Over the past year Notre Dame’s Science of Generosity initiative awarded nearly $3 million to 13 research projects that will explore the causes, manifestations and consequences of generosity.

Among other topics, the funded projects will investigate how generosity spreads or not within social networks; how child development and family relationships affect one’s generosity; whether or not those who benefit from microfinancing practice generosity within their communities; and how factors such as religion and culture affect generosity.

The first wave of the competition ended March 2010, with $1.4 million funding four projects. The second round ended June 2010, with $1.5 million funding nine additional projects.

The Wave 1 awardees and their project titles are:

- Ariel Knafo
  Hebrew University
  The Family Cycle of Kindness and Generosity

- Carolyn Warner
  Arizona State University
  Religious Institutions & Generosity: Catholicism and Islam

- James Andreoni
  University of Calif., San Diego
  The Inherent Sociality of Giving and Altruism

- Nicholas Christakis
  Harvard University
  The Social Contagion of Generosity

The Wave 2 awardees and their project titles are:

- Bradley Wilcox
  University of Virginia
  The Foundations of Marital Generosity

- Félix Warneken
  Harvard University
  The Development of Prosocial Behavior

- Mark Wilhelm
  Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
  The Causes of Intergenerational Generosity

- Omri Gillath
  University of Kansas
  Attachment Formation, Compassion and Generosity

- Pamela Paxton
  University of Texas at Austin
  Generosity From an Intercultural Perspective

- Rohini Pande
  Harvard University
  Does Microfinancing Promote Generosity?

- Sonja Lyubomirsky
  University of Calif., Riverside
  The Causes and Effects of Workplace Generosity

- Stephanie Brown
  State University of New York
  The Neural Circuitry Underlying Altruistic Behavior

- Yaojun Li
  University of Manchester
  The Socioeconomic Basis of Generosity in Britain

For more information on the initiative, to join a database of generosity researchers, or to receive the newsletter, visit the initiative website: generosityresearch.nd.edu

"In two rounds of competition we received almost 700 research proposals, and these 13 projects gradually emerged as the most scientifically rigorous and promising we had seen." Christian Smith, director of the initiative, explains. "They are led by topnotch researchers and address a variety of important questions from diverse perspectives. I’m certain that we will learn a great deal about generosity from their work."

The Science of Generosity initiative recently launched a new blog site with information on all of the funded projects. To view project descriptions, author bios, and an ongoing dialogue with the project principal investigators, visit the new website: blogs.nd.edu/science-of-generosity.
Patricia Snell Herzog (middle) won the William V. D’Antonio award for Graduate Student Excellence in the Sociology of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, awarded by Christian Smith (left). The previous awardee, Robert Brenneman (right), is now visiting assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at St Michael’s College in Vermont. The award is named after William D’Antonio, who joined the faculty of the University of Notre Dame as assistant professor in 1957. He served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology from 1966-1971.

American Sociological Association Presentations
- Amy Jonason, “Could Asylum Theory Have Implications for Minority Membership in Multiracial Congregations? A Preliminary Exploration”
- Brad Vermulen, “Religious Identity Salience and Discussion-Network Structure”
- Daniel Escher, “Revisiting Risk Preference Theory: Can It Explain the Gender Difference in Religiosity?”
- Hilary Davidson, “Checks and Balances: Family Structure and Religious Financial Giving”
- Jade Avelis, “Religiosity and Work-Family Conflict Among Graduate Students”
- Justin Farrell and Kraig Beyerlein “Religion Fought the Law and the Law Won”
- Kari Christoffersen, “Paranormal Romance Novels: Another Form of Traditions in the Modern World”
- Linda Kawentel, “Getting Back into the Habit: Making Sense of Why Young Women Religious are Turning to the Habit Today”
- Patricia Snell Herzog and Brandon Vaidyanathan, “Who are My Neighbors? Cultural Refraction in Contemporary Ethnic Conflict”
- Kyle Longest (Furman) and Patricia Snell Herzog, “Tipping the Plate: Understanding the Role of Financial Anxiety in Religious Giving”
- Peter Mundey, “Congregational Democracy Deferred in Church Finances: Behind-the-Scenes in the Congregational Financial Decision-Making Process” and “Making Money Sacred”

Other Achievements:
- Justin Farrell received the 2010 Changing Spirituality of Emerging Adults (Changing SEA) Fellowship.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations:
- Brad Vermulen, “Mobilizing and Multiplying Evangelical Churches: Acts 29 Church Planting Network”
- Brandon Vaidyanathan, “The beauty of the thing”: Aesthetic Motivation in Religion and Social Movements”
- Chris Hausmann, “Constituting Ritual Experience: Reification of Religious Experience as an Outcome of Collective Practice”
- Chris Morrissey, “The Contribution of Religious Actors to the Discussion of Foreign Policy in the Public Sphere”
- Cole Carnesecca, “Church as Protest: The Case of Chinese Christianity”
- Daniel Escher, “Revisiting Risk and Religiosity: Can It Explain the Sex Difference in Religiosity?” and “A Little Bit of a Funny Spot: Clerical Ambivalence and Uncertainty Toward Divorce”
- Ellen Childs, “How Pastors Reach the Pews: Examining How Pastors Affect Congregational Change”
- Hilary Davidson, “Hot for Jesus: Religious Language and the Byproduct of Evangelical Adolescent Gender Normalization”
- Kari Christoffersen and Jade Avelis, “Vampires and the Amish: Dominant Cultural Themes in Secular and Christian Romance Novels”
- Meredith Whitnah and Patricia Snell Herzog, “Interactions of Gender, Socioeconomic Status, and Denomination in Spatial Concentration of Religious Youth Socialization Efforts”
- Peter Mundey and Kraig Beyerlein, “Toward a Synthetic Perspective on Religious Vitality: Combining Rational Choice and Social Movements in Literatures”
As part of the larger Science of Generosity initiative, researchers at Notre Dame had a successful summer of data collection. Principal Investigator, Christian Smith (ND), with Co-Investigators, Kraig Beyerlein (ND), Jessica Collett (ND), and Steve Vaisey (UC Berkeley) fielded a nationally-representative survey through Knowledge Networks and conducted in-person interviews around the country with a subsample of survey respondents.

The survey was conducted with 1,997 respondents and included questions about personality, psychological well-being, prosociality, relational attachment, social networks, group identity, neighborhood cohesion, and religion. The survey also had a number of questions about different forms of generosity, including financial giving, volunteering, taking political action, donating blood or organs, and relational forms of generosity.

In-person interviews were conducted in 12 locations around the United States. Respondents and, if applicable, their spouses or live-in romantic partners were interviewed in two parts, each half lasting an average of two hours in duration. Researchers conducted 62 interviews in 40 households across the country, recording more than 500 pages of field notes on and taking more than 1,100 photos of respondent households and neighborhoods.
NEW FACES JOIN CSRS STAFF

Jessica Hamar Martinez joined Notre Dame as the project manager of the Chicago Latino Congregations Study, working through CSRS and the Center for the Study of Latino Religion in the Institute for Latino studies. Her research interests include religion, gender, race and ethnicity, and family. Her dissertation focuses on religious switching among Latinos in Chicago.

JP Shortall joined the CSRS in September 2009 as the communication specialist for the Science of Generosity initiative. He completed his B.A. in philosophy at Salisbury University and an M.A. in English at Notre Dame. Prior to joining the CSRS, he taught at Northeastern University, Indiana University South Bend and Notre Dame. JP also plays music with local latin, jazz and blues groups.

Nick Bloom joined the CSRS staff in 2010 as a research assistant. He graduated from Notre Dame in May 2010 with a degree in philosophy and plans to begin a graduate program in sociology in 2011. Nick was recently engaged to be married and is finding time to plan a wedding amidst his graduate applications.

UNDERGRAD SPOTLIGHT

Undergraduate student Scott Mitchell joined CSRS in 2008 as a student research assistant.

His involvement in the Northern Indiana Congregation Study (NICS) resulted in a paper entitled "The Future of Church Finances: Intergenerational Transmission of Protestant Religious Financial giving," (coauthor Patricia Snell Herzog). The paper is now under review for publication in an academic journal. Mitchell also presented this paper at the 2010 Chicago Ethnography Conference.

Mitchell also developed his own study in the Netherlands. He published the resulting paper, "Integrating Identities: Negotiating the Religious Lives of Homosexual Christians in the Netherlands" in Through Gendered Lenses, an undergraduate academic journal.

"The CSRS has had a tremendous influence on me and my development as a researcher, social scientist, and critical thinker," he said. "I am thankful to have been a part of the research conducted here."
Forthcoming...

Atalia Omer recently completed a book manuscript titled After Peace: How does the Israeli Peace Camp Think About Religion, Nationalism, and Justice?

In addition to identifying the role of religion in reinterpreting the parameters of national belonging, Omer focuses on the perceptions of marginalized groups within the Israeli and Jewish contexts.

In so doing, she highlights how hybrid identities may provide creative resources for peacebuilding, especially in ethnoreligious national conflicts where political agendas are informed by particularistic and often purist conceptions of identity.

Visiting Scholars

Ines Jindra is a visiting scholar from Spring Arbor University in Michigan, where she has taught for the last eight years. Her research focuses on religious conversion from a sociological and a psychological perspective, as well as gender and conversion, biographical trajectories and qualitative research methods.

She has published in journals such as the Review of Religious Research, The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, and Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion. Ines completed her MSW and Ph.D. at the University of Fribourg in her native country of Switzerland.

Michael Jindra is also a visiting scholar from Spring Arbor University in Michigan. His scholarship overlaps areas of sociology and cultural anthropology, and he has published in journals such as Sociology of Religion, Africa, Anthropological Forum, and Society.

His co-edited book (forthcoming) examines the “funeral phenomenon” in Africa, including how funerary rites in Africa have changed over the last century.

His current research focuses on the connection between lifestyle diversity, culture and inequality in the United States.
The CSRS offers an ongoing colloquia series, formerly called the Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Religion (IWAR), which brings together graduate students and faculty from disciplines including sociology, history, and political science.

Last year’s speakers included:

**Wendy Cadge**  
Sociology  
Brandeis University

**Donna Freitas**  
Religion  
Boston University

**Allen Hertzke**  
Political Science  
University of Oklahoma

**Geoffery Laymen**  
Political Science  
University of Notre Dame

**Keith Meador**  
Psychiatry, Preventative Medicine, and Biomedical Ethics  
Vanderbilt University

**Bob Nauman**  
Art History  
University of Colorado, Boulder

**Upcoming Fall 2010 Speakers include:**

**September 17:**  
Elaine Howard Ecklund  
Sociology  
Rice University,  
319 Hammes/Mowbray

**October 8:**  
Martin Riesbrodt  
Sociology  
University of Chicago  
117 DeBartolo

**December 3:**  
Kathryn Long  
History  
Wheaton College  
319 Hammes/Mowbray

Bob Nauman presenting a paper entitled, “One Nation, Under God: Designing American Identity during the Cold War Era”