



The Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society (IRES) at Chapman University held its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Graduate Student Workshop on June 1-2, 2012. Twelve advanced graduate students were brought to Chapman University for an intensive workshop that allowed each student to present their preliminary dissertation work and receive extensive commentary from attending faculty members as well as their fellow students.

Eight faculty members attended the conference, covering multiple disciplines including economics, sociology and political science. Faculty discussed each student's research in detail, providing valuable feedback to help them further develop their work. The workshop also provided opportunities for students to interact informally with faculty. Attendees felt this to be an invaluable aspect of the workshop which, given the small faculty to student ratio, provided ample occasion for one on one conversations with some of the leading academics in their field.

Participants represented a high-quality group of students in the growing field of economics and religion. Only a select group of less than half the applicants were chosen to participate. Students travelled from across the nation including California, Washington, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Florida; in addition, three students travelled internationally to attend from Germany, Delhi, and Istanbul. Their participation demonstrates the global reach of the economic approach to the study of religion, of which IRES has quickly established itself as the world's leading center.

During the conference, each student was given an opportunity to share their research, receive specific commentary from one faculty and one student participant, followed by lively discussions with all participants. The experience allowed students to not only receive feedback on their own work, but also to explore the diversity of this field of study. Their interactions with their peers familiarized them with other areas of research and engaged them in the possibilities within the economic and sociological study of religion. Research topics presented highlight the diverse and interdisciplinary aspects of the field. These included topics such as religious giving and charitable acts, an economic analysis of hate crimes in India, religion and entrepreneurship, religion and politics, and relationships between regime type and violence against religious minorities.

Currently, IRES has plans to continue this workshop on an annual basis. In addition, IRES will be working with the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) to hold its twelfth Annual Conference on April 11-14, 2013 in Washington DC. Information on the conference as well as information on submitting a proposal is available on the ASREC website at [www.thearda.com/asrec/conference/](http://www.thearda.com/asrec/conference/). Recently, ASREC held its eleventh Annual Conference at

Chapman University where it brought together world experts in economics, religion and culture from across the social sciences to debate new research findings. The ASREC conference will return to Chapman University in 2014.

### **Participating Faculty**

Christopher Bader (Chapman University)

Jean-Paul Carvalho (University of California, Irvine)

Laurence Iannaccone (Chapman University)

Michael McBride (University of California, Irvine)

Robert Mochrie (Heriot-Watt University, Scotland)

Andrea Molle (Chapman University)

Jared Rubin (Chapman University)

Carolyn Warner (Arizona State University)

### **Participating Students**

Matthew Bergman (University of California, San Diego)

Katie Corcoran (University of Washington)

Arya Gaduh (University of Southern California)

Christopher Hale (Arizona State University)

Hossein Radmard (West Virginia University)

Anja Kobrich Leon (University of Luneberg, Germany)

Avital Livny (Stanford University)

David Muchlinski (Arizona State University)

Michelle Phillips (University of Florida)

Yu Sasaki (University of Washington)

Smriti Sharma (Delhi School of Economics)

Catherine Tucker (Pennsylvania State University)

