

PRESIDENTS, THEMES, AND ADDRESSES

The information below was collected in ASR Archives, Marquette University, November 15, 2012, by Todd Fuist and supplemented with data gathered by James Cavendish and James Spickard

First Three Presidents of the American Catholic Sociological Society (ACSS):

1938: Ralph A. Gallagher, S.J., Loyola University of Chicago

1939: Raymond W. Murray, C.S.C., University of Notre Dame, Indiana

1940: Paul J. Mundie, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (first editor of the *American Catholic Sociological Review*)

1941: (ACSS) New York

President: Francis J. Friedel, S.M., University of Dayton, Ohio

Address Topic: Sociological findings must be used for the good of society. (This title was not listed in program; it came from a news article about the program.)

1942 (No Program)

President: Walter L. Willigan, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York

1943 (No Program)

President: Eva J. Ross, Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

1944 (No Program)

President: Father Paul Hanly Furfey, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

1945 (No Program)

President: Brother Gerald J. Schnepf, S.M., St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas

1946 (ACSS) Cleveland, Ohio

President: Alphonse H. Clemens, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

No address listed.

1947 (ACSS) Loyola University, Chicago

President: Leo J. Robinson, S.J., Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington

No address listed.

1948 (ACSS) Loyola University, Chicago

President: Franz Mueller, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1949 (ACSS) Fordham University, New York

President: Monsignor Robert B. Navin, St. John's College, Cleveland, Ohio

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1950 (ACSS) Loyola University, Chicago

President: Clement S. Mihanovich, St. Louis University

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1951 (ACSS) Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

President: Thomas J. Harte, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

No address listed.

1952 (ACSS) Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

President: John J. Kane, University of Notre Dame, Indiana

No address listed. There was a news article in the archives that suggested that Dr. John J. Kane of Notre Dame spoke on survey results that pointed to beliefs by protestant clergy that Catholics would steer the country in undemocratic directions if they became a majority group. The paper titles for sessions at this time, I should add, tend to focus very strongly on Catholic issues and concerns.

1953 (ACSS) St. John's College, Cleveland, OH

President: Joseph Fitzpatrick, S.J., Fordham University

No address listed.

1954 (ACSS) Loyola University, Chicago

President: C. J. Nuesse, Catholic University of American, Washington, D.C.

No address listed.

1955 (ACSS) (No program)

President: Sister Mary Jeanine Gruesser, O.S.F., Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee

1956 (ACSS) Philadelphia

President: Brother D. Augustine McCaffrey, F.C.S., La Salle College, Philadelphia

1957 (ACSS) (No program)

President: Allen Spitzer, St. Louis University

1958 (ACSS) (No program)

President: John D. Donovan, Boston College

1959 (ACSS) (No program)

President: Sister Mary Edward Healy, C.S.J., College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota

1960 (ACSS) Fordham University, New York

President: John L. Thomas, S.J., St. Louis University

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1961 (ACSS) St. Louis University, St. Louis

President: Jack H. Curtis, Marquette University

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1962 (ACSS) Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

President: Sister Frances Jerome Woods, C.D.P., Our Lady of the Lake College.

Address called simply "Presidential Address."

1963 (ACSS) Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

President: John E. Hughes, Villanova University

No address listed.

1964 (ACSS) Montreal, Canada

President: Paul Facey, S.J., College of the Holy Cross

The program makes it look like the presidential address is by William Liu of Notre Dame, and the topic is “Church and Community: The Case of the South.” However, a later program claims the president for this year was actually Paul Facey. The program itself was unclear about this.

1965 (ACSS) Chicago

President: Paul Mundy, Loyola University of Chicago

No address listed.

1966 (ACSS) Miami Beach, FL

Theme: “The Church and the World: Focus on Change.”

President: Father Andrew M. Greeley, NORC, University of Chicago

Presidential Address: “After Secularity: The New Gemeinschaft Society (A Post-Christian Postscript).”

1967 (ACSS) San Francisco

Theme: “The Relevance of Research in the Sociology of Religion.”

President: Donald N. Barrett, University of Notre Dame

No address title listed.

1968 (ACSS) Boston

Theme: “Religion and Milieu.”

President: Gordon C. Zahn, University of Massachusetts at Boston

No address title listed.

1969 (ACSS) San Francisco

President: Robert J. McNamara, (then S.J.), Fordham University

No address title listed.

1970 (ACSS) Washington, D.C.

Theme: “Changing Social Structures, Focus on Religious Attitudes and Values.”

President: Paul J. Reiss, Fordham University.

No address title listed.

The name of the association changes from the American Catholic Sociological Society (ACSS) to the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR).

1971 Joint Annual Meeting of the ASR and the Religious Research Association (RRA)

President: Ralph Lane Jr., University of San Francisco, first president of the reorganized and renamed Association for the Sociology of Religion.

No address title listed.

RRA’s H. Paul Douglas Lecture was on “Religion and Public Policy.”

1972 ASR Annual Meeting, New Orleans

President: Sister Marie Augusta Neal, S.N.D., Emmanuel College in Boston

Theme: "Religion as a Force in Revolutionary Social Change."

Presidential Address: "How Prophecy [sic?] Lives."

1973 ASR Annual Meeting

President: Thomas P. Imse, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts

Presidential Address: "The Struggle of Secularism" (read by William Jarrett in Imse's absence).

1974 ASR Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada

President: William H. Jarrett, Canisius College, Buffalo, New York

No address title listed.

1975 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

President: Ruth A. Wallace, George Washington University

Presidential Address: "Bringing Women In: Marginality in the Churches."

1976 ASR Annual Meeting, New York

President: John L. Thomas, S.J., Georgetown University

Presidential Address: "Prolegomena to a Sociology of Organized Religious Systems."

1977 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

President: David O. Moberg, Marquette University

No address title listed.

1978 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: "Religion and Public Policy."

President: Thomas M. Gannon, S.J., Loyola University, Chicago

Presidential Address: "Religious Tradition and Urban Community."

1979 ASR Annual Meeting, Boston

Theme: "Religion and the Construction of Social Problems."

President: Jeffrey K. Hadden, University of Virginia in Charlottesville

Presidential Address: "Religion and the Construction of Social Problems."

1980 ASR Annual Meeting, New York

President: Carroll Julian Bourg, (formerly S.J.), Fisk University

Presidential Address: "Politics and Religion."

1981 ASR Annual Meeting, St. Michael's College, Toronto

President: Hart M. Nelson, Louisiana State University (before moving to Penn State University)

Presidential Address: "The Church and Critical Choices in the 1980s."

Furfey Lecture: Marie Augusta Neal, Emmanuel College, "Commitment to Altruism in Sociological Analysis." (First appearance in program of Furfey Lecture.)

1982 ASR Annual Meeting, Providence, RI

Theme: "Religion and Power."

President: Meredith B. McGuire, Trinity University in San Antonio

Presidential Address: “Discovering Religious Power”

Plenary Address: Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Harvard University, “Religion, Power, and the Human.”

Furfey Lecture: James A. Beckford, University of Durham, “The Restoration of ‘Power’ to the Sociology of Religion.”

H. Paul Douglass Lecture: David O. Moberg, “In Search of a Protestant 20th Century: American Religion and Power since 1900.”

1983 ASR Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

President: Rodney Stark, University of Washington

Presidential Address: “Exploring Religious Economics.”

Furfey Lecture: James R. Wood, Indiana University, “Leaders, Values, and Societal Change: Towards a Research Agenda.”

1984 ASR Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

Theme: “Religion and Secular Change: Problems of Conflict and Accommodation.”

President: Patrick H. McNamara, University of New Mexico.

Presidential Address: “Conservative Christian Families and Their Moral World: Some Reflections for Sociologists.”

Furfey Lecture: Theodore Caplow, University of Virginia, “Contrasting Religious Trends in America and Europe.”

1985 ASR Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Theme: “Religion and the Human Condition.”

President: William R. Garrett, St. Michael’s College, Vermont (ordained Baptist minister)

Presidential Address: “Religion, Law, and the Human Condition.”

Furfey Lecture: Guy Swanson, University of California Berkeley, “Immanence and Transcendence: Connections with Personality and Personal Life.”

1986 ASR Annual Meeting New York

Theme: “Religion, Social Structure, and Human Lives.”

President: James T. Richardson, University of Nevada at Reno

Presidential Address: “Religion, Economics, and the Law.”

Furfey Lecture: Karel Dobbelaere, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), “Some Recent Trends in the Sociology of Religion in Europe.”

1987 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

Theme: “Mainlines and Sidelines: Trends in Religious Behavior.”

President: (Guy) Benton Johnson, University of Oregon

Presidential Address: “On Founders and Followers, Some Obstacles to the Stabilization of Charismatic Movements.”

Furfey Lecture: Charles Y. Glock, University of California, Berkeley, “The Ways the World Works.”

1988 ASR Annual Meeting, Atlanta

Theme: “America, Religion, and the World.”

President: Roland Robertson, University of Pittsburg

Presidential Address: “America, Religion, and the World.”

Furfey Lecture: Harold J. Barman, Emory University, "The Interaction of Law and Religion in the Development of a World Order."

1989 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: "Religion, Social Problems, and Religion as a Social Problem."

President: James A. Beckford, University of Warwick (England)

Presidential Address: "The Sociology of Religion and Social Problems."

Furfey Lecture: Thomas Luckmann, University of Constance (Germany), "Shrinking Transcendence, Expanding Religion?"

1990 ASR Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Theme: "Religion, Tradition, and Motivation."

President: Helen Rose Ebaugh, University of Houston

Presidential Address: "The Revitalization Movement in the Catholic Church: A Social Movement Perspective on Vatican II."

Furfey Lecture: Martin Marty, University of Chicago, "Never the Same Again: Post-Vatican II Catholic-Protestant Interactions."

1991 ASR Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH

Theme: "Religion in Society."

President: Theodore E. Long, Merrimack College (before being elected President of Elizabethtown College).

Presidential Address: "Religion and Social Theory: Relocating the Sacred in Sociology and Society."

Furfey Lecture: Randall Collins, University of Pennsylvania, "Liberals and Conservatives, Religious and Political: Some Comparisons from World History."

1992 ASR Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA

Theme: "Religion and the Reconstruction of Society."

President: Edward C. Lehman, Jr., State University of New York College at Brockport

Presidential Address: "Gender and Ministry Style: Things Not What They Seem."

Furfey Lecture: Eileen Barker, London School of Economics, "Behold the New Jerusalem!"

1993 ASR Annual Meeting, Miami Beach, FL

Theme: "Religion, Autonomy, Authority and Democracy."

President: William V. D'Antonio, Catholic University of America

Presidential Address: "Autonomy and Democracy in an Autocratic Organization: The Case of the Roman Catholic Church."

Furfey Lecture: N.J. Demerath III, University of Massachusetts Amherst, (No title listed.)

1994 ASR Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA

Theme: "Reinventing Religion: Old Religions, New Religions, New-Old Religions, Old-New Religions."

President: David G. Bromley, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

Presidential Address: "Remembering the Future, A Sociological Narrative of Crisis Episodes, Collective Action, Culture Workers, and Counter Movements."

Furfey Lecture: Rodney Stark, University of Washington, "Reconstructing the Rise of Christianity: The Role of Women."

1995 ASR Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Theme: "Community, Globality, and Research Paradigms in the Sociology of Religion."

President: John H. Simpson, University of Toronto

Presidential Address: "The 'Great Reversal': Selves, Communities, and the Global System."

Furfey Lecture: Roger O'Toole, University of Toronto, "Salvation, Redemption, and community: Reflections on the Aesthetic Cosmos."

1996 ASR Annual Meeting, New York

Theme: "Understanding Religion, Understanding Society."

President: Nancy Tatom Ammerman, Hartford Seminary

Presidential Address: "Organized Religion in a Voluntaristic Society."

Furfey Lecture: R. Stephen Warner, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Religion, Boundaries, and Bridges."

1997 ASR Annual Meeting, Toronto

Theme: "Modeling Diversity, Understanding Religious Ecologies."

President: R. Stephen Warner, University of Illinois at Chicago

Presidential Address: "Approaching Religious Diversity: Barriers, Byways, and Beginnings."

Furfey Lecture: Anthony M. Stevens, Brooklyn College, "Syncretic Sociology: Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Study of Religion."

1998 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: "Retrieval and Critique: Contributions of Sociology of Religion to a Critical Social Science."

President: James R. Kelly, Fordham University

Presidential Address: "Sociology and Public Theology: A Case Study of Pro-Choice/Pro-Life Common Ground."

Furfey Lecture: John A. Coleman, S.J., Loyola Marymount University, "The Bible and Sociology."

1999 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

Theme: "Religion, Gender, and the 21st Century."

President: Nancy Nason-Clark, University of New Brunswick

Presidential Address: "Making the Sacred Safe: Woman Abuse and Communities of Faith."

Furfey Lecture: Mary Jo Neitz, University of Missouri, "Queering the Dragonfest: Changing Sexualities in a Non-Patriarchal Religion."

2000 ASR Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Theme: "Religion and Global Civil Society."

President: Jose Casanova, New School for Social Research

Presidential Address: "Religion and Global Civil Society."

Furfey Lecture: Peter L. Berger, "Reflections on the Sociology of Religion Today."

2001 ASR Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA

Theme: "Religion and Social Marginality."

President: Anthony J. Blasi, Tennessee State University

Presidential Address: "Marginality as a Societal Position of Religion."

Furfey Lecture: Alejandro Frigerio, "Outside the Nation, Outside the Diaspora: Accommodating

Race and Religion in Argentina.”

2002 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

Theme: “Freedom and Control.”

President: Eileen Barker, London School of Economics

Presidential Address: “And the Wisdom to Know the Difference? Freedom, Control, and Responsibility- and the Sociology of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Michael Sells, “Crosses of Blood: Religion, Peace, and Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina”

2003 ASR Annual Meeting, Atlanta

Theme: “Sociology of Religion: Constructing an Agenda.”

President: Grace Davie, Exeter University (UK)

Presidential Address: “Creating an Agenda in the Sociology of Religion: Common Sources/Different Pathways.”

Furfey Lecture: David Martin, “The Christian, The Political and the Academic.”

2004 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: “The Causes and Consequences of Contemporary Moralities.”

President: Joseph B. Tamney, Ball State University

Presidential Address: “The Failure of Liberal Morality.”

Furfey Lecture: Immanuel Wallerstein, “Render Unto Caesar? The Dilemmas of a Multicultural World.”

2005 ASR Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Theme: “Religion, Politics, and the State at Home and Abroad.”

President: N.J. Demerath III, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Presidential Address: “Dear Mr. President: Assessing Religion and Politics during Your Administration for Posterity.”

Furfey Lecture: Dipankar Gupta, “Citizenship vs Religious Identity: The Politics of Majoritarianism and Marginalization in a ‘Democratic’ State.”

2006 ASR Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, CANADA

Theme: “Intersections: History Meets the Sociology of Religion....Again.”

President: Kevin Christiano, University of Notre Dame

Presidential Address: “Clio Goes to Church: Revisiting and Revitalizing Historical Thinking in the Sociology of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University, “Cognition and Religion.”

2007 ASR Annual Meeting, New York

Theme: “Striving for a Better World: Religion and Social Change.”

President: James D. Davidson, Purdue University

Presidential Address: “Religious Stratification: Its Origins, Persistence, and Consequences.”

Furfey Lecture: Joseph Micon, Indiana House of Representatives, “Religion and Politics: The Influence of Religious Political Action Organizations on State Legislatures.”

2008 ASR Annual Meeting, Boston

Theme: “Religion Crossing Boundaries.”

President: Mary Jo Neitz, University of Missouri

Presidential Address: “Encounters in the Heartland: What Studying Rural Congregations Taught Me about Working across Differences.”

Furfey Lecture: Allison Hedge Coke, University of Nebraska, Kearney, “Principle.”

2009 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: “Religion, Culture, Politics.”

President: Michele Dillon, University of New Hampshire

Presidential Address: “Can Post-Secular Society Tolerate Religious Differences?”

Furfey Lecture: Ann Swidler, University of California Berkeley, “The Return of the Sacred: What African Chiefs Teach Us about Secularization.”

2010 ASR Annual Meeting, Atlanta

Theme: “Religion, Identity, and Place.”

President: Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University Chicago

Presidential Address: “Creating an American Islam: Thoughts on Religion, Identity, and Place.”

Furfey Lecture: Janet L. Jacobs, University of Colorado, “Sacred Space and Collective Memory: Memorializing Genocide at Sites of Terror.”

2011 ASR Annual Meeting, Las Vegas

Theme: “Socially Engaged Religion in a Global Context.”

President: Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa

Presidential Address: “Socially Engaged Religion in a Post-Westphalian Global Context: Remodeling the Secular/Religious Distinction.”

Furfey Lecture: Tariq Modood, University of Bristol, “Religion Engaged in the Public Sphere: A Crisis in Secularism?”

2012 ASR Annual Meeting, Denver

Theme: “Religion and Social Change.”

President: Roger Finke, Pennsylvania State University

Presidential Address: “Origins and Consequences of Religious Restrictions: A Global Overview.”

Furfey Lecture: Jose Casanova, Georgetown University, “Social Change and Religious Dynamics: Pre-Axial, Axial, Post-Axial.”

2013 ASR Annual Meeting, New York

Theme: “Tributaries, Eddies, and Cross-Currents: Religion Outside the Mainstream.”

President: Fred Kniss, Eastern Mennonite University

Presidential Address: “Against the Flow: Learning from New, Emergent, and Peripheral Religious Currents.”

Furfey Lecture: Nancy Ammerman, Boston University, “Finding Religion in Everyday Life.”

2014 ASR Annual Meeting, San Francisco

Theme: “Religion as a Social Force.”

President: Christopher G. Ellison, University of Texas, San Antonio

Presidential Address: “Religion, Health, and Well-Being: Reflections on the “Strong Program” in the Sociology of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Neal Krause, University of Michigan, “Making the Work We Do More Relevant: Using Religion and Health as a Template.”

2015 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

Theme: “Understanding Religious Change.”

President: Melissa J. Wilde, University of Pennsylvania

Presidential Address: “Complex Religion: Interrogating Assumptions of Independence in the Study of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Mike Hout, New York University, “St. Peter’s Leaky Boat: Falling

Intergenerational Persistence of US-Born Catholics Since 1972”

(In honor of the late Andrew M. Greeley).

2016 ASR Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

Theme: “Exploring Diversity: Varieties of Religion and Nonreligion.”

President: Lori Beaman, University of Ottawa

Presidential Address: “Living Well Together in a (non)Religious Future: Contributions from the Sociology of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Linda Woodhead, Lancaster University, “Is No Religion the New Religion?”

2017 ASR Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC

Theme: “Religion and Division: Causes, Consequences and Counters.”

President: Michael O. Emerson, North Park University

Presidential Address: “Soul of the City: The Depth of How “Urban” Matters in the Sociology of Religion.”

Furfey Lecture: Mark Juergensmeyer, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Thinking Sociologically about Religion and Violence: The Case of ISIS.”

2018 ASR Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

Theme: “Strengthening Weak Ties to other Sociological Subdisciplines.”

President: Daniel V.A. Olson, Purdue University

Presidential Address: “The Influence of Your Neighbors’ Religions on You, Your Attitudes and Behaviors, and Your Community.”

Furfey Lecture: Jennifer Glass, University of Texas, Austin, “Why Aren’t We Paying Attention? Religion and Politics in Everyday Life.”

2019 ASR Annual Meeting, New York, NY

Theme: “Engaging Religion in a Contested Age.”

President: Paula Nesbitt, Graduate Theological Union

Presidential Address: “Engaging Religion in a Contested Age: Contestations, Postmodernity, and Social Change.”

Furfey Lecture: Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa, “Religion in Interesting Times: Contesting Form, Function, and Future.”

2020: No Annual Meeting due to the global Covid-19 pandemic

President: James C. Cavendish, University of South Florida

2021 ASR Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference due to the global Covid-19 pandemic

Theme: “Communicating Religion’s Relevance.”

President: James C. Cavendish, University of South Florida

Presidential Address: “Religion as a Resource in an Increasingly Polarized Society.”

Furfey Lecture: Kelsey Burke, University of Nebraska Lincoln, “Piety, Perversion, and Politics: The False Dichotomy of Sex and Religion in America.”

2022 ASR Annual Meeting, Los Angeles

Theme: “Religion, Repression, and the Search for Justice.”

President: James Spickard, University of Redlands

Presidential Address: "Sensitizing Blinders: Theorizing Theory for a Post-Colonial Era"

Furfey Lecture: François Gauthier, Université de Fribourg, "Thinking Outside the West: Religious Change from Nation-State to Global Market"

2023 ASR Annual Meeting, Philadelphia

Theme: “Justice and Religion”

President: Gerardo Marti, Davidson College

Presidential Address: “Racial Justice and Racialized Religion: Are White Progressive Christians Getting It Right?”

Furfey Lecture: Penny Edgell, University of Minnesota, “After Restructuring: Understanding the American Religious Landscape of the Twenty-first Century”

2024 ASR Annual Meeting, Montreal

Theme: “Religion and Intersectionality”

President: Grace Yukich, Quinnipiac University

Presidential Address: “Queering the Sociology of Religion: The Role of the Margins in Visioning the Future of the Subfield”

Furfey Lecture: Geneviève Zubrzycki, University of Michigan, “Religious Nationalism in the Twenty-first Century”

2025 ASR Annual Meeting, Chicago

Theme: “Religion and Resilience”

President: Tricia Bruce, Springtide Research Institute

Presidential Address: TBA

Furfey Lecture: TBA