

Date: Mon, 18 Nov 1996 16:38:27 -0500
From: Sarah Lee Caldwell <scaldwel@UMICH.EDU>
Subject: AAA and Anthro of Religion

***** ANNOUNCING A MAJOR NEW VENTURE IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

AT THIS YEAR'S AAA MEETINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Many of us working in the anthropology of religion feel there is a conspicuous lack of a journal or an official society for scholarly interchange in our field. Over the last few years, a growing number of people have expressed a desire to come together as a group of scholars of religion with specifically anthropological concerns. It is for this reason that we have begun efforts to organize and establish official venues for such interchange to take place, within the American Anthropological Association.

Towards this end, an invited session will be held at this year's AAA in San Francisco entitled "Assessing the Anthropology of Religion: Past Achievements and Future Directions." The panelists include Maurice Bloch, Erika Bourguignon, Jean Comaroff, Alan Dundes, Michael Lambek, Charles Laughlin, and Stanley Tambiah. The session is taking place on Friday morning from 8-11:45, in the Continental Ballroom 4, Ballroom Level. (Session #20, program #2-024).

Following the session, on Saturday evening at 6:15, there will be an ***organizational meeting for establishing a Society for the Anthropology of Religion as an official section of the AAA.*** At this meeting we hope to elect a pro-tem Board of Directors, a Secretary and a Chair to prepare our application for section status, pending approval at the Spring Executive Board meeting of the AAA.

The goals of the new Society for the Anthropology of Religion include the launching of a major scholarly journal, sponsorship of sessions and outside conferences, and possible publication ventures. Major scholars in the field have expressed strong support for the society and journal, including the panelists mentioned above, and other distinguished scholars. Clifford Geertz among others has expressed interest in serving on the editorial board of the new journal, which has the potential to make a significant impact.

We cordially invite you to join us for the session this Friday at the AAA, and most especially to the organizational meeting to be held on SATURDAY, NOV. 23rd, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom B, Ballroom Level. In order to qualify for section status, we need to collect at least 250 signatures of potential members. We are very excited about this new venture and anticipate a large turnout. Please join us on Saturday evening.

If you are unable to attend the meetings this year, or cannot be present at the Saturday evening meeting, but would like further information on getting involved in the new Society, kindly email Sarah Caldwell at <scaldwel@umich.edu>, or contact me at the address below. We look forward to your input and welcome any suggestions, concerns, or comments you may

have.

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Date: Mon, 18 Nov 1996 22:29:12 -0500
From: GUTHRIE@MARY.FORDHAM.EDU
Subject: New Venture in Anthropology of Religion in San Francisco

On behalf of the Anthropology of Religion Interest Group (ARIG), one of the two pre-existing groups considering joining with other people as the Anthropology of Religion Section (the other group is the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, SoFAR), I second Sarah Caldwell's invitation to the organizational meeting Saturday evening, from 6:15 to 7:30 in Imperial Ballroom B. As Sarah noted, we will need 250 signatures as one qualification for section status. ARIG also

ARIG also has two invited sessions at the AAA: The Anthropology of Religion: A Critical Retrospective (Thursday morning, 8:00 to 9:45), and Change, Continuity, and the Anthropology of Religion (Friday afternoon, 4:00 to 5:45), preceding the organizational meeting. In addition, ARIG presently has a list-server for the anthropology of religion, ANTH-OF-REL@LIST.PITT.EDU. To join, send "subscribe anth-of-rel [your e-mail address]" to MAJORDOMO@LIST.PITT.EDU, leaving the subject line blank.

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End of ANTHRO-L Digest - 17 Nov 1996 to 18 Nov 1996
