

LOOSE

# CONNECTIONS

*Joining Together in America's Fragmented Communities*

ROBERT WUTHNOW

# Loose Connections Joining Together In Americas Fragmented Communities

**Wendy Cadge**



## **Loose Connections Joining Together In Americas Fragmented Communities:**

Loose Connections Robert Wuthnow,1998-11-30 People are still connected but because of the realities of daily life they form loose connections These more fluid groups are better suited to dealing with today s needs than the fraternal orders and ladies auxiliaries of the past

**Loose Connections** Robert Wuthnow,2003

**After the Baby Boomers** Robert Wuthnow,2010-02-22 Much has been written about the profound impact the post World War II baby boomers had on American religion But the lifestyles and beliefs of the generation that has followed and the influence these younger Americans in their twenties and thirties are having on the face of religion are not so well understood It is this next wave of post boomers that Robert Wuthnow examines in this illuminating book What are their churchgoing habits and spiritual interests and needs How does their faith affect their families their communities and their politics Interpreting new evidence from scores of in depth interviews and surveys Wuthnow reveals a generation of younger adults who unlike the baby boomers that preceded them are taking their time establishing themselves in careers getting married starting families of their own and settling down resulting in an estimated six million fewer regular churchgoers He shows how the recent growth in evangelicalism is tapering off and traces how biblical literalism while still popular is becoming less dogmatic and more preoccupied with practical guidance At the same time Wuthnow explains how conflicts between religious liberals and conservatives continue including among new immigrant groups such as Hispanics and Asians and how in the absence of institutional support many post boomers have taken a more individualistic improvised approach to spirituality Wuthnow s fascinating analysis also explores the impacts of the Internet and so called virtual churches and the appeal of megachurches

**After the Baby Boomers** offers us a tantalizing look at the future of American religion for decades to come

Heartwood Wendy Cadge,2024-05-31 Theravada is one of the three main branches of Buddhism In Asia it is practiced widely in Thailand Laos Burma Sri Lanka and Cambodia This fascinating ethnography opens a window onto two communities of Theravada Buddhists in contemporary America one outside Philadelphia that is composed largely of Thai immigrants and one outside Boston that consists mainly of white converts Wendy Cadge first provides a historical overview of Theravada Buddhism and considers its specific origins here in the United States She then brings her findings to bear on issues of personal identity immigration cultural assimilation and the nature of religion in everyday life Her work is the first systematic comparison of the ways in which immigrant and convert Buddhists understand practice and adapt the Buddhist tradition in America The men and women whom Cadge meets and observes speak directly to us in this work both in their personal testimonials and as they meditate pray and practice Buddhism Creative and insightful Heartwood will be of enormous value to sociologists of religion and anyone wishing to understand the rise of Buddhism in the Western world

Choosing Equality Joseph Viteritti,2012-01-01 America is now in the second generation of debate on school choice The first was prompted by the provocative voucher proposal conceived by Milton Friedman in 1955 and brought into the mainstream by Chubb and Moe s

seminal book *Politics Markets and American Schools* Brookings 1990 It introduced a pure market model in which schools would be publicly financed but privately operated While opponents continue to contend that choice will lead to the demise of public education the weakening of civil society and the fostering of separate and unequal systems of education Joseph P Viteritti argues that these long held assertions must give way to present realities The rich and diverse experience we have had with magnet schools controlled choice inter district choice charter schools privately funded vouchers and public vouchers in Milwaukee and Cleveland provides a solid basis for crafting a choice policy that enhances the educational opportunities of children whose needs are not being met by the present system of public education Drawing on his background as a political scientist legal scholar and education practitioner Viteritti starts his book with the promise articulated in the landmark Brown decision of 1954 After reviewing a variety of policy initiatives enacted to promote educational opportunity he finds that the nation has fallen short of providing decent schooling for its most disadvantaged children and in so doing has delayed the movement toward social and political equality Viteritti does not contend that choice in the form of charter schools or vouchers for the poor is a solution to racial inequality but he believes that these forms of choice can move the country in the proper direction He insists that the nation cannot pretend to have a serious commitment to the goal of educational equality as long as choice is available only to those with the private means to afford it

**E-Agriculture and E-Government for Global Policy Development: Implications and Future Directions** Maumbe, Blessing M.,2009-09-30 This book provides critical research and knowledge on electronic cultivation and political development experiences from around the world Provided by publisher      **The Civic Life of American Religion** Paul Lichterman,Charles Brady Potts,2009 Presents lively research based essays by premier social scientists on the positive and negative roles of religious groups in American public life      The Shared Parish Brett C. Hoover,2014-08-15 As faith communities in the United States grow increasingly more diverse many churches are turning to the shared parish a single church facility shared by distinct cultural groups who retain their own worship and ministries The fastest growing and most common of these are Catholic parishes shared by Latinos and white Catholics Shared parishes remain one of the few institutions in American society that allows cultural groups to maintain their own language and customs while still engaging in regular intercultural negotiations over the shared space This book explores the shared parish through an in depth ethnographic study of a Roman Catholic parish in a small Midwestern city demographically transformed by Mexican immigration in recent decades Through its depiction of shared parish life the book argues for new ways of imagining the U S Catholic parish as an organization The parish argues Brett C Hoover must be conceived as both a congregation and part of a centralized system and as one piece in a complex social ecology The Shared Parish also posits that the search for identity and adequate intercultural practice in such parishes might call for new approaches to cultural diversity in U S society beyond assimilation or multiculturalism We must imagine a religious organization that accommodates both the need for safe space

within distinct groups and for social networks that connect these groups as they struggle to respectfully co exist      *Gender and the Social Gospel* Wendy J. Deichmann Edwards, Carolyn De Swarte Gifford, 2003 This collection of essays examines the central yet often overlooked role played by women in the formation of the social gospel movement in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries A practical theological response to the stark realities of poverty and injustice prevalent in turn of the century America the social gospel movement sought to apply the teachings of Jesus and the message of Christian salvation to society by striving to improve the lives of the impoverished and the disenfranchised The contributors to this volume set out to broaden our understanding of this radical movement by examining the lives of some of its passionate and vibrant female participants and the ways in which their involvement expanded and enriched the scope of its activity In addition to examining the lives of individual women the essays in *Gender and the Social Gospel* contain broader analyses of the gender and racial issues that have caused the histories of movements such as the social gospel to be viewed almost exclusively in terms of their male European American intellectual participants at the expense of the women African Americans and Canadians whose contributions were just as worthy of attention      **The Suburban Church** Gretchen Buggeln, 2015-12-15 After World War II America's religious denominations spent billions on church architecture as they spread into the suburbs In this richly illustrated history of midcentury modern churches in the Midwest Gretchen Buggeln shows how architects and suburban congregations joined forces to work out a vision of how modernist churches might help reinvigorate Protestant worship and community The result is a fascinating new perspective on postwar architecture religion and society Drawing on the architectural record church archives and oral histories *The Suburban Church* focuses on collaborations between architects Edward D Dart Edward A S vik Charles E Stadel and seventy five congregations By telling the stories behind their modernist churches the book describes how the buildings both reflected and shaped developments in postwar religion its ecumenism optimism and liturgical innovation as well as its fears about staying relevant during a time of vast cultural social and demographic change While many scholars have characterized these congregations as country club churches *The Suburban Church* argues that most were earnest well intentioned religious communities caught between the desire to serve God and the demands of a suburban milieu in which serving middle class families required most of their material and spiritual resources      *Civic Engagement in American Democracy* Theda Skocpol, Morris P. Fiorina, 2004-05-13 American democracy is in many ways more vital than ever before Advocacy groups proliferate and formerly marginalized groups enjoy new opportunities But worrisome trends exist Millions of Americans are drawing back from involvements with community affairs and politics Voters stay home public officials grapple with distrust or indifference and people are less likely to cooperate on behalf of shared goals Observers across the spectrum of opinion agree that it is vital to determine what is happening and why so that Americans can take well informed effective steps to revitalize our national community The book opens with an eagle eye look at the roots of America's special patterns of civic engagement examining the ways social groups

and government and electoral politics have influenced each other Other chapters examine the impact of advocacy groups and socioeconomic inequalities on democratic processes and probe the influence of long term social and cultural changes on voluntary associations and civic participation The book concludes by asking why social liberation has been accompanied by new inequalities and the erosion of many important forms of citizen leverage and participation Coming together from several disciplines contributors include Jeffrey M Berry Henry E Brady John Brehm Steven Brint Elisabeth S Clemens Peter Dobkin Hall Wendy M Rahn Kay Lehman Schlozman Sidney Verba and Robert Wuthnow Copublished with the Russell Sage Foundation

**Nonprofit Organizations** Helmut K. Anheier, 2006-08-21 This text is the first to dedicate itself to the nonprofit sector It provides a comprehensive overview of nonprofit and voluntary organizations nongovernmental organizations philanthropic foundations and civil society institutions Taking an international perspective it details the background and concepts behind these organizations and examines the theory management and policy which informs them Questions answered include What are nonprofit and voluntary organizations What is the history of the nonprofit sector What is the scale and structure of the nonprofit sector How can we explain the existence and behaviour of nonprofit organizations How do nonprofits obtain funding and how do they manage resources With strong pedagogical features and the author's own extensive experience this book is a valuable reference for all those involved in nonprofit making organizations as well as those in the wider public administration and management arena

**Collaborative Parish Leadership** William A. Clark, Daniel Gast, 2016-12-27 These essays explore team based parish leadership theologically sociologically and pastorally in a variety of cultures and circumstances The result is an extended conversation both practical and deeply reflective emerging from the collaboration of theologians social researchers organizational development specialists and pastoral ministers Collaborative Parish Leadership draws on the experience strengths challenges and insights of the long term pastoral academic partnerships out of which it has grown These include Project INSPIRE a pastoral team formation project sponsored by Loyola University and the Archdiocese of Chicago and funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc as part of its Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative Another partner initiative is the international pastoral minister exchange Crossing Over involving several Catholic dioceses in northwest Germany and based at Ruhr University Bochum Authors of these essays have also been involved in Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership the Congregational Studies Team's Engaged Scholars fellowship both also Lilly Endowment funded projects and other projects Collaborative Parish Leadership employs practical theological methods rooted in pastoral experience and integrated with scholarly reflection Opening essays deal with the current situation of U S parishes the parish consultancy model of Project INSPIRE and a case study of several parishes that benefited from the project The following chapters present comparative case studies of collaborative leadership in various settings multicultural parishes in different parts of the U S parish clusters consolidating into single parishes using very different processes and parishes in Chicago and Mexico City meeting similar urban challenges Three authors associated

with CrossingOver and its participating dioceses assess the general state of parish reorganization in Germany and the potential of the unique approach to team leadership taken in the French archdiocese of Poitiers The final chapters reflect on the theology of parish leadership from pastoral and systematic perspectives and on the future needs and possibilities of collaborative approaches Overall Collaborative Parish Leadership engages and challenges academic and pastoral leaders in diverse social and ecclesial situations suggests multiple models for cultivating collaboration builds connections between collaborative action and theological development

**Activism, Inc.** Dana Fisher, 2006-07-26 Activism Inc introduces America to an increasingly familiar political actor the canvasser She s the twenty something with the clipboard stopping you on the street or knocking on your door the foot soldier of political campaigns Granted unprecedented access to the People s Project an unknown yet influential organization driving left leaning grassroots politics Dana Fisher tells the true story of outsourcing politics in America Like the major corporations that outsourced their customer service to companies abroad the grassroots campaigns of national progressive movements including Greenpeace the Sierra Club Save the Children and the Human Rights Campaign have been outsourced at different times to this single organization During the 2004 presidential campaign the Democratic Party followed a similar outsourcing model for their canvassing Fisher examines the history and rationale behind political outsourcing on the Left weaving together frank interviews with canvassers high ranking political officials across the political spectrum and People s Project management She compares all of this to the grassroots efforts on the Right which remain firmly grounded in communities and local politics This book offers a chilling review of the consequences of political outsourcing Connecting local people on the streets throughout America to the national organizations and political campaigns that make up progressive politics it shows what happens to the passionate young activists outsourced to the clients of Activism Inc

**Science vs. Religion** Elaine Howard Ecklund, 2010-05-06 That the longstanding antagonism between science and religion is irreconcilable has been taken for granted And in the wake of recent controversies over teaching intelligent design and the ethics of stem cell research the divide seems as unbridgeable as ever In Science vs Religion Elaine Howard Ecklund investigates this unexamined assumption in the first systematic study of what scientists actually think and feel about religion In the course of her research Ecklund surveyed nearly 1 700 scientists and interviewed 275 of them She finds that most of what we believe about the faith lives of elite scientists is wrong Nearly 50 percent of them are religious Many others are what she calls spiritual entrepreneurs seeking creative ways to work with the tensions between science and faith outside the constraints of traditional religion The book centers around vivid portraits of 10 representative men and women working in the natural and social sciences at top American research universities Ecklund s respondents run the gamut from Margaret a chemist who teaches a Sunday school class to Arik a physicist who chose not to believe in God well before he decided to become a scientist Only a small minority are actively hostile to religion Ecklund reveals how scientists believers and skeptics alike are struggling to engage the increasing number of religious students in

their classrooms and argues that many scientists are searching for boundary pioneers to cross the picket lines separating science and religion With broad implications for education science funding and the thorny ethical questions surrounding stem cell research cloning and other cutting edge scientific endeavors Science vs Religion brings a welcome dose of reality to the science and religion debates **Elusive Togetherness** Paul Lichterman,2012-01-06 Many scholars and citizens alike have counted on civic groups to create broad ties that bind society Some hope that faith based civic groups will spread their reach as government retreats Yet few studies ask how if at all civic groups reach out to their wider community Can religious groups long central in civic America create broad empowering social ties in an unequal diverse society Over three years Paul Lichterman studied nine liberal and conservative Protestant based volunteering and advocacy projects in a mid sized American city He listened as these groups tried to create bridges with other community groups social service agencies and low income people just as the 1996 welfare reforms were taking effect Counter to long standing arguments Lichterman discovered that powerful customs of interaction inside the groups often stunted external ties and even shaped religion s impact on the groups Comparing groups he found that successful bridges outward depend on group customs which invite reflective critical discussion about a group s place amid surrounding groups and institutions Combining insights from Alexis de Tocqueville John Dewey and Jane Addams with contemporary sociology Elusive Togetherness addresses enduring questions about civic and religious life that elude the popular social capital concept To create broad civic relationships groups need more than the right religious values political beliefs or resources They must learn new ways of being groups

**The Future of Catholic Higher Education** James Heft,2021 After many years of scholarship administrative experience and leadership in Catholic higher education James Heft has written a book that draws upon many academic disciplines to paint a picture of the past the current situation challenges strengths and weaknesses of Catholic universities and after identifying its foundational pillars points the way to a future that is open to modern culture without capitulating to it embraces Catholic intellectual traditions without fossilizing them and presents a vision of its relationship to the hierarchy that is respectful independent faithful and dynamic **Taking Faith Seriously** Mary Jo. Bane,Brent. Coffin,Richard

Higgins,2009-06-30 Whether simply uneasy or downright hostile the relation between religion and liberal democracy in this country has long been vexed and complex and crucial to what America is and aspires to be Amid increasingly contentious exchanges over fundamentalism abortion rights secularism and pluralism this book reminds us of the critical role that religion plays in the health and well being of a democracy **Asset Building & Community Development** Gary Paul

Green,Anna Haines,2015-04-01 A comprehensive approach focused on sustainable change Asset Building and Community Development Fourth Edition examines the promise and limits of community development by showing students and practitioners how asset based developments can improve the sustainability and quality of life Authors Gary Paul Green and Anna Haines provide an engaging thought provoking and comprehensive approach to asset building by focusing on the role



of different forms of community capital in the development process Updated throughout this edition explores how communities are building on their key assets physical human social financial environmental political and cultural capital to generate positive change With a focus on community outcomes the authors illustrate how development controlled by community based organizations provides a better match between assets and the needs of the community     **Social Capital and Urban Networks of Trust** Jouni Häkli, 2016-12-05 This is the first book on social capital and trust informed by a critical geographical perspective The authors examine the role of social capital in the constitution and reproduction of urban networks of trust in different places and contexts They explore how social capital and trust are reflected in the capacity of these networks to achieve their goals and to deliver specific forms of urban development in a number of Finnish and Italian cities Finland and Italy present in many ways two almost paradigmatic cases of how social capital and trust can work in extremely different and yet very effective ways in the production of the urban They are two almost ideal laboratories for experimenting new definitions and new understandings of the concepts in question

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