

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Call for Proposals

### “Past Reflections and Future Directions in Amish Studies”

Special issue of the *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist 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 *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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 due to the editors by November 15, 2015, with first drafts due by November 15, 2016. Scholars seeking assistance developing an idea for proposal may contact the editors: Cory Anderson (japas@beachyam.org) and / or Joe Donnermeyer (donnermeyer.1@gmail.com).

**“Anabaptist Roots in North American Landscapes:  
The Plain People Today”**

**July 2-4, 2015**

**Leuphana Universität, Lüneburg, Germany**

The North American Studies Program is delighted to announce a three-day international symposium: “Anabaptist Roots in North American Landscapes: The Plain People Today.” It will be held at Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany, from 2-4 July 2015. The aim of the Plain People conference is fourfold: first, to challenge our knowledge of the Plain People as the Other, i.e. people who are simultaneously demonized and exoticized; second, to shift the focus from neo-evangelical and Islamic fundamentalist discourses—especially prevalent in North America after 9/11—to the study of religious groups who appear to be the exact opposite of fundamentalism; third, to build a network of European scholars of various disciplines dealing with the Plain People; and fourth, to support teachers who work in the areas of religious studies and English (with an emphasis on Amish, Mennonite, and Hutterite life-writing).

Special contributors include: Donald Kraybill, Distinguished Professor and Senior Fellow in the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, PA; Susan Trollinger, Associate Professor of English at the University of Dayton, Ohio; William Trollinger, Professor of History and Religious Studies at the University of Dayton, Ohio; and Ira Wagler, author of the New York Times Bestseller, *Growing Up Amish*. For conference program details and registration, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/13bpq3y> Any questions may be addressed to the conference organizers, Maryann Henck, Maria Moss, or Sabrina Völz at [nas@leuphana.de](mailto:nas@leuphana.de)

**“What Young Historians Are Thinking”**

**October 12, 2015**

The Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, in partnership with the Sider Institute for Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College, welcomes paper proposals for its event “What Young Historians Are Thinking.” Invited to participate are undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, early career scholars, and others under age 30 engaged in original research. All should be a part of a Historic Peace Church or doing research related to these traditions. Interested researchers should submit a 250-word proposal for a 20-minute paper to be given at the symposium. Proposals are due June 12, 2015. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/v07ydx> or contact Joel Nofziger via email ([younghistorians@lmhs.org](mailto:younghistorians@lmhs.org)) or by calling (717) 393-9745.

## **“Mennonite Education: Past, Present, and Future”**

**October 16-18, 2015**

**Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH**

Call for Papers: “Mennonite Education: Past, Present, and Future,” October 16-18, 2015, Bluffton University. Mennonite educational practices and institutions in the twenty-first century face a time of upheaval and transformation arising from the impact of new communication technologies such as the Internet and digital media, from changing assumptions about the organization and worth of knowledge, and from shifting religious and cultural demographics. On the occasion of the publication of a new biography of Mennonite historian and educational pioneer C. Henry Smith, the C. Henry Smith Trustees and the Mennonite Historical Society invites proposals for panels, workshops, and presentations from teachers, researchers, administrators, staff, students and anyone else who is invested in Mennonite education both within and beyond Mennonite educational institutions, including staff and scholars of schools associated with plain Anabaptist communities. We encourage presentation proposals from across the academic disciplines on a broad range of topics related to the past, present, and future of Mennonite education in all of its varied North American settings, including from early childhood through graduate programs. Please send inquiries and proposals to Gerald Mast: mastg@bluffton.edu. Proposals for papers or panels should be received by June 15, 2015. For more information, see the conference website: <http://www.bluffton.edu/conference/>

## **“Continuity and Change: 50 Years of Amish Society”**

**June 9-11, 2016**

**Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies**

**Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA**

Call for papers: This international conference will focus on changes and consistency within Amish communities during the years 1963 to 2013, a fifty-year time period framed by the publication of *Amish Society* by John Hostetler (1963) and *The Amish* by Donald Kraybill, Karen Johnson-Weiner, and Steven Nolt (2013). Conference planners welcome proposals for papers, panel discussions, or poster sessions that address significant developments in Amish life or aspects of Amish-related scholarship. Proposals that deal with other traditional Anabaptist groups are also welcome. Include a clear statement of topic, methods, and significance (350 words or less) and a one- to two-page resume. Submit proposals to amish2016@etown.edu by October 1, 2015. Visit [www.etown.edu/amish2016](http://www.etown.edu/amish2016) for details.