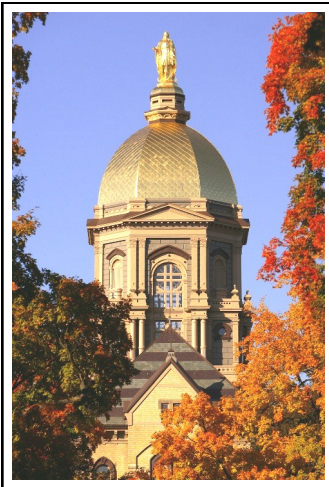


CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY



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ROBERT BELLAH VISITS NOTRE DAME

Robert N. Bellah, distinguished professor of sociology at University of California at Berkeley and National Humanities Medal awardee, spoke at Notre Dame on March 18- 20th about his work regarding religion and human evolution. His lecture "The Modern Project in Light of Human Evolution" focuses on his most recent work, *Religion in Human Evolution*, and gives a glimpse into the second portion of his proposed project, which would have focused more on the modern period.

During his visit, Bellah gave a captivating lecture about his work and engaged Notre Dame faculty and students in a discussion about the topics surrounding his project. Bellah said that he enjoyed meeting with "Catholic thinkers" and found many "engaging and interested conversation partners" among the faculty and students at Notre Dame, particularly those whose work involves the role of religion in society.

Bellah's famous work, "Civil Religion in America," focuses on religion in American public life. Pub-



lished in 1967, it set his trajectory for the next 30 years as he published a number of other books on civil religion, including *The Broken Covenant*, *Habits of the Heart*, and *The Good Society*. Bellah's interest in religion springs from his belief that religion is often poorly understood within the academy. His work has significantly helped to drive the discussion of religion and its place in modern life. His last work, *Religion in Human Evolution*, takes a step away from the broader focus of civil religion to focus on the way that human evolution and religion interact.

Overall, Bellah's warmth and quick wit made for an entertaining and intellectually stimulating weekend. It was a valuable opportunity for faculty and students to interact with one of the great scholars of religion and cultural sociology at the end of his career. On July 30, four months after his visit to Notre Dame, Bellah unexpectedly passed away due to complications following heart surgery. He was 86 when he died, but his scholarly legacy will live on through the ages.



Undergraduate Fellows Program

Our new Undergraduate Fellows Program had a successful inaugural year. The Fellows worked with faculty members to complete individual research projects that were specific to their interests. They attended academic conferences, including SSSR and AAR, and presented their projects to faculty members and graduate students at the end of the academic year. We will be welcoming new fellows to this program for the 2013- 2014 academic year, as well as supporting many of our first fellows as they continue their projects.

2012-2013 Fellows: Emily Conran, Alexa Solazzo, Chelsea Merriman, Maura Bailey, and Hope Feist

2013-2014 Fellows: Catherine Braunlich, Yue Huang, Chelsea Merriman, Maura Bailey, Hope Feist, Jaclyn Paul, and Erin Stoyell-Mulholland.

Graduate Students

Jade Avelis

Mehrddad 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

Ariana Newton

Michael Penta

Megan Rogers

Peter Ryan

Brandon Sepulvado

Sara Skiles

Katherine Sorrell

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

Hilary Davidson (left) and **Justin Farrell** (right) 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 (center). Hilary's dissertation will draw on the NSYR Wave 4 to explore the role of religion in the American Dream. Justin's research focuses on formulating a better account of the cultural dimensions of humanity's relationship to the natural environment. The award is named for William D'Antonio, who joined the faculty of Notre Dame as assistant professor in 1957.

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES**American Sociological Association Presentations**

- **Hilary Davidson**, "What does it mean to be Generous?: The Meanings and Motivations of Financial Generosity"
- **Karen Hooge**, "Religiousness and Body Satisfaction In Emerging Adults"
- **Peter Munday**, "Follow the Informal Rules to Limit Harm: Avoiding Negative Interactions When Using Social Network Sites"

Other presenters included Daniel Escher, Linda Kawentel, Justin Farrell, and Bradley Vermurlen.

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations

- **Shanna Corner**, "Traditional Gender Ideologies: The Impact of Christian Schools"
- **Megan Rogers**, "Contemporary Chinese Religious Scholars' Views and Opinions of Religion"
- **Brad Vermurlen**, "How Leaders Create Momentum: Rethinking Religious Strength in a Strategic Action Field"

Other presenters included Brandon Sepulvado, Hilary Davidson, Justin Farrell, Ben Chelboun, Justin Van Ness, Peter Ryan, and Cole Carnesecca.

GRADUATE PUBLICATIONS

- **Daniel Escher**. 2013. "How Does Religion Promote Forgiveness? Linking Beliefs, Orientations, and Practices." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.



- **Justin Farrell**. 2013. "Environmental Activism and Moral Schemas: Cultural Components of Differential Participation." *Environment and Behavior*.

- **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. 2012. "Professionalism 'from Below': Mobilisation Potential in Indian Call Centres." *Work, Employment, and Society*.

- **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. 2012. "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf." *Proceedings of the Academy of Management Meeting*.

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Kraig Beyerlein is currently completing a book manuscript (*Flooding 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. Two Notre Dame graduate students have provided crucial support for this research. With support from the Spencer Foundation, he is also engaged in a project following up with past volunteers to better understand how their humanitarian service affects their later civic participation and other life outcomes.

Kraig Beyerlein designed the first-ever, nationally-representative protest-events survey in the United States. Two graduate students and four undergraduates have been involved in data cleaning and coding. This survey seeks to understand the nature of U.S. protest events, and particularly to link the religious dimensions of these events.

Edwin Hernandez continues to direct the Project for the Study of Latino Religion. The Project seeks to understand the role of Latino religion in civic and political life, its impact on educational aspirations and achievement among youth, the training of religious leaders, and the social service role of Latino congregations. This work has been supported by generous grants from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, Louisville Institute, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Mary Ellen Konieczny visited the Air Force Academy this year to conduct oral history interviews with USAF personnel as well as to continue doing archival research for her project on religion and the military.

Mary Ellen Konieczny continues work on her study, "Marriage and Divorce, Conflict and Faith." All the interviews have been transcribed and data analysis and writing has begun. Graduate students **Peter Ryan** and **Justin Van Ness** have assisted with the interviews. Mary Ellen is co-authoring a paper with graduate student **Karen Hooge**.

David Sikkink continued quantitative research on the first North American quantitative research project on religious schools in the US and Canada. Data collection was completed with Knowledge Networks for the first nationally representative sample of private schoolers in the US. A second data collection was completed in Canada. Graduate student **Deanna Childress** is working on the analysis. This project is funded, in part, by the grant from the RDV Corporation.

David Sikkink is leading a Cognitive Genesis study which looks at religious schools and ethnic and socioeconomic test-score gaps. It explores how religious schools mitigate or exacerbate socioeconomic gaps in academic achievement and what can be learned from religious schools that have overcome the black-white or SES test-score gap.

Christian Smith, with the partnership of John Cavadini and CSRS, has implemented the Catholic Social and Pastoral Research Initiative in the Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame. Two years ago, **Brian Starks** was hired as the lead researcher for this Initiative. Brian has developed a solid communications outreach for the Initiative and has undertaken several research projects associating social science with research on Catholics. Two major reports on Catholic voluntary financial giving has been published and disseminated, and more are in production.

SCIENCE OF GENEROSITY UPDATE

The Science of Generosity Project will continue to generate substantial research across many disciplines with continued support from the John Templeton Foundation. The Project was granted \$394,220 to fund Phase II.

Kraig Beyerlein is working on a number of projects using project data. Christian Smith's research team is using the data to develop books, papers, and dissertations that will be completed in the coming year.

Beyond developing strong research, the Science of Generosity project has allowed for philanthropists and non-profit executives to join the conversation about putting the study's find-

ings into practice. The Science of Generosity team held a successful conference in Philadelphia, PA. last October, which provided an exciting opportunity to expand the discussion. Overall, the project continues to produce cutting-edge findings and a dynamic conversation.

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



SCIENCE of GENEROSITY

FEATURED UNDERGRADUATES

Undergraduate students get hands-on research experience this summer

Researchers working on the National Study of Youth and Religion project, directed by Professor Christian Smith, conducted in-person interviews with respondents all over the country this summer (see page 5). More than a dozen undergraduate students and recent Notre Dame graduates worked as research assistants over the summer to transcribe and edit those interviews in preparation for data analysis. This effort will continue during the fall semester, giving several dozen undergraduate students hands-on experience with social science research.



Pictured from left to right: Christina Senger, Abby Kostielney, and Anne Haas.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- **Kevin J. Christiano.** 2012. "Religions and Families in America: Historical Traditions and Present Positions." Pp. 804-824 in *The Cambridge History of Religions in America. Volume 1: Pre-Columbian Times to 1790*, edited by Stephen J. Stein. Cambridge Histories Series. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
- **Kevin Christiano.** "Solidarity and Spirit: The Rough-and-Tumble Times of Ralph H. Chaplin." Cover essay for *American Catholic Studies*.
- **Atalia Omer.** 2012. "Rejoinder: On Professor McCutcheon's (Un)Critical-Caretaking," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.
- **Heather Price and Jessica Collett.** 2012. "The Role of Exchange and Emotion on Commitment: A Study Using Teachers," *Social Science Research*.
- **Heather Price.** Forthcoming. "Connecting Network Methods to Social Science Research: How To Parsimoniously Use Dyadic Measures as Independent Variables." *Relational Sociology: From Project to Paradigm*, edited by Christopher Powell. New York: Palgrave.
- **Christian Smith, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Nancy Tatom Ammerman, José Casanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John H. Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jason A. Springs, Jenny Trinitapoli, and Meredith Whitnah.** 2013. "Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology: A Mellon Working-Group Reflection," in *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*.
- **Christian Smith.** 2013. "Forward." in Mathew Guest, Kristin Aune, Sonya Sharma, and Rob Warner's *Christianity and the University Experience: Understanding Student Faith*. London: Bloomsbury.
- **Christian Smith.** 2012. "Grasping the Big Sociological Picture Shaping the Moral Lives of College Students Today," *Journal of College & Career*, 13(3):1-9.
- **Jason Springs.** 2013. "Religion and Peacebuilding in Contexts of Structural and Cultural

Graduate Students

(cont'd from page 2)

Lisa Swartz

Brandon Vaidyanathan

Justin Van Ness

Brad Vermurlen

Meredith Whitnah

Undergraduate Students

Maura Bailey

Catherine Braunlich

Emily Conron

Kelsie Corriston

Meghan Davis

Alexis Ellis

Hope Feist

Melanie Fritz

Yue Huang

Trent La

Emily Mediate

Chelsea Merriman

Andrew Norris

Jaclyn Paul

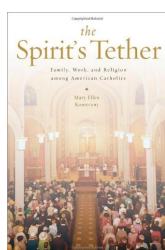
Aaron Sant-Miller

Christina Senger

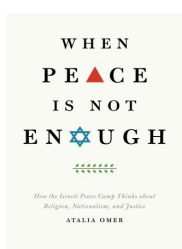
Alexa Solazzo

Erin Stoyell-Mulholland

NEW BOOK RELEASES!

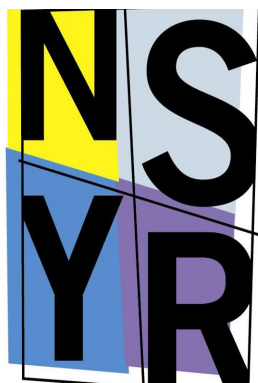


Mary Ellen Konieczny. 2013. *The Spirit's Tether: Religion, Family, and Moral Polarization Among American Catholics*. New York: Oxford University Press.



Atalia Omer. 2013. *When Peace Is Not Enough: How the Israeli Peace Camp thinks about Religion, Nationalism, and Justice*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

A NEW WAVE FOR NSYR



The National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) is a longitudinal research project designed to investigate the religious practices of American youth. The project is di-

rected by **Christian Smith**, and is funded in large part by the Lilly Foundation. The first three waves of data were collected between 2002 and 2008, and the fourth and final wave of data collection is wrapping up this fall.

Objectives of this final part of the study include examining change over time in religious affiliations, beliefs, and practices in the lives of emerging adults, and exploring links between religious dynamics and other aspects of these emerging adults' lives, including family-formation, educational achievement, subjective well-being, and career development. Findings will continue to provide the most detailed information to date on the dynamics of religious affiliation, belief, practice, and commitment across adolescence and emerging adulthood in the United States.

In all four waves of data collection, researchers have taken a mixed-method approach, examining the lives of American adolescents and emerging adults on both the macro level with quantitative survey data and the micro level with qualitative interview data. During this fourth wave, researchers from across the country assisted in the interview process. Interviewers included **Melinda Denton** (University of Texas at San Antonio), **Richard Flory** (University of Southern California), **Lisa Pearce** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), **Trish Snell Herzog** (University of Arkansas), **Carlos Tavares** (Duke University), **Ria Van Ryn** (Yeshiva University), **Brandon Vaidyanathan** (Rice University), and Notre Dame graduate students **Jade Avelis**, **Kari Christoffersen**, **Shanna Corner**, **Hilary Davidson**, **Daniel Escher**, **Karen Hooge** and **Katherine Sorrell**.

The project has benefitted greatly from the work of dozens of graduate and undergraduate research assistants who have helped in all aspects of the study, including maintaining contact with project participants, preparing the survey and interview instruments, conducting surveys, and transcribing interview data. Preliminary results from this final wave of the NSYR project will be available in the spring of 2014, and data will be made available for analysis in the summer of 2015.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Christian Smith received \$69,593 from The Lilly Endowment Inc. for a project on "Parental Practices and Cultures of Faith Transmission to Children: Contexts, Commitments, and Outcomes."

Mary Ellen Konieczny received an FRSP Initiation Grant from the Office of Research of the University of Notre Dame, and a Large Research and Creative Work Grant from ISLA at the University of Notre Dame for "Serving God and Country: Religion at the United States Air Force Academy."

Atalia Omer received a Kroc Faculty Research Grant for an ongoing research study on the role of solidarity and diaspora activism on the cycles of conflicts in Tibet and Palestine and their potential role in processes of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. The grant facilitated ethnographic work with the Palestinian and Tibetan communities in Chicago.

Cole Carnesecca won a \$40,000 Inter-University Center Nippon Fellows Award for tuition and a stipend for Japanese language study at IUC in Yokohama, Japan.

Daniel Escher received \$90,000 from the Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation to research the social effects of the coal industry in central Appalachia from 2011-2014.

Meredith Whitnah received a Dissertation Year Fellowship from the Kellogg Institute, for examining how religious NGOs in South Africa that were involved in overturning apartheid have changed over time.

Faculty Fellows

Kraig Beyerlein

Kevin Christiano

Jessica Collett

Edwin Hernández

Mary Ellen Konieczny

Atalia Omer

David Sikkink

Jason Springs

Brian Starks

Erika Summers-Effler

Andrew Weigert

Michael Welch

Visiting Scholars

Ines Jindra

Michael Jindra

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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

Jim Nolan

Anthropology and Sociology
Williams College

Chris Bail

Sociology
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill

Fall Semester

Omar McRoberts

Sociology
University of Chicago

Stephen Monsma

Sociology
Calvin College

Upcoming 2013-2014 Speakers

Susan Crawford Sullivan

Sociology
College of the Holy Cross

Andrew Johnson

Sociology
University of Southern
California



Jim Nolan presenting a paper entitled:

"Agriculture, Religion, and the Spirit of Capitalism:
What Tocqueville, Weber, Chesterton, and Qutb saw in America"



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