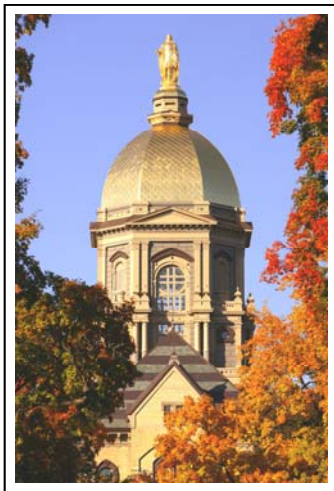


CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Graduate Students</i> | 2 |
| <i>Faculty Highlights</i> | 3 |
| <i>Featured Undergraduates</i> | 4 |
| <i>New Projects</i> | 5 |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i> | 6 |



Center for the Study of Religion and Society

Director
Christian Smith

Assistant Director
Heather Price

Administrative Staff
Rae Hoffman

Communication Specialist
JP Shortall

NSYR Project Manager
Sara Skiles

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

Instituted by the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, our new Undergraduate Fellows Program is focused on mentoring undergraduate scholarship in the social scientific study of religion. To become a Fellow, undergraduates from across the University proposed a religion-based research topic. Of all the candidates, five were chosen to participate in this initial year of the program. Our program is two-fold:

Participation and Original Research—Learning to change individual questions into original research is a hallmark of a scholar. In the Fellows Program we are working with undergraduates to sharpen their questions, work through appropriate methodologies and data collection, and then share their findings with the broader community.

Each Fellow will spend a year conducting their own funded research project of personal interest and writing a paper based on their findings with the aim of presenting it to other scholars.

Mentorship and Training—Combined with this independent research, Fellows will also be mentored by a faculty member. They will participate in the Center’s events by attending meetings, lectures, and awards ceremonies.

Partnering experienced faculty with the undergraduate Fellows is a distinct aspect of the Undergraduate Fellows Program. Scholarly

training doesn’t occur in a vacuum; by providing a mentor and promoting the presentation of research, the Fellows Program emphasizes the dissemination of new knowledge to both peers and community.

At the end of the year-long Fellowship, Fellows will have had the opportunity to research a religion-related topic of personal interest in a supportive and resource-rich context, to participate in an intellectual community of scholars interested in religion and society, to learn more about what life is like as an academic scholar of religion, and to prepare for possible application to top graduate programs that involve the study of religion. The Fellows will be equipped to explore the possibility of becoming academic scholars in a variety of disciplines and fields.

Fellows and Their Projects

- **Maura Bailey**, sophomore, “Religion and Politics in Southern States”
- **Emily Conron**, senior, “The Impact of Religious Coping on Mental Health in Individuals with Chronic Illnesses in the Developing World”
- **Hope Feist**, sophomore, “Understanding the Role that Catholic High Schools Play in Helping Students Cope”
- **Chelsea Merriman**, junior, “Religion and Water in Israel and Palestine”
- **Alexa Solazzo**, senior, “Dorm Mass Attendance at Notre Dame”



Undergraduate Fellows (Emily Conron not pictured)

New Videos on the Center for the Study of Religion Website

CISR Series, an online video archive of our interdisciplinary colloquia sessions, launched this year. Look for videos from invited scholars on the on issues in religion, government, society and more.

Find out more at:
csrs.nd.edu/events/cisr-series

Graduate Students

Stephen Armet

Jade Avelis

Mehrdad Babadi

Pete Barwis

Cole Carnesecca

Ben Chleboun

Kari Christoffersen

Shanna Corner

Bryant Crubaugh

Hilary Davidson

Daniel Escher

Kevin Estep

Justin Farrell

Karen Hooge

Stefanie Israel

Amy Jonason

Linda Kawentel

Hyunjin Kwak

Peter Munday

Michael Penta

Megan Rogers

Peter Ryan

Brandon Sepulvado

Sara Skiles

Katherine Sorrell

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

Ellen Childs (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 (right). Ellen's research, including her dissertation, focuses on congregations as institutions. **Brandon Vaidyanathan** (left), the previous awardee, is now completing his dissertation. 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 1966-1971.

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES
**American Sociological
Association Presentations**

- **Bryant Crubaugh**, "Competition and Development of Neighborhood Organizations"
- **Shanna Corner**, "Traditional Gender Ideologies: The Impact of Christian Schools"
- **Daniel Escher**, "What Is It About Religion That Promotes Forgiveness? The Link of Beliefs and Practices"
- **Justin Farrell**, "Moral Outpouring and the 2010 BP Oil Spill: Explaining Americans' Response To Large-Scale Disasters"
- **Hilary Davidson**, "What Does It Mean To Be Generous?: Defining and Understanding Generosity in America" (ASR)

- **Karen Hooge**, "Religiousness and Body Satisfaction In Emerging Adults" (ASR)
- **Stefanie Israel**, "Is Wallerstein a Bad Marxist? Understanding Class Relations in the World-System"
- **Amy Jonason**, "The Elusive, Inclusive 'We': Inclusion and Contradiction in a Pre-Figurative Social Movement Group"
- **Linda Kawentel** and **Peter Mundy**, "Catholicism and The Family: Understanding Family Schemas in the Catholic Tradition"
- **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, "Mitigating Dystopia: Catholicism and Economic Survival in the Arabian Gulf"


**Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Presentations**

- **Cole Carnesecca**, "Short Memories: Toward an Understanding of Memory, Identity and Discourse Among Unregistered Protestants in China"; Convener, "History and Religion" and "Secularization" sessions
- **Shanna Corner**, "Religion and Gender Ideology: Uncovering the Relationship Between American Religious Schools and the Gender Ideologies of American Young Adults"
- **Hilary Davidson**, "Religion and Social Movement Media Coverage: The Case of Humanitarian Activism Along the Sonora-Arizona Border"
- **Justin Farrell**, "Moral and Religious Outpouring: Examining the Cultural Dimensions of Americans' Response to the 2010 BP Oil Spill"; Convener, "Religion and the Environment" session
- **Linda Kawentel**, "Gender Traditionalism Among

Roman Catholics: Re-examining Religious Predictors of Traditional Gender Attitudes Among U.S. Catholics"

- **Peter Munday**, "Religion and Mass Consumer Materialism: Exploring How Religion Impacts Managing Money and Consumption"
- **Megan Rogers**, "Contemporary Chinese Religious Scholars' Views and Opinions of Religion"
- **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, "On Studying a Minority Religion: Methodology and Ethics in Multi-sited Research" and "Catholicism, Development, and Transnational Professionals in the Neoliberal City"; Convener, "Economics and the Economy" session
- **Brad Vermurlen**, "How Elites Create Momentum: Rethinking Religious Strength in a Strategic Action Field"
- **Meredith Whitnah**, "Religious Organizations and Gender in South Africa"

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Kraig Beyerlein recently received a Spencer Foundation grant to study the consequences of humanitarian service for migrants along the Arizona-Mexico border. He also continues to collaborate with the Center for Social Concerns to offer Notre Dame undergraduate students an alternative spring break trip along the Arizona-Mexico border that aligns with his Border Issues seminar. Last year, he and graduate student **Bryant Crubaugh** led 12 undergraduates in this service project despite travel restrictions.

Kraig Beyerlein concluded data collection for the first-ever nationally representative protest events survey of US citizens. Graduate students **Pete Barwis**, **Bryant Crubaugh**, and **Cole Carneseca** and undergraduates **Andrew Norris** and **Kristin Alvarado** have assisted on this project. This project is funded, in part, by the Science of Generosity grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Kraig Beyerlein, in collaboration with Dr. Soule at Stanford and Dr. Martin at UC-Long Beach, recently presented their paper at ASA on the effect of religion on protest policing based on events covered in the *New York Times* from 1960-1995.

Mary Ellen Konieczny visited the US Air Force academy multiple times this year, often with graduate students **Meredith Whitnah** and **Megan Rogers** to continue archival research to conduct oral histories with USAF personnel for her project on religion and the military.

Mary Ellen Konieczny's Marriage and Divorce, Conflict and Faith Study is now interviewing congregants for the final phases of the data collection for this project. Graduate student **Karen Hooge** and undergraduate **Alexis Ellis** have begun preliminary analyses. This project is funded, in part, by two Jack Shand grants.

Atalia Omer and **Jason Springs** continue work on a project identifying the underlying assumptions that inform interpretations and perceptions of religious nationalism.

David Sikkink continues to work with graduate student **Shanna Corner** on a quantitative research project about religious schools in the US and Canada. They have recently completed a report on the relationship between school sector and young adult outcomes in Canada. Currently, they are conducting an analysis of differences in student outcomes within the Evangelical Protestant sector. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the RDV Corporation.

The Portraits of American Life Study (PALS), funded by the Lilly Endowment and based at Rice University, has completed the field work for the second wave of data collection. This will allow the PALS research team, including co-PI **David Sikkink**, to study religious change among adult Americans over a six-year period.

John Cavadini, with the partnership of **Christian Smith**, has implemented the Catholic Social and Pastoral Research Initiative in the Institute for Church Life here at Notre Dame. **Brian Starks** is the lead researcher for this Initiative. Brian has developed a solid communications outreach for the Initiative, including [The Catholic Conversation](#) blog, and has undertaken several research projects associating social science to research on Catholics.

Christian Smith, with the help of five graduate students and one staffer, designed the questions and question wording for the fourth and final wave of the National Study of Youth and Religion to be collected in 2013.

Jason Springs continues to lead a project called Tolerance, Civility and Healthy Conflict amid the Challenges of Religious Diversity.

SCIENCE OF GENEROSITY UPDATE

The Science of Generosity initiative grant project will convene a conference of its research in Philadelphia, PA, from October 18-20th. At this conference, researchers of the fourteen funded projects and the five dissertation fellows will present their findings about the causes, manifestations, and consequences of generosity to invited guests from philanthropic organizations, non-profit organizations, and the media.

With support from the John Templeton Foundation, this three day conference will offer the researchers time to think about the complex nature of generosity and to discuss these topics in a broad, interdisciplinary environment. For philanthropists and non-profit executives, it will provide a forum to converse

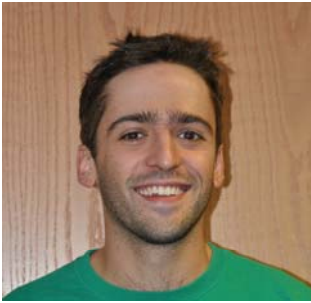
with researchers about how to put into practice these findings and how to move research forward to make it useable to organizations dependent on others' generosity. For reporters, this conference will afford them exclusive access to cutting-edge findings and intimate discussions with the researchers.



SCIENCE of GENEROSITY

For more information about the conference, please visit: <http://generosityresearch.nd.edu/>

FEATURED UNDERGRADUATES



Andrew Norris continued his work for **Kraig Beyerlein** and the nationally representative project on US protest events.

For this project, Andrew is cleaning the data, coding the causes into categories, and trying to identify which events were covered on the internet in any way.



This May, **Meghan Davis** and **Amanda Varela** joined the CSRS team. They split their time between two projects, coding journal articles for a critical realism project of **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Mike Strand, and Tom Bushman's and tracking participants for the National Study of Youth and Religion for **Christian Smith**.



Over the summer, **Aaron Sant-Miller** continued his previous year's work with **Mary Ellen Konieczny** on the US Air Force project. With the help of graduate student **Megan Rogers**, Aaron is transcribing the congregant interviews that were gathered in the past 2011-2012 year in preparation for analysis.

Graduate Students

(cont'd from page 2)

Lisa Swartz

Brandon Vaidyanathan

Justin Van Ness

Brad Vermurten

Meredith Whitnah

Undergraduate Students

Maura Bailey

Catherine Braunlich

Isabel Camara

Emily Conron

Alex Cummings

Meghan Davis

Elexis Ellis

Hope Feist

Melanie Fritz

Lauren Ganshirt

Anne Haas

Caroline Kelly

Maria Kosse

Abigail Kostielney

Colleen Madden

Emily Mediate

Lisa Menendez

Chelsea Merriman

Andrew Norris

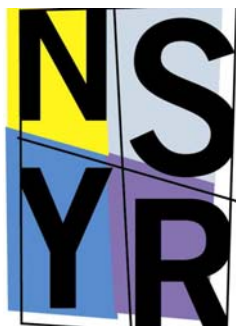
Megan Pelino

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Our faculty and graduate students have published much research this year, including:

- **Mary Stuart Van Leeuwen** and **Jade Avelis**. 2012. "Five Uneasy Questions: Or, Will Success Spoil Christian Psychologists?" in T. Ream, J. Pattengale, and D. Riggs (eds.) *Beyond Integration: Inter/Disciplinary Possibilities for the Future of Christian Higher Education*.
- **Kraig Beyerlein**, Gary Adler, and Jenny Trinitapoli, "The Effect of Religious Mission Trips on Youth Civic Engagement" in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.
- **Jessica Collett**, "(Re)Integrating Simmel in Social Exchange: The Effect of Nonpartisans on Exchange Outcomes" in *Social Forces*, **Jessica Collett** and **Jade Avelis**, "Building a Life Together: Reciprocal and Negotiated Exchange in Fragile Families" in *Advances in Group Processes*, and **Jessica Collett** and **Ellen Childs**, "Minding the Gap: Meaning, Affect, and the Potential Shortcomings of Vignettes" in *Social Science Research*.
- **Justin Farrell**, "The Young and the Restless? The Liberalization of Young Evangelicals" in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* and "The Divine Online: Civic Organizing, Identity Building, and Internet Fluency among Different Religious Groups" in *Journal of Media and Religion*.
- **Ines Jindra**, "Gender, Religiosity, and the Telling of Christian Conversion Narratives" in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (with Diane M. Badzinski, Robert Woods and Jenell Williams) and "How Religious Content Matters in Conversion Narratives to Various Religious Groups" in *Sociology of Religion*.
- **Chris Hausmann**, **Erika Summers-Effler**, and **Amy Jonason**, "Interaction Ritual and Structural Symbolic Interaction" in *Symbolic Interaction*.
- **Peter Munday**. "Review of Omri Elisha's *Moral Ambition: Mobilization and Social Outreach in Evangelical Churches*" in *Sociology of Religion*.
- **Atalia Omer**, "Religious Peacebuilding: The Exotic, the Good, and the Theatrical" in *Practical Matters*, "Rethinking 'Home' Abroad: Religion and the Reinterpretation of National Boundaries in the Indian and Jewish Diasporas in the U.S." in *The International Journal of Peace Studies*, and "Can a Critic Be a Caretaker too? Religion, Conflict, and Conflict Transformation" in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- **Kyle Longest** and **Christian Smith**, "Conflicting or Compatible: Beliefs About Religion and Science Among Emerging Adults in the United States" in *Sociological Forum*.
- **Jason Springs**. "Meaning vs. Power: Are Thick Description and Power Analysis Intrinsicly at Odds? Response to Interpretation, Explanation, and Clifford Geertz" in *Religion Compass*.
- **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf," *Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management*, "Professionalism 'from below': Mobilization Potential in Indian Call Centres" in *Work, Employment, and Society*, and Jonathan P. Hill and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, "Substitution or Symbiosis? Rethinking the Relationship Between Religious and Secular Giving" in *Social Forces*.

A NEW WAVE FOR NSYR



A team of over 30 graduate and undergraduate students, faculty and staff members, led by **Christian Smith**, is involved this fall in preparing to launch Wave 4 of the National

Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), a national research project on the religious practices of American young adults, funded in large part by the Lilly Foundation.

The first wave of the project, conducted in 2001, collected data from respondents when they were ages 13–18. Dozens of books, scholarly and popular-press articles, research reports, and conference presentations have reported the findings from the first three waves of data in the ten years since the study began. Clergy, lay leaders and staff in multiple religious organizations have applied the lessons learned from the study to their own practices with adolescents and young adults.

This winter, the final wave of the panel survey will gather quantitative survey data, asking about all aspects of participants' lives,

including family and romantic relationships, career trajectories, educational attainment, and physical and psychological well-being, in addition to issues related to morality and involvement in religious organizations and activities.

Next summer, several hundred interviews from a subset of those surveyed will supplement these data, allowing for a rich examination of the complexities and meanings of respondents' experiences. These data will provide numerous opportunities for researchers at Notre Dame and beyond to continue to examine the evolving influence of religion on American young adults' lives.

To assist in this final phase of the data collection, the CSRS has brought **Sara Skiles** on-board as the project manager. Sara (photo below) is currently completing her PhD in the Sociology department here at Notre Dame.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Christian Smith won the 2012 *Distinguished Career Award* from the American Sociological Association section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity and the 2011-2012 *Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C. Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching* from the University of Notre Dame.

Christian Smith's book, *What is a Person? Rethinking Humanity, Social Life, and Moral Good from the Person Up* (OUP 2010) won a place on *Choice's* 25 Outstanding Academic Titles list for 2011.

Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults (OUP 2009) by **Christian Smith** with Patricia Snell won the Lilly Fellows Program Book Award, 2010-2011.

Justin Farrell won a \$126,000 fellowship from the EPA and a \$19,000 dissertation fellowship from The Louisville Institute.

Justin Farrell's paper, "The Young and the Restless? The Liberalization of Young Evangelicals" won the 2011 Honorable Mention Best Student Graduate paper of the ASR.

Justin Farrell's paper, "The BP Oil Spill and Americans' Response to Large-Scale Disasters" won the Graduate Student Paper Award for the Environment and Technology section of the ASA and the 2011-2012 UND department of Sociology's Jeanine Becker Best Paper award.

Kari Christoffersen won the 2011-2012 University of Notre Dame department of Sociology's Dodge Memorial Teaching Award for teaching excellence.

Brandon Vaidyanathan won the 2012 *Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management* for his paper, "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf."

Undergraduate Students (cont'd)

Robyn Przybylski

Aaron Sant-Miller

Anne Schoewetter

Alexa Solazzo

Monica Spitzer

Charles Stephen

Amanda Varela

Rachel Zajdel

Faculty Fellows

Kraig Beyerlein

Kevin Christiano

Jessica Collett

Edwin Hernández

Mary Ellen Konieczny

Atalia Omer

David Sikkink

Jason Springs

Erika Summers-Effler

Andrew Weigert

Michael Welch

Visiting Scholars

Ines Jindra

Michael Jindra

Center for the Study of
Religion and Society

Phone: 574-631-2695

Fax: 574-631-9238

E-mail: csrsoc@nd.edu

For more news and
information on all
of our research,
please visit our
new and improved
website at:

csrs.nd.edu

COLLOQUIUM ON THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF RELIGION (CISR)

The CSRS offers an ongoing colloquia series, the Colloquium on the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion (CISR), which brings together graduate students and faculty from disciplines including sociology, history, and political science.

Last year's speakers included:

Spring Semester

John Shields
Government
Claremont College

Loren Lybarger
Classics and World
Religions
Ohio University

Fall Semester

Rhys Williams
Sociology
Loyola University

Melissa Wilde
Sociology
University of Pennsylvania



Loren Lybarger presenting on a paper entitled,
"The Contingency of the Religious Return
Amongst Palestinians in Chicago"

Upcoming 2011-2012 Speakers

Fall Semester

October 26th:
Stephen Monsma
Sociology
Calvin College

November 19:
Omar McRoberts
Sociology
University of Chicago

Spring Semester

Chris Bail
Sociology
University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill

Jim Nolan
Department of Anthropology
and Sociology
Williams College



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

Center for the Study of
Religion and Society

811 Flanner Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

csrsoc@nd.edu

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