

# Editorial

The second issue of the *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* is a demonstration of the kind of peer-reviewed interdisciplinary research that this journal seeks to publish. While the subfield of religion in the field of sociology (vis-à-vis, sociology of religion) is broadly visible in academia, the integration of religion and society is another matter entirely. The *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society* seeks scholarly research that leads to meaningful integration of religion and society, primarily through sociological methodology. Such research is not theological tripe disguised in scholarly garments; neither is it empirical social science trying to interpret religious experience. Rather, such research demonstrates meaningful integration that is beneficial both to religion and society – and hopefully, research that solves real world problems in both arenas. The articles in this edition all look to history to find and formulate viable solutions for the challenges of today’s complex world.

Dennis Hiebert’s article is reflective, both for sociologists who are Christian and for Christians who are sociologists. Hiebert challenges Christian sociologists to consider their prophetic role not only in the culture, but for the Christian sub-culture as well. Hiebert sociologically integrates religion and society by exploring the historical role of the Christian sociologist and proposing an evocative contemporary function.

Larry Standridge and Kenneth Schmidt trace the history of sociological research in religious studies from the perspective of statistical analysis. The authors trace the development of statistics in the social and behavioral sciences and focus on the application of such procedures to research in religion. Such historical developments of statistical analysis provide the platform upon which quantitative, empirical research can aid in the sociological integration of religion and society.

Kenneth Schmidt’s article seeks to address the quite contemporary problems of alienation, powerlessness, and meaninglessness – all struggles of the “connected” world – in the context of medieval philosophy and theology. Schmidt looks to Thomas Aquinas and develops a Neo-Thomistic approach that suits the complexities of the postmodern world. Schmidt’s article is a vibrant example of the sociological integration of religion and society in that it is religious ideas reconceived and applied to social problems.

The articles in this issue should prove to be useful to other researchers, not only with similar interests, but with similar intentions – to find innovative and creative ways to sociologically integrate religion and society through quality research.

Joshua D. Reichard, PhD, DPhil, EdS  
Associate Editor

