

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY



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International Association of Critical Realism Annual Meeting 2015

What difference does critical realism make for how we do our empirical work? How does the alternative meta-theory of critical realism change the kinds of scholarly research we conduct and the ways we conduct it? What differences does critical realism make analytically and methodologically? How would social science that was primarily informed by critical realism, instead of some other background philosophy, look and act differently?

These are the questions that many social scientists who consider critical realism ask. Critical realism makes a big difference, in fact. Some of these differences are subtle, others more profound. Yet more work must be done to think through and spell out specifics on how critical realism already does and might continue to re-orient scholarly research in practical ways.

"Critical Realism: Reimagining Social Science" was the theme of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the International Association of Critical Realists (IACR),



held at the University of Notre Dame, July 28-30. Through this meeting, social scientists from across the country met to address the practical, analytical, and methodological implications of critical realism in the world of social science.

Following the Annual Meeting, the University of Notre Dame, CSRS also hosted an interdisciplinary conference on July 30-31 to examine the potential role of critical realism in the studies of science and religion. This conference, entitled "New Conversations in Science and Religion: What Difference Might Critical Realist Philosophy Make?", sought to further advance dialogues between science, religion, philosophy, and theology by drawing diverse thinkers together to consider the possibilities of better mutual understanding across these different fields of knowledge and inquiry.

The joint scheduling of these two conferences was intended to encourage overlap between their participants. Together the two provided an engaging discussion about the role of critical realism in the future of social science.



Congratulations, Meredith!



The Center is proud to recognize the accomplishments of one of our recent graduates, **Meredith Whitnah**. The Winner of the 2014 D'Antonio Award, Meredith is now an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

Meredith's work centers on the intersection of gender and religion, and aims to unpack the contingency of religion's capacity for both promoting and undermining social inequality. This has included research of evangelical Christian discourse about domestic violence and patterns of intimate partner violence among emerging adults in the US. Her dissertation, "Faith and Fragility of Justice," is an historical investigation of how faith-based groups in South Africa that had resisted apartheid have also addressed gender issues.

Graduate Students

Jade Avelis

Cole Carnesecca

Katie Comeau

Shanna Corner

Bryant Crubaugh

Julie Dallavis

Hilary Davidson

Daniel Escher

Kevin Estep

Ethan Fridmanski

Sarah Harrison

Karen Hooge -

Michalka

Amy Jonason

Linda Kawentel

Hyunjin Deborah

Kwak

McKenna LeClear

Brianna McCaslin

Ariana Salazar-

Newton

Chris Quiroz

Megan Rogers

Peter Ryan

Brandon Sepulvado

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Cole Carnesecca won the 2015 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 Kraig Beyerlein. 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. Cole's dissertation is a historical-comparative examination of the changing role of religion in China and Japan during their respective periods of "modernization", focusing on how the two countries fostered dramatically different visions of the role religion played in a "modern" society and what this can tell us about how religious modernity is shaped.

GRADUATE PRESENTATIONS**2014 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations**

- **Cole Carnesecca.** "Theologies of the State: the Meiji Restoration and the Emergence of Religious Modernity in Japan"
- **Hilary Davidson.** "Searching for the Good Life: How Religious Identities and Social Class Craft Aspirations during Times of Transition"
- **Daniel Escher.** "Religion, Sensation-Seeking, and Risky Behaviors"
- **Linda Kawentel.** "Religious Predictors of Gender Attitudes and Family Practices of American Catholics"
- **Peter Ryan.** "Sacred Ambiguity: The Reproduction of Weak Boundaries in Religious Systems"
- **Ariana Salazar-Newton.** "Mapping U.S. Hispanic Identity Pathways: Religion, Ethnicity, and Segmented Assimilation"
- **Brandon Sepulvado** with David Hachen and Omar Lizardo. "The Role of Religion and Non-Religion in Social Network Formation"
- **Lisa Weaver Swartz.** "Evangelical Anti-Feminist Egalitarianism"
- **Justin Van Ness.** "Unpacking a Love Bomb: (Re)visiting the Psychophysiological Approach to Conversion"
- **Brad Vermurlen.** "Hip-Hop and Black Identity in the (Mostly White) New Calvinist Movement"
- **Meredith Whitnah.** "Empowering Women: Faith-Based NGOs, Legacies of Apartheid, and the Role of Gender in Development"
- **Meredith Whitnah** with Nicolette Manglos-Weber and Chris Smith. "Religion and Intimate Partner Violence among Emerging Adults"

2015 American Sociological Association Presentations

- **Cole Carnesecca.** "Theologies of the State: the Meiji Restoration and the Emergence of Religious Modernity in Japan"
- **Katherine Comeau.** "Non-governmental Organizations and the Impact of Religious Identity"
- **Shanna Corner.** "The Proper Role of Religion: Nuancing Theorization of the Politics of Legitimizing Human Rights"
- **Daniel Escher.** "The Role of Cultural Matching in Micro-Mobilization"
- **Megan Rogers.** "The Impact of Differing Levels of Legal Regulation on Chinese Religiosity"
- **Megan Rogers.** "Who Are China's Buddhists? Applying Riesebrodt's Theory of Religion to Contemporary Chinese Buddhism"
- **Megan Rogers** with Mary Ellen Konieczny. "Religion, Secular Humanism, and Atheism: USAFA and the Cadets' Free-thinkers Group"
- **Bradley Vermurlen.** "The Production of Marginal Culture: The Case of Calvinist Hip-Hop"
- **Michael Wood.** "Bonds of Discord: Religious Meaning-Making in Online Mormon Interpretive Communities"

NAMING THE WOUNDS, BEGINNING TO HEAL: POLARIZATION IN THE US CATHOLIC CHURCH



It is no secret: the Catholic Church in the United States is broken. Division and disunity prevail. Effects of this brokenness are by now familiar, especially at a place like Notre Dame. Only rarely does a genuinely diverse group of Catholics come together to name the wounds—with the goal of beginning to heal.

This year, **Mary Ellen Konieczny** brought together an accomplished group of scholars to search for answers to the question: *How can we heal the division and reestablish the virtues of solidarity, love, and humility at the heart of the Christian message?* The conference, entitled “Naming the Wound, Beginning to Heal: Polarization in the US Catholic Church,” took place April 26-28, 2015 at the University of Notre Dame.

The opening panel discussion featured distinguished speakers such as Most Reverend Daniel Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President of the University of Notre Dame, Julie Hanlon Rubio, Professor of Moral Theology at St. Louis University, Christian Smith, Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, and Michael Sean Winters, a writer for the National Catholic Reporter.

FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Kraig Beyerlein has two forthcoming journal articles. The first—“Prayers, Protest, and Police: How Religion Influences Police Presence at Collective Action Events in the United States, 1960-1995”—in the *American Sociological Review* examines the effect of religious-based protest on the likelihood of police showing up at events. Kraig is lead author on this article (Sarah Soule of Stanford University and Nancy Martin of California State University, Long Beach are second and third authors). The second article is an equal first-authored *Social Forces* paper (Kenneth Andrews of UNC-Chapel Hill is the other first author; Tuneke Tucker Farnum of UNC-Chapel Hill is the third author). This paper—“The Legitimacy of Protest: Explaining White Southerners’ Attitudes Toward the Civil Rights Movement”—analyzes the contextual and individual factors that explain why some people in the South but not others supported the sit-in tactic.

Kraig Beyerlein (along with Peter Barwis, Bryant Crubaugh, and Cole Carnesecca, Notre Dame graduate students) is also finishing a second revise and resubmit paper at *Sociological Methods and Research*. This paper is based on the National Study of Protest Events (NSPE), which is the first-ever nationally representative sample of protest events, and includes a comparison to events reported in newspapers.

Kraig Beyerlein is also completing a book manuscript—“Flooding the Desert: Faith-Based Mobilizing to Save Lives Along the Arizona-Sonora Border”—that analyzes the causes and consequences of progressive religious activism for undocumented migrants. It is based on a number of original data sources, including surveys and interviews with pastors and humanitarian aid workers.

Ines Jindra and **Michael Jindra** continue work on their project, *Nonprofits and Poverty: Diverse Approaches and Controversial Issues*.

Mary Ellen Konieczny finished collecting data for her Marriage and Divorce, Conflict and Faith Study. She has produced three papers from this project which have been submitted to journals.

Mary Ellen Konieczny conducted exploratory research during a faculty development trip to East Africa this summer, and a review of related literature last summer and fall. The topic 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.

David Sikkink continues his research collaboration with the Institute for the Advanced Study of Culture at the University of Virginia, working on the Moral Foundations of Education Project. During this school year, he will direct a new survey project, collecting data from student, parents, and teachers from over 50 public, religious, and independent school students, as well as dozens of home-schooling families. The objective of the project is to investigate how moral and civic instruction is introduced into school curricula, and how this instruction varies by school sector.

Nicolette Manglos-Weber and Margarita Mooney of Yale University have begun their three-year, mixed-methods project on the study of the conditions of human flourishing among young adults from the philosophical perspective of virtue ethics. One of their primary goals is to assess how relational attachments in different areas—family, romantic, peer, and religious-based—interact with each other and contribute to holistic well-being. They have developed and tested measures of the latent construct of “Attachment to God,” in order to accurately assess individuals’ perceived interactive relationship with the divine. They have also conducted 50 interviews with National Study of Youth and Religion respondents on stressful events, spirituality, relationships, and over wellbeing, and are currently analyzing these data for publication.

FEATURED UNDERGRADUATES



Three Years of Undergraduate Fellows

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

2013-2014: Maura Bailey, Catherine Braunlich, Yue Huang, and Chelsea Merriman

2014-2015: Maura Bailey, Abigail Bartels, Antonio Marchi, and Lai Sam

Our Undergraduate Fellows program completed its third year. The past year continued the success of this program as students worked with faculty members to complete their individual research projects on a variety of topics related to religion. Over the years, this program has given undergraduate students confidence as researchers through opportunities to conduct independent research and guidance and encouragement throughout the process.

CENTER PUBLICATIONS

- Cadge, Wendy and **Mary Ellen Konieczny**. 2014. "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Significance of Religion and Spirituality in Secular Organizations." *Sociology of Religion* 75 (4): 551-563.
- **Jindra, Ines W.** 2014. "Why American Sociology Needs Biographical Sociology – European Style." *The Journal for the Study of Social Behaviour*, Volume 44 (4), 389-412.
- **Jindra, Michael** and **Ines Jindra**. 2014. "Inside the Safety Net." *The Hedgehog Review* 16:3
- **Jindra, Michael** and **Ines Jindra**. 2015. "The Rise of Antipoverty Relational Work." *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, March 17, 2015.
- **Manglos-Weber, Nicolette**. 2015. "Innovations in Trust: Patrimonial and Bureaucratic Authority in the Asante Empire of West Africa." *Political Power and Social Theory*, v.28:217-240.
- Mooney, Margarita and **Nicolette Manglos-Weber**. 2014. "Prayer and Liturgy as Constitutive-Ends Practices among Black Immigrants." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* 44(4): 459-480.
- Brian J. Miller and **Peter Munday**. 2015. "Follow the Rules and No One Will Get Hurt: Performing Boundary Work to Avoid Negative Interactions When Using Social Network Sites." *Information, Communication and Society* 18(2):187-201.

Graduate Students

(cont'd from page 2)

Lisa Weaver Swartz

Justin Van Ness

Brad Vermurlen

Michael Wood

Undergraduate Students

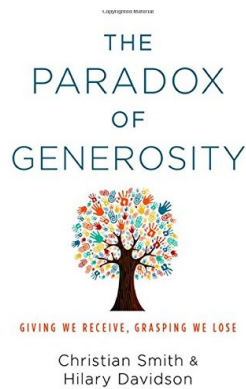
Maura Bailey

Abigail Bartels

Antonio Marchi

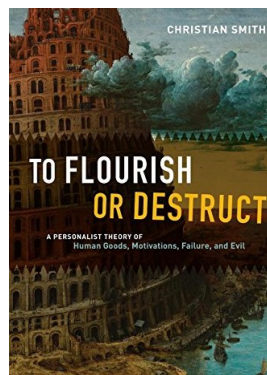
Lai Sam

NEW BOOKS

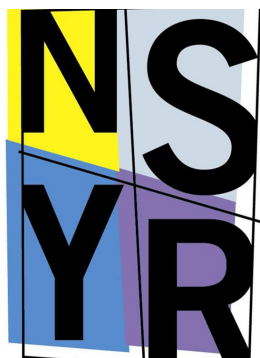


Christian Smith and **Hilary Davidson**. 2014. *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose*. Oxford University Press.

Christian Smith. 2015. *To Flourish or Destruct: A Personalist Theory of Human Goods, Motivations, Failure, and Evil*. The University of Chicago Press.



A FINAL WAVE FOR NSYR



The National Study of Youth and Religion, directed by Professor **Christian Smith**, was designed to investigate the religious lives of American adolescents and emerging adults. This mixed-method study included surveys of 3,370 adolescents (and their parents) in a nationally-representative sample in 2002, along with in-person interviews with a subset of this sample. Respondents were re-contacted at three additional time points for subsequent surveys and interviews, resulting in 4 waves of data collected over eleven years. Early analysis of the fourth wave of data is underway now by in-house researchers, and we expect to make the data available to the public in 2016.

CARDUS RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



The Cardus Religions Schools Initiative (CRSI), directed by Professor **David Sikkink**, conducts empirical research aimed at understanding students' experiences in private and religious schools, and outcomes as a result of attending such schools, both in terms of differences within the religious school sector, and between religious and secular schools.

In addition to conducting original research analyzing data about Protestant and Catholic school students, as well as students who were homeschooled for all or part of their pre-college academic careers, CRSI has begun a new project of collecting and analyzing stu-

dent, teacher, parent, and alumni data in order to assist schools in assessing their own practices and success in achieving their organizational goals.

The research team, including Project Manager **Sara Skiles**, and graduate students **Chris Quiroz**, **Jon Schwarz**, and **Sarah Harrison**, will begin new projects in the fall involving home-school students, as well as the influence of religious organizations on public schools.

Reports outlining recent findings can be found on the CRSI website: <http://crsi.nd.edu>

LILLY PARENTING PROJECT

One of the primary lessons learned from the first waves of the National Study of Youth and Religion was that adolescents and young adults tend to be much more influenced by their parents' beliefs and behaviors than by the beliefs and behaviors of their peers, leading to the conclusion that, at least for the transmission of religious faith and practices, what parents say and do matters greatly. Professor **Christian Smith** has begun a new project to pick up where the previous study left off, to determine what parents are saying and doing to influence their children's religious lives. In this project, researchers are asking parents across the country to talk

about their own lives, religious beliefs, parenting techniques and philosophies, as well as how they have tried to pass their religious beliefs along to their kids (if at all).

Several CSRS researchers are interviewing respondents, who come from various religious and SES groups, including Professor **Christian Smith**, Research Assistant Professor **Nicolette Manglos-Weber**, and graduate students **Hilary Davidson** and **Katie Comeau**. Interviews began in Summer 2014, and will conclude this fall.

Faculty Fellows

Kraig Beyerlein

Kevin Christiano

Jessica Collett

Donna Freitas

Edwin Hernández

Mary Ellen Konieczny

Nicolette Manglos-

Weber

Atalia Omer

David Sikkink

Christian Smith

Jason Springs

Erika Summers-Effler

Andrew Weigert

Michael Welch

Visiting Scholars

Christine Gardner

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

Congratulations, Megan!



The Center congratulates our graduate student, **Megan Rogers**, who won the National Security Education Program's Boren Fellowship for 2015-2016 academic year and was named a Fulbright Finalist for the China Program. Megan also won the Confucius China Studies Program Joint PhD Fellowship and received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for research expenses.

Megan's work is primarily focused around the question: How do members of the Chinese professional middle class use religion to make sense of their success in a rapidly changing society? Based in the wealthy city of Suzhou on China's eastern seaboard, her project uses ethnography and interviews to answer this question and to understand whether there are distinctly Chinese ways of religious practice that transcend officially established religious lines. In the process, she seeks to provide a portrait of this growing sector of Chinese society and its hopes and concerns.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- **Shanna Corner.** 2014. \$1,955 Graduate Break Travel and Research Grant from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.
 - **Shanna Corner.** 2015. \$1,500 Kellogg Institute Professionalization Grant.
 - **Michael Jindra.** 2015. \$1,000 Teaching Beyond the Classroom Grant
 - **Amy Jonason.** 2015-2016. \$19,000 Teaching Fellowship with the University Writing Program.
 - **Hyunjin Deborah Kwak.** 2014. \$3,498 Graduate Student Research Grant from the Kellogg Institute.
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