

## Inside this issue

Graduate Students	2
Faculty Highlights	3
Global Religion Research Initiative	4
Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference	5
Awards, Recognitions & Publications	6



## Center for the Study of Religion and Society

DIRECTOR

**Kraig Beyerlein**

CENTER COORDINATOR

**Rae Hoffman**

GRR/ISRI PROJECT MANAGER

**Sara Skiles**



# Center for the Study of Religion and Society

GRR/ISRI Awards | Research Highlights | Younger Scholars Conference

## In memoriam: Mary Ellen Konieczny, Henkels Family Associate Professor of Sociology



Mary Ellen Konieczny, the Henkels Family Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, died Feb. 24, 2018 as a result of complications from cancer. She was 58.

"The sudden loss of colleague, friend, teacher, and mentor, Mary Ellen Konieczny is a devastating blow to our department, from her important scholarly work on religion and conflict to her tremendous dedication to her students," said Sarah Mustillo, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology. "She had a brilliant intellect and an even more brilliant spirit that was shared in abundance with all those she came into contact with. Few interacted with Mary Ellen without experiencing her enthusiasm, energy, and earnest devotion to her

family, friends, and work. She was also deeply committed to the mission of Notre Dame, building bridges across campus, and indeed, around the world with her recent work in Rwanda. "Mary Ellen will be deeply, deeply missed but carried in the hearts of the many she inspired."

Konieczny, a faculty fellow of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, studied religion and conflict, the family, and public politics. Her 2013 book, *The Spirit's Tether: Family, Work, and Religion among American Catholics*, is an ethnography of liberal and conservative Catholic parishes that examines how religion and family life support and shape Catholic Americans' moral and political polarization. She was co-editor of *Polarization in the U.S. Catholic Church: Naming the Wounds, Beginning to Heal*, a 2016 volume that grew from a conference she helped organize at Notre Dame in 2015.

Most recently, Konieczny was working on a book called *Service before Self: Organization, Cultural Conflict, and Religion at the U.S. Air Force Academy* and a research project in Rwanda on the interplay of post-genocide reconciliation and religious practice.

"Mary Ellen Konieczny was a distinguished sociologist of religion in a department known as a national leader in that area," said John T. McGreevy, I.A. O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "Her scholarship on Catholic parishes helped us better understand tensions and strength in individual congregations just as her uncompleted work on religion in the military probed the overlap between religious and civic identity. "We will remember Mary Ellen for that scholarship, but perhaps even more for her high spirits and sense of joy, which undergirded her teaching and research and proved a constant source of inspiration to colleagues and students."

A 1981 graduate of Notre Dame, Konieczny received her Master of Divinity from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and worked in ministry and administration for the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago before pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago.

"Mary Ellen has been an inspiration to me in the 10 years we worked together on Notre Dame's faculty," said Kathleen Sprows Cummings, the William W. and Anna Jean Cuswa Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism.

Konieczny is survived by her husband, Chris, and their two sons, John and Peter.

Originally published by Kate Garry at [news.nd.edu](http://news.nd.edu) on February 26, 2018.

## Graduate Students

Feyza Akova  
 Paige Ambord  
 Katie Comeau  
 Shanna Corner  
 Julie Dallavis  
 Ethan Fridmanski  
 Sarah Johnson  
 Abigail Jorgensen  
 Brianna McCaslin  
 Audra Nakas  
 Bridget Ritz  
 Michael Rotolo  
 Peter Ryan  
 Brandon Sepulvado  
 Justin Van Ness  
 Michael Wood  
 Gregory Wurm



*Shanna Corner, Kraig Beyerlein*

**Sarah Johnson** won the 2018 **Mary Ellen Konieczny** Award for the Best Graduate Student Sociology of Religion Paper in the Center for the Study of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, awarded by Kraig Beyerlein. The award is named after Mary Ellen Konieczny, former faculty member of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society.



*Sarah Johnson, Kraig Beyerlein*



## Graduate Student Presentations

### 2017 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Presentations

- **Shanna Corner.** "The Powers that Be: Religion, State Authority, and Human Rights"
- **Sarah Johnson.** "Rest in Ambiguity: Unitarian Universalist Ritual Responses to Death"
- **Megan Rogers.** "Superstitious Beliefs, Cultish Beliefs, and Real Beliefs: How Educated White Collar Buddhist and Protestant Converts in Urban China Draw Religious Boundaries"
- **Michael Rotolo.** "Measuring Religiousness: Conventional Measures vs. Self-Evaluation from Adolescence to Young Adulthood"
- **Justin Van Ness.** "The Privilege of Place: Religious Space and Inequalities in Self-Development"
- **Michael Wood.** "The Image-Schematic Structures of Religious Conversion and Exit Narratives"

### 2017 American Sociological Association Presentations

- **Shanna Corner.** "Secular Global Elites? Religious Identities, Context-Based Knowledge, and Meaning-Making Processes within UN Spaces"
- **Brianna McCaslin.** "Adolescent Religiosity and Sexual Self-Efficacy"
- **Megan Rogers.** "Religion in the Workplace in Urban China"
- **Justin Van Ness.** "Interaction Ritual Theory, Cultural Objects, and Commitment in an Activist Religious Movement"
- **Michael Wood.** "Thinking about Age-Appropriateness: Understanding the Role of Culture in Moral Evaluation"

## Faculty Fellows

---

Kraig Beyerlein  
 Kevin Christiano  
 Atalia Omer  
 David Sikkink  
 Christian Smith  
 Jason Springs  
 Erika Summers-Effler

## Visiting Faculty

---

Barbara Walters  
 Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme  
 Roberta Ricucci

## Post Docs

---

Shanna Corner  
 Hyun Jeong Ha  
 Jason Klocek  
 Megan Rogers  
 Nathanael Sumaktoyo

## FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

**Religion and Women's March on Chicago - Kraig Beyerlein** is collaborating with current graduate student Peter Ryan interviewing people from faith communities in Chicago connected to the first Women's March on Chicago (January 21, 2017). This project is supported by a Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Jack Shand Research Award and an Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Small Research and Creative Work Grant. An article on it is forthcoming in *Sociology of Religion*. This summer, they conducted follow-up interviews with a subset of participants from the original sample as well as some new interviews with faith communities that were not part of this sample but were involved in the second Women's March on Chicago (January 20, 2018).

**National Survey of Women's March Solidarity Events - Kraig Beyerlein**, along with graduate students Aliyah Abu-Hazeem, Amity Pauley, and Peter Ryan, collected a nationally representative sample of U.S. Women's March Solidarity Events ("Sister Marches"). In addition to the presence of religion at these events (religious-leader speakers and faith-based organizational sponsorships), information from organizers was collected about composition of organizing teams and volunteers, when the mobilizing started, collaboration with other organizers, duration of the event, and presence of counterdemonstrators. Currently, a paper from this project has a "revise and resubmit" at *Mobilization*.

**Cardus Education Study** – This project, led by **David Sikkink** and funded by Cardus, a North American think tank based in Canada interested in learning more about the functioning of religious schools, is designed to investigate students' experiences in and outcomes as a result of attending religious schools, both in terms of differences within the religious school sector, and between religious and secular schools. Four waves of data have been collected thus far (two in the US and two in Canada), and a third wave of the US survey is currently being fielded, with a particular emphasis on outcomes related to higher education. In addition, CSRS staff are collecting data for a project similar to CES in Canada focused specifically on examining outcomes in each Canadian province, with the goal of giving educational administrators and other policy makers in each province usable data with which to evaluate their schools and plan for the future.

**Cardus Religious Schools Initiative** – The Cardus Religious Schools Initiative (CRSI) is supported by Cardus. Founded in 2010 and directed by **David Sikkink**, CRSI is a non-partisan research organization. Its mission is to generate new theoretical and empirical tools for understanding religious schools and provide information to leaders and educators across school sectors by offering models for successful education. CRSI staff are currently in the fourth year of the Private School Assessment Survey project, which partners with several parochial schools in Canada to help them collect school-level data from students, parents, and teachers in order to evaluate their programs and assess their progress toward their goals.

**Parental Cultures and Practices of Intergenerational Transmission of Religious Faith to Children** – A research team led by **Christian Smith** conducted over 200 interviews in 2014 and 2015 with parents from across the United States to examine intergenerational transmission of religious and moral beliefs. Analyses of these data are complete and Christian Smith is partnering with Amy Adamczyk of John Jay College in New York to write a book about the trends among parents in their transmission of faith and co-authoring book with two graduate students. Christian is also partnering with Donna Freitas to write a popular press book.

## Sociology Colloquium

The CSRS offers a colloquia series, the Colloquium for 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:

**Ruth Braunstein**, University of Connecticut,  
 "Prophets and Patriots: Faith in Democracy Across the Political Divide"

**Charles Kurzman**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,  
 "Muslim and Anti-Muslim Extremism in America"



Ruth Braunstein

## Global Religion Research Initiative



The Global Religion Research Initiative (GRRRI) has accepted two rounds of proposals from scholars around the world interested in global religion. Eight faculty members have been awarded writing fellowships to allow them time to complete book manuscripts, fourteen graduate students have been awarded writing fellowships and research and travel funds to

support their final year in graduate school, and dozens of other faculty, graduate students, and other researchers have received funding to conduct research or construct course syllabi focused on global religion. A full list of winners as well as details about awards and selection criteria can be found at [grrri.nd.edu](http://grrri.nd.edu).

Eight GRRRI recipients will present their GRRRI-sponsored research at conferences:

### Association for the Sociology of Religion

August 13, 2018; Philadelphia

“Constructive Dialogue?’ The Dialogic Nature of Developing Women’s Rights Norms”  
Shanna Corner, University of Notre Dame

“Religious Emotions and Morality among Coptic Christians in Post-Arab Spring Egypt”

Hyun Jeong Ha, University of Notre Dame

GRRRI Project: “Gender and Divorce among Muslims in Contemporary Indonesia”  
Rachel Rinaldo, University of Colorado Boulder

“Classed Religion in Urban China”

Megan Rogers, University of Notre Dame

### Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion

October 26, 2018; Las Vegas

“Measuring Religious Violence: Conceptual and Empirical Issues Utilizing Natural Language Processing for Religious Violence Event-Data”  
Robert Brathwaite, Michigan State University

“Religion, Ideology and Corruption in Muslim Majority Democracies: Experimental Evidence from Tunisia”

M. Tahir Kilavuz, University of Notre Dame

“Dangerous Spirits: How Gangs Employ Occult Power”

Andrew Miller, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“Renegotiating Chinese Marriage and Family through Christian Sisterhood: An Ethnographic Study of a Women’s Bible Study Group in Shanghai”

Xinyang Peng, University of Virginia

**GRRRI funding proposals for 2019-2020 are due on October 15, 2018**

Visit [grrri.nd.edu](http://grrri.nd.edu) or email [grrri@nd.edu](mailto:grrri@nd.edu) to learn more about the programs offered and the selection criteria and to submit your application.

## Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference

The Center for the Study of Religion and Society hosted the Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference on April 27, 2018. The conference brought together advanced graduate students and early assistant professors to present their research and receive comments from leading scholars in the field.



Participants included Simon Brauer, Duke University; Jane McCamant, University of Chicago; David Eagle, Duke University; Hanna Shaul Bar Nissim, Brandeis University; Hanisah Binte Abdullah Sani, University of Chicago; Shanna Corner, University of Notre Dame; Alex DiBranco, Yale University; Derek Lehman, Southern Illinois University; Jonathan Coley, Monmouth College; Lindsay Glassman, University of Pennsylvania; Laura Krull, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Landon Schnabel, Indiana University, Bloomington; Melissa Guzman Garcia, San Francisco State University; Erin Johnston, Stanford University; Oneya Okuwobi, Ohio State University; and Serhan Tanriverdi, Loyola University of Chicago.

## The Andrew M. Greeley Lifetime Achievement Award in the Sociology of Religion Presented to Dr. Robert Wuthnow



The Center for the Study of Religion and Society presented the first Andrew M. Greeley Lifetime Achievement Award in the Sociology of Religion to **Dr. Robert Wuthnow**. Robert is the Gerhard R. Andlinger Professor of Sociology at Princeton University. He has published numerous books and articles in the sociology of religion, culture and civil society.

## Awards and Recognitions

- **Feyza Akova.** 2018. \$1,500 Kellogg Professionalization Grant.
- **Shanna Corner.** 2017. \$28,000 Global Religion Research Initiative Dissertation Year Fellowship.
- **Megan Rogers.** 2017. \$100,000 Global Religion Research Initiative Postdoctoral Fellowship.

## Center Publications

- **Beyerlein, Kraig,** and Peter Ryan. 2018. "Religious Resistance to Trump: Progressive Faith and the Women's March on Chicago." *Sociology of Religion*.
- **Beyerlein, Kraig, David Sikkink,** and Edwin Hernandez. 2018. "Citizenship, Religion, and Protest: Explaining Differential Participation of Latinos in the 2006 Immigrant Rights Marches." *Social Problems*.
- **Beyerlein, Kraig,** and David Snow. 2018. "Bringing the Study of Religion and Social Movements Together: Toward an Analytically Productive Intersection." *Wiley Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Martínez, Daniel E., Jeremy Slack, **Kraig Beyerlein,** Prescott Vandervoet, Kristin Klingman, Paola Molina, Shiras Manning, Melissa Burham, Kylie Walzak, Kristen Valencia, and Lorenzo Gamboa. "The Migrant Border Crossing Study: A Methodological Overview of Research along the Sonora-Arizona Border." *Population Studies* 71:2, pp. 249-264.
- **Christiano, Kevin.** 2018. "Religious Liberty in Official Catholic Parlance: A Two-Nation Comparison." Chapter in *Les catholicismes devant les nouvelles formes de régulation de l'espace public: Portraits comparatifs (Europe / Amériques) [Catholicisms in the Context of New Forms in the Regulation of Public Space: A Comparative Overview (Europe / The Americas)]*, edited by Philippe Portier and É.-Martin Meunier. Collection: « 21e - Société, histoire et cultures ». Ottawa, Ont.: Les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2018; Rennes, France: Les Presses universitaires de Rennes.
- **Omer, Atalia.** [forthcoming]. "An Analysis of Political Solidarity in Richard Miller's *Friends and Other Strangers*." *Journal of Religious Ethics*.
- **Omer, Atalia.** [forthcoming]. "Religion and Nationalism: Reassessing the Links." *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*.
- **Omer, Atalia.** 2018. "When 'Good Religion' Is Good." *Journal of Religious and Political Practice* pp. 4:1, 122-136.

### Center for the Study of Religion and Society

4020 Jenkins Nanovic Halls  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Phone: 574-631-9786  
Fax: 574-631-9238  
E-mail: [csrsoc@nd.edu](mailto:csrsoc@nd.edu)



For more news and information on all of our research, please visit our new and improved website at:  
[csrs.nd.edu](http://csrs.nd.edu)

For upcoming CSRS events, visit:  
[csrs.nd.edu/events](http://csrs.nd.edu/events)