

Announcements / Calls for Proposals, Papers, and Participation

Special *JAPAS* Section: Old Colony Mennonites

The autumn 2016 issue of *JAPAS* will feature a special section focusing on Old Colony Mennonites and other plain Mennonites of Russian background. Contact the editor, Cory Anderson (japas@beachyam.org), if you wish to contribute. Drafts are due by June 30, 2016.

Special issue of the *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies*:

“Past Reflections and Future Directions in Amish Studies”

Spring 2017

Upon the 1942 publications of Walter Kollmorgen’s *Culture of a Contemporary Rural Community: The Old Order Amish of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* and Calvin George Bachman’s *The Old Order Amish of Lancaster County*, the field of Amish studies experienced a sudden, sizeable birth. With practically no empirical research prior, Amish studies saw an influx of scholars interested in the Amish. Today, Amish studies claims over 800 scholarly publications—books, journal articles, and book chapters—in addition to many theses and dissertations.

In 2017, Amish studies will have its 75th birthday. *JAPAS* is commemorating the milestone by inviting proposals that critically evaluate the field. We are particularly interested in full length research papers, research notes, comments, and retrospective book review essays that: (1) revisit past scholarship, assessing its prospects and problems, utility and inadequacies, (2) synthesize specialty areas in Amish studies and identify gaps, (3) bring to light forgotten or neglected works that could theoretically and / or methodologically inform today’s scholarship, (4) profile a scholar and the way his / her work has contributed to our present body of knowledge, (5) identify prospects for connecting Amish studies into bodies of literature outside Amish studies, (6) review and assess the adequacies and inadequacies of methodological approaches, (7) outline research agendas for Amish studies, and (8) explore the smaller literature bodies addressing other plain Anabaptist groups. A longstanding shortcoming of Amish studies is its descriptive nature and secondary treatment of theory and methods; we are particularly interested in works that address this gap.

Brief proposals (no more than one page) are now due to the editors; first drafts are due by November 15, 2016. We seek manuscripts of varied sizes, including shorter ones of 3,000 to 5,000 words and longer treatments of 5,000 to 9,000 words. Scholars seeking assistance developing an idea for proposal may contact the editor: Cory Anderson (japas@beachyam.org).

Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society

An International Conference

June 9-11, 2016

Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies

Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA

The conference will highlight the dynamic tension between the power of preserving tradition and the need to negotiate change in Amish culture during the past fifty years.

Keynote address: Steven Nolt on pivotal developments in Amish society and its relationship with wider social forces since the mid-twentieth century. Plenary speakers: Karen Johnson-Weiner on the lives of Amish women; D. Holmes Morton on translational medicine; Mark Loudon on the use of Pennsylvania Dutch; and Donald Kraybill on the future of the Amish way of life.

Registration opens in January. For more information, visit the conference website at www.ETOWN.EDU/AMISH2016

Still/Moving: Stories of Low German-Speaking (Dietsche) Mennonite Women

August 26, 2016

King's University College, Western University

London, Ontario

The tension between standing still and moving has been an important part of the life of Dietsche Mennonites throughout their history. For many, a commitment to the permanence of tradition has resulted in a history of migration. Indeed, maintaining tradition, culture and language has itself been a balance of remaining and changing, staying and moving. Some have felt the limits of tradition and sought religious change while for others, tradition has been a bedrock of rich, spiritual life. Some have entered the more rapid pace of modernity and greater economic security by migrating to Canada and the United States. In all of this women have been makers and keepers of culture, using creative resourcefulness to shape their families and communities even as they shape their own lives. With their families they have moved across the Americas, and wherever they have lived, women have been central to their communities and religious life, finding their own balance between stillness and movement.

In this one-day, interactive conference, we hope to further our knowledge and experience of Low German-speaking women in order to more fully understand Dietsche culture in the

tensive connection between stillness/moving, preservation/innovation. The event will bring together academic, professional and community participants.

We invite proposals for participation on any topic pertaining to Dietsche women in the context of still/moving. Topics may include but are not limited to

- Migrations and their effect
- Religious life, including making religious change
- Women bridging family and community
- Women and family health
- Women's roles in the family and community
- The production and meaning of clothing
- Women and the culinary arts
- Adversity and hope in women's lives
- Education, children and mothering
- Low German and identity

We are looking for proposals for academic papers, creative and artistic presentations and interactive activities. We encourage proposals from academics, grad students, service providers, artists and Dietsche women. Send a short description of your presentation in 250 words or less to stillmovingkings@gmail.com. Please also specify the number of people involved, any equipment you need and space requirements. Travel subsidies may be available. Please inquire. Deadline for submissions is February 15, 2016.

This workshop is hosted by the Southwestern Ontario Research of Mennonite Women Group, a semi-formal gathering of researchers and professionals who have an ongoing interest in Dietsche migrants to Ontario.