

## Contributors

NANCY AMMERMAN has spent much of the last decade studying American religious organizations. Her book *Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and Their Partners* (University of California Press, 2005) describes the common organizational patterns that shape the work of America's diverse communities of faith. She previously wrote extensively on conservative religious movements, including *Baptist Battles: Social Change and Religious Conflict in the Southern Baptist Convention*, which received the 1992 SSSR Distinguished Book Award. Nancy is professor of sociology of religion at Boston University, where she teaches in both the Sociology Department and the School of Theology. She was the 2004–5 president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

MARK CHAVES has a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a PhD in Sociology from Harvard University. He is professor of sociology, religion, and divinity at Duke University. Among other projects, he directs the National Congregations Study (NCS), a wide-ranging survey of a nationally representative sample of religious congregations. His most recent book, based largely on the 1998 NCS, is *Congregations in America* (Harvard, 2004). Data collection for Wave II of the NCS was completed in spring 2007. He has been chair of the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Religion Section, and in 2008 he begins his term as president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

PAUL LICHTERMAN is currently associate professor of sociology and religion at the University of Southern California. He writes on culture, religion, civic and political organizations, social and cultural theory, and ethnographic methodology. His second book, *Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups*

*Trying to Bridge America's Divisions* (Princeton University Press, 2005), is a study of religious community service groups responding to welfare reform. The book depicts how these groups tried hard yet quite often failed to create enduring ties with other civic groups, state agencies, and low-income people. It received the 2006 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the 2006 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Pacific Sociological Association. Before coming to the University of Southern California in fall 2004, he was associate professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

OMAR M. McROBERTS's scholarly and teaching interests include the sociology of religion, urban sociology, urban poverty, race, and collective action. His first book, *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*, was published by the University of Chicago Press (2003). The book is based on an ethnographic study of religious life in Four Corners, a poor, predominantly black neighborhood in Boston containing twenty-nine congregations. It explains the high concentration, wide variety, and ambiguous social impact of religious activity in the neighborhood. McRoberts is currently conducting a study of black religious responses to, and influences on, social welfare policy since the New Deal, culminating with George W. Bush's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. He is also initiating an ethnographic project on cultures of death and dying among black congregations in low-income urban contexts.

DAWNE MOON has taught courses on religion, gender, sexuality, and qualitative methods at the University of California, Berkeley, and Marquette University. Her main interest is in how people develop the ideas that mean the most to them and the impacts those ideas have on social life. She is the author of *God, Sex and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies* (University of Chicago Press, 2004), which ethnographically examines how members of two United Methodist congregations develop their ideas about God, community, and sexual morality. She is currently studying American Jews' understandings and experiences of anti-Semitism, especially as those ideas relate to politics, identity, and community.

C. BRADY POTTS is a PhD student in Sociology at the University of Southern California. His areas of interest include the culture of U.S. public life and theories of civil society. He received his master's degree in sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2004. His current research focuses on public speech and political culture in the aftermath of natural disasters.

MICHAEL SCHUDSON is distinguished professor of communication and adjunct professor of sociology at the University of California, San Diego, and professor of communication at the Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University. He received his PhD in sociology from Harvard. He is the author of six books on the history and sociology of the American news media, advertising, popular culture, and politics and cultural memory. His honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a MacArthur Foundation Award. His most recent work is *The Sociology of News* (Norton, 2003) and *The Good Citizen: A History of American Civic Life* (1998). The latter offers an original interpretation of the historical transformation of both the practices and the ideals of civic participation. It has been reviewed not only in academic publications in sociology, history, and political science but in general publications like the *Washington Post* and *The Economist*.