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## Center for the Study of Religion and Society

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# Center for the Study of Religion and Society

GRRI Awards | Research Highlights | Young Scholars Conference

## Kraig Beyerlein New Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society



Associate Professor **Kraig Beyerlein** is the new Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society (CSRS) at the University of Notre Dame. He replaces Christian Smith after a decade of service. Kraig received his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was on the faculty at the University of Arizona before coming to Notre Dame. He has long been a member of and held council positions in the Association for the Sociology of Religion, the American Sociological Association's Section on the Sociology of Religion, and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Kraig's research focuses on religion and civic engagement/social movements, appearing in such journals as the *American Sociological Review*, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, and the *Sociology of Religion*.

### Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference

The CSRS will host a **Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference** on April 27, 2018, bringing advanced graduate students and early assistant professors to campus to present their research and receive comments from leading scholars in the field. All expenses will be paid for selected younger scholars. Apply on [csrs.nd.edu](http://csrs.nd.edu).

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2017

Professors of other rank or anyone else interested in the conference are encouraged to join the younger scholars at the conference. Please register by January 31, 2018, on the Center for the Study of Religion and Society's website. Selected younger scholars need not register separately for the conference.

As part of the Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference, the inaugural Andrew M. Greeley Lifetime Achievement Award in the Sociology of Religion will be presented. **Robert Wuthnow** of Princeton University is the first recipient of the award. He will give a plenary talk at the end of the conference, and his former graduate students Kevin Christiano (University of Notre Dame), Marie Griffith (Washington University St. Louis), Allison Schnable (Indiana University), and Brian Steensland (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis) will celebrate him at dinner.

## Graduate Students

Feyza Akova

Jade Avelis

Katie Comeau

Shanna Corner

Julie Dallavis

Hilary Davidson

Kevin Estep

Ethan Fridmanski

Sarah Harrison

Karen Hooge Michalka

Linda Kawentel

Hyunjin Deborah Kwak

McKenna LeClear

Bridget Littleton

Brianna McCaslin

Chris Quiroz

Megan Rogers

Michael Rotolo

Peter Ryan

Brandon Sepulvado

Lisa Weaver Swartz

Justin Van Ness

Michael Wood



*Smith, Rogers, Konieczny*

## Graduate Student Award

**Megan Rogers** won the 2016 William V. D'Antonio Award for Graduate Student Excellence in the Sociology of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, awarded by Christian Smith and Mary Ellen Konieczny. The award is named after William D'Antonio, who joined the faculty of Notre Dame as assistant professor in 1957. He served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology from 1966 to 1971.

Megan's master's thesis at Notre Dame examined conceptualizations of religion in China, arguing for a practice-based definition of religion that moves beyond ethnocentric discussions of religion as a category that privileges Judeo-Christian understandings of religion. Her dissertation builds on this theoretical work by exploring religious practice and class formation among middle class professionals in urban China. Megan found that discursive/scriptural practices lie at the center of this population's religious and meaning-making efforts, where a rational, scientific, and individualistic modern self is being created through the study and use of texts. She has spent over twelve months in China engaging in ethnographic research at religious sites and conducting sixty-four in-depth interviews in both Chinese and English with Protestants, Buddhists, and the non-religious. After completing her dissertation, she will expand the project to include Catholics and Muslims. She currently plans to return to China for three more short-term research trips over the next two years.



## Graduate Student Presentations

### 2016 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations

- **Katherine Comeau.** "The 'Faith of Faith Based Organizations': Organizational Repertoires and Approaches to Humanitarian Development"
- **Shanna Corner.** "Cultural Models of Religion in UN Treaty Body Sessions: Mapping Understandings of Religion and Efforts to Foster Shared Conceptions of Women's Rights"
- **Karen Hooge Michalka.** "Suffering and Boundary Formation in Latino Protestant Congregations"
- **Linda Kawentel.** "Flourishing in Ministry: Examining Hedonic and Eudaimonic Pastoral Wellbeing"
- **McKenna LeClear.** "Beyond the Garudhammas: Religious Feminism in Buddhism"
- **Brianna McCaslin.** "Am I Going to be Able to Call Myself a Catholic?: Contraceptive use and Religious Identity Negotiation"
- **Megan Rogers.** "Learning to Pray: Cultivating a Christian Identity among Young White-Collar Protestants in Urban China"
- **Lisa Weaver Swartz.** "Truth, Legacy, Vision: Material Culture and Identity Construction at an Evangelical Seminary"

### 2016 American Sociological Association Presentations

- **Katherine Comeau.** "Faith Based Organizations and International Development: What does Religion Add?"
- **Shanna Corner.** "Cultural Models of Religion, Feminism, and the Effort to Advance Women's Rights within the United Nations"
- **Karen Hooge Michalka.** "Symbolic Boundaries with Catholicism at an Immigrant Latino Christian Church"
- **Linda Kawentel.** "Religious Sources of Gender Traditionalism among U.S. Catholics: Adherence to Church Authority and Attitudes toward Women's Family Roles"
- **Brianna McCaslin.** "Condom Nation or Condemnation?: Religious Effects on Adolescent Sexual Health Knowledge"
- **Justin Van Ness.** "A Cognitive Science Revival of Collective Behavior Theory"
- **Michael Wood.** "Explaining Religious Effects: Nones as an Explanatory Tool"

## Faculty Fellows

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Kraig Beyerlein  
 Kevin Christiano  
 Jessica Collett  
 Mary Ellen Konieczny  
 Atalia Omer  
 David Sikkink  
 Christian Smith  
 Jason Springs  
 Erika Summers-Effler  
 Michael Welch

## Visiting Scholars

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Michel Chambon  
 Christine Gardner  
 Erica Larson  
 Roberta Ricucci  
 Barbara Walters  
 Shuqin Yang

## Post Docs

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Hyun Jeong Ha  
 Megan Rogers  
 Jonathan Schwarz

## FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

**Christian Smith** is directing the Global Religion Research Initiative, which aims to advance the empirical study of global religion in mainstream academia by granting funds to promising researchers in the social sciences. In the first round of competition, the GRRI awarded funding to 48 of the over 150 submitted research proposals.

**Christian Smith** led a research team in analyzing data from the Science of Generosity project, a nationally representative Internet-based survey on generosity and related topics, and from in-depth, household interviews and family ethnographies. The data will be released to the public later this year.

**Christian Smith** is nearing completion of the analyses of the data collected from over 200 interviews in 2014 and 2015 with parents from across the United States to examine intergenerational transmission of religious and moral beliefs. Christian is partnering with Amy Adamczyk to write a book about the trends among parents in their transmission of faith, and with Donna Freitas to write a popular press book. Christian and Heather Price were accepted to present the methods of the project at the Qualitative Methodology paper session at ASA this August.

**Kraig Beyerlein** and graduate student Peter Ryan spent this summer interviewing pastors and laity in the Chicago area to figure out how congregations mobilized for the Women's March in Chicago and to explain why certain members but not others took to the street on January 21. This project also involved undergraduate students, and it received funding from a Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Jack Shand Award.

**Kraig Beyerlein** is working on a number of projects using the data from Science of Generosity. He published a manuscript on the effect of religion on blood donation in *Sociology of Religion*, as well as two papers — one on the relationship between religion and gambling and one on why certain people but not others are recruited to donate blood, volunteer time, and engage in political activism — in *Social Science Research*. He is also nearing completion of a paper with John Hipp of UC-Irvine that examines how the density of congregations in people's local settings affects the extent to which they participate in voluntary and political activity.

**Kraig Beyerlein** is nearing completion of his book manuscript (*Social Justice in the Desert: Faith-Based Mobilizing to Save Lives along the Sonora-Arizona Border*) on the causes and consequences of congregations' involvement in the humanitarian aid movement in Southern Arizona. Kraig continued to collaborate with the Center for Social Concerns to teach their Mexico-U.S. Border Immersions Seminar, which included a week-long experiential-learning trip to the Southern Arizona Borderlands.

**Kraig Beyerlein** collected the first-ever nationally representative sample of protest events in the United States using the hypernetwork sampling method. The print version of the overview paper (coauthored with three Notre Dame graduate students) is forthcoming in *Sociological Methods and Research* (an online version is available now). Two graduate students and four undergraduates helped with data cleaning and coding. Kraig and graduate student Peter Ryan are working to complete a manuscript for publication on the role of religion in explaining variation among protesters.

**Kraig Beyerlein, David Sikkink,** and Edwin Hernandez examined the role of religion in enabling and constraining Latinos' participation in the historically significant 2006 immigrant rights marches across the United States. Their paper is forthcoming in *Social Problems*.

**Mary Ellen Konieczny** received an advance contract from Oxford University Press for her book manuscript *Service before Self: Organization, Cultural Conflict, and Religion at the U.S. Air Force Academy*. She received an NDIAS fellowship in the fall, which allowed her to work full time on the book manuscript.

**Mary Ellen Konieczny** completed data collection for the Marriage and Divorce, Conflict and Faith study. The paper Mary Ellen coauthored with graduate students Karen Hooze Michalka and Elexis Ellis (Yale) is published in *Qualitative Sociology*. Mary Ellen and Karen are awaiting a decision on a third paper submitted to *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

**Mary Ellen Konieczny** conducted her fourth research visit to East Africa in the summer of 2017. The topic of her research surrounds Marian apparitions in East Africa and their cultural and political significance. The focal case is Our Lady of Kibeho, an apparition that took place in Rwanda in 1981, and the only Church-approved apparition in Africa.

**Jessica Collett** is exploring how men's relationships with their parents, partners, and others shape and refine not only the content but also the specificity of fatherhood identity meanings.

## Global Religion Research Initiative

48 projects awarded funding in first round of competition



The Global Religion Research Initiative awarded funding to 48 promising research projects in its first round of competition.

The initiative, directed by **Christian Smith**, aims to advance the empirical study of global religion in mainstream academia by granting funds to promising researchers in the social sciences. The initiative launched late summer of 2016 in the University of Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Religion and Society.

Smith was awarded \$4.9 million from the Templeton Religion Trust of Nassau, Bahamas to address the relative neglect of religion as a subject of study in the social sciences, and to encourage the study of religions outside the North Atlantic region.

The initiative offers six distinct research and writing grants and fellowship programs: (1) Book Writing Leave Fellowships, (2) Project Launch Grants, (3) Dissertation Fellowships, (4) International Collaboration Grants, (5) Curriculum Development Grants, and (6) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The GRI will fund over 150 research and teaching proposals by distributing \$3.1 million to scholars of global religion through three rounds of applicants to these programs over three years.

In this first round of competition, the GRI received over 150 research proposals from scholars at 100 colleges and universities around the world. The submissions were reviewed by leading social science scholars, and 48 of the proposals were awarded funding in the first round.

Two CSRS students received awards in the first round of funding. **Megan Rogers**, a Fulbright fellow and doctoral candidate in Sociology at Notre Dame, has been awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship. Her dissertation examines how religious and non-religious identities work to help middle-class professionals in China make sense of their place in their country and in the global society.

**Shanna Corner**, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, will be supported in 2017 – 2018 with a dissertation year fellowship. Corner's project examines how UN and state-level officials who report on and review country implementation of women's rights standards conceptualize religion and its relationship to women's rights in varying ways.

For more about all the recipients and their research, visit [gri.nd.edu/r1awards](http://gri.nd.edu/r1awards).



Rogers



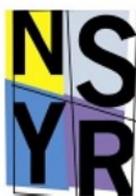
Corner

**The GRI will accept two more rounds of funding proposals.**

The second round of proposals is due in October 2017 and awarded in 2018. Visit [gri.nd.edu](http://gri.nd.edu) to learn more about the programs offered and how to apply.

## NATIONAL STUDY OF YOUTH AND RELIGION

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Under the direction of Professor **Christian Smith**, four waves of the National Study of Youth and Religion were fielded between 2002 and 2013. To access survey and interview data for studies of adolescent and emerging adult religious behavior, educational and occupational histories and trajectories, civic engagement, family formation and relationships, visit the NSYR page at [thearda.com](http://thearda.com) or email [sskiles@nd.edu](mailto:sskiles@nd.edu). More information about the study can be found at [youthandreligion.nd.edu](http://youthandreligion.nd.edu).

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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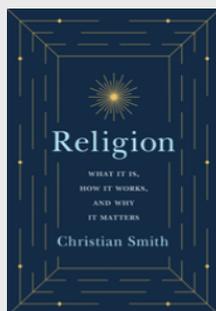
The Independent School Research Initiative, funded by the North American think tank Cardus, will be launching the third wave of the Cardus Education Survey in the U.S. during spring 2018. Directed by Professor **David Sikkink**, the survey seeks answers to questions about how academic and spiritual outcomes, civic and moral formation, and family formation vary by sector of high school attendance. Data from the CES allow us to make comparisons not only between public and private school graduates, but also within the private school realm, focusing on Catholic, Protestant, other religious, and non-religious private school graduates as well as those who were homeschooled. Learn more about the survey and other work at ISRI at <http://csrs.nd.edu/research-projects/independent-school-research-initiative-at-notre-dame/>.

## LILLY PARENTING PROJECT UPDATE

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This year has seen the completion of the coding for the Lilly Parenting Project, the creation of analysis documents, preliminary analysis, identification of main themes, stand-out patterns, and anomalies culminating into final analysis and drafts for upcoming book chapters.

A flagship book by **Christian Smith** and Amy Adamczyk is nearing completion. It will provide cross-theme analysis of the assumptions, values, desires, practices, and experiences of parents that influence their approaches to transmit faith to their children. Similarities and differences that occur by religious traditions and religious commitments, and participation in religious communities will also be qualitatively analyzed and discussed in this book. The qualitative methods for the project were recently presented at the American Sociological Association Qualitative Methods paper session.



### FEATURED FACULTY BOOK

### *Religion: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It Matters*

Religion remains an important influence in the world today, yet the social sciences are still not adequately equipped to understand and explain it. This book builds on recent developments in science, theory, and philosophy to advance an innovative theory of religion that goes beyond the problematic theoretical paradigms of the past.

Drawing on the philosophy of critical realism and personalist social theory, **Christian Smith** answers key questions about the nature, powers, workings, appeal, and future of religion. He defines religion in a way that resolves myriad problems and ambiguities in past accounts, explains the kinds of causal influences religion exerts in the world, and examines the key cognitive process that makes religion possible. Smith explores why humans are religious in the first place—uniquely so as a species—and offers an account of secularization and religious innovation and persistence that breaks the logjam in which so many religion scholars have been stuck for so long.

## Awards and Recognitions

- **Katie Comeau**. 2017. \$20,850 Fulbright Study/Research Grant to fund her dissertation in Jamaica.
- **Brandon Sepulvedo**. 2017. \$19,500 Nanovic Fellowship.
- **Brandon Sepulvedo**. 2017. \$11,334 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant.

## Center Publications

- **Beyerlein, Kraig**, and Jeff Sallaz. 2017. "Faith's Wager: How Religion Deters Gambling," *Social Science Research* 62: 204-218.
- **Beyerlein, Kraig** and Kelly Bergstrand. 2016. "It Takes Two: A Dyadic Model of Recruitment to Civic Activity," *Social Science Research* 60:163-180.
- **Beyerlein, Kraig**. 2016. "The Effect of Religion on Blood Donation in the United States," *Sociology of Religion* 77:408-435.
- **Christiano, Kevin**. 2017. "Religious Liberty in Official Catholic Parlance: A Two-Nation Comparison." Chapitre dans *Les catholicismes devant les nouvelles formes de régulation de l'espace public: Portraits comparatifs (Europe Amériques)* [*Catholicisms in the Context of New Forms in the Regulation of Public Space: A Comparative Overview (Europe / The Americas)*], sous la direction de Philippe Portier et É.-Martin Meunier. Collection: « 21e - Société, histoire et cultures ». Ottawa, Ont.: Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa.
- **Konieczny, Mary Ellen** and **Megan Rogers**. 2017. "Religion, Secular Humanism, and Atheism: Multi-Institutional Politics and the USAFA Cadet Freethinkers Group," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55:4, pp. 821-838.
- **Konieczny, Mary Ellen**, Charles Camosy, and Tricia Bruce, eds. 2016. *Polarization in the US Catholic Church: Naming the Wounds, Beginning to Heal*. Liturgical Press.
- **Konieczny, Mary Ellen**. 2016. "Individualized Marriage and Family Disruption Ministries: How Culture Matters," *Sociology of Religion* 77:2, pp. 114-170.
- **Omer, Atalia**. 2016. "Tweet Your Cause: Cyber Witnessing and the Case of Palestine Solidarity," in Pamina Firchow, Charles Martin-Shields, Atalia Omer, Roger Mac Ginty "PeaceTech: The Liminal Spaces of Digital Technology in Peacebuilding" *International Studies Perspectives* 18:1.
- **Smith, Christian**. 2017. *Religion: What It Is, How It Works, and Why it Matters*. Princeton University Press.
- **Springs, Jason**. 2016. "A Wittgenstein for Postliberal Theologians," *Modern Theology* 32:4, pp. 622-658.
- **Springs, Jason**. 2016. "The Cultural Violence of Non-violence," *The Journal of Mediation and Applied Conflict Analysis* 3:1, pp. 16-33.

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**csrs.nd.edu**

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[csrs.nd.edu/events](http://csrs.nd.edu/events)