralism *and* religious persecution. Pluralism means that Christianity must actively compete with other faith traditions, while persecutions can strengthen attachments to faith and reinforce solidarity. However, they find that – paradoxically – Christianity declines only in contexts of religious privilege where Christianity is state-supported. Saiya and Manchanda argue that contexts of privilege encourage apathy and the politicization of religion, resulting in a less dynamic faith and the overall decline of Christian population. The committee found this paper's findings to be provocative, the analysis to be thorough and

expansive, and the development of theory to be clear and persuasive. We often assume that religious privilege results in continued religious dominance, but Saiya and Manchanda push us to rethink these processes and the committee believes this paper will push theories of secularization and religious change forward in exciting ways.

Honorable Mention:

Amy Adamczyk, Jacqueline Scott, and Steven Hitlin. 2022. "Using Internet-Derived Data to Measure Religion: Understanding How Google Can Provide Insight into Cross-National Religious Differences." *Sociology of Religion* 83(2): 222-251.

In the paper awarded the honorable mention, Adamczyk, Scott, and Hitlin investigate the usefulness of big data sites – Google Trends and Twitter – for generating accurate religion measures. Their study validates cross-national measures for the five major world religions on Google Trends and Twitter, provides insight into how to generate estimates for these and other religion measures on these sites, and examines the relationship between these religion data and several outcomes selected from existing surveys, health statistics, and internet searches. While they identify some drawbacks, they find that these sites can provide data on lesser studied nations and harder to measure behaviors that are not captured on available surveys. And they find that Google Trends is especially valuable for producing cross-national data. The committee found this article to be thoroughly researched and highly accessible given the technical details involved, and we believe it to be an important methodological contribution that will be a key resource for sociologists of religion looking to use big internet-derived datasets in the future. Given the growing interest in big data among sociologists more generally, this article puts sociologists of religion more centrally into that conversation in exciting ways.

Sociology of Religion Publisher's Report

July 2023

Prepared by Sarah Levine, Publisher; with support from Cordelia Wilks, Marketer and Keshawna Mooney, Publishing Assistant

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Readership and Engagement	2
Citations and Impact	2
Circulation	3
Production	3
Diversity	3
Finances	4
OUP's Response to Market Changes & Open Access Strategy	5
Marketing Report	10
Tables and Graphs	13
Financial Statements	19
2022 Budget	19
2022 Final Accounts	20
2023 Budget	22
Major Industry Drivers	23

Executive Summary

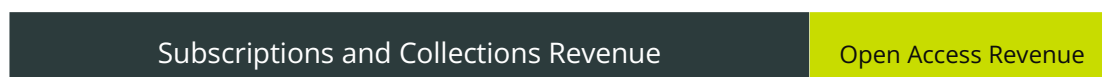
Readership and Engagement

Content engagement with *Sociology of Religion (SOR)* over time should be considered in the context of research and publication patterns before, during, and after the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a period of high research activity that began in the fall of 2020 and extended into 2021: in 2021, copy flow across the press was up 11% over 2019; 2023 is on track to show a decline of nearly 16% from the high of 2021. We also see usage returning to pre-pandemic levels. I believe this is a result of multiple factors: a return to some work-as-usual for researchers and academic faculty and fewer free-to-read pandemic-related content across journals. General trends in usage are consistent with prior years and across our social science portfolio, showing peaks in early spring and fall and dips in the winter and summer.

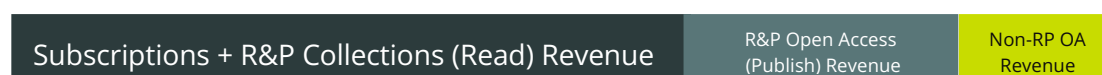
We track geographic engagement with the journal both through usage (see chart on p.14) and through revenue. Tracking geographic engagement with the journal's content is important not solely for the insight it gives us about *SOR*'s readers but also (and increasingly of importance) the journal's potential author pool and its financial stability. As more institutional customers shift to Read & Publish (R&P) collections deals with OUP and other publishers, authors' home institutions become a significant determinant of revenue. In R&P deals, customers (generally research institutions and university libraries) pay both for (1) *read/access to subscription content* in OUP journals and (2) Article Processing Charges for their affiliated researchers to *publish their research Open Access* (OA) in OUP journals. While collections revenue is shared among the journals included in the collections deal, Open Access article revenues are allocated directly to the journals that those articles appear in.

At a practical level, what this means is that R&P customers are shifting of their annual spends with publishers to the OA side of the deal and away from the read-only side of the deal. Therefore, journals that publish fewer authors at these R&P institutions collect less revenue from those deals than they once did in the conventional collections deal. While the graphics below are not to scale, they do represent revenue source shifts and illustrate how the collections "pot" of revenue gets smaller in a R&P deal:

Conventional Collections Deal + Third-Party Open Access Revenues



Read & Publish Deal + Third-Party Open Access Revenues



More on major industry trends, including OA and R&P deals, appears further in this report.

Citations and Impact

Clarivate released the 2022 Journal Citation Report on June 28, 2023. That report included *SOR*'s most recent Impact Factor of 3.1 ranking it 32nd of 149 titles indexed in the Social Science Citation Index's sociology category. Details on the articles with the highest number of citations contributing to the Impact Factor appear on p.15.

Circulation

Institutional circulation of the journal in 2022 remained strong and followed expected trends that show a decline in conventional journal subscriptions and growth in access to the journal through collections deals, which are increasingly attractive to consortia and individual institutions. While conventional subscriptions are more lucrative than collections deals, they are most susceptible to cancellation as a result of budgetary constraints or drops in usage. The market has matured such that almost all major research libraries and library consortia purchase the collection deal. Direct subscriptions are most commonly purchased by smaller universities with smaller holdings budgets and public libraries.

Production

Production has been challenging over the past seven months. Newgen, the supplier who typesets and pushes *SOR* articles to publication, took on added capacity from OUP at the beginning of 2023 which created disruption in workflows. In March, a new typesetting team took *SOR* under management and since that time, we've faced ebbs and flows related to consistency in implementing proof corrections and in adhering to the journal's style guide. This is most obvious in inconsistencies related to the way author's names and affiliations appear below their article title. During our investigation of that problem, however, we also discovered some mistakes in the XML that resulted in missing or incorrect bibliographic information in book reviews. That has since been corrected, but we are still managing problems related to proof corrections and style guide. I am monitoring this with the help of Titus and Joseph. I'm working with our in-house production managers to mitigate issues, but it remains a work in progress and I am thankful for the patience of the editorial team as well as their time. The production-related charts on p.16-17 reflect, through metrics, the obstacles the editorial team has faced.

New to OUP Reporting: Diversity Metrics

Oxford University Press is deeply committed to fostering an academic community that supports and benefits from the talents of researchers from a wide range of backgrounds. In line with this, and as a founding member of the [Joint Commitment for Action on Inclusion and Diversity in Publishing](#), we aim to collect and share **anonymized** demographic data from our authors and reviewers through journals' submission systems.

Starting January 3, 2023, anyone logging into *SOR*'s submission system, whether authors, peer reviews, and/or editors, was prompted to provide demographic data about themselves. All users able to opt out of answering any or all of the questions – participation is entirely optional. Responses to the survey are entirely anonymous. Neither journal editors nor OUP have any way of tracing individual responses back to the respondent on a specific submission.

We can now provide rudimentary reports of the data collected, which appears on p.18. Note that we are currently unable to break this down by author, reviewer, etc. group – it includes all responses provided by anyone who logged into the submission system and opted in to share information. The report does include, however, how *SoR* compares to all other social science journals in the OUP portfolio. We encourage the editorial office to use this information to create and benchmark goals if they so wish. Reporting is current as of July 24, 2023.

Finances

Financial reports appear on pages 20-23:

- 2022 Budget – p.19
- 2022 Final Annual Account Statement – p.20-21
- 2023 Budget – p.22

2022 Annual Accounts

Comparing the 2022 budget for the journal against the final 2022 accounts shows that subscription income was accurately predicted while non-subscription income came in under budget. Non-subscription income is harder for our finance and accounting teams to predict year-to-year; please bear in mind a few explanatory notes about the Non-Subscription Revenue lines:

- Digital archive sales are one-off and one-time sales for access to the journal's content published prior to 1998. Once a customer purchases the archive, they don't have to purchase it again. Over extended time, this revenue line shows a decline for all journals because there are only so many customers left to make the purchase, but there is variability year-by-year.
- Open access revenue within a hybrid journal like *SOR* is also variable and depends on one or a mixture of the following components:
 - The number of authors who selected an Open Access (OA) license and paid the Article Processing Charge (APC) out of their unrestricted research funds without any external requirement (from, for example, a funder).
 - The number of authors whose funding requires OA publishing, in which case they would select an appropriate OA license and arrange payment using funds from the grant which requires OA publication.
 - The number of corresponding authors affiliated with a Read & Publish (R&P) customer. Not all customers are R&P customers, and the vast majority are in Europe, Asia, and Oceania. More on R&P deals appears below starting on p.7.
- Secondary rights revenue includes income from permissions and aggregators; the majority of that revenue line is from Ebsco with JSTOR as the second-highest contributor. The variability YOY is primarily based on the journal's usage in each aggregator. Ebsco has signaled that it intends to negotiate its terms more aggressively with all publishers as more content across portfolios is published OA. Their position is that they shouldn't have to pay to license content that is already "free." Our licensing team will work aggressively to protect revenue.

Traditional subscriptions have been on a downward trend since 2017. This is the case across the entire journals industry, regardless of subject area or individual title. Institutional subscribers of substantial size (i.e., university libraries) are keen to convert title-by-title

subscriptions into collections purchases. Doing so provides a discount on the cost of the collection as a whole and means there are fewer purchases to have to track YOY. Collections deals also provide the opportunity to negotiate R&P deals, supporting an ideological prerogative shared by many librarians to (1) cut spending on holdings and (2) support OA.

Journals publishing is increasingly competitive, and institutional customers have more leverage than in the past negotiations with publishers. The shift to collections sales and the inevitable drive toward a more open (access) publishing environment has an overall effect of decreasing revenue for almost all hybrid journals. The exceptions to this effect are as follows:

- Journals which are fully open-access and only published in a digital format. These parameters do not equate growing revenue on their own, but those parameters do provide more predictable revenues ($\text{Income} = \text{Article Processing Charge} \times \text{Number of Articles Published per Year}$) and remove the costly print production stream.
- Journals which commit to publishing more articles annually when quality of submissions allows. Not only are librarians using a crude calculation in the bullet above to get a rough sense of the journal's per-article valuation, but journals which publish more have more opportunities to earn OA revenue whether through the traditional APC or via R&P deals with institutions.

OUP's Response to Market Changes & Open Access Strategy

Academic Journals Customers in 2023

For the most part, the customer base for academic journals is quite small, limited to primarily university libraries as *direct* customers and smaller markets like local library branches and community colleges *indirectly* via licensing deals with aggregators (Ebsco and JSTOR as two examples). Because this customer base is so narrow, OUP must maintain good relationships with them by being sensitive to their financial constraints and responding to their demands.

Mid-to-large spend customers have preferred to migrate their title-by-title subscriptions to a collections deal (see Figure 1 for *SOR's* revenue stream balance from 2016 through 2022). This provides to them more return on investment and is also quite predictable for their annual and longer-term budgeting. While OUP does increase the price of the collection YOY, we can't increase it at the rate of the title-by-title subscription.¹

¹ Collections price increases are negotiated with each individual customer, and that increase is applied equally across all the titles in the deal. Title-by-title subscription price increases are non-negotiable and set the individual journal level. For 2024, the institutional subscription price will increase 5% for online-only customers and 7% for customers who take a subscription with a print component.

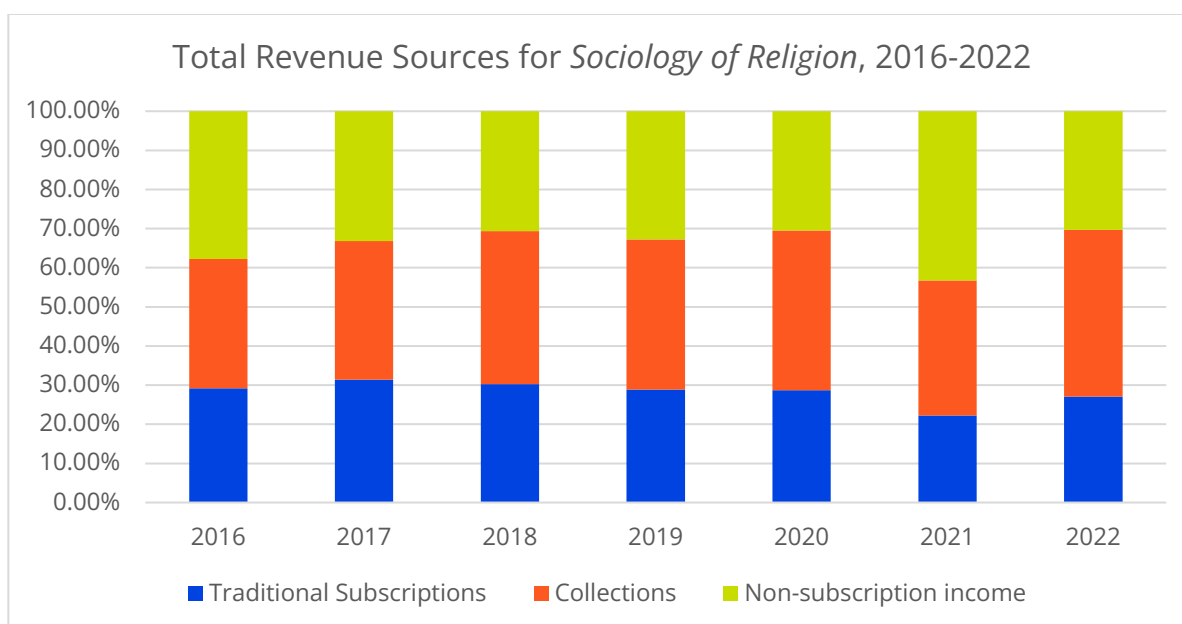


Figure 1 Sociology of Religion's Subscriptions, Collections, and Non-Subscription Revenue, 2016-2022. 2021 stands out as an anomalous year as a result of the uncertainty presented by the Covid-19 pandemic as 2021 purchases were negotiated beginning in spring 2020. Direct subscriptions accounted for 29.2% of the journal's revenue in 2016. In 2022, they accounted for 27% of revenue. Note that this chart does not include ASR member subscription revenue.

Second, the shift to Open Access (OA), which is detailed much more thoroughly below, threatens both collection and title-by-title subscription pricing. Customers are very sensitive to any perception of double-dipping, that is, the perception that a journal or publisher is both (1) charging Article Processing Charges (APCs) to publish articles with OA licenses and (2) charging customers for those same articles in the title-by-title subscription price or in the overall collections deal. As more and more articles are published OA, the stand-alone journal or collection "value" is diminished. This is true for both direct customers and aggregators.

Third, Covid-19 accelerated a lot of change that would have otherwise happened more slowly. Library budgets were slashed after March 2020, and conventional journal subscriptions were among the first items on the chopping block. Some libraries responded by converting print-subscriptions to less inexpensive online-only subscriptions; others cancelled subscriptions and even collections deals all together. OUP worked closely with customers so that their researchers could maintain as much access to our journals as possible but doing so set a new (lower) spending precedent. We also know that the pandemic required libraries to do more with less: their successful stretch of tighter budgets was observed favorably by their universities, and at the same time, [librarians report pressure to shift their spending from collections to services](#). Since libraries are an academic publisher's primary customer, the market is largely driven by their willingness to pay for the types of products that they find most valuable; journals are just one offering among many that libraries provide to their communities.²

² Another consideration that I have not formally tracked (and one I'm less confident about outside the US), but I know is on the horizon and likely already present in university budgeting is the looming enrollment cliff that's expected as the population of college-age Americans shrinks. Enrollment across the US was already down 8% between 2019 and 2022.

In these conditions, most journals will not be as lucrative as they once were. Libraries are in a stronger negotiation position, and OA advocacy offers a quantitative, if not fair, formula for assessing a journal's monetary value.

Recent Open Access History

We know that the quickly evolving Open Access (OA) landscape is viewed with both excitement and anxiety by publishing partners, but pressure from several stakeholders makes it clear now that OA is the future of academic journals: in addition to advocacy at the library and researcher-level, funding bodies like those in Europe-based [cOAlition S](#) now require that any articles that develop out of grant-funded research be published and made immediately OA with an OA license. National funders in Europe have taken a similar stance.

Following European lead, in August 2022 the United States White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) revised their [guidance on federally funded research](#), shifting their policy from an allowable 12-month embargo period (which provided some protection of the subscription value of the article) to a zero-embargo period, meaning that at the time any research funded by any US federal agency is published, it must also be deposited into a public repository and made immediately and freely accessible. The OSTP has announced this should be in effect starting January 2026, and it has indicated it will support that transition by approving requests for OA Article Processing Charges (APC) in grant applications.

Since 2019, OA research articles published in journals indexed in the sociology category of the Social Science Citation Index increased from 11.4% to 31.7% (as of June 2023), and the trend is clear. This trend has implications for journal revenues over time. As the proportion of OA content in a journal grows, the subscription (paywalled) value is threatened. Extended to the publisher-level, as the proportion of OA content of across the entire journals catalogue shifts to OA, the monetary value of the collection deal is similarly threatened.

Each year, your OUP publisher reaches out to confirm small percentage increases in the journal's APC because we want to mitigate the loss of future revenue associated with OA and because we believe the APC charge should reflect the value of publishing in the journal. These goals must be balanced with what the market will bear. In 2023, the APC for *Sociology of Religion* is \$3,198.

Growth in Read & Publish Agreements

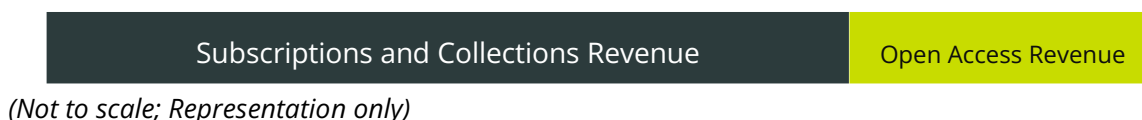
At the same time that national agencies and private funding bodies have begun enforcing OA publishing on their grant recipients, libraries and consortia customers have also demanded a new kind of collections deal from publishers. You may have heard publishers or librarians mention Read & Publish deals (as I have referred to them in this report); across the industry, R&P deals are sometimes also called Transformative Agreements.

R&P deals are most easily understood by way of contrast. In the *conventional* collections deal, institutional customers pay one price for subscription access to all the titles in a publisher's catalogue. The arrangement gives the customer's institutional community of faculty, students, and staff the ability to read the titles in the catalogue. It also means that nearly all journals see a much wider circulation than they would if librarians purchased subscriptions on a title-by-title basis. Most large consortia and research libraries prefer to purchase the OUP collection because they value the journals we publish and because the collection purchase comes with a

discount over title-by-title subscriptions. Title-by-title subscription purchases remain a more popular option for smaller or niche colleges, schools, and institutions.

For hybrid journals like *SOR*, there's also traditionally been a much smaller source of revenue, the APC. When an author wishes to publish their article OA, they have paid the \$3,198 APC:

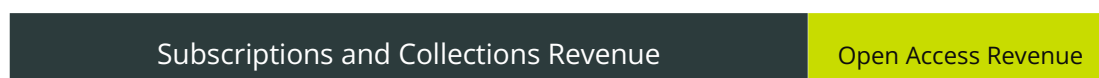
Conventional Collections Deal + Article Processing Charge Revenues



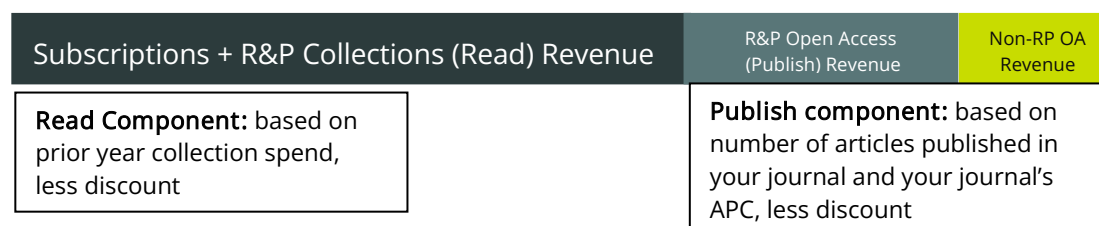
In the new type of Read & Publish collections deal (R&P), the library or consortia continues to purchase access for their institutional community to read the journals in OUP's collection. What's different is that the deal also **earmarks a portion of the purchase price to pay for the customer's community members to publish OA in OUP journals** at no out-of-pocket cost to the author³. In the R&P arrangement, collections revenue associated with reading access is shared among the journals in OUP's collection. **The earmarked Open Access funds are allocated directly to the journals where those articles are published.**

A visual representation of the marketplace shift represented by the Read & Publish deal:

Conventional Collections Deal + Article Processing Charge Revenues



Read & Publish Deal + Third-Party Open Access Revenues



Though the vast majority of R&P deals use the customer's prior-year conventional-collection spend as a starting point for negotiation, the deal itself is constructed in a novel way. In general, the customer pays more than the prior year, but because a portion of the deal is earmarked to cover the OA publication costs of the customer's research community (illustrated in the lighter gray color), there is a smaller amount of revenue available to allocate from the "read" side of the deal (the dark gray color). What this means is that journals that don't publish

³ In nearly all R&P arrangements, it must be the corresponding author who is affiliated with the R&P customer. Publishers and libraries are working hard to educate authors, especially in fields with significant amount of article co-authorship, to make this clear. Under COPE guidelines, we are unable to change any authorship designation after article acceptance for the purpose of R&P OA publishing.

much OA from authors whose institutions have R&P deals can't draw as much revenue from those earmarked funds.

Overall R&P deals can mean more revenue if journals are able to earn income from those earmarked funds.

R&P deals are most common across Europe and parts of the mid-East and Oceania. What that means at a practical level is that revenue from institutional customers in those countries is shifting to OA publication for their affiliated authors. Journals whose authors are primarily outside those regions do see negative financial effects of the spending shift.

Regional Concentration of R&P

As of January 2023, OUP has 37 R&P deals, many of them at the national level. [These 37 deals cover over 900 institutions worldwide](#). These deals are concentrated in Europe and Oceania, but I must stress that we believe that these deals represent the direction of business. Despite slower uptake in the US, major consortia including the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the California Digital Libraries have already signed R&P agreements with other publishers. OUP is in friendly conversations with them and other major US consortia; as you can imagine, deals of this size and complexity can take many years to come together. We already have deals with Iowa State University, Michigan State University, and the University of Oklahoma.

The journals that perform best in the current financial environment are those that draw a higher number of submissions from the regions where these deals dominate. This is because (all else equal), drawing more submissions from R&P regions usually means a higher probability of acceptance and therefore the ability to earn the revenue earmarked in those R&P deals earmarked for OA publishing,

Financial Implications of R&P

There are a range of factors that will determine the impact of R&P on any journal or portfolio, but the primary levers are:

1. **Current Subscription Value** – Librarians are relying on metrics and sophisticated tools more than ever to scrutinize the cost-to-value ratios of the journals they purchase. They're considering things like cost-per-article download and journals' APCs. One crude calculation that emerges in this environment is $APC \times \text{Journal Output (\# of articles published/year)}$. If the result is lower or equal to the subscription price, the price can be considered fair.
2. **Article Processing Charge** – As mentioned previously and noted above, the APC confers a monetary value on publishing in the journal, but it can't be higher than the market will bear – which is why you rarely see APCs above \$4,500. In R&P deals, the collection/read side of the arrangement and the publish side of the arrangement are discounted at the same rate.
3. **Article Output** – The more (quality) output of the journal, the higher its value in the crude calculation explained in (1) above. Maintaining market share of high-quality content is rewarded in an R&P world.
4. **Author Geography** – Customers in R&P-dominant regions generate significant revenue for OUP and our society partners. Since an increasing amount of their spending is now

designated for OA publishing, journals that publish more of their affiliated authors can realize more of that available revenue. Journals that publish authors primarily based in the US are going to feel the loss of available revenue on the collections/read side of R&P customers. About 82% of corresponding authors of research articles published in the journal between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023 have been US-based.

Strategizing in Response to Industry Developments

While the shift toward Open Access (OA) is welcome by many researchers and provides opportunity to extend the impact of academic research, OA mandates and R&P deals often apply downward pressure on journals' revenues, especially on titles that publish comparatively few articles.⁴ As the proportion of OA research increases over time, several income streams are at risk: direct subscribers and collections customers won't pay the same amount to access journal content that is already "free," and aggregators like Ebsco, JSTOR, and ProQuest (listed as Secondary Rights revenue in your annual statements) may behave similarly.

Managing the financial implications for the associations we partner with is at the top of our agenda. In response to the market's push for OA, OUP has a measured and clear R&P strategy in place, underpinned by extensive analysis around the risks and benefits associated with signing R&P deals at both a regional and customer level. Our key message to libraries is that we will support them in the transition to OA through *mutually beneficial* agreements. We work with them to facilitate their authors publishing OA and ensure that the transition to a Read & Publish (R&P) model is done sustainably over time and in a way that meets the needs of all stakeholders.

OUP has refocused its marketing efforts and technical infrastructure in light of the market realities presented by R&P. Our marketers are now developing and implementing plans that increasingly favor author-marketing above reader marketing; this is an overdue change and one worth pursuing (see p.11-13 for the marketer's report). Journals have long had many channels for reader discoverability and usage; there's been comparatively less consideration of actively attracting (the right) author submissions. OUP has also significantly invested in a completely overhauled licensing system. This is important, because through the new system we can collect corresponding authors' institutional Ringgold IDs as soon as they submit their manuscripts; if the manuscript is eventually accepted for publication, their institution will be checked against OUP's active R&P agreements. Authors—some of whom are currently unaware that they are covered by a deal—will be automatically notified that they are eligible to publish OA at no out-of-pocket cost. This creates a much better experience for the author and ensures that journals can collect on all the revenue opportunities available to them.

⁴ By and large, it is social science and humanities titles that publish comparatively few articles to their science and medicine counterparts.

Sociology of Religion Marketing Report

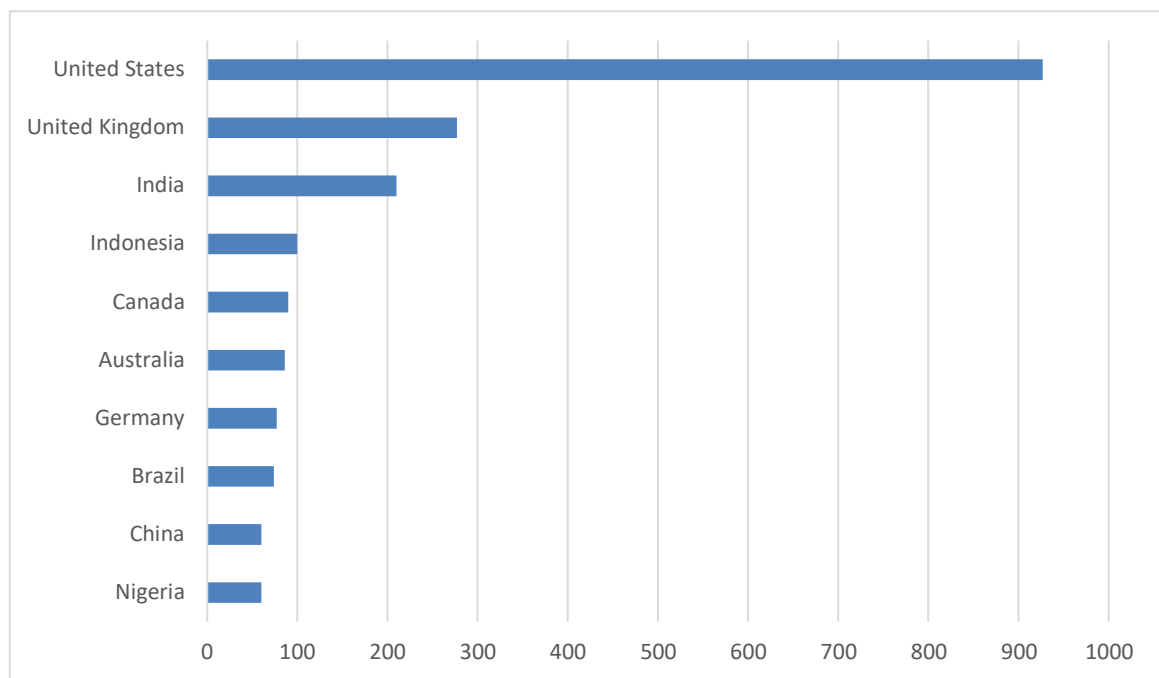
Email Alerting Services

How many registrants are there for the journal's email alerts?

	July 2022	July 2023	Percent Change
New issue alerts	2,758	2,945	+ 6.8%
Advance article alerts	844	862	+ 2.1%

Email Alerting Services

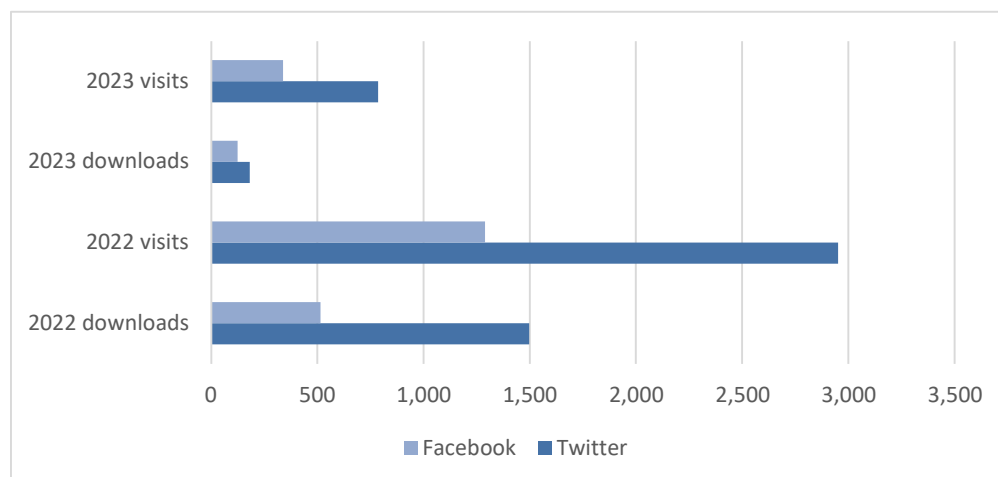
Where are registrants located globally? (Top 10 countries)



Social Media Referrals 2022 –2023 (year to date)

How many users and downloads come from social media websites?

Sociology of Religion has been regularly featured on OUP social media channels throughout 2022 and 2023. See below for total referrals from Twitter and Facebook. Note: 2023 figures are YTD.



Why Submit page

The *Sociology of Religion* [‘Why Submit?’ page](#) was launched in May 2023 and promotion continues. The page features frequently requested information about the journal and highlights the many reasons to submit work. Promotional activities have and will include web banners, homepage promotion, organic and paid social media advertising, Google PPC advertising, and email campaigns. Promotion will continue throughout the year, and results will come in future reports.

Why publish with *Sociology of Religion* ?

Refugee Studies Hub

The [Migration and Refugee Studies collection](#) launched in June 2023 and features books and journals content centered around the topic of migration. One article from *Sociology of Religion* ([10.1093/socrel/sraa059](#)) is featured. Promotional activities include banner advertisements, Google pay-per-click advertising, and internal emails.



Results

Promotional Period	June, 2023 - ongoing
Collection page views (ongoing)	449 views*
Email opens	4,788
Google PPC clicks (ongoing)	389

*Due to new ways of Cookie tracking, this metric will appear to be lower than the actual number of views the page received. We are aware of this and are working to find newer, more accurate forms of tracking page views.

Sociology of Religion Marketing Report

High Impact Article Collection

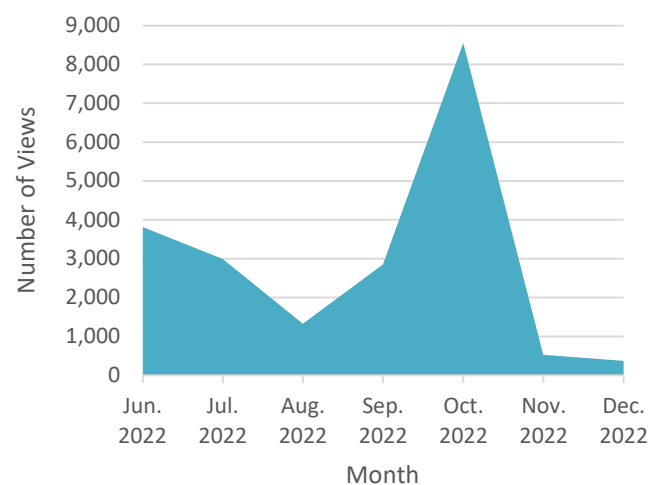
[The High Impact Sociology Research Collection](#) launched in July 2021 and features highly cited articles on the topic of Sociology from OUP published journals. The collection was refreshed in May 2022 and includes five articles from *Sociology of Religion* on the campaign landing page. Promotional activities include web banners, pay-per-click social media advertising, Google pay-per-click advertising, an internal email campaign, and organic social media posts.



Results

Promotional Period	Jun. 2022 - ongoing
Collection page views (YTD)	20,447 views*
Email opens	7,459
Google PPC clicks	7,518

*Due to new ways of Cookie tracking, this metric will appear to be lower than the actual number of views the page received. We are aware of this and are working to find newer, more accurate forms of tracking page views.



Education as Empowerment Campaign

This discipline-wide [Education as Empowerment](#) campaign curated a selection of key book titles and journals research that exemplifies the ways in which Social Sciences research can inspire action - from continued learning to activism for wider-scale change. The collection officially launched in April 2023 and is updated on a quarterly basis. So far, one article from *Sociology of Religion* ([10.1093/socrel/srab032](#)) has been included in this collection, and more may be added as the campaign refreshes each quarter. Promotional activities include Google PPC advertising, organic social media posts, and email campaigns.

Results

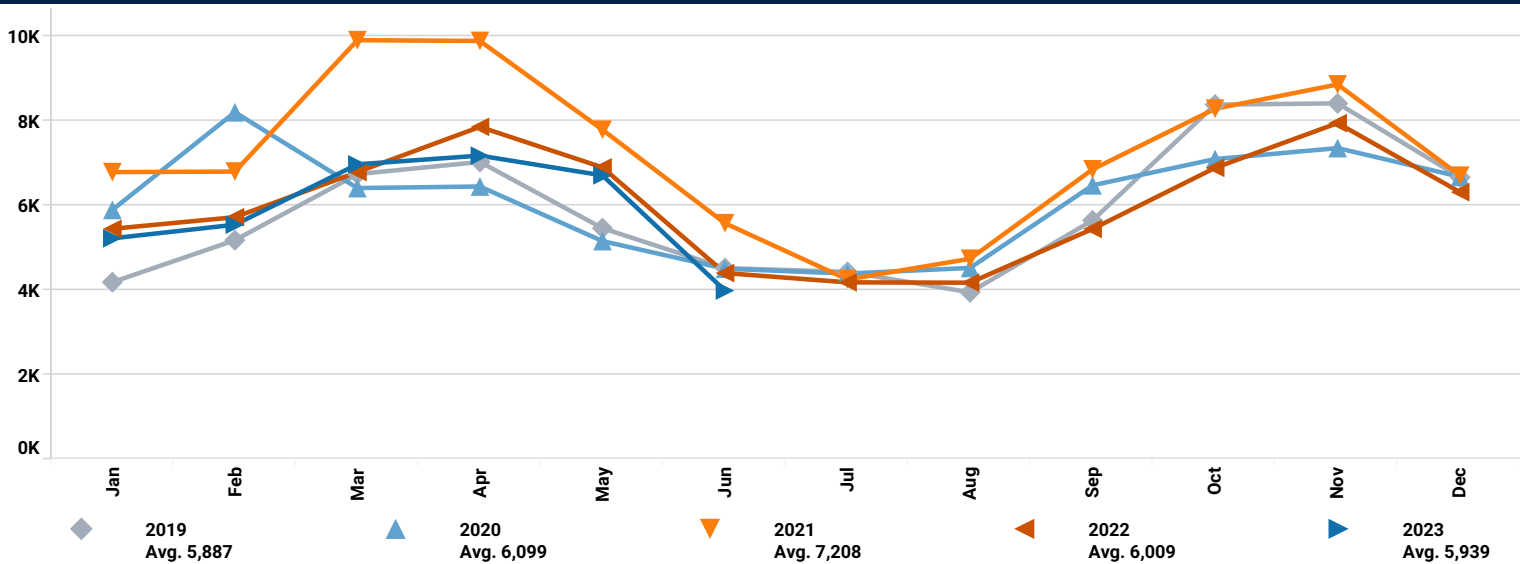
Promotional Period	April – Dec 2023
Page views (ongoing)	2,338 views*

*Due to new ways of Cookie tracking, this metric will appear to be lower than the actual number of views the page received. We are aware of this and are working to find newer, more accurate forms of tracking page views.



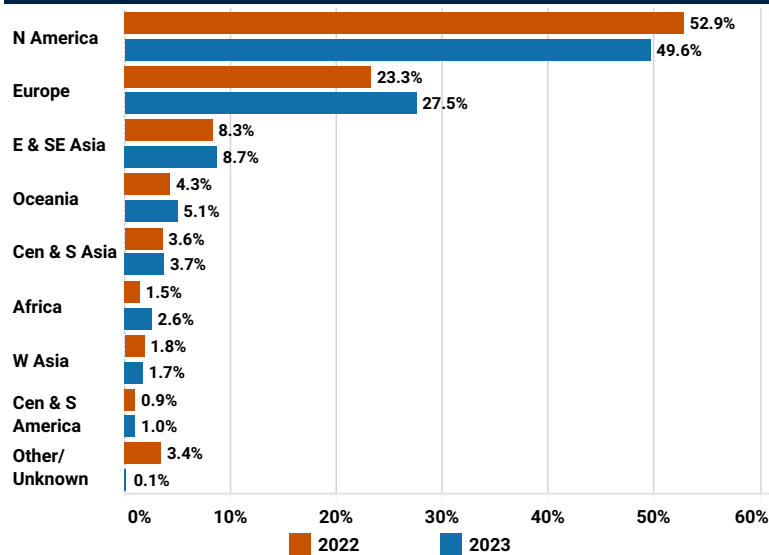
Visits with Content Engagement over Time

How many visits have there been to journal content that included full-text (HTML + PDF) views and how has this changed over time? Monthly mean provided in legend



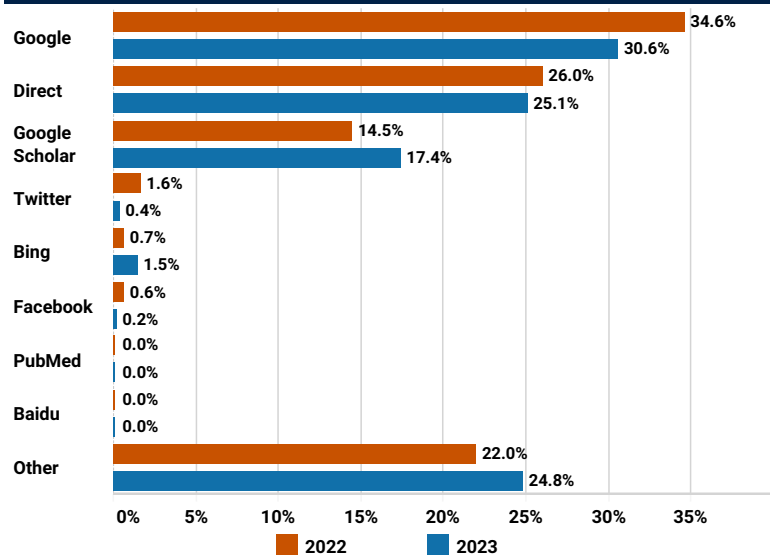
Visits with Content Engagement by Region 2022 vs 2023

Where in the world are users located?



Visits with Content Engagement by Referrer 2022 vs 2023

What websites do users come from when visiting content on the journal site?



Top 10 Articles by Full-Text Views in the Last 12 Months

Which articles had the most full-text views (HTML + PDF) during the last 12 months?

Title	First Listed Author	Article Details	Views
Make America Christian Again: Christian Nationalism and Voting for Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election	Andrew L Whitehead	Vol:79, Iss:2, Pub Date:2018-01-25	6,513
The Natural Environment as a Spiritual Resource: A Theory of Regional Variation in Religious Adherence	Todd W. Ferguson	Vol:76, Iss:3, Pub Date:2015-07-21	4,675
"Give us a Sign of Your Presence": Paranormal Investigation as a Spiritual Practice	Marc A. Eaton	Vol:76, Iss:4, Pub Date:2015-07-30	4,050
Finding Religion in Everyday Life	Nancy T. Ammerman	Vol:75, Iss:2, Pub Date:2014-03-12	2,657
"I'm Gay and I'm Catholic": Negotiating Two Complex Identities at a Catholic University	Robbee Wedow	Vol:78, Iss:3, Pub Date:2017-06-28	2,601
Socioeconomic Status and Beliefs about God's Influence in Everyday Life	Scott Schieman	Vol:71, Iss:1, Pub Date:2010-02-10	2,413
Keep America Christian (and White): Christian Nationalism, Fear of Ethnoracial Outsiders, and Intention to Vote for Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election	Joseph O Baker	Vol:81, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-05-14	2,349
White Habitus Among Polish White Female Converts to Islam	Anna Piela	Vol:84, Iss:1, Pub Date:2022-07-25	2,237
A Theory of Political Backlash: Assessing the Religious Right's Effects on the Religious Field	Ruth Braunstein	Vol:83, Iss:3, Pub Date:2021-11-15	2,131
Religion in the Age of Social Distancing: How COVID-19 Presents New Directions for Research	Joseph O Baker	Vol:81, Iss:4, Pub Date:2020-09-16	1,968

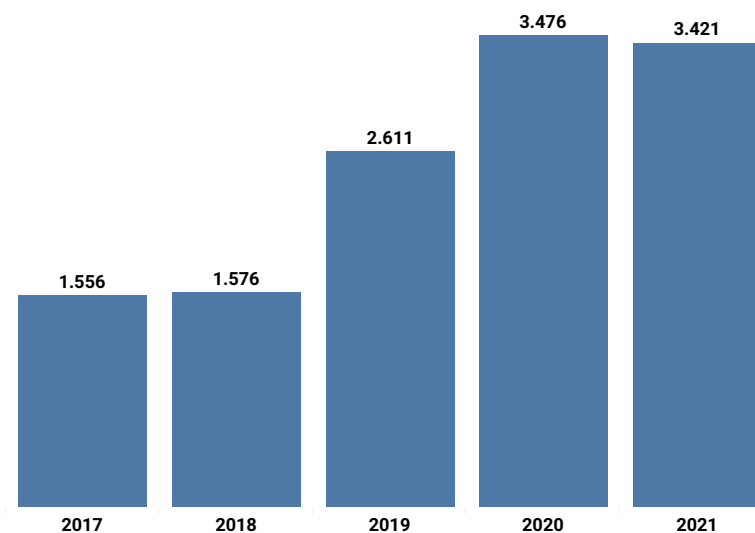
Top 10 Articles by All-Time Altmetric Score

Which articles have received the most attention?

Title	First Listed Author	Article Details	Altmetric Score
Make America Christian Again: Christian Nationalism and Voting for Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election	Andrew L Whitehead	Vol:79, Iss:2, Pub Date:2018-01-25	809
Save the Economy, Liberty, and Yourself: Christian Nationalism and Americans' Views on Government COVID-19 Restrictions	Samuel L Perry	Vol:82, Iss:4, Pub Date:2020-12-29	362
Reconstructing the Rise of Christianity: The Role of Women	Rodney Stark	Vol:56, Iss:3, Pub Date:1995-10-01	260
Latinx Protestants and American Politics	Gerardo Martí	Vol:83, Iss:1, Pub Date:2022-01-19	234
Religious Authority and Public Opinion on the Right to Die	Jenifer Hamil-Luker	Vol:59, Iss:4, Pub Date:1998-12-01	226
God on the Fly? The Professional Mandates of Airport Chaplains	Wendy Cadge	Vol:78, Iss:4, Pub Date:2017-07-05	190
Biblical Literalism and Sexual Morality in Comparative Perspective: Testing the Transposability of a Conservative Religious Schema	Curtis P. Ogland	Vol:75, Iss:1, Pub Date:2013-12-18	163
The Unexpected Orthodoxy of Donald J. Trump: White Evangelical Support for the 45th President of the United States	Gerardo Martí	Vol:80, Iss:1, Pub Date:2018-12-20	156
Keep America Christian (and White): Christian Nationalism, Fear of Ethnoracial Outsiders, and Intention to Vote for Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election	Joseph O Baker	Vol:81, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-05-14	134
The Bible as a Product of Cultural Power: The Case of Gender Ideology in the English Standard Version	Samuel L Perry	Vol:81, Iss:1, Pub Date:2019-10-21	130

Impact Factor Trend

How has the Impact Factor changed over the last 5 years?



Impact Factor Breakdown 2020 vs 2021 Impact Factor

How is the Impact Factor calculated?

2022 Impact Factor

$$\frac{\text{Citations in 2022 to items published in 2020 (80) + 2021 (67)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2020 (16) + 2021 (31)}} = \frac{147}{48} = 3.1$$

2021 Impact Factor

$$\frac{\text{Citations in 2021 to items published in 2019 (52) + 2020 (78)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2019 (22) + 2020 (16)}} = \frac{130}{38} = 3.421$$

Top Cited Articles 2021 Impact Factor

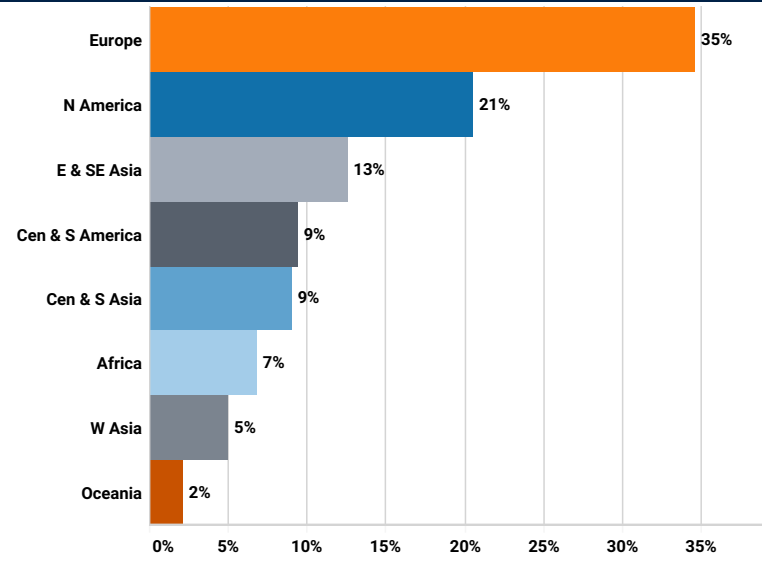
Which articles received the most citations contributing to the 2021 Impact Factor?

Title	First Listed Author	Article Details	IF Citations
Keep America Christian (and White): Christian Nationalism, Fear of Ethnoracial Outsiders, and Intention to Vote for Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election	Joseph O Baker	Vol:81, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-05-14	19
Save the Economy, Liberty, and Yourself: Christian Nationalism and Americans' Views on Government COVID-19 Restrictions	Samuel L Perry	Vol:82, Iss:4, Pub Date:2020-12-29	18
Political Identity and Confidence in Science and Religion in the United States	Timothy L O'Brien	Vol:81, Iss:4, Pub Date:2020-06-29	7
Religion at the Frontline: How Religion Influenced the Response of Local Government Officials to the COVID-19 Pandemic	Gary J Adler Jr.	Vol:82, Iss:4, Pub Date:2021-08-23	6
Theodicy and Crisis: Explaining Variation in US Believers' Faith Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	Kraig Beyerlein	Vol:82, Iss:4, Pub Date:2021-11-10	5
Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention	Daniel Winchester	Vol:83, Iss:1, Pub Date:2021-04-02	5
Jitters on the Eve of the Great Recession: Is the Belief in Divine Control a Protective Resource?	Laura Upenieks	Vol:83, Iss:2, Pub Date:2021-05-26	4
Transmission of Faith in Families: The Influence of Religious Ideology	Jesse Smith	Vol:82, Iss:3, Pub Date:2020-12-08	4
Emotion, Religion, and Civic Engagement: A Multilevel Analysis of US Congregations	Katie E Corcoran	Vol:81, Iss:1, Pub Date:2019-04-29	3
Racialized Religion and Civic Engagement: Insights into Intra-Muslim Racial Diversity on University Campuses	Saugher Nojan	Vol:83, Iss:1, Pub Date:2021-04-02	3

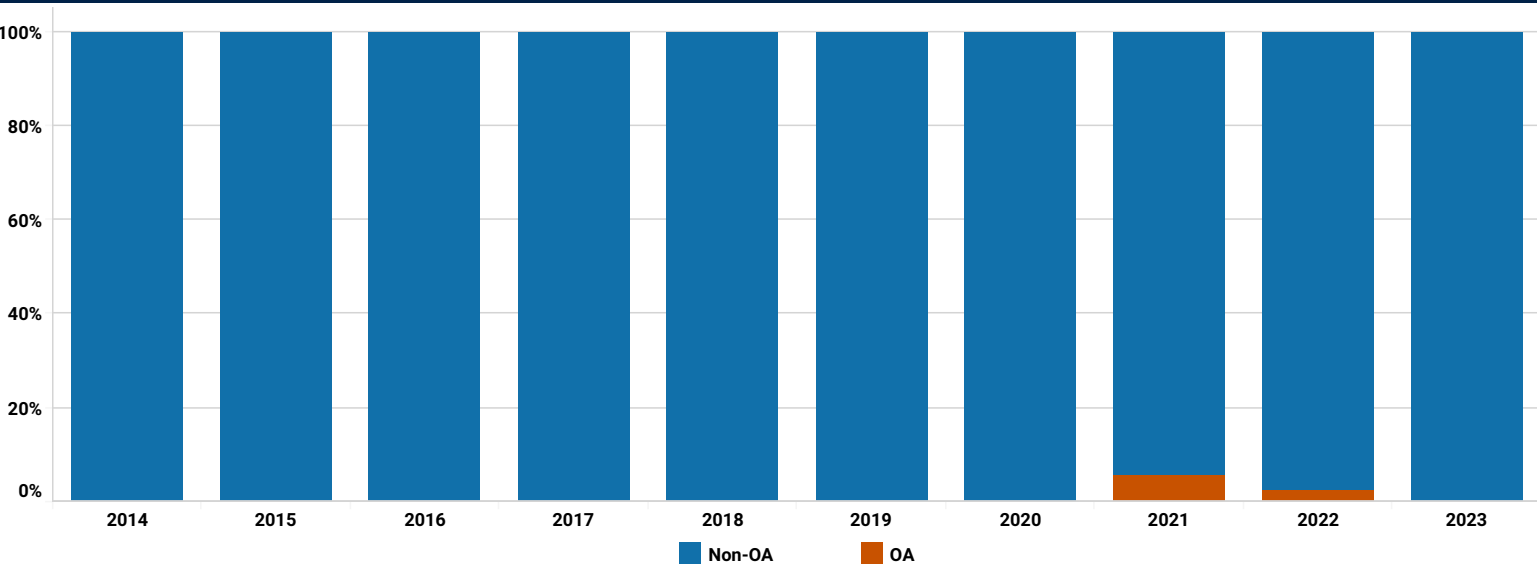
Institutional Subscriptions by Subscription Type
How are subscription types changing over time?

2022 Institutional Subscriptions by Region
What is the breakdown of institutional subscriptions by geographic region?

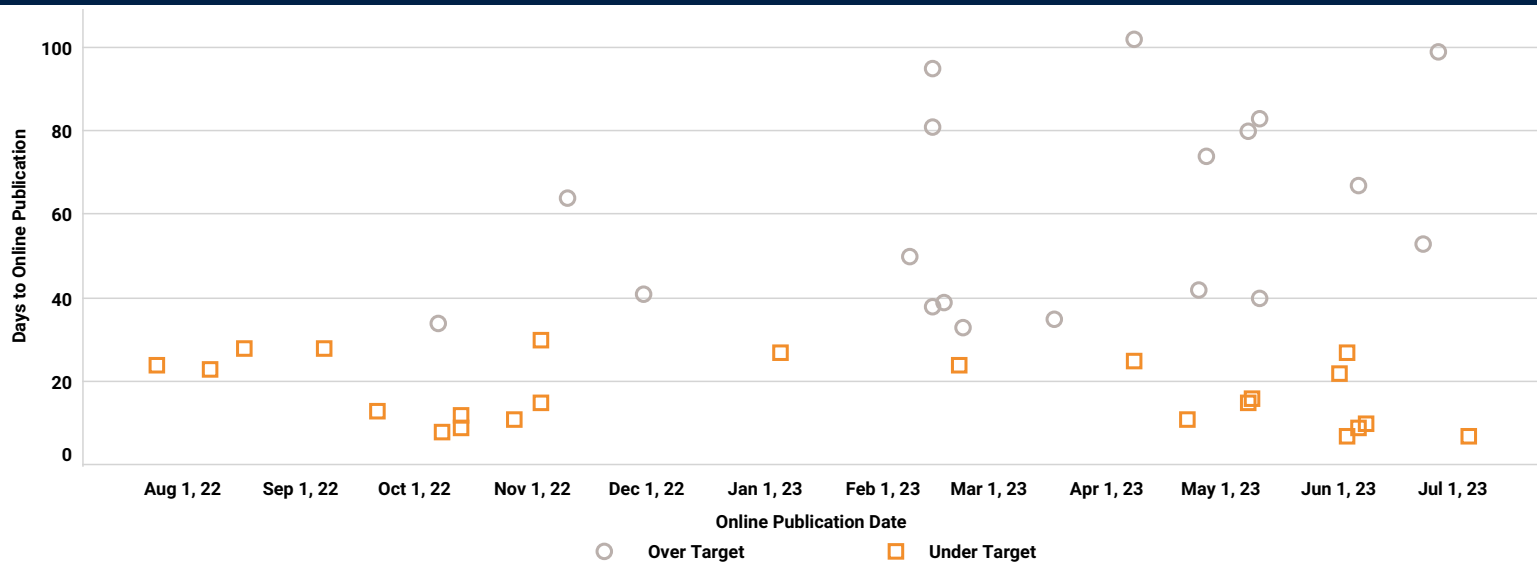
	2020	2021	2022
Collection	2,326	2,360	2,471
Conventional Academic	167	144	138
Conventional Corporate	1	2	2
Grand Total	2,494	2,506	2,611



Open Access (OA) Publication Breakdown
How has the proportion of Open Access content changed over time?



Online Publication Speeds
How long after receipt into Production has it taken to publish content online in the last 12 months?



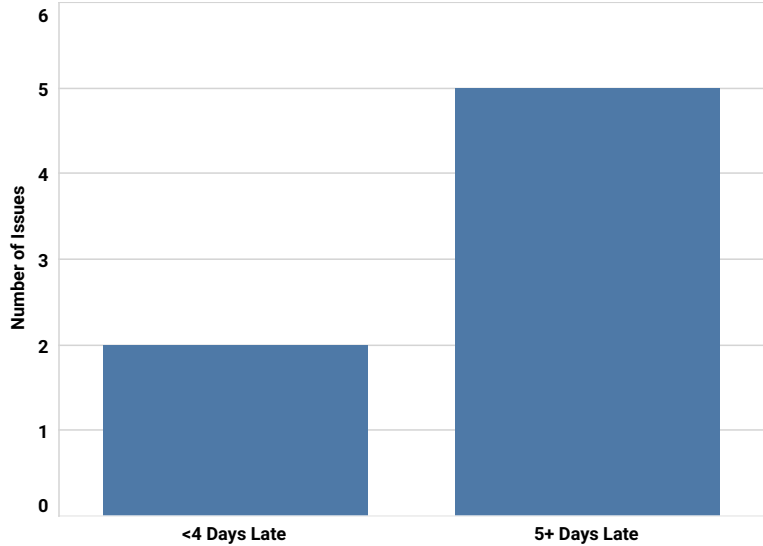
Average Time to Online Publication
How do mean times from receipt to online publication compare for recent years?

	2021	2022	2023
Mean Days to Online Publication	29.4	28.3	39.7

Copy Flow
How does copy flow in the last 12 months compare to the previous 12 months?

Manuscripts Received Last 12 Months	53
Manuscripts Received 12-24 Months Ago	46
Manuscripts Published Online Last 12 Months	47
Manuscripts Published Online 12-24 Months Ago	54

Issue Timeliness
Have regular issues in 2022 and 2023 volumes published online on schedule?



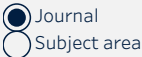
Demographic Survey - Users Logging into *Sociology of Religion's* submission system, January 31 - July 24, 2023



Sociology Of Religion: A Quarterly Review

Portfolio:	Subject Area:	Total Responses:
HSS	Social Sciences	187

Switch between journal % and subject area % displaying in the charts:



Ethnicity	Sociology Of Religion: A Quarterly Social Sciences	Vs. subject area
Western Europe (e.g. Greece, Swe..	44%	↑ +6%
Eastern Europe (e.g. Hungary, Pol..	13%	↑ +2%
East and Central Asia (e.g. China, J..	7%	↓ -8%
West Asia / Middle East (e.g. Iran, ..	7%	↑ +4%
North America (Canada, United St..	6%	↑ 0%
Prefer not to disclose	6%	↓ 0%
South and Southeast Asia (e.g. Ind..	6%	↓ 0%
Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Kenya, Ni..	4%	↓ 0%
North Africa (e.g. Egypt, Morocco, ..	2%	↑ +1%
User-Provided Response	1%	↓ 0%
South America (e.g. Brazil, Chile, C..	1%	↓ -2%
Self describe	1%	↓ 0%
Central America and Caribbean (e...	1%	↓ -1%
Pacific / Oceania (e.g. Australia, Pa..		→

Gender	Journal total [subject area]	Vs. subject area
	Man 53% [49%] Woman 42% [46%] Prefer not to disclose 3% [3%] Non-binary or gender diverse 2% [2%]	↑ +4% ↓ -4% ↓ -1% ↑ 0%

Race	Vs. subject area
White	↑ +9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	↓ -9%
Prefer not to disclose	↑ 0%
Middle Eastern or North African	↑ +2%
Black	↓ -1%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	↓ -2%
User-Provided Response	↑ +1%
Self describe	↑ 0%
Indigenous (e.g. North American Indian Navajo, South American Ind..	→

	Budget 2022 \$
INCOME:	
Subscription income:	
Traditional	25,500
Collection	41,694
	<hr/>
Members	67,194
	7,705
	<hr/>
	74,899
Non-subscription income:	
Digital archive	8,706
Advertising	29
Open access	11,016
Secondary rights	24,803
Pay per view	341
Single & back issues	16
	<hr/>
	44,911
	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	119,810
	<hr/>
Royalty due to the Association @ 40%	47,924
	<hr/>
Guaranteed Minimum	38,339
	<hr/>

Advances Schedule

Royalty due as an advance		38,339
Advances due on;	April 2022	19,170
	October 2022	19,170
		<hr/>
		38,339
		<hr/>

This information is bound by obligations of confidentiality and should only be shared with employees, officers, directors, advisers, agents or subcontractors, who have a need to know the information and who are bound by obligations of confidentiality

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

VOLUME 83

ROYALTY STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022



	Actual 2022 Volume 83 \$	Actual 2021 Volume 82 \$
INCOME:		
Subscription income:		
Traditional	26,545	27,372
Collections	41,834	42,573
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Members	68,379	69,945
	8,614	8,294
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	76,993	78,239
Non-subscription income:		
Digital archive	2,917	14,510
Advertising	2	24
Open access	3,090	9,180
Secondary rights	23,527	29,150
Pay per view	208	391
Single & back issues	32	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29,776	53,317
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	106,769	131,556
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE:		
Production:		
Typesetting	2,826	2,770
Printing & binding	5,424	4,135
Electronic publishing	3,997	6,631
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,247	13,536
Editorial	17,000	17,148
Distribution	2,017	2,196
Marketing	645	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	31,909	32,894
	<hr/>	<hr/>
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	74,860	98,662
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Royalty due to Society @ 40%	42,708	52,622
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Guaranteed Minimum	38,340	55,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$	
Royalty due to Society	42,708	
Less: Advances Paid	(38,340)	
	<hr/>	
Net balance due to Society	4,368	
	<hr/>	

This information is bound by obligations of confidentiality and should only be shared with employees, officers, directors, advisers, agents or subcontractors, who have a need to know the information and who are bound by obligations of confidentiality

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

VOLUME 83

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Subscription Numbers

	Actual 2022 Volume 83		Actual 2021 Volume 82	
	No	\$	No	\$
Traditional				
Full - print & online	9	2,010	8	1,750
Full - print only	37	7,349	44	8,450
Full - online only	92	15,984	92	15,611
Corporate - print only	2	488	2	475
Deeply discounted - Print	5	321	8	397
Personal	4	392	7	690
Gratis - print only	2	-	3	-
	151	26,545	164	27,372
Society Member Subscriptions				
Members - SSSR Discounted	1	84	4	319
Members - ASR Full print and online	147	5,145	135	4,725
Members - ASR Full online only	88	2,200	88	2,200
Members - ASR Student print and online	63	945	54	810
Members - ASR Student online only	48	240	48	240
	347	8,614	329	8,294

2 Collections Income

Sites (excluding Migrated)	Migrated Subs
1,882	491

Sites

This should NOT be confused with "additional subscriptions". Sites is used in the context of a particular journal, and refers to sites that have never (for the years that have been checked as part of the pricing process) been part of a subscription to that journal. These additional sites have online access to the journal only because of their participation in the collection agreement.

Migrated Subs

These are historic full price subscriptions that are included in an online only deal at their full online value. Migrated subscriptions may include subscriptions that lapsed two or three years prior to an agreement being made.

3 Read & Publish Deals

	2022		2021	
		% of Total		% of Total
Subscription Income	4,021	6%	3,288	5%
Open Access Income	-	0%	6,180	67%
Total Income	4,021	4%	9,468	7%
Articles Published	-	0%	3	13%

Notes:

Read & Publish income is a subset of the overall income shown on page 1.

2022 is not directly comparable to 2021 as there were different Read & Publish deals in place in each year.

Articles Published only includes articles published open access via Read & Publish deals. This number is based on the date articles were received into OUP production, not the date the article was published



	Budget 2023 \$
INCOME:	
Subscription income:	
Traditional	25,834
Collection	43,307
	<hr/>
Members	69,141
	8,657
	<hr/>
	77,798
Non-subscription income:	
Digital archive	2,704
Open access	4,470
Secondary rights	28,850
Pay per view	241
	<hr/>
	36,265
	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME	114,063
	<hr/>
Royalty due to Association @ 40%	45,625
	<hr/>
Guaranteed Minimum 80%	36,500
	<hr/>

Advances Schedule

Royalty due as an advance		36,500
Advances due on;	April 2023	18,250
	October 2023	18,250
		<hr/>
		36,500
		<hr/>

This information is bound by obligations of confidentiality and should only be shared with employees, officers, directors, advisers, agents or subcontractors, who have a need to know the information and who are bound by obligations of confidentiality

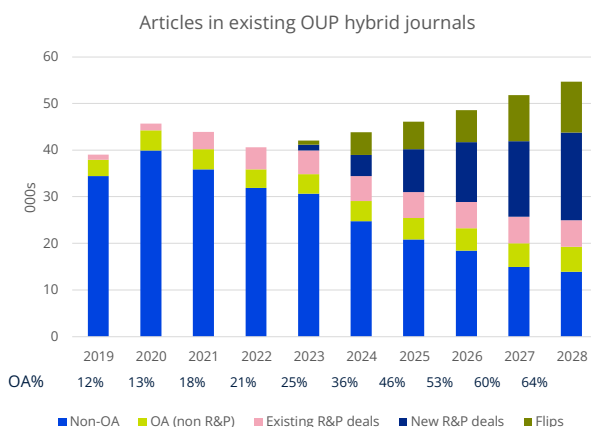
Major Publishing Industry Drivers - July 2023



Industry Drivers

Open Access

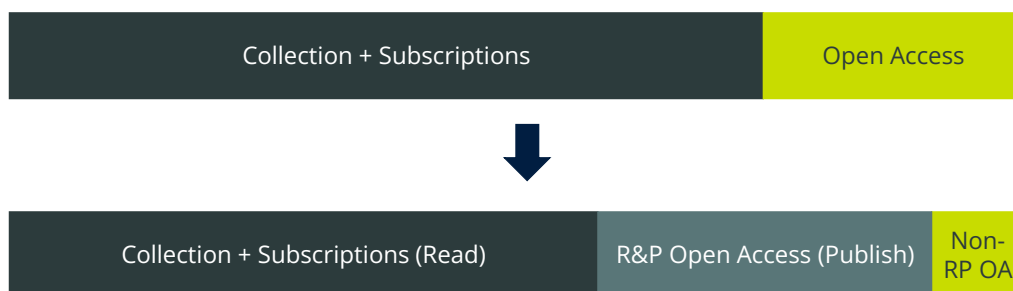
- Shifts revenue from consumer-pay to producer-pay
- Value calculation changes
- As soon as an OA article is published, it no longer has *financial* value
 - Archive, aggregators, permissions
 - Over time, reduces revenue streams
 - OA mandates come from both private and public funders
- OA-only publishers are a threat to traditional publishers



Industry Drivers

Read & Publish

- Institutional customers shifting their spend from consumption to production



Industry Drivers

Digital-only

- Print subscriptions trending downward, double digits attrition YOY
- Right now, OUP carries a lot of print overhead and fixed costs
- Must heavily invest in the digital journals platform
- E-only publishers (eg, Frontiers, PLOS) are a threat

Industry Drivers

Riskier, More Competitive Environment

- Customers' budgets are more constrained as they are asked to shift spend from holdings, collections, and subscriptions to services
 - Customers have a lower willingness to pay for subscriptions and collections
 - Less revenue for most journals
- Publishers must produce a better product and better tools to demonstrate value to customers
- Riskier behavior from competitors in drive to publish more quantity

Industry Drivers

AI, LLM, & Copyright protection

- Developing tools to identify AI-written material
- Protecting copyright material from being processed by LLMs

OUP Positioning

- Quality content will sustain value
- Society and journal brands important
- Essential to demonstrate impact
- Focus on long term sustainability
- Build content communities where possible
- Improve technology to optimize data, reporting, and customer journey