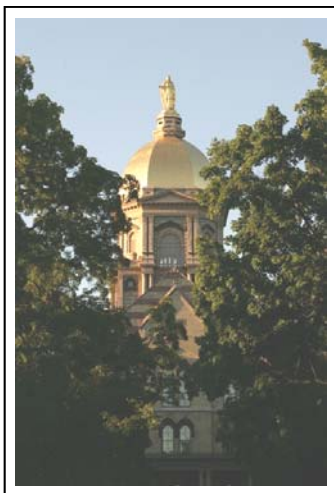


CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Graduate Students</i>	2
<i>Faculty Research</i>	3
<i>Staff/Undergraduates</i>	4
<i>Books/Visiting Scholars</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	6



Center for the Study of Religion and Society

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Christian Smith

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SCIENCE OF GENEROSITY: FIRST YEAR

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
- **Felix 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.

Graduate Students

Stephen Armet

Jade Avelis

Tom Buschman

Cole Carnesecca

Ellen Childs

Kari Christoffersen

Shanna Corner

Bryant Crubaugh

Hilary Davidson

Michael Dreissen

Daniel Escher

Justin Farrell

Brooke Fischer

Monique Gregg

Chris Hausmann

Karen Hooge

Amy Jonason

Linda Kawentel

Hyunjin Kwak

*(cont'd on page 4)***GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD**

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.

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES**American Sociological Association Presentations**

- **Amy Jonason**, "Could Asylum Theory Have Implications For Minority Membership in Multiracial Congregations? A Preliminary Exploration"
- **Brad Vermurlen**, "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"

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations:

- **Brad Vermurlen**, "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"

- **Justin Farrell** and Kraig Beyerlein "Religion Fought the Law and the Law Won"
- **Kari Christoffersen**, "Paranormal Romance Novels: Another Form of Tradition in the Modern World"
- **Linda Kawentel**, "Getting Back into the Habit: Making Sense of Why Young Women Religious are Turning to the Habit Today "
- **Meredith Whitnah**, "Citationality, Violence, and the Body: The Construction of Intimate Partner Violence in American Evangelicalism"
- **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 Munday**, "Congregational Democracy Deferred in Church Finances: Behind-the-Scenes in the Congregational Financial Decision-Making Process" and "Making Money Sacred"

Other Achievements:

- **Daniel Escher**, won first place in 2009-2010 Panel Study of American Religion and Ethnicity student paper competition.
- **Justin Farrell** received the 2010 Changing Spirituality of Emerging Adults (Changing SEA) Fellowship.

- **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 Munday** and Kraig Beyerlein, "Toward a Synthetic Perspective on Religious Vitality: Combining Rational Choice and Social Movements in Literatures"
- **Stephen Armet**, "Is U.S. Religious Exceptionalism Attributable to Immigration?"

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Kraig Beyerlein worked this summer on his project about congregation-based mobilization efforts to provide humanitarian aid to migrants along the Sonora-Arizona border.

Last spring he also led an alternative spring break trip to the Southern Arizona borderlands in which 15 Notre Dame undergraduate students participated in outreach and service projects with the organization "No More Deaths."

Beyerlein is also working on several other projects related to religion and social

activism, including the extent to which police repress religious-based protest groups relative to secular ones (with Sarah Soule at Stanford and Nancy Martin at CSU-Long Beach).

This summer, **Mary Ellen Konieczny** worked on her second book project, an historical and ethnographic study of religion at the United States Air Force Academy. With funds granted by the Louisville Institute and the Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, she held a consultation meeting to help shape the direction of the project and met with a small group of military chaplains and pastors whose congregations have military personnel.

In the next phase of the project, she will travel to the academy, where she and graduate student **Meredith Whitnah** will conduct archival and ethnographic research.

Konieczny also continued work on her Marriage and Divorce, Conflict, and Faith study, and graduate student



Daniel Escher is now beginning congregant interviews. Last spring, **David Sikkink** began data collection for the Cardus Education Study, a project on religious high schools in North America. The project is gathering qualitative and quantitative data from principals, teachers, and alumni at more than 400 Catholic and Protestant high schools. The data collection effort will help to answer questions about the school climate, organization, curriculum, and pedagogy.

Several CSRS faculty and staff are involved in the Chicago Latino Congregations Study (CLCS). The project is led by **Edwin I. Hernández**, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Religion (CSLR) in the Institute for Latino Studies.

Data collection for CLCS was completed in 2007 and included quantitative surveys of clergy, lay leaders, and congregants, as well as focus groups and qualitative interviews. The CLCS was designed to provide an in-depth look at various aspects of Latino congregations, their leaders and members, and their connections to other community organizations.

A recent report from the study, "Healing Hands: The Health of Latino/a Churchgoers and Health Outreach among Latino Congregations in Chicago" by **Edwin I. Hernández**, Jeffrey Smith, Rebecca Burwell, Milagros Peña and **David Sikkink**, can be found at:

latinostudies.nd.edu/cslr/.

Additionally, a report highlighting the political views and activities of clergy and congregants will be available on the website later this fall.

NOTRE DAME GENEROSITY RESEARCH



NYC Volunteering Billboard

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,

Patricia Snell Herzog (ND), **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, rela-

tional 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 applica-

ble, 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.

Graduate Students *(cont'd from page 2)*

Chris Morrissey

Peter Munday

Megan Rogers

Sara Skiles

Lisa Swartz

Brandon Vaidyanathan

Brad Vermurlen

Meredith Whitnah

Undergraduate Students

Natasha Bergstedt

Kelsey Conlon

Kaitlyn Conway

Lucia Geglio

Janice James

Jennifer Jesse

Molly Kiernan

Maria Kosse

Scott Mitchell

Caitlin Smith

Alison VanderBroek

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.



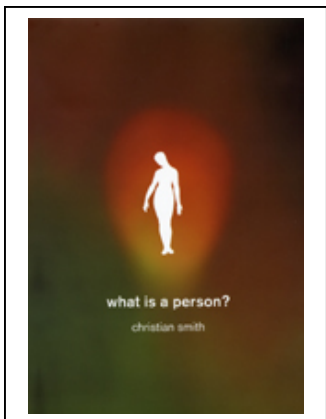
Mitchell also developed his own study in the Netherlands. He published the resulting paper, "Integrating Identities: Negotiating the Religious Lives of Homosexual Christians in the Netherlands" in *Through Gendered Lenses*, an undergraduate academic journal.

"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."



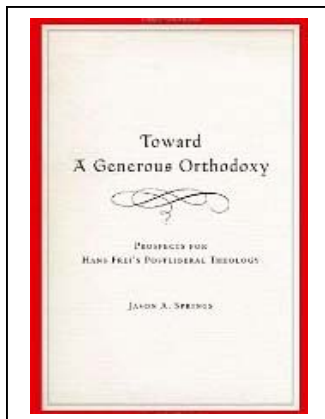
CSRS Student Research Assistants, from left to right: **Molly Kiernan, Maria Kosse, Janice James, Natasha Bergstedt, Scott Mitchell, Nick Bloom, Kaitlyn Conway, Kelsey Conlon**

HOT OFF THE PRESS



What Is a Person? Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and the Moral Good from the Person Up (The University of Chicago Press)

Christian Smith draws on critical realism and personhood to form a theory of personhood that offers a middle ground between positive science and relativism.



Toward a Generous Orthodoxy: Prospects for Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology (Oxford University Press)

Jason Springs examines the dimensions of social theory and pragmatist thought in postliberal theology generally and in Frei's work in particular. The book is the latest installment in *Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion Series*.

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.

Faculty Fellows

Kraig Beyerlein

Kevin Christiano

Jessica Collett

Edwin Hernández

Mary Ellen Konieczny

Atalia Omer

David Sikkink

Jason Springs

Andrew Weigert

Michael Welch

Visiting Scholars

Ines Jindra

Michael Jindra

Non-Residential Faculty Fellows

Grace Davie,
University of Exeter, UK

Keith Meador,
Vanderbilt University

Stephen Warner,
University of Illinois,
Chicago

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COLLOQUIUM ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF RELIGION (CISR)

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"



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For upcoming
CSRS events, visit:
csrs.nd.edu/events