

SSSML Newsletter
**SOCIETY FOR THE
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
MORMON LIFE**

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Lawrence A Young, Editor

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The mixture of accommodation and uniqueness raises questions about ways in which Mormons may be similar to or distinctive from the national populations surrounding them. This session will present comparisons between LDS members and the national population based on probability surveys of the nation. Family life and substance abuse are two areas that are emphasized by LDS teachings. The first presentation will examine patterns of family demography, including sexual activity, marriage, and child bearing. The second presentation will compare patterns of alcohol and drug use among adolescents. Each paper will explore the implications of findings for Mormon society.

**SSSML SPONSORED SESSION AT
SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM XIII**

The 13th Annual Sunstone Symposium will be held August 7-10, 1991 at the University Park Hotel in Salt Lake City. SSSML will sponsor a session of the symposium on Thursday, August 8, 1991 (11:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m.). The SSSML session will include:

Paper: "Are We A Peculiar People?"

Tim B. Heaton
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

Paper: "Religion and Adolescent Drug Use: A Comparison of Mormons and Other Religions"

Stephen J. Bahr
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

Abstract: Unique history, culture, and theology have shaped the development of Mormon behavioral patterns from the Church's inception. At the same time Mormonism has made major changes in accommodating to the broader American host society.

Abstract: The association between adolescent drug use and religious preference and activity was examined using data from the 1984-1987 Monitoring the Future Surveys, an annual survey of

about 16,000 high school seniors. Adolescents who were affiliated with a religion had lower rates of drug use than adolescents without a religious affiliation. Mormons had lower rates of drug use than adolescents in other religions, except for amphetamines and cocaine. Adolescents who attended religious services regularly were less likely to use drugs than individuals who did not. The difference between actives and inactives in drug use was much greater among Mormon adolescents than among adolescents in other religions. Religiosity was a much better predictor of adolescent drug use among Mormons than among other denominations.

Comments and Chair: Marie Cornwall
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

Numerous SSSML members will participate in other sessions of the symposium. For a preliminary program and registration information, contact:
Sunstone
331 South Rio Grande, Suite
30 Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1136

SSSML BOARD MEETING AND LUNCH AT SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM XIII

There will be a Board Meeting/Lunch immediately following the SSSML sponsored session at the Sunstone Symposium on Thursday, August 8th. Board members and others who are interested in attending should meet at 12:30 p.m. in the room assigned to the SSSML session.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR SSSML

ANNUAL MEETING

November 8-10, 1991
Vista International Hotel
Pittsburgh, PA.

SSSML has formally forged a link with the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR). Beginning in 1991, SSSML will hold its annual business meeting and sponsor sessions in conjunction with SSSR meetings. The SSSML-SSSR link should provide SSSML with increased visibility in the professional community and allow SSSML members to attend an academic conference with at least some focus on the sociological study of Mormonism.

All persons giving papers at the meeting must preregister by October 1. Meeting registration is \$25 (\$35 at the meetings) for members of SSSR or RRA and \$35 (\$45 at the meetings) for those not belonging to either organization. Student registration is \$10. Room costs at the Vista International Hotel are \$82 per night for single or double, \$94 per night for a triple and \$106 per night for a quad. The hotel can be reached toll free (in the USA) at 1-800-367-8478.

The SSSML sessions at the conference will include the following:

1. Friday, November 8 - 9:15-10:45 a.m.

MORMON SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Convener: O. Kendall White, Jr.
Department of Sociology
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450

"Mormonism in France: Creating Unity and Cultural Diversity"

John C. Jarvis
515 S. Aikin #AR112
Pittsburgh, PA 15232-1520

"Adult Significant Others in Religious Socialization of Latter-Day Saint Youth"

Marie Cornwall
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University

Provo, UT 84602

"Mormon/Non-Mormon Differences in Family Demographics"

Tim B. Heaton
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

Discussant: To be announced

2. Friday, November 8--6:30-8:30 p.m.

SSSML DINNER

Many SSSML members enjoy gathering informally for dinner each year. Specific arrangements for Friday evening dinner will be announced at the SSSML sponsored session on Friday morning (if you are unable to attend the Friday morning session, contact SSSML members at meeting for time and location of the dinner).

3. Saturday, November 9--8:00-9:30 a.m.

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE: Business Meeting

Convener: Tim B. Heaton
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

4. Saturday, November 9-42:45-2:15 p.m.

Convener: Perry Cunningham
Research and Evaluation Division
18th Floor, LDS Church Office Building
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

"Why the LDS Church Welfare System Works"

David Bradford
Research Information Division
LDS Church Office Building
50 East North Temple

Salt Lake City, UT 84150

"New Methods of Providing Research Information to Church Administrators"

Lynn Payne
Research Information Division
LDS Church Office Building
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

"LDS Religious and Family Influences in Adolescence as Predictors of Young Adults' Religious and Familial Attitudes and Behavior"

Darwin L. Thomas
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

Discussant: Lawrence A. Young
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602

In addition to the sessions sponsored by SSSML, the meeting will include approximately 85 other sessions dealing with a broad range of topics. Among those on the SSSML mailing list who will be participating in other sessions are: Armand L. Mauss, Michael E. Nielsen, James T. Richardson, Rodney Stark and Lawrence A. Young.

Preliminary programs and registration material may be obtained by writing to:

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
1365 Stone Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana 47907-1365

1991 SSSML LECTURE

Lee L. Bean and Geraldine P. Mineau gave the 1991 SSSML Lecture on February 6, 1991 in conjunction with the International Conference on Gender and Family held at Brigham Young University. The lecture was co-sponsored by the

Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University.

Bean and Mineau addressed the topic, "Demographic Characteristics of Women on the American Frontier." The following summary of the lecture is based on Bean and Mineau's notes from the verbal presentation.

The presentation constituted a partial summary of findings from the Mormon Historical Demography Project. After discussing the project and the data base employed, data were presented which identified features of the Utah frontier population during the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. Particular attention was given to the origin and migration history of mothers and the consequences of this history for marriage and childbearing. In the second part of the presentation, attention was given to findings which emphasized the patterns of marriage, childbearing and life-cycle phenomena including widowhood.

Key findings included in the presentation included:

- From the outset, the data suggest that settlement in Utah was by families (unlike the male settlement patterns of other Western states), with relatively balanced proportions of males and females at all ages. The folk-tale that polygyny in Utah was designed to provide husbands for an excess of females is not supported by the evidence.
- In spite of the fact that women who settled Utah came from the Midwest, the East, and various nations of Western Europe, there was a strong similarity in the patterns of marriage and childbearing among these various groups. There were, however, some important differences in levels of childbearing and age at marriage. For example, women from Canada and the U.S. consistently married at a younger age than women from Great Britain and Northern Europe during the 19th century.

- In general, women born before 1860 exhibited high fertility patterns while those born after 1860 experienced declining fertility as they adopted family limitation practices. Thus, in the period beginning about 1890, the level of fertility began a continuous decline which Bean and Mineau label a fertility transition.
- Length of exposure to the frontier can account for variation in age at marriage, but it cannot totally explain the variation in fertility.
- The total marital fertility rates for polygynous wives was about five to seven percent lower than for monogamous wives. This was largely a consequence of significantly lower levels of fertility among second and later wives. The fertility of the first wife in polygynous families was higher. This variation in fertility by wife-order was reduced but not eliminated when wife's and husband's age at marriage and marriage duration were controlled for.
- A profile of women based on their ages at widowhood shows that remarriage was an option almost exclusively for younger widows. Those who did not remarry could expect to spend approximately half of their lifetimes in this status.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: OFFICERS AND LECTURE

One of the items on the agenda for the Annual Business Meeting in Pittsburgh is the nomination of candidates for upcoming SSSML elections. Positions needing to be filled include President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and Board Members. Another issue to be discussed is the 1992 SSSML Annual Lecture. If you will be unable to attend the Business Meeting in November and would like to give some input concerning the nomination of candidates or have ideas concerning the 1992 SSSML Lecture, please contact Tim B. Heaton, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SSSML will supply you with complementary copies of the newsletter if you have colleagues who might be interested in becoming a member. Each complementary copy will include a cover letter describing the activities of SSSML and an invitation to join the Society. Send requests for complimentary copies to:
Tim B. Heaton
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602
1. All SSSML members are urged to consider submitting short articles, interesting data or news items. Materials should be sent to:
Lawrence A. Young
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

CONFERENCES IN NEAR FUTURE

In addition to the 1991 Sunstone Symposium (August 7-10 in Salt Lake City, UT) and the 1991 Annual Meetings of SSSR and SSSML (Nov. 8-10 in Pittsburgh, PA), which have already been discussed in this newsletter, several SSSML members will be participating in 1991 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, to be held August 21-23 in Cincinnati, Ohio. For further information and a preliminary program, contact: Association for the Sociology of Religion, c/o Barbara J. Denison, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA 17003.

BOOK CONTRACT SIGNED

Marie Cornwall (with assistance from other members of the Department of Sociology at Brigham Young University) organized several session on Mormon-related topics for the 1989 meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, which was held in Salt Lake City.

Following the meeting, Cornwall, Tim

Heaton and Lawrence Young organized several of the papers into a preliminary manuscript, added a few additional papers and began the search for a publisher. In July of 1991, the three editors received a favorable review and a contract from the University of Illinois Press. The outside reviewer strongly recommended publication of the manuscript, suggesting that it would make a significant contribution to scholarship and fill a much needed niche in the literature.

Numerous SSSML members are involved in the project and others should find the finished book of interest. The current working title of the manuscript is A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF MORMONISM. A preliminary table of contents follows:

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Preface

Institutional Growth and Change

- Modernization and Mormon Growth: The Secularization Thesis Revisited - Rodney Stark, University of Washington
- Making Saints: In the Early Days and in the Latter Days - Jan Shipps, University of Indiana-Purdue University
- Confronting Turbulent Environments: Issues in the Organizational Growth and Globalization of Mormonism - Larry Young, Brigham Young University
- Assimilation and Ambivalence: The Mormon Reaction to Americanization - Armand L. Mauss, University of Washington
- A Case Study of Change in Religious Policies and Doctrines: Secularization or Sacralization? - Mary Lou McNamara, Brigham Young University
- Mormon Women and the Institutional Church - Marie Cornwall, Brigham Young University
- Dealing with Social Change: The Mormon Church's Response to Change in Women's Roles - Laurence R. Iannaccone, Santa

Clara University, Carrie A. Miles

- Globalization of an American Church: An African Case Study - Tim B. Heaton and Cardell K. Jacobson, Brigham Young University

Mormon Society and Culture

- In Search of a Peculiar People: Are Mormon Families Really Different? - Tim B. Heaton, Brigham Young University; Kristen L. Goodman, Research Division, LDS Church; Thomas B. Holman, Brigham Young University
- Adolescent Drug Use: Mormon and non-Mormon Comparisons - Steve Bahr, Brigham Young University
- Religion and Mental Health: Mormons and Other Groups - Allen Bergin, Brigham Young University
- Religion and Voting Behavior Among Utah Mormons - David B. Magleby, Brigham Young University
- Intolerance, Misunderstanding and Non-acceptance of Mormons among Canadian Youth: A Case Study from Rural Alberta - Merlin B. Brinkerhoff, Elaine Grandin,

Irving Hexham, University of Calgary

- Black Mormon Converts: Social Characteristics and Perceived Acceptance in the LDS Church - Cardell Jacobson, Brigham Young University
- Mormons and Indians: Beliefs, Policies, Programs and Practices – Bruce Chadwick and Stan Albrecht, Brigham Young University

The Mormon Missionary

- Sustaining a Lay Religion in Modern Society: The Mormon Missionary Experience - Gary Shepherd, Oakland University; Gordon Shepherd, University of Central Arkansas
- The Mormon Missionary Companion - Keith Parry, University of Lethbridge
- "Gringo, Jeringo": Anglo Mormon Missionary Culture in Bolivia - David Knowlton, Washington University
- The Divine and Sacred: Mormon Missionary Narratives as Instruments of Socialization and Social Control - William A. Wilson, Brigham Young University