

Center for the Study of
Religion and Society

Phone: 574-631-2695
Fax: 574-631-9238
E-mail: csrsoc@nd.edu
<http://csrs.nd.edu>

We're on the web:
<http://csrs.nd.edu>



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
Center for the Study of
Religion and Society
811 Flanner Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP ON AMERICAN RELIGION (IWAR)

The CSRS has hosted a number of meetings with University of Notre Dame students and faculty from a variety of disciplines including sociology, history, and political science, to discuss topics of intersection within the study of religion.

Last year's IWAR speakers include Korie Edwards of Ohio State University, Michael Lindsay of Rice Univer-

sity, and Mark Ottoni Wilhelm of Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis.

2008 IWAR speakers:

August 27th: Curtis Evans of the University of Chicago, G20 Flanner Hall

October 10th: John Green of The University of Akron in Ohio, Grace Hall lower level.



Korie Edwards facilitating a discussion entitled "The Face of Race in the Worship Practices of Interracial Churches."

FALL COURSES

Religion & Schooling in American Society: CSRS faculty David Sikkink will conduct a graduate course in the fall to investigate the relationship between religion and elementary and secondary education in the U.S.

Critical Realism & Sociology: CSRS faculty Christian Smith will conduct a graduate course exploring the philosophy of social

science known as critical realism and how it might influence sociological research and scholarship.

Religion and Social Life: CSRS faculty Kevin Christiano will conduct an undergraduate course that examines the social bases of churches, sects, and cults in contemporary U.S. religion.

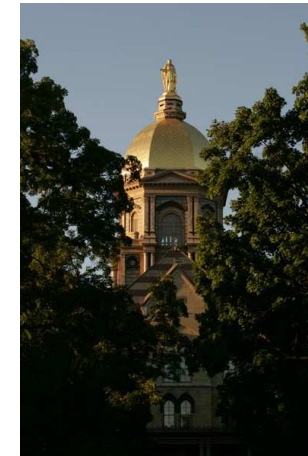
University of Notre Dame

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Center for the Study of Religion and Society

Director
Christian Smith

Programs & Research Specialist
Trish Snell

Faculty Fellows
David Sikkink
Mary Ellen Konieczny
Jessica Collett
Michael Welch
Andy Weigert
Kevin Christiano
Atalia Omer
Sharon Nepstad

Post Doctoral Fellow
Jonathan Hill

TRACKING YOUTH RELIGIOSITY

Researchers from the University of Notre Dame's CSRS and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are nearing completion of the third wave of data collection for the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR).

Wave three of this project is supported by \$1.2 million in grant awards from Lilly Endowment Inc. and The John Templeton Foundation. It consists of a phone survey with 2,532 nationally representative "emerging adults," age 18 to 23, as well as in-person interviews with a sub-sample of 225 of the respondents who completed the phone survey.

The phone survey was completed with a retention rate of 97 percent from wave two to wave three, and an

overall retention rate of 77 percent since the start of the project.

Researchers conducted all 225 of the interviews with a stratified quota sample of respondents representing a range of demographic and religious characteristics, such as age, gender, race and ethnicity geographic and urban/suburban/rural location, annual household income, educational background, and religious orienta-

tion. This wave of interviews also contains 80 respondents who had not been interviewed in-person in prior waves.

The results of both the survey and interview data collection efforts will be reported in a forthcoming book by Principal Investigator Dr. Christian Smith, tentatively entitled *The Religious and Spiritual Lives of America's Emerging Adults*.

NSYR Scholarship

Articles:

Jenny Trinitapoli "Religious Exclusivism Among U.S. Adolescents," *The Sociological Quarterly* 48: 251-483.

Mark D. Regnerus and Amy Burdette, 2006, "Religious Change and Adolescent Family Dynamics," *The Sociological Quarterly* 47:175-194.

Kyle C. Longest and Michael J. Shanahan, 2007, "Adolescent Work Intensity and

Substance Use: The Medial and Moderational Role of Parents," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 69:703-720.

Books:

Mark D. Regnerus, 2007. *Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers*, Oxford University Press.

Brad Christerson, Richard Flory, and Korie Edwards, 2009. *Radicalized Adolescence: Understanding the Lives of Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian Youth in America*, Stanford University Press (under contract).

EXPLORING HUMAN PERSONHOOD

The Human Personhood in the Social Sciences project brings together interdisciplinary groups of scholars to discuss key questions toward developing new theoretical models of the nature of human personhood as it relates to the work of the social sciences.

Scholars in sociology, psychology, political science,

philosophy, theology, and law gathered at the University of Texas and the University of Southern California in March to explore these issues.

In collaboration with the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the project also invited University of Notre Dame faculty members and advanced doctoral students



Human Personhood consultation meeting in Austin, Texas.

to participate in a series of monthly seminars on Social Science and Christian Perspectives on Human Personhood and Society, led by CSRS faculty Dr. Christian Smith.

Graduate Students

- Stephen Armet
- Amanda Bradley
- Robert Brenneman
- Tom Buschman
- Ellen Childs
- Kari Christoffersen
- Hilary Davidson
- Brooke Fischer
- Monique Gregg
- David Hartman
- Liz Martinez
- Chris Morrissey
- Peter Munday
- Sarah Shafiq
- Jeffrey Smith
- Lisa Swartz
- Carlos Tavares
- Brandon Vaidyanathan
- Brad Vermurlen
- Yuting Wang
- Meredith Whitnah

FACULTY PROFILE—MARY ELLEN KONIECZNY


Mary Ellen Konieczny joins the CSRS and the Notre Dame Sociology Department after three years as Assistant Professor of Sociology at Concordia University Chicago.

She received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 2005, an M.Div. from Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass. in 1985, and her B.S. from the University of Notre Dame in 1981.

Mary Ellen’s research interests revolve around the broad themes of religion and family life, and religion

in American democracy. She is particularly interested in exploring how culture and social processes in local contexts intersect with discourse and politics in the public sphere.

Her current work includes transforming her dissertation study, an ethnography of liberal and conservative Catholic parishes, into a book entitled, *The Spirit’s Tether: Family, Work and Religion among American Catholics*. Her second book project is an historical and ethnographic study of religion at the US Air



Force Academy in which she explores religion in the military, and the historical changes in and tensions between the disestablishment of religion and its free exercise at the Academy.

GRADUATE ACTIVITIES

Peter Munday presented a paper entitled “The ‘Neo-Parish’: Willow Creek’s Middle Ground between Small Groups and Mega Worship” at the 2008 American Sociological Association meeting in Boston.

Brandon Rama Vaidyanathan presented two papers entitled “Tradition and Modernity in Indian Call Centers: A Case for Multiple Modernities” and “Weber and Modernization: A Tale of Two Theo-

ries” at the 2008 American Sociological Association meeting in Boston.

Patricia Snell presented a paper written with **Carlos Tavares, Kari Christoffersen** and **Christian Smith** entitled “Where doesn’t Socioeconomic Status Matter?: A Community-Based study on the Social Inequality of Religious-Based Youth Ministry Programming” at the 2008 American Sociological Association meeting in Boston.

Stephen Armet presented “Weathering the Storm: Demobilization, Innovation and Stability in a Religious Social Movement Organization” at the 2008 American Sociological Association meeting in Boston.

Bob Brenneman received a Graduate Research Grant for \$1,500 from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and a Research Assistance Grant for \$967 from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.



Rae Hoffman (left) and Katie Spencer (right)

Two new staff members joined the CSRS this year.

Rae Hoffman is a part-time Staff Assistant who joined in January. Rae grew up in the area and lives in Granger with her husband and 3 children.

Katie Spencer began working full time as a Research Assistant in June. She recently finished undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she also worked with Christian Smith.

RELIGIOUS GIVING TO FOREIGN AID

A national survey conducted by CSRS faculty David Sikkink yielded major findings regarding overseas giving by religious congregations.

The data was taken from a random sample of 570 American congregations.

The Center for Marketing and Opinion Research conducted telephone and web surveys, asking questions on worship styles, programs, social service ministries, political involvement, political attitudes of pastors, community involvement, and ministry budget. In-person

interviews were conducted by CSRS graduate students.

The Hudson Institute's Center for Global Prosperity combined the survey data with previous surveys from the Billy Graham Foundation at Wheaton College and the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-Day Saints, finding that in 2006 U.S. congregations gave \$8.8 billion in financial aid to foreign relief and development.

The study was funded by a \$149,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

CSRS in the News

CSRS projects and studies have been reported in news publications such as:

Time Magazine
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
the International Herald Tribune

The Washington Post
the San Francisco Chronicle
the Chicago Tribune
The Denver Post
the Philadelphia Inquirer
The Raleigh News and Observer

WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUTH GROUP?

A recent study by the CSRS investigated the role of religious youth group programming in youth lives, examining differences and similarities in youth groups based on denomination, size, resources, and socioeconomic location.

The Northern Indiana Youth and Religion (NIYR) project was a locally based phone survey with a 98.9 percent response rate (n=269), surveying all but three of the congregations within its specified geographic area. The phone surveys were followed by 42 in-person interviews conducted with a sub-sample of youth pastors who completed the survey.

NIYR was motivated by findings from the National Study of Youth and Religion of an apparent disconnect between the value youth place on religion and their lack of knowledge on the

teachings of their religious congregations. It looked to investigate the role of youth group programming in the religious socialization of youth.

Researchers collected data with and for a local religious community, and the preliminary results were presented in a community forum to the research participants.

The researchers are presenting the methods and findings of this project at the American Sociological Association and Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual conferences and have several journal publications forthcoming.

Source: Northern Indiana Youth and Religion Project

