

Religion in the Age of Transformation

**Sects, Cults,
and Spiritual
Communities**

A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

**Edited by
William W. Zellner
and Marc Petrowsky**

Sects Cults And Spiritual Communities A Sociological Analysis

Brett Hendrickson



Sects Cults And Spiritual Communities A Sociological Analysis:

Sects, Cults, and Spiritual Communities Marc Petrowsky, William W. Zellner, 1998-06-30 American society is culturally diverse with a variety of religious denominations sects cults and self help groups vying for members This volume analyzes nine of these groups chosen both for their intrinsic interest and because they illustrate a variety of sociological concepts The groups included in this study are Heaven s Gate Jesus People USA the Love Family The Farm Amish Women Scientology El Ni o Fidencio Santera and Freedom Park The contributors are social scientists with first hand knowledge of the groups they examine Decent and in Order Ronald R. Stockton, 2000-02-28 This is a systematic study of how a congregational conflict involving allegations of sexual harassment and power abuse against a minister was seriously mishandled by church authorities The conflict escalated to entangle regional and national authorities and worked its way into the civil courts Stockton focuses on the interaction of organizational dynamics and ill defined Christian concepts such as reconciliation and discipline showing that in conflict situations the ideals of pastoral care are squeezed by an organizational mentality Key themes involve the role of women in the church the complex question of sexual harassment and the interface between church law and civil law The narrative which is based on interviews and official documents captures the human dimensions of the story while simultaneously giving unique insight into congregational disputes and organizational behavior **The Jesus People Movement** Richard A. Bustraan, 2014-02-13 Who would have imagined that the hippies those long haired psychedelia influenced youth of the 1960s would have initiated a spiritual revolution that has transformed American Christianity If you are unfamiliar with the 1960s the counterculture the hippie movement and the Jesus People then this book will transport you to that era and introduce you to the generation and the decade that turned American culture upside down If you have read other books on the Jesus People this account will take you by surprise A refreshingly different narrative that unveils a storyline and characters not commonly known to have been associated with the movement this book argues that the Jesus People though often trivialized and stigmatized as a group of lost and vulnerable youth who strayed from the Fundamentalism of their childhood helped American Christianity negotiate a way forward in a post 1960s culture It examines the narrative of the Holy Spirit and the phenomenon called Pentecostalism Although utterly central the Jesus People s Pentecostalism has never been examined and their story has been omitted from the historiography of Pentecostalism This account uniquely redresses this omission Cultures of Devotion Frank Graziano, 2007 Spanish America has produced numerous folk saints venerated figures regarded as miraculous but not officially recognized by the Catholic Church Some of these have huge national cults with hundreds perhaps millions of devotees In this book Frank Graziano provides the first overview in any language of these saints offering in depth studies of the beliefs rituals and devotions surrounding seven representative figures These case studies are illuminated by comparisons to some hundred additional saints from contemporary Spanish America Among the six primary cases are Difunta Correa at whose shrines devotees offer bottles of

water and used auto parts in commemoration of her tragic death in the Argentinean desert Gaucho Gil is only one of many gaucho saints whose characteristic narrative involves political injustice and Robin Hood crimes on behalf of the exploited people The widespread cult of the Mexican saint Nino Fidencio is based on faith healing performed by devotees who channel his powers Nino Compadrito is an elegantly dressed skeleton of a child whose miraculous powers are derived in part from an Andean belief in the power of the skull of one who has suffered a tragic death Graziano draws upon site visits and extensive interviews with devotees archival material media reports and documentaries to produce vivid portraits of these fascinating popular movements In the process he sheds new light on the often fraught relationship between orthodox Catholicism and folk beliefs and on an important and little studied facet of the dynamic culture of contemporary Spanish America **End of Days** Wendell G. Johnson, 2017-07-14 Covering religious traditions ranging from Buddhism to Christianity to Zoroastrianism and modern apocalyptic movements such as Arun Shinrikyo and the Branch Davidians this book addresses prophesied end of days from a breadth of perspectives and includes material on often neglected themes and genres End of Days An Encyclopedia of the Apocalypse in World Religions describes apocalyptic writings in the world's major religious traditions including Judaism Christianity Islam Hinduism and Buddhism The cross referenced entries address ancient traditions Zoroastrianism as one example as well as modern apocalyptic movements such as Arun Shinrikyo the Branch Davidians and the Order of the Solar Temple This book's broad scope offers coverage of overlooked traditions such as Mayan Apocalyptic Norse Apocalyptic Native American eschatological literatures and the Tibetan Book of the Dead Readers seeking detailed information on the eschatological and apocalyptic movements and proponents of End Times can reference entries about individuals such as Harold Camping Jerry Falwell David Koresh of the Branch Davidians and James Jones and the People's Temple This single volume encyclopedia also contains numerous historical entries on subjects such as the Great Disappointment the Great Awakening periods of religious revival Joachim of Flora the Maccabean Revolt and the Plymouth Brethren The influence of apocalyptic ideas far outside the realm of religion itself is documented through entries on film including well known modern movies such as The Hunger Games and Apocalypse Now literature by writers such as Dante and works of fine art like Wagner's Götterdämmerung The inclusion of entries related to literature film and other art forms further attests to the wide ranging social influence of belief in the end of days **Borderlands Curanderos** Jennifer Koshatka Seman, 2021-01-19 A refreshing new perspective reframes borderlands history by focusing not only on faith healers but squarely on the populations that they served Western Historical Quarterly 2022 Americo Paredes Award Center for Mexican American Studies at South Texas College Santa Teresa Urrea and Don Pedrito Jaramillo were curanderos faith healers who in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries worked outside the realm of professional medicine seemingly beyond the reach of the church state or certified health practitioners whose profession was still in its infancy Urrea healed Mexicans Indigenous people and Anglos in northwestern Mexico and cities throughout the US Southwest while

Jaramillo conducted his healing practice in the South Texas Rio Grande Valley healing Tejanos Mexicans and Indigenous people there Jennifer Koshatka Seman takes us inside the intimate worlds of both living saints demonstrating how their effective healing curanderismo made them part of the larger turn of the century worlds they lived in as they attracted thousands of followers validated folk practices and contributed to a modernizing world along the US Mexico border While she healed Urrea spoke of a Mexico in which one did not have to obey unjust laws or confess one's sins to Catholic priests Jaramillo restored and fed drought stricken Tejanos when the state and modern medicine could not meet their needs Then in 1890 Urrea was expelled from Mexico Within a decade Jaramillo was investigated as a fraud by the American Medical Association and the US Post Office Borderlands Curanderos argues that it is not only state and professional institutions that build and maintain communities nations and national identities but also those less obviously powerful

Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora Carolyn M. Jones Medine,Ibigbolade S. Aderibigbe,Hans D Seibel,2015-10-14 Contemporary Perspectives on Religions in Africa and the African Diaspora explores African derived religions in a globalized world The volume focuses on the continent on African identity in globalization and on African religion in cultural change

Beyond the Threshold Christopher M. Moreman,2017-09-13 Beyond the Threshold introduces readers to afterlife beliefs and experiences in world religions The second edition has been revised and updated throughout including a new chapter on afterlife beliefs and practices in selected African traditions new research on the afterlife and near death experiences the addition of key words and definitions to each chapter and more Christopher M Moreman offers an introduction to afterlife beliefs in ancient cultures which are essential to understanding the roots of many modern ideas about death He examines the folklore and doctrines of major world religions including Judaism Christianity Islam Hinduism Buddhism Chinese religions and several African traditions He also discusses psychic phenomena across traditions such as mediums near death and out of body experiences and past life memories While ultimately the afterlife remains unknowable the second edition of this unique in depth exploration of both beliefs and experiences can help readers reach their own understanding of the afterlife and how to live

A Dictionary of Nonprofit Terms and Concepts David Horton Smith,Robert A. Stebbins,Michael A. Dover,2006-11-08 This reference work defines more than 1 200 terms and concepts that have been found useful in past research and theory on the nonprofit sector The entries reflect the importance of associations citizen participation philanthropy voluntary action nonprofit management volunteer administration leisure and political activities of nonprofits They also reflect a concern for the wider range of useful general concepts in theory and research that bear on the nonprofit sector and its manifestations in the United States and elsewhere This dictionary supplies some of the necessary foundational work on the road toward a general theory of the nonprofit sector

American Arcadia Peter James Holliday,2016 American Arcadia explores the innumerable ways Californians shaped their visual and social culture using models and ideals from the classical tradition

The Re-Enchantment of the West, Vol 2 Christopher

Partridge,2006-06-20 Challenging some assessments of religion in the West this study argues that although much organized religion particularly Christianity is in numerical decline in actual fact we are witnessing an alternative spiritual re-enchantment of society and culture

Neojihadism Peter Lentini,2013-01-01 Many years after 9 11 we are still struggling to categorize groups like Al Qaeda home grown cells and others that claim to be perpetrating and justifying terrorist acts under the banner of jihad This book introduces the concept of neojihadism as a new form of political organization grand narrative global subculture counterculture and theological understanding with an approach to political violence that is unique to the post Cold War period What these groups espouse and enact differs radically from fascism totalitarianism cults jihad and even jihadism Neojihadism takes an interdisciplinary approach that fuses comparative politics subcultural studies Islamic studies and terrorism studies It cites examples from global regional and nationally based terrorist groups to illustrate the diversity within the movement Additionally it draws from unique primary materials including recorded conversations of terrorists preparing for attacks captured by electronic bugging devices and telephone wiretaps to help to test the extent to which the term neojihadism is a significant political and theological departure from previous Islamist group experiences This fascinating book will be an invaluable resource for academics and undergraduate and postgraduate students of terrorism studies political science international relations comparative religion and Islamic studies

Plutarco Elías Calles and the Mexican Revolution Jürgen Buchenau,2023-06-14 This biography of the Mexican revolutionary examines his rise from soldier to president to his continued influence as Jefe Maximo Hailing from the border state of Sonora Plutarco El as Calles found his calling in the early years of the revolution quickly rising to national prominence As president from 1924 to 1928 Calles undertook an ambitious reform program modernized the financial system and defended national sovereignty against an interventionist U S government Yet these reforms failed to eradicate underdevelopment corruption and social injustice Moreover his unyielding campaigns against political enemies and the Catholic Church earned him a reputation as a repressive strongman After his term as president Calles continued to exert broad influence as his country s foremost political figure while three weaker presidents succeeded each other in an atmosphere of constant political crisis He played a significant role in founding a ruling party that reined in power hungry military leaders and helped workers attain better living conditions This dynastic party and its successors including the present day Partido Revolucionario Institucional Party of the Institutional Revolution remained in power until 2000 Through this comprehensive assessment of a quintessential Mexican politician Buchenau opens an illuminating window into both the Mexican Revolution and contemporary Mexico

Latina/o Healing Practices Brian McNeill,Jose M. Cervantes,2011-03-17 This edited volume focuses on the role of traditional or indigenous healers as well as the application of traditional healing practices in contemporary counseling and therapeutic modalities with Latina o people The book offers a broad coverage of important topics such as traditional healer s views of mental psychological health and well being the use of traditional healing techniques in contemporary psychotherapy

and herbal remedies in psychiatric practice It also discusses common factors across traditional healing methods and contemporary psychotherapies the importance of spirituality in counseling and everyday life the application of indigenous healing practices with Latina o undergraduates indigenous techniques in working with perpetrators of domestic violence and religious healing systems and biomedical models The book is an important reference for anyone working within the general field of mental health practice and those seeking to understand culturally relevant practice with Latina o populations

Scientology in Popular Culture Stephen A. Kent, Susan Raine, 2017-07-14 This multidisciplinary study of Scientology examines the organization and the controversies around it through the lens of popular culture referencing movies television print and the Internet an unusual perspective that will engage a wide range of readers and researchers For more than 60 years Scientology has claimed alternative religious status with a significant number of followers despite its portrayals in popular culture domains as being bizarre What are the reasons for the vital connections between Scientology and popular culture that help to maintain or challenge it as an influential belief system This book is the first academic treatment of Scientology that examines the movement in a popular culture context from the perspective of several Western countries It documents how the attention paid to Scientology by high profile celebrities and its mention in movies television and print as well as on the Internet results in millions of people being aware of the organization to the religious organization s benefit and detriment The book leads with a background on Scientology and a discussion of science fiction concepts pulps and movies The next section examines Scientology s ongoing relationship with the Hollywood elite including the group s use of celebrities in its drug rehabilitation program and explores movies and television shows that contain Scientology themes or comedic references Readers will learn about how the Internet and the mainstream media of the United States as well as of Australia Germany and the UK have regarded Scientology The final section investigates the music and art of Scientology

El Niño Fidencio and the Fidencistas Antonio Noé Zavaleta Ph.D., 2016-08-17 El Nio Fidencio and the Fidencistas Folk Religion on the U S Mexican Borderland is an biographical ethnography examining the life of Mexico's most famous folk healer as well as the folk religious healing cult that has followed him since his death in 1938 Dr Zavaleta examines curanderismo the transmigrational patterns of Mexicans in the United States as well as Latino a social psychology and importance of folk beliefs and practices in their daily lives In 2009 Zavaleta's lifetime of research supporting Mexican nationals living abroad Mexicanos en el Extranjero earned him the prestigious Ohtli a Nahuatl Aztec word meaning pathfinder The Ohtli is regarded as the highest community minded awards which the Republic of Mexico bestows to non Mexican citizens for their service to Mexico In 2010 Zavaleta was appointed by President Obama to the Good Neighbor Environmental Commission of the EPA which reports directly to the President and dedicated to observing and analyzing ongoing events within the cross border eco systems of the United States Mexico borderlands Zavaleta studied anthropology at The University of Texas at Austin completing a doctoral degree in 1976 For the past 40 years he has been a faculty member

and administrator at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Dr Zavaleta retired in 2016 and lives in Brownsville Texas

Border Medicine Brett Hendrickson, 2014-12-05 Mexican American folk and religious healing often referred to as curanderismo has been a vital part of life in the Mexico U S border region for centuries A hybrid tradition made up primarily of indigenous and Iberian Catholic pharmacopeias rituals and notions of the self curanderismo treats the sick person with a variety of healing modalities including herbal remedies intercessory prayer body massage and energy manipulation Curanderos healers embrace a holistic understanding of the patient including body soul and community Border Medicine examines the ongoing evolution of Mexican American religious healing from the end of the nineteenth century to the present Illuminating the ways in which curanderismo has had an impact not only on the health and culture of the borderlands but also far beyond the book tracks its expansion from Mexican American communities to Anglo and multiethnic contexts While many healers treat Mexican and Mexican American clientele a significant number of curanderos have worked with patients from other ethnic groups as well especially those involved in North American metaphysical religions like spiritualism mesmerism New Thought New Age and energy based alternative medicines Hendrickson explores this point of contact as an experience of transcultural exchange Drawing on historical archives colonial era medical texts and accounts early ethnographies of the region newspaper articles memoirs and contemporary healing guidebooks as well as interviews with contemporary healers Border Medicine demonstrates the notable and ongoing influence of Mexican Americans on cultural and religious practices in the United States especially in the American West

Extraordinary Groups Richard T. Schaefer, William W. Zellner, 2015-10-22 Extraordinary Groups has had a storied history of excellence over multiple editions Now available from Waveland Press at the start of its fifth decade of availability its interdisciplinary approach to groups engaged in unconventional lifestyles makes it a popular textbook choice in hundreds of college courses across the social sciences including anthropology religion history and psychology Written by sociologists using and illustrating sociological principles the book is appealing because it is descriptive and explanatory rather than analytical Descriptions of the groups are interwoven with basic sociological concepts but systematic analysis and inductive reasoning are left to the discretion of the instructor Extraordinary Groups is a compelling overview of the broad tapestry of social life that constitutes the United States The illustrated full featured Ninth Edition includes a glossary and end of chapter key terms sources on the Web and selected readings

The Kingdom of the Occult Walter Martin, Jill Martin Rische, Van Gorden Kurt, Kevin Rische, 2008-10-21 The Kingdom of the Occult delivers the timely followup to Dr Martin s best selling The Kingdom of the Cults This book takes Dr Walter Martin s comprehensive knowledge and his dynamic teaching style and forges a strong weapon against the world of the Occult a weapon of the same scope and power as his phenomenal thirty five year bestseller The Kingdom of the Cults over 875 000 sold Chapters include Witchcraft and Wicca Satanism Pagan Religions Tools of the Occult Demon Possession and Exorcism Spiritual Warfare etc Features include Each chapter

contains Quick Facts History Case Studies Theology Resources Handbook of Scientology James R. Lewis, 2017-01-05 The Handbook of Scientology brings together a collection of fresh studies of the most persistently controversial of all contemporary New Religions In recent years increasing scholarly attention has been directed at the Church of Scientology resulting in a small tsunami of new scholarship We have finally reached a point in time where a book on Scientology need not restrict itself to basics Thus for example the historical chapters in the present volume are not really aimed at providing elementary facts on Scientology s background but rather focus on understanding how the Church of Scientology developed over the years In short the Handbook of Scientology will provide a wealth of new information on a topic that one might otherwise have thought exhausted Contributors are Matthew Charet Dorthe Refslund Christensen Carole M Cusack Bernard Doherty Marco Frenschkowski Liselotte Frisk Kjersti Helles y Don Jolly James R Lewis Renee Lockwood Andr s M t T th G bor D niel Nagy Johanna Petsche Erin Prophet Susan Raine David G Robertson Mikael Rothstein Lisbeth Tuxin Rubin Nicole S Ruskell Shannon Trosper Schorey Michelle Swainson Inga B rdsen T llefsen Hugh G Urban Donald A Westbrook and Benjamin Zeller

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