



ASREC 2025

Association for the Study of
Religion, Economics, and Culture



George Mason University
Arlington, Virginia
March 7-8, 2025



FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025

Session structure: In 4-paper sessions, each presenter has 15 minutes, followed by 5-10 minutes for discussion. In 3-paper sessions, each presenter has 20 minutes, followed by 5-10 minutes for discussion. The last presenter will chair the session and manage time.

Presenters are listed first and in bold.

7:30 AM Registration - George Mason University - Mason Square Campus

7:30 – 8:30 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Van Metre Hall art gallery

8:30 – 10:15 AM: Parallel Sessions 1

1A: Religion, History, and Culture in South Asia

Room: 111

Pox, Piety, and Paradox: The Economics of Vaccination in British India

- **Malik Hussain**, *George Mason University*

The Cursed Cuppa: The Persistent Labour Market Effects of Sri Lanka's Colonial-Era Tea Plantations

- **Sudaraka Ariyaratne**, *Rice University*

Lifeline to the Nation: Railway Expansion and Language Shift in the British Raj

- **Hanrui Zeng**, *University of Pittsburgh*

Male Sterilization and the Persistence of Violence: Evidence from Emergency in India

- **Sarah Vincent**, *Boston University*
- Aditi Singh, *University of British Columbia*



1B: In-group out-group

Room: 120

The Cultural Evolution of Parochial Morality

- **Mohammad Atari**, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Preference Transmission within Churches: Religious Leaders and Clusters of (In)Tolerance

- **Michal Bauer**, *CERGE-EI and Charles University*
- Julie Chytilova, *Charles University*
- Eric Ochieng, *IPA and Maseno University*

Adherence to Social Norms is Not Always Greater in More Collectivist and Tighter Cultures: The Case of Emotion Norms

- **Allon Vishkin**, *Technion - Israel Institute of Technology*
- Shinobu Kitayama, *University of Michigan*
- Maya Tamir, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Narratives and Market Exchange in Developing Countries

- **Pablo Balan**, *Tel Aviv University*
- Juan Pedro Ronconi, *Universidad de los Andes, Chile*

1C: Islam

Room: 121

Islam, Sultan, and the Printing Press: How Absence of the Printed Word Limited Development

- **Bogdan Popescu**, *John Cabot University*

Demand for and effects of Islamic law on European Muslims: Evidence from the Muslim minority of Northern Greece

- **Vaios Triantafyllou**, *Cornell University*
- Vasiliki Fouka, *Stanford University*

From Womb to Workforce: Exploring Early Origins of Earnings Inequality Using Tax Data

- **Timotej Cejka**, *UC Berkeley*
- Mazhar Waseem, *University of Manchester*

Conflict and Religion: Evidence from Ramadan

- **Humoyun Abdumavlon**, *University of Pittsburgh*



1D: Evolutionary Dynamics of Religion, Family Size, and Child Success

Room: 318

Religious Involvement is Associated With Higher Fertility and Lower Maternal Investment, but More Alloparental Support Among Gambian Mothers

- **John Shaver**, *Baylor University*
- Radim Chvaja (*University of Otago*), Laure Spake (*Binghamton University*), Jainaba Badjie (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*), Andrew M. Prentice (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*), Carla Cerami (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*), Rebecca Sear (*Brunel University*), Mary K. Shenk (*Pennsylvania State University*), Richard Sosis (*University of Connecticut*)

Religious Parents Receive More Alloparental Cooperation in Rural Bangladesh

- **Theodore Samore**, *University of Otago*
- Richard Sosis (*University of Connecticut*), John Shaver (*Baylor University*), Radim Chvaja (*University of Otago*), Matthew Conrad (*University of Connecticut*), Anushé Hassan (*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*), Robert Lynch (*Pennsylvania State University*), Susan Schaffnitt (*Pennsylvania State University*), Rebecca Sear (*Brunell University*), Laure Spake (*Binghamton University*), Joseph Watts (*Canterbury University*), Mary Shenk (*Pennsylvania State University*)

How Does Religiosity Affect Fertility? A Test in ‘Two Bengals’

- **Mary Shenk**, *Penn State University*
- Saswata Ghosh (*Institute of Development Studies Kolkata*), Susan Schaffnitt (*Penn State University*), Nurul Alam (*ICDDR, Bangladesh*), Rebecca Sear (*Brunel University London*), Richard Sosis (*University of Connecticut*), and John Shaver (*Baylor University*).

10:15 – 10:45 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Van Metre Hall art gallery



10:45 – 12:30 PM: Parallel Sessions 2

2A: Political Economy

Room: 111

Historical Narratives and Political Behavior in the US Historical Narratives and Political Behavior in the US

- **Diego Ramos-Toro**, *Dartmouth College*

Pay-to-Play: Political Donations and Kickbacks in Public Procurement

- **Juan Felipe Riaño**, *Georgetown University*
- Saad Gulzar, *Princeton University*
- Juan Felipe Ladino, *Stockholm University*

The Signaling Value of Government Action: The Effect of Istanbul Convention on Female Murders

- **Naci Mocan**, *Louisiana State University*
- Gunes Asik, *TOBB University*

Land Rights Institutions and the Scope of Cooperation

- **Jonathan Schulz**, *George Mason University*



2B: Immigration 1

Room: 121

Designing an Ethnic Minority Social Integration Policy

- **Yujung Hwang**, *Johns Hopkins University*

Closing Ranks: Organized Labor and Immigration

- **Carlo Medici**, *Brown University*

Breaking Barriers, Building (on) Networks: Lessons from the Jewish Emancipation in Germany

- **Israel Eruchimovitch**, *Brown University*
- Lukas Rosenberger, *LMU Munich*
- Assaf Sarid, *University of Haifa*

Cultural Exchange and the Birth of International Development

- **Youn Baek**, *New York University*

2C: Studies of Cooperation and Child Care

Room: 318

Modeling alloparental care under the demographic transition

- **Elic M. Weitzel**, *Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History*
- Kurt M. Wilson, *Lawrence University*
- John H. Shaver, *Baylor University*
- Richard Sosis, *University of Connecticut*

Prestige, Religion, and Autonomic Regulation in the Evolution of Cooperation

- **Hillary Lenfesty**, *Arizona State University*

Deus Ex Dilemma: Experimental Evidence that Random Shocks Promote Solidarity and Superstition in Social Dilemma Games

- **Laurence Iannaccone**, *Chapman University*
- Aidin Hajikhameneh, *San Jose State University*



12:30 – 2:00 PM: Lunch Break - Explore Arlington!

2:00 – 3:45 PM: Parallel Sessions 3

3A: Economic History

Room: 111

Magna Carta

- **Desiree Desierto**, *George Mason University*
- Jacob Hall, *University of Pennsylvania*
- Mark Koyama, *George Mason University*

Razing the Church: The Enduring Effect of Nazi Repression in Poland

- **Volha Charnysh**, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Ricardo Pique, *Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania*

From Vagabonds to Virtues: The Ideological Roots of Entrepreneurship

- **Tom Raster**, *London School of Economics*
- Lars Harhoff Andersen, *University of Copenhagen*

Historical Conflict and Social Preferences: Evidence from Europe

- **Sara Benetti**, *University of British Columbia*
- Felipe Valencia Caicedo, *University of British Columbia*



3B: Gender 1

Room: 120

Female Franchise and Female Voter Preferences: Evidence from 20th-century Germany

- **Mathias Buehler**, *LMU Munich*
- Navid Sabet, *Goethe University Frankfurt*

The Effects of Religious Communication on Gendered Political Attitudes: Experimental Evidence from Colombia

- **Radha Sarkar**, *Tecnologico de Monterrey, Mexico*
- Sofia Elverdin, *Yale University*
- Sebastian Lucek, *Stanford University*

Culture and Fertility: How Religion Mediates the Response to Maternity Benefits

- **Elizabeth Brainerd**, *Brandeis University*
- Olga Malkova, *University of California, Irvine*

Failing to forge the New Soviet Woman: Long-term effect of WW2-induced sex ratios on family formation

- **Vitaliia Eliseeva**, *Paris School of Economics*

3C: The Evolution of Religions: Phylogenetic and Economic Perspectives

Room: 318

The Evolution of Religions: A Phylogenetic History of Related Traditions

- **Lance Grande**, *Field Museum of Natural History*

Phylogenetic versus Economic Models of Religious Change: Complements or Substitutes?

- **Paul Seabright**, *Toulouse School of Economics*

3:45 – 4:15 PM: Coffee Break - Van Metre Hall art gallery



4:15 –5:45 PM: Parallel Sessions 4

4A: Religion and Development

Room: 111

The Price of Faith: Economic Costs and Religious Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Triana Yentzen**, *University of Michigan*
- Eduardo Montero, *University of Chicago*
- Dean Yang, *University of Michigan*

Religious Messaging and Adaptation to Water Scarcity: Evidence from Jordan

- **Giulia Buccione**, *Stanford University*

Building Socialism on Abandoned Land: Collectivization & Civic Engagement in Poland

- **Oliver Wach**, *Freie Universitaet Berlin*

4B: Institutions

Room: 120

Religious Persecution and Identity Choice: Che Im Land Catholics, Orthodox, and Uniates in the Russian Empire

- **Dmitrii Kofanov**, *University of Pittsburgh*

The Making of Italians: Institutional Response to Disasters and Nation-Building

- **Caterina Alfonzo**, *University of Bologna*

Industrialization and National Identity: Turning Peasants into Workers

- **Stergios Skaperdas**, *University of California, Irvine*
- Patrick Testa, *Tulane University*



4C: Immigration and Religion

Room: 121

Maximum Jews on Maximum Land?

- **Hannah Ridge**, *Chapman University*

Between Arab and White: Syrians and the Naturalization Law

- **Donia Kamel**, *Paris School of Economics*

Missionaries on the Nile: Exposure to Protestant Missionaries and Women's Developmental Outcomes and Social Values in Egypt

- **Ashrakat Elshehawy**, *Stanford University*

4D: Theory and Data for the Study of Religious Change and Differences

Room: 318

The Seshat Global History Databank

- **Jakob Zsombok**, *Complexity Science Hub*

Making Good Use of Religion Survey Data

- **Rachel J. Bacon**, *Penn State University & Center for Mind and Culture*

Using the ARDA to Study Trends and Regional Variation in Religion

- **Roger Finke**, *Pennsylvania State University*



6:00 – 7:00 PM

Keynote address



Robert Boyd

Arizona State University

“How to think about culture “

7:00 -9:00 PM: ASREC Welcome Reception
Van Metre Hall - Multipurpose room



SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

7:30 AM: Registration - Mason Square Campus at Van Metre Hall art gallery

7:30 – 8:30 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Van Metre Hall art gallery

8:30 - 10:15 Parallel Sessions 5

5A: Identity

Room: 111

Threat to Identity and Populism: Evidence from Francoist Street Names

- **Iker Arregui-Alegria**, *Lund University*

The Age of Mass Migrations and the lifespan of people with disabilities: Sweden (1894-1919)

- **Alice Dominici**, *Bocconi University, IMT Lucca*
- Nicoletta Balbo, *Bocconi University*
- Danilo Bolano, *University of Florence*
- Lotta Vikström, *Umeå University*
- Johan Junkka, *Umeå University*

The Gender of Names

- **Eli Locke**, *Boston University*
- Katarina Fedorov, *Boston University*
- Martin Fiszbein, *Boston University/NBER*
- Sam Bazzi, *University of California, San Diego /CEPR*



5B: Violence

Room: 120

Reassessing the Relationship Between Religiosity and Political Violence: Evidence from Afghanistan

- **Mohammad Isaqzadeh**, *Chapman University*

Safer but poorer in numbers: Violence and spatial misallocation in the Jim Crow South

- **Thilo R. Huning**, *University of York*
- James P. Choy, *University of York*

Fiestas and the Dynamics of Violent Collective Action: Evidence from Mexico

- **Jenny Guardado**, *Georgetown University*
- Edgar Franco-Vivanco, *University of Michigan*
- Gema Kloppe-Santamaria, *University College Cork*

Crimes and Privatization

- **Natalya Naumenko**, *George Mason University*
- Michael Poyker, *UT Austin and IZA*

5C: Theory

Room: 121

Incubation and the Emergence of Identity-Based Organizations

- **Michael Sacks**, *Clarkson University*

Faith-Based Organizations as Platforms

- **Amma Serwaah-Panin**, *University of Louvain*
- Emmanuelle Auriol, *Toulouse School of Economics*
- Eva Raiber, *Aix-Marseille School of Economics*
- Paul Seabright, *Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse and Toulouse School of Economics*

The Complex Dynamics of Cultural Traits

- **Benjamin Tremblay-Auger**, *Stanford GSB*

10:15 – 10:45 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Van Metre Hall art gallery



10:45 - 12:30 PM Parallel Sessions 6

6A: Education and Identity

Room: 120

The Educational Cost of Beef Bans in India

- **Farhan Majid**, *University of Pennsylvania*
- Wafa Hakim Orman, *University of Alabama*

The Decline of National Identity in Multiethnic Societies: Religion and Nation in Iran and Belgium

- **Ramin Jabbarli**, *University of Washington*
- Steven Pfaff, *Chapman University*

Cognitive consequences of insecure national belonging

- **Joseph Flavian Gomes**, *University of Louvain*
- Amma Panin, *University of Louvain*
- Ritwik Banerjee, *Indian Institute of Management Bangalore*
- Emmy Lindstam, *IE University*

The Persistence of Female Political Power in Africa

- **Sahar Parsa**, *New York University*
- Siwan Anderson, *University of British Columbia*
- Sophia Du Plessis, *Stellenbosch University*,
- James A. Robinson, *University of Chicago*



6B: Social learning & Norms

Room: 121

Optimization and Social Learning in Static and Dynamic Environments

- **Jared Rubin**, *Chapman University*
- Erik Kimbrough, *Chapman University*
- Ryan Oprea, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

Pluralism Breeds Tolerance

- **Erik Kimbrough**, *Chapman University*
- Folco Panizza, *IMT Lucca*
- Eugen Dimant, *UPenn*
- Alexander Vostroknutov, *Maastricht*

Do Individualists and Collectivists Cooperate Differently?

- **Aidin Hajikhameneh**, *San Jose State University*
- Erik Kimbrough, *Chapman University*
- Brock Stoddard, *Appalachian State University*

Morals favored by previous moral choices are always safer

- **Oeivind Schoeyen**, *UIT: The Arctic University of Norway & Stanford University*

6C: Science & Innovation

Room: 318

Race and Science

- **Gaia Dossi**, *University College London*

In the Name of God! Religiosity and the Production of Science

- **Lars Harhoff Andersen**, *UCPH*
- Jeanet Sinding Bentzen, *UCPH*

Individualism, Creativity, and Innovation

- **Katharina Hartinger**, *JGU Mainz & UC Berkeley*

12:30 – 2:00 PM: Lunch Break



2:00 – 3:45 PM: Parallel Sessions 7

7A: Religion, the State, and Welfare

Room: 111

Religion and State

- **Paul Seabright**, *Toulouse School of Economics*
- Julia Hofer, *Toulouse School of Economics*

Social Foundation of Religion and State

- **Hilton Root**, *George Mason University*

Analysis of Jewish Occupational Attainment in the Antebellum United States: Filling a Gap in the Literature

- **Barry Chiswick**, *George Washington University*
- RaeAnn Robinson, *George Washington University*

Does Religiosity Make Communities More Economically Resilient? Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **Christos Makridis**, *Arizona State University*
- Byron Johnson, *Baylor University*



7B: How are Values Formed?

Room: 120

Migration and the Making of the English Middle Class

- **Vasiliki Fouka**, *Stanford University*
- Theo Serlin, *Princeton University*

Markets Make Humans WEIRDer: Evidence from 1850-1920 United States

- **Itzhak Raz**, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
- Max Posch, *University of Exeter*

Bridging or Dividing: Which Cultural Dimensions Shape Intergroup Interactions?

- **Alain Schlöpfer**, *Stanford University*
- Vasiliki Fouka, *Stanford University*
- Edith Zink, *University of Copenhagen*

7C: Evangelical Christianity and American Religion

Room: 121

Political Talk Radio and Rural Conservatism

- **Heyu Xiong**, *Case Western Reserve University*

Praying for Prosperity: Religious Activity and the Lottery

- **Lester Lusher**, *University of Pittsburgh*
- Scott Carrell, *University Texas, Austin*

Crimes against Nature: The Colonial Roots of Homophobia in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Jon Denton-Schneider**, *Clark University*
- Teevrat Garg, *University of California, San Diego*

3:45 – 4:15 PM: Coffee/Tea Station - Van Metre Hall art gallery



4:15 - 5:45 PM: Parallel Sessions 8

8A: Missionaries

Room: 111

Culture and the Deep Roots of Innovation in the U.S.

- **Daniel Solon**, *Lincoln Memorial University*

Christian Diffusion, Development, and Capitalism: Evidence from China

- **Riccardo Di Cato**, *University of California, San Diego*
- Jiachen Li, *Renmin University of China*

Marco Polo and His Impact on China's Modernization through Christian Missionaries

- **Senhao Hu**, *The University of Hong Kong*
- Zhiwu Chen, *The University of Hong Kong*
- Xinhao Li, *The University of Hong Kong*

8B: Nations and Institutions

Room: 120

Pilgrims and Crusaders: Religion as a Political Double-Edged Sword

- **Felipe Valencia Caicedo**, *University of British Columbia*

Rents and Reformation

- **Mark Koyama**, *George Mason University*
- Desiree Desierto, *George Mason University*
- Marcus Shera, *Chapman University*

A Century of Religious-Service Attendance in 66 Countries

- **Robert Barro**, *Harvard University*
- Edgard Dewitte, *Oxford University*
- Laurence R. Iannaccone, *Chapman University*



8C: Social Values

Room: 121

International House: A Study in Cross-cultural Understanding and Social Capital Formation

- **Joan Ricart-Huguet**, *Loyola University Maryland*

Like A Good Neighbor: The Role of Neighbors in Career Choice

- **Mike Andrews**, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*
- Ryan Hill, *Northwestern*
- Joe Price, *Brigham Young University*
- Riley Wilson, *Brigham Young University*

Education and Preferences for Desired Traits in Children

- **Nur Orak**, *Louisiana State University*
- Naci Mocan, *Louisiana State University*

5:45 – 8:00 PM: Farewell Reception
Van Metre Hall - Multipurpose room



ASREC would like to thank the following organizations for their sponsorship:



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Thanks to all who contributed to these presentations, including presenters, participants, the Mercatus Center events team, and ASREC officers.



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We hope to see you at our other events this year.

Call for papers out soon.

ASREC Europe 2025 Copenhagen

University of Copenhagen
18-19 September 2025

Keynote Speaker:
Ara Norenzayan

Local Organizers:
Jeanet Sinding Bentzen (University of Copenhagen)
Anne Sofie Beck (University of Copenhagen)

ASREC 2025 Thematic Workshop

Thessaloniki, Greece
Fall 2025

Local Organizers:
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