

THE AMISH IN AMERICA

NEW IDENTITIES & DIVERSITIES



An International Conference
June 7–9, 2007

The Young Center for Anabaptist
and Pietist Studies

Elizabethtown College,
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Purpose

To educate and equip scholars and service providers to better understand and serve the Amish communities of North America

Topics

The conference will include more than 90 presentations by scholars and service providers from the United States, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, and Canada.

Thirty-five different concurrent sessions will cover topics related to Amish history, linguistics, medical services, health, music, history, education, extension services, agriculture, safety, family and gender roles, nutrition, nursing, diversity, technology, genetic studies, government relations, mental health, media relations, mutual aid, ex-Amish and newcomers, new settlements, Old Order publications, population growth and social change, and much more. A special session will address the Nickel Mines School tragedy.

Who Should Attend?

Scholars, researchers, extension educators, health care professionals, law enforcement personnel, government officials, and other practitioners who provide services to Amish communities.

The conference will provide a forum for

- ❖ Understanding cultural change and social diversity in Amish life
- ❖ Presenting research findings on Plain communities
- ❖ Networking with colleagues from other communities
- ❖ Enhancing services to Plain communities in sensitive ways
- ❖ Learning of new resources for understanding Old Order culture

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Paul S. Boyer, Ph.D.

Merle Curti Professor of History Emeritus, University of Wisconsin

The author of numerous books on American history and an esteemed historian, Boyer is editor-in-chief of the 940-page *Oxford Companion to United States History*.

Steven M. Nolt, Ph.D.

Associate professor of history and chair of the history and political science department at Goshen College, Indiana

Nolt is the author of *A History of the Amish*, and coauthor of *Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities*.

Royden Loewen, Ph.D.

Professor of history and chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg, Canada

The author of numerous books, Loewen's special interests include ethnic history, rural social history, history of gender and family, and Anabaptist history.

D. Holmes Morton, M.D.

Cofounder and medical director of the Clinic for Special Children in Strasburg, Pennsylvania

The recipient of many awards for the discovery and treatment of diseases among Old Order populations, Dr. Morton received one of the coveted "genius" awards from the MacArthur Foundation in 2006.

In addition to the four plenary speakers, over 90 additional presenters will speak, including Donald B. Kraybill, Alan R. Shuldiner, Karen Johnson-Weiner, Erik Puffenberger, Kevin Strauss, Bill Field, James Cates, Dennis Murphy, Diane Zimmerman Umble, Steve Scott, Denise Reiling, Jill Corbin, Mark Loudon, Joe Donnermeyer, Harold Cross, John Cross, Simon Bronner, and David Weaver-Zercher.



THE AMISH IN AMERICA: NEW IDENTITIES & DIVERSITIES

is sponsored in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The conference is one component of a three-year collaborative research project on Amish identity and diversity being conducted by the Young Center. The project, titled "Amish Diversity and Identity: Transformations in 20th Century America," is exploring three dimensions of the Amish experience: 1) the growth of Amish diversity, 2) the construction and reconstruction of Amish identity within their own communities, and 3) the transformation of American understandings of the Amish. Using primary source documents including those written by the Amish, oral history interviews, and secondary sources, the investigators will describe and analyze the cultural influences that shaped the Amish story in the twentieth century.

Three scholars are conducting the project: Karen Johnson-Weiner, Ph.D., an anthropologist at SUNY Potsdam, N.Y., who has published widely on Amish topics and recently completed a two-year study of Amish schools supported by an NEH fellowship and the Spencer Foundation; Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D., a cultural sociologist and senior fellow at the Young Center who has conducted research and published widely on North American Anabaptist groups and has received several NEH fellowships; Steven M. Nolt, Ph.D., a historian at Goshen College who specializes in North American Anabaptist history and recently co-authored two books on the Amish of Indiana.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The conference will open at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and close at noon on Saturday.

Abbreviated schedule:

Thursday, June 7

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Optional Tours
11:00 a.m.	Registration opens
1:00 p.m.	Welcome
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 p.m.	Poster Sessions
7:15 p.m.	Plenary Session: "Understanding the Amish in 20th Century America" Dr. Paul S. Boyer
8:30 p.m.	Reception



Friday, June 8

8:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
10:30 a.m.	Plenary Session: "Who are the Real Amish?: New Identities, Growing Diversity" Dr. Steven M. Nolt
1:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 p.m.	Poster Sessions
7:00 p.m.	Plenary Session: "Completing the Plain Puzzle: Old Orders in Canada and Latin America" Dr. Royden Loewen
8:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion on Nickel Mines Tragedy Music, Film, and Art Options

Saturday, June 9

8:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:15 a.m.	Plenary Session: "Cultural Interventions: Lessons From the Amish" Dr. D. Holmes Morton
Noon	Closing

Note: Concurrent sessions are 90 minutes long. Most sessions will include two or three presentations; several will consist of only one in-depth presentation. More than 90 presentations within a total of 35 sessions will be available.



Please visit www.ETOWN.EDU/AMISH2007 for details and schedule updates.

REGISTRATION FORM

Register by May 1 to receive a discount. The registration deadline is May 21.

Name (as it should appear on name tag): _____

Job Title (for attendee list): _____

Organization name (for attendee list): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Conference Fee

Registration includes all programs and activities, the Thursday evening reception, five meals (Thursday dinner through Saturday breakfast) and coffee breaks.

Full Conference Rates

Registration **by May 1**: \$145

Student rate, registration **by May 1**: \$105

Registration **after May 1**: \$165

Student rate, registration **after May 1**: \$115

Daily Rates

Thursday, June 7: \$65

Student rate: Thursday, June 7: \$40

Friday, June 8: \$80

Student rate: Friday, June 8: \$50

Saturday, June 9: \$55

Student rate: Saturday, June 9: \$25

Thursday Tour (optional)

Tour includes breakfast on campus and lunch in an Amish home.

Tour spaces are limited; please check the conference web site for availability before registering.

Mental Health and Medical Services: \$50 OR Agriculture and Business: \$50

Housing

Limited conference housing is available on the Elizabethtown College campus.

Rates are per person and include one set of towels and one set of linens.

Dormitory room (2 single beds per room, common bathroom)

Single: \$37 per night

Double: \$29 per night

Apartment (2 bedrooms with 2 single beds in each room, shared bathroom and living room)

Single: \$61 per night

Double: \$34 per night

If choosing double occupancy, with whom do you wish to room? _____

Nights you wish to stay:

Wednesday, June 6

Thursday, June 7

Friday, June 8

See the conference web site for off-campus lodging in the Elizabethtown area.

Special Needs (please specify): _____

Conference fee: \$ _____

Optional Thursday tour: \$ _____

On-campus housing
(nightly rate x number of nights): \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Payment by:

Check payable to Elizabethtown College (enclosed)

VISA

Mastercard

Discover

Credit card number

Expiration date

CVW (3-digit code on back of card)

Cardholder's name

Cardholder's billing address and zip code

Cardholder's signature

Register online at www.etown.edu/amish2007, mail this form with payment to Amish Conference 2007, Young Center, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2298, or fax this form to 717-361-1443. You will receive confirmation of your registration.

Full refunds will be given for cancellations made by May 1; a \$55 administrative fee will be deducted for cancellations made after May 1.

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, a research center on the campus of Elizabethtown College devoted to the study and interpretation of Anabaptist and Pietist communities of North America, is pleased to host **THE AMISH IN AMERICA**.

“We hope this conference helps scholars and service providers better understand and serve our Amish neighbors.” — Donald B. Kraybill, Director



Location and Travel

Elizabethtown College is located in northwestern Lancaster County near Lancaster’s Old Order Amish and Mennonite settlements. Elizabethtown is approximately 8 miles from Hershey and 20–25 miles from Lancaster, York, and Harrisburg. Regional attractions include the Ephrata Cloister, Hans Herr House, Landis Valley Museum, HersheyPark, Chocolate World, ZooAmerica, National Civil War Museum, and Gettysburg’s Civil War battlefields.

By Car

Elizabethtown is approximately 90 minutes from Baltimore, two hours from Philadelphia, three hours from Washington, D.C., and four hours from New York City and Pittsburgh. For detailed driving directions, visit the conference web site and click on “directions to campus.”

By Train

Amtrak’s Keystone Service, which runs between Harrisburg and New York City by way of Philadelphia, makes stops in Elizabethtown as does the Pennsylvanian, which runs between Pittsburgh and New York City. Visit www.amtrak.com for details.

By Air

The Harrisburg International Airport is approximately 20 minutes from Elizabethtown. Commercial shuttle service between the airport and Elizabethtown is not available, but taxi service and rental car agencies are available at the airport.



Thursday Tour Options

Two tours of Lancaster County are available to conference attendees for an additional fee. They will leave the College at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7.

Agriculture and Business Tour

Participants will visit Amish farms and businesses and speak with Old Order leaders in agriculture and industry. A special feature will be a visit to the Orlan Industrial Park, which includes many Amish-owned businesses.

Mental Health and Medical Services Tour

Participants will visit facilities and providers that serve Old Order people and will have opportunities for face-to-face discussions with members of the Old Order community.

Both tours will feature a meal in an Amish home. Tour reservations are limited to 25 persons per tour and are available on a first come, first served basis.





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YOUNG
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FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania 17022

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early registration!***