

THE AMISH AND PLAIN ANABAPTIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Newsletter May 2021 - Issue 3

1. DUE MAY 31: APASA CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS

Conference Dates: Friday, July 16, 1pm to Saturday, July 17, 5pm, 2021

Location: Hotel Millersburg, Millersburg, Holmes County, Ohio

The conference planning committee extends a welcome to professors and scholars in the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities; service providers, including those in health care, education, social work, agricultural extension, law, planning, and others; and affiliates of plain Anabaptists religious groups to both attend and share your research, projects, and perspectives. Such an eclectic mix offers a unique opportunity to compare insights and learn from one another. Thought-provoking conversations, presentations, and panels, all within a collegial context, are characteristic of APASA conferences, and this year will be no exception.

The conference committee will continually review and offer decisions on submissions until Monday, May 31, 11:59pm, or when the program is filled, whichever comes first.

Submissions may include presentations (20 minutes) for sessions, fully organized sessions, panels or workshops (80 minutes), posters, and program/vendor booths.

Session topics are determined based on submissions, although attendees can also apply to a feature topic. This year's feature topics are: (1) the plain Anabaptists and COVID-19, (2) dress and appearance, and (3) social theory considerations.

For more details or to submit a proposal, visit the conference website (<http://amishstudies.org>)

2. OPENING JUNE 1: REGISTRATION FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL APASA CONFERENCE

The ongoing growth of the plain people—the Amish, Hutterites, German Baptists, Apostolic Christians, Swiss Mennonites, Low German Mennonites, and others—means that more people are encountering these religious groups in the public sphere. Those who specifically study or work with the plain people must continue advancing our bodies of knowledge through critical evaluation of old knowledge and introduction of new ideas. The goals of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies Association (APASA) conferences are to disseminate advances in research and practice, spark new ideas through conversation, and broaden professional networks.

- APASA Regular Member: \$65
- APASA Student/Need-Based Member: \$40

Non-members may attend the conference by joining APASA. Current annual rates are \$30 for regular membership and \$15 for student/need-based membership. Registration will open after May 17. While there is no registration deadline, space is tentatively limited to 60 people. Register online or send personal information with payment to: the address below.

Lodging

APASA has a reduced rate for **lodging** at the beautiful, historic Hotel Millersburg in downtown Millersburg. 35. W. Jackson St, Millersburg, OH 44654. 330-674-1457

Hotel Millersburg is listed on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places and is located in the Millersburg National Historic district.

For rates and details, call the hotel or visit the conference website.

Contact

For questions about the APASA conference, contact Cory Anderson at editor@amishstudies.org or write to APASA, 7010 State Route 241, Millersburg, OH 44654.

3. NEW APASA CAFÉ SPEAKER SERIES

The APASA Scholarship Committee announces the launch of a new webinar/teleconference series: APASA Café. Beginning May 2021, talks are held on fourth Fridays of most months at 12pm EST. All are invited to the first and second talks (May/June). Those who do not receive emails from our members' and non-members' lists can request a phone dial-in number by contacting APASA, 7010 SR 241, Millersburg, OH 44654. The first talk will be May 28 at 12pm:

Parental Wealth and Children's Decisions to Join the Amish Church: New Empirical Results and Implications for Theories of Religious Institutions

Dr. James Choy,
Bureau of Economic Analysis

Families and religious communities are two of the most important institutions that shape our societies, creating patterns of advantage and disadvantage, flourishing and dysfunction, that persist across generations. How do these institutions interact to generate these patterns? In this talk, I will discuss some standard theories of religion from economics and other disciplines, and the implications of these theories for the intergenerational transmission of both material wealth and cultural identity. I will then present my own research on the intergenerational transmission of both material wealth and cultural identity among the Amish. I show, among other things, that children of richer Amish parents are more likely to remain in the Amish church.

My results challenge standard theories of religion. I will argue more generally that the study of the Amish can inform broader debates about the function of religious institutions.

4. VOL. 9 ISSUE 1 (SPRING 2021) ISSUE OF *JAPAS* AVAILABLE SOON

Articles available for free electronically (see amishstudies.org); print back issues are \$15 each plus \$3 shipping:

Volume 9, Issue 1 (Spring): "The Voices of Plain Anabaptist People"

Editor's Introduction—What's in *JAPAS* 9(1) and Who Should Read It? Reconceptualizing Amish and Plain Anabaptist Culture through the Voices of Its People

Cory Anderson | pp. v-viii

Contrasting Spaces in Plautdietsch: Language Variation and Change

Roslyn Burns | pp. 1-26

A Little More in the World: Why Amish Parents Choose to Send Their Children to Public Schools

Steve Thalheimer | pp. 27-54

Modest Dress Practices through the Eyes of Seven Conservative Mennonite Women

Megan Mong and John Clifton | pp. 55-82

'I am just a part of the community': Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Women and the Third Person Perception

Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahr | pp. 83-98

Book Reviews

The Things Which Become Sound Doctrine: The Life of Aaron M. Shank—Chester Weaver

Reviewed by Kent Richard | pp. 99-100

Serpent in the Garden: Amish Sexuality in a Changing World—James Cates

Reviewed by Mark A. Yarhouse | pp. 101-103

5. NEW *JAPAS* ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The APASA Scholarship Committee announces a new article of the year award. The prize is given to an outstanding article published in a given year in *JAPAS*.

The first award will be announced for the 2020 volume of *JAPAS* (volume 8, issues 1 and 2). The award includes a free one year membership to APASA, a waiver for attending the annual APASA conference, a letter of critical review from the committee, and a token of acknowledgement. All articles are eligible except those lead-authored by the *JAPAS* editor and assistant editor.

Members of the Scholarship Committee, as well as ad hoc reviewers as needed, evaluate articles. Criteria for an award include: (1) Innovation: the topic/content is original and/or addresses a gap in the literature; (2) Background: The article is properly contextualized, either theoretically or practically; (3) Methodology: The study progresses from the research question(s) to finding(s) and/or result(s); (4) Data sources: The article is empirical/data-driven and/or reliant on primary sources; and (5) Interdisciplinary: Even if well situated in a particular discipline, the article carries implications for a diverse audience.

6. CALL: SPECIAL ISSUE OF *JAPAS* *Agriculture, Environment, and the Plain People*

Do you work with the plain people (Amish, Mennonites, Hutterites, and others) on topics related to agriculture and the environment?

Do you conduct agriculture and environmental research focused on the plain people?

The *Journal of Amish & Plain Anabaptist Studies* is interested in receiving submissions for a special issue focusing on agriculture and the environment, to be published autumn 2021.

Areas of interest include:

- Agricultural practice
- Extension/outreach projects
- Agricultural safety and health
- Environmental impacts and conservation
- Nature studies
- History of agriculture
- Agricultural economics

Views of science
Other related topics

See <http://amishstudies.org/SubmitPaper.html> for details about publication types and submissions. Completed submissions are **due Friday, July 30, 2021**.

Please reach out with questions. We look forward to working with you. Inquiries and letters of intent to submit should be sent to Dr. Cory Anderson, *JAPAS* editor: editor@amishstudies.org.

Prospective authors are also encouraged to present their research at the agriculture/environment session of the Amish & Plain Anabaptist Studies Association conference, July 16-17th. Visit amishstudies.org for conference details.

For this special issue, Dr. Caroline Brock, University of Missouri, will serve as guest co-editor with regular editors Cory Anderson and Steven Reschly. Brock has done much to advance Amish agricultural research with her recent publications in *J. of Rural Studies*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Sustainability*, *J. of Dairy Science*, *JAPAS*, and other venues.

7. APASA MEMBER NOTABLES

Our APASA members' listserv has recently announced these new publications by APASA members from mid-March to mid-May:

Anderson, Cory, and Lindsey Potts. 2021. "Research Trends in Amish Population Helath, a Growing Literature about a Growing Rural Population." *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* 36(1):Article 6.

Bruce, Heather A., Peter Kochunov, Joshua Chiappelli, Anya Savransky, Kathleen Carino, Jessica Sewell, Wyatt Marshall, Mark Kvarata, Francis J. McMahon, Seth A. Ament, Teodor T. Postolache, Jeff O'Connell, Alan Shuldiner, Braxton Mitchell and L. Elliot Hong. 2021. "Genetic Versus Stress and Mood Determinants of Sleep in the Amish." *American Journal of Medical Genetics Part B: Neuropsychiatric Genetics* 186(2):113-21. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.b.32840>

Dijak, Justin, Laura McCann and Caroline Brock. 2020. "Horse Manure Management

by Commercial and Old-Order Amish Equine Operators: Economic and Conservation Implications.” *Sustainability* 12(20):17. doi: 10.3390/su12208723.

Lutz, Martin. 2021. “What’s All in a Name: Kinship in the Nineteenth Century.” *Anabaptist Historians*. March 15, 2021. Online post.

APASA: OUR EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

As a non-profit organization, APASA has by-laws that document our formal purposes, and our growing consortium of staff and members are implementing these purposes in diverse ways. Our by-laws describe a people who aim to:

1. Create greater awareness of Amish and plain Anabaptist research, teaching, and service work in academic, applied, and public contexts;
2. Advance theoretical, analytical, and applied knowledge by providing venues for discussion of research, teaching, and service;
3. Provide outlets for the dissemination of knowledge, resources, and scholarship;
4. Offer mentorship to service providers and scholars new to the Amish and plain Anabaptists;
5. Promote partnerships between and among scholars and service providers;
6. Cultivate respect for the dignity of plain Anabaptist individuals and their collective peoplehood through our work, not causing undue grievances, nor exploiting the culture for ideological, material, institutional, or personal gain.

SUPPORT YOUR WORK WITH AN APASA MEMBERSHIP

We welcome those who share our goals into APASA membership. Membership runs on an annual cycle and supports your work in many ways.

Join APASA for 2021 by visiting <http://amishstudies.org/JoinAPASA.html> The two-step process includes (1) sending payment for dues, and (2) filling out the membership form.

Benefits include the members-only *listserv* (with 231 posts of new content—news, publications, events, etc.—in 2020 alone), the ability to participate in our *annual conference* and *publish in JAPAS*, association support and *promotion of members’ work*, and other benefits.

ROLLING SUBMISSIONS WELCOME: JOURNAL OF AMISH & PLAIN ANABAPTIST STUDIES

Published twice a year, the *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* is run by a diverse group of 18 international scholars from a variety of disciplines and inclusive of several plain Anabaptist adherents. We welcome submissions on a rolling basis and offer the following publication categories:

- Research articles, notes, and briefs
- Service provider reports
- Symposiums and review essays
- Book reviews
- Research from plain people
- Letters to the editor

Why publish with JAPAS? *JAPAS* is a rigorously edited journal that demands authors demonstrate a deep understanding of the study population. With an experienced editorial staff dedicated to conceptual precision, a publication in *JAPAS* is one of the best ways to validate your nuanced understanding of a plain Anabaptist group or subject. *JAPAS* reaches a broad audience of scholars, service providers, and plain Anabaptist adherents and is indexed in several key research databases.

All manuscripts may be submitted through the *JAPAS* submission system at <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/amishstudies/>

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