



ASREC 2026

Association for the Study of
Religion, Economics, and Culture



Chapman University
Orange, California
March 20-21, 2026



FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

Rules of the game: 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.

8:00 AM: Registration - Argyros Forum 209, Chapman University

8:00 – 9:00 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Outside of Argyros Forum 209

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Parallel Sessions 1

1A: Faith, Family & Fertility: Empirical Studies & Causal Identification

Room: AF 209A

Malthusian Migrations

- **Romain Wacziarg**, *University of California, Los Angeles*
- Guillaume Blanc, *Simon Fraser University*

The Diffusion of Fertility Norms: Who Adopts from Whom and Why

- **Samuel Bazzi**, *University of California, San Diego*
- Hillel Rapoport, *Paris School of Economics*
- Martin Fernandez, *Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research*

Minority–Majority Religious Group Differences in Fertility: The Impact of the Level of Minority Status in South Asia

- **Mary K. Shenk**, *Pennsylvania State University*
- Saman Naz, *East Tennessee State University*
- John H. Shaver, *Baylor University*



1B: Missionaries

Room: AF 209B

Human Capital Side of Soft Power: Evidence from American Missionaries

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

Seeds of Market-Based Capitalism: Christian Missionaries and China's Modernization

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

Catholicism in the Early 20th Century: A Re-examination

- **Yiling Zhao**, *Peking University*
- Ningning Ma, *Jinan University*

1C: Immigration and Assimilation

Room: AF 209C

Networks, Modernization and Integration: Jewish Emancipation in Nineteenth-Century Germany

- **Israel Eruchimovitch**, *Brown University*
- Lukas Rosenberger, *Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich*
- Assaf Sarid, *Haifa University*

Industrialization and the Making of an Integrated Society: Evidence from US Marriage Networks

- **Munir Squires**, *University of British Columbia*
- Arkadev Ghosh, *Duke University*
- Sam Hwang, *University of British Columbia*

Our Crowd? Intra-Ethnic Frictions in Immigrant Assimilation

- **Sara Benetti**, *University of British Columbia*
- Elijah Locke, *Northwestern University*
- Ross Mattheis, *ISO New England*



10:30 – 11:00 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Outside of Argyros Forum 209

11:00 – 12:30 PM: Parallel Sessions 2

2A: Faith, Family & Fertility: Case Studies

Room: AF 209A

High Fertility but Widely Varying: Do Amish-Internal or Non-Amish Neighborhood Processes Better Predict Fertility Variation?

- **Cory Anderson**, *Pennsylvania State University*
- George Hayward, *U.S. Census Bureau*
- Shuai Zhou, *University of South Alabama*
- Mary Shenk, *Pennsylvania State University*
- Guangqing Chi, *Indiana University*

Multiple Pathways Link Fertility and Religion Among the Amish

- **Matthew Conrad**, *University of Connecticut*
- Mary Shenk, *Pennsylvania State University*
- Cory Anderson, *Pennsylvania State University*

What Dimensions of Religiosity Affect Fertility? A Cross-Cultural Theoretical Framework

- **Mary Shenk**, *Pennsylvania State University*
- Jane Lankes Smith, *Ohio State University*



2B: The Deep Roots of Culture

Room: AF 209B

Christian Missions and the Diffusion of Authoritarian Parenting in Africa

- **Giulia La Mattina**, *University of South Florida*
- Alberto Ciancio, *University of Glasgow*
- Elisabetta De Cao, *University of Bologna*
- Luca Maria Pesando, *New York University Abu Dhabi*

Innovation and the Medieval Church

- **Jonathan Schulz**, *George Mason University*
- Viacheslav Savitskiy, *Korea University Business School*
- Max Posch, *University of Exeter*
- Joe Henrich, *Harvard Business School*

Songlines

- **Sotiris Kampanelis**, *Cardiff University*
- Aldo Elizalde, *Queen's University, Belfast*
- Yannis M. Ioannides, *Tufts University*

2C: Cultural Dynamics and Change

Room: AF 209C

Leadership and the Emergence of Cooperative Norms After Conflict

- **Alain Schläpfer**, *Stanford University*
- Marcela Ibáñez, *University of Zurich*

The Complex Dynamics of Cultural Traits

- **Benjamin Tremblay-Auger**, *Chapman University*

Education and Cultural Heterogeneity

- **Paul Behler**, *University of Bonn*



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

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2:00 – 3:30 PM: Parallel Sessions 3

3A: The Roots of Behavior

Room: AF 209A

The Linguistic Foundations of Support for Islamist Militants: Evidence from Afghanistan

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

Norms That Travel: The Role of Grassroots Institutions on Anti-Social Behavior

- **Natalia Pia Guerrero Trinidad**, *University of Minnesota*

Why the Contact Hypothesis Holds When it Holds and Fails When it Fails

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

3B: Culture and Religion in History

Room: AF 209B

Quantifying Belief in God: The Long Run Decline of Sincere Faith in England 1300-1850

- **Neil Cummins**, *London School of Economics*
- Aurelius Noble, *READ-COOP*

The Postal System and the Spread of the Renaissance North of the Alps

- **Steven Pfaff**, *Chapman University*
- Sascha Becker, *University of Warwick*
- Jared Rubin, *Chapman University*

Printing Morality: Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Antebellum Political

- **Erdong Xu**, *George Washington University*



3C: Religion, Contracts, and Governance

Room: AF 209C

Where Welfare Competes: State and Islamist Provision in Jordan

- **Saumyaa Gupta**, *Yale University*

Religion and Contracts

- **Lucas Lopez-Manuel**, *University of Vigo*

Creedal Incompleteness: A Framework For Understanding Church Governance

- **Marcus Shera**, *Eastern University*
- Tegan Truitt, *Grove City College*

3:45 – 4:15 PM: Coffee Break - Outside of Argyros Forum 209

4:15 –5:45 PM: Parallel Sessions 4

4A: Faith, Family & Fertility

Room: AF 209A

Religious Institutions and Fertility: Theory and Evidence from the Amish

- **James Choy**, *University of York*
- Thilo Huning, *University of York*
- Cory Anderson, *Pennsylvania State University*

Cousin Marriage, Women's Welfare and Family Formation

- **Olympia Campbell**, *IAST, Toulouse School of Economics*

The Family and Economic Growth

- **Lena Edlund**, *Columbia University*



4B: Norms

Room: AF 209B

A Theory of Injunctive Norms

- **Erik Kimbrough**, *Chapman University*
- Alexander Vostroknutov, *Maastricht University*

Virtual Bargaining in an Uncertain World

- **Tigran Melkonyan**, *University of Alabama*
- Nick Chater, *University of Warwick*
- Arthur Le Pargneux, *Harvard University*
- Tigran Melkonyan, *University of Alabama*
- Hossam Zeitoun, *University of Warwick*

Public Goods or Productive Clubs? Why the games we pay aren't the games they play.

- **Laurence Iannaccone**, *Chapman University*

4C: The Roots of Power and Religious Faith

Room: AF 209C

The Roots of Faith: Early Life Droughts and Religious Commitment

- **Triana Yentzen**, *University of Michigan*

Male Dominance and Cultural Extinction

- **Ana Tur-Prats**, *University of California, Merced*
- Eleonora Guarnieri, *University of Bristol*

Age Sets, Accountability, and the Balance of Power: Evidence from Villages in Rural Congo

- **Sara Lowes**, *University of California, San Diego*



6:00 – 7:00 PM – Keynote Speaker

Room: Beckman Hall 404

James Robinson



Join Nobel Prize-winning economist James Robinson for a fascinating exploration of "Bokoko." Drawing on decades of research in Africa and Latin America, Robinson investigates how traditional belief systems challenge our standard economic models. This presentation offers a preview of his highly anticipated book, *Wealth in People*, and provides a fresh, provocative look at the human side of political economy.

7:00 -9:00 PM: ASREC Welcome Reception

Room: Beckman Hall 404



SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

8:00 AM: Registration - Argyros Forum 209, Chapman University

8:00 – 9:00 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Argyros Forum 209

9:00 - 10:30 Parallel Sessions 5

5A: Faith, Family & Fertility: The Big Picture

Room: AF 209A

Religion and Fertility: An Update on Findings, Theory, and Mechanisms

- **Mary Shenk**, *Pennsylvania State University*
- Jane Lankes Smith, *Ohio State University*

Status norms and the global decline in fertility

- **Minchul Yum**, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

Are We Seeing Western-Typical Religious Decline, outside the West? A Worldwide Analysis of Societal-Average Trends and Cross-Generational Patterns in Religiosity, 1981-2020

- **Louisa Roberts**, *University of South Dakota*



5B: Preaching and Its Consequences

Room: AF 209B

The Pulpit and the Polls: The Electoral Impact of Religious Participation

- **Angela Cools**, *Davidson College*
- Jonathan Moreno-Medina, *University of Texas, San Antonio*
- Sam Sheng, *Davidson College*

From Pews to Polls: The Effects of Church Peer Groups on Political Behavior

- **Kurtis Gilliat**, *University of California, San Diego*
- Jacob Brown, *Boston University*

Christianity and Protest: How Religion and Ideology Shape Support for Disruptive Tactics

- **Raymond Kim**, *Westmont College*
- Mitchell Bahnsen, *Westmont College*

5C: Identity

Room: AF 209C

Strategic Integration: When and How Dominant-group Elites Promote Shared Religious Identity with Marginalized Groups

- **Sebastian Lucek**, *Stanford University*

Identity and the Escalation of Conflict

- **Michael McBride**, *University of California, Irvine*
- Roman Sheremeta, *Case Western Reserve University*
- Nidhi Pandey, *University of California, Irvine*

Faith, Interrupted: Identity and Behavior After Forced Atheism

- **Sofiana Sinani**, *CERGE-EI*
- Enkelejda Havari, *IESEG School of Management*
- Michela Giorcelli, *University of California, Los Angeles*



10:30 – 11:00 AM: Coffee/Tea Station - Argyros Forum 209

11:00 - 12:30 PM Parallel Sessions 6

6A: Faith, Family & Fertility

Room: AF 209A

Contracting with Faith-motivated Agents

- **Nicoleta Acatrinei**, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*

Preaching Against the Choir: Faith, Stigma, and Family Planning in Kenya

- **Eduard Van der Merwe**, *Rice University*

Religion, Marriage, and Intermarriage among American Jews

- **Bruce Phillips**, *USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture*

6B: Nation Building

Room: AF 209B

Cultural Resistance and the Limits of Nation-Building

- **Kirill Chmel**, *Columbia University*

Five Millennia of Nation-Building

- **Daniel Crisostomo Wainstock**, *University of Oxford*

Crisis, State Capacity, and the Rise of Autocracy: A Design-based Analysis of the Thirty Years' War

- **Matthias Weigand**, *Harvard University*
- **Luis Bosshart**, *Harvard Academy*



6C: Group Identity

Room: AF 209C

None-Normality: Is Religious Unaffiliation Normalized in Canada?

- **Maryam Dilmaghani**, *Saint Mary's University*
- Min Hu, *University of British Columbia, Okanagan*

Fraternity or Fracture? National Identity and Violence amid the India–Pakistan Cricket Rivalry

- **Humoyun Abdumavlon**, *University of Pittsburgh*
- Nilesh Fernando, *King's College, London*
- Layton Hall, *Independent Researcher*

Is Project 2025 a Christian Nationalist Playbook?

- **Sean Everton**, *Naval Postgraduate School*

12:30 – 2:00 PM: Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:30 PM: Parallel Sessions 7

7A: Religion and Politics

Room: AF 209A

Patronizing Monasteries for Political Survival -- Usurpers and the Rise of Buddhism in Mid-Imperial China

- **Edgard Dewitte**, *University of California, Berkeley*
- Yongkang Tai, *Stanford University*
- Y. Wang, *Harvard University*

A Mirror of the Times (Mir' at al-Zamān): Conceptualizing & Measuring Ulama-State Relations with Biographical Dictionaries

- **Hasher Nisar**, *University of Michigan*

Brahmins vs. Mandarins: Origin and Persistence of (In)dependent Intellectual Elites

- **Yang Xie**, *University of California, Riverside*



7B: Religiosity and Affiliation

Room: AF 209B

Migration, Networks, and Religious Choice

- **Timothy Hersey**, *University of Chicago*
- Alvaro Cox, *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*
- Daniela Solá, *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*

An Empirical Study of Religiosity in India: The Demand-Side Approach

- **Mohd Arshid**, *Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

Ghee Boli: Religious Auctions and Reputation Building Among Jain Merchants

- **Samrudha Surana**, *George Mason University*
- Peter T. Leeson, *George Mason University*

7C: Experiments on Religion

Room: AF 209C

The Evolution of Cooperation: The Case for Noise

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

Can Religion Bridge Ethnic Divides? Experimental Evidence From the DRC

- **Gabriel Granato**, *University of California, Berkeley*
- Elie Kabue, *ODEKA, Democratic Republic of Congo*

A Pentecostal Ethic? Economic Outcomes from a Randomized Religious Intervention

- **Vivek Moorthy**, *Florida State University*
- David Murphy, *Colgate University*
- Sam Bird, *Bates College*
- Susan Kilonzo, *Maseno University*

3:30 – 5:30 PM: Farewell Reception

Room: Beckman Hall 404



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



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Thanks to all who contributed to these meetings, including session presenters and participants, the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society, Chapman University, and ASREC officers.

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Laurence Iannaccone

Sara Lowes

Jonathan Schulz

Mary Shenk

Mara Squicciarini

www.asrec.org

We hope to see you again at our next ASREC event

ASREC Europe 2026

University of Warwick, Venice, Italy

25-26 September 2026

Keynote Speakers:

Joel Mokyr (Northwestern)

Mara Squicciarini (Bocconi University) and Saumitra Jha (Stanford University)

Local Organizers:

Sascha O. Becker (University of Warwick) and Valeria Rueda (University of Nottingham)

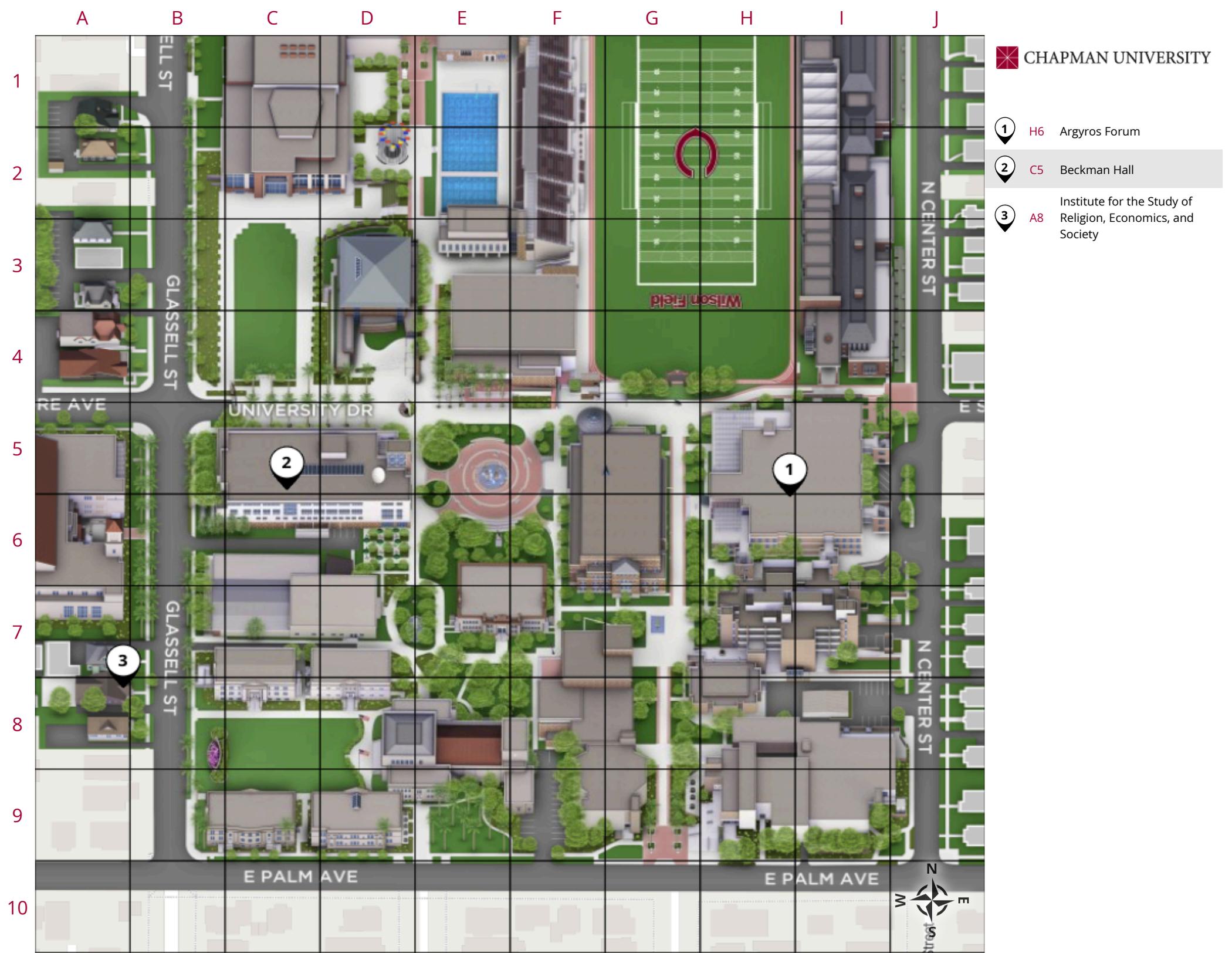
Call for papers out soon

Presenters and session numbers

- Abdumavlon, Humoyun (**6C**: Group Identity)
- Acatrinei, Nicoleta (**6A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Anderson, Cory (**2A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Case Studies)
- Arshid, Mohd (**7B**: Religiosity and Affiliation)
- Baek, Youn (**1B**: Missionaries)
- Bazzi, Samuel (**1A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Empirical Studies & Causal Identification)
- Behler, Paul (**2C**: Cultural Dynamics and Change)
- Benetti, Sara (**1C**: Immigration and Assimilation)
- Campbell, Olympia (**4A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Chmel, Kirill (**6B**: Nation Building)
- Choy, James (**4A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Conrad, Matthew (**2A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Case Studies)
- Cools, Angela (**5B**: Preaching and Its Consequences)
- Cummins, Neil (**3B**: Culture and Religion in History)
- Dewitte, Edgard (**7A**: Religion and Politics)
- Di Cato, Riccardo (**1B**: Missionaries)
- Dilmaghani, Maryam (**6C**: Group Identity)
- Edlund, Lena (**4A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Eruchimovitch, Israel (**1C**: Immigration and Assimilation)
- Everton, Sean (**6C**: Group Identity)
- Granato, Gabriel (**7C**: Experiments on Religion)
- Guerrero Trinidad, Natalia Pia (**3A**: Religion and Policy)
- Gupta, Saumyaa (**3C**: Religion, Contracts, and Governance)
- Hajikhameneh, Aidin (**7C**: Experiments on Religion)
- Hersey, Timothy (**7B**: Religiosity and Affiliation)
- Iannaccone, Laurence (**4B**: Norms)
- Isaqzadeh, Mohammad (**3A**: Religion and Policy)
- Kampanelis, Sotiris (**2B**: The Deep Roots of Culture)

- Kim, Raymond (**5B**: Preaching and Its Consequences)
- Kimbrough, Erik (**4B**: Norms)
- La Mattina, Giulia (**2B**: The Deep Roots of Culture)
- Lopez-Manuel, Lucas (**3C**: Religion, Contracts, and Governance)
- Lowes, Sara (**4C**: The Roots of Power and Religious Faith)
- Lucek, Sebastian (**5C**: Identity)
- McBride, Michael (**5C**: Identity)
- Melkonyan, Tigran (**4B**: Norms)
- Moorthy, Vivek (**7C**: Experiments on Religion)
- Nisar, Hasher (**7A**: Religion and Politics)
- Pfaff, Steven (**3B**: Culture and Religion in History)
- Phillips, Bruce (**6A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Roberts, Louisa (**5A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: The Big Picture)
- Sacks, Michael (**3A**: Religion and Policy)
- Schläpfer, Alain (**2C**: Cultural Dynamics and Change)
- Schulz, Jonathan (**2B**: The Deep Roots of Culture)
- Shenk, Mary (**1A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Empirical Studies & Causal Identification; **2A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Case Studies; **5A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: The Big Picture)
- Shera, Marcus (**3C**: Religion, Contracts, and Governance)
- Sinani, Sofiana (**5C**: Identity)
- Squires, Munir (**1C**: Immigration and Assimilation)
- Surana, Samrudha (**7B**: Religiosity and Affiliation)
- Tremblay-Auger, Benjamin (**2C**: Cultural Dynamics and Change)
- Tur-Prats, Ana (**4C**: The Roots of Power and Religious Faith)
- Van der Merwe, Eduard (**6A**: Faith, Family & Fertility)
- Wacziarg, Romain (**1A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: Empirical Studies & Causal Identification)
- Wainstock, Daniel Crisostomo (**6B**: Nation Building)
- Weigand, Matthias (**6B**: Nation Building)

- Xie, Yang (**7A**: Religion and Politics)
- Xu, Erdong (**3B**: Culture and Religion in History)
- Yentzen, Triana (**4C**: The Roots of Power and Religious Faith)
- Yum, Minchul (**5A**: Faith, Family & Fertility: The Big Picture)
- Zhao, Yiling (**1B**: Missionaries)



 CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

-  H6 Argyros Forum
-  C5 Beckman Hall
-  A8 Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society

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ASREC 2026 - Shuttle Schedule

Thursday, March 19, 2026:

- **8:00 AM** – Pick up Grad Students/Faculty at Embassy Suites hotel - 400 N. State College and drop off at Chapman University – Schmidt Gate.

Friday, March 20, 2026:

- **7:45 AM** – Pick up conference participants at Embassy Suites hotel - 400 N. State College and drop off at Chapman University – Schmidt Gate.
- **8:15 AM** - Pick up conference participants at Embassy Suites hotel – 400 N. State College and drop off at Chapman University – Schmidt Gate.

Saturday, March 21, 2026:

- **7:45 AM** – Pick up conference participants at Embassy Suites hotel – 400 N. State College and drop off at Chapman University – Schmidt Gate.
- **8:15 AM** - Pick up conference participants @ Embassy Suites hotel – 400 N. State College and drop off at Chapman University – Schmidt Gate.

Look for black shuttles labeled Preferred.Express;

**Shuttles will only drop off from the hotel to Chapman. There is no shuttle service available to return to the hotel after the conference.*

Graduate Student Workshop June 5 & 6, 2026 Application Deadline: April 17, 2026

We are excited to announce that the *Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society* (IRES) is now accepting applications for its Annual Graduate Student Workshop taking place at *Chapman University* in Orange, CA. This engaging workshop is primarily tailored for advanced students in economics, sociology, and political science, though we enthusiastically welcome proposals from scholars across all disciplines.



Over the course of two dynamic days, participants will engage in intensive instruction, lively interactions, and valuable feedback opportunities with a select group of advanced graduate students. Each participant will be required to submit a completed paper in advance, which will be thoroughly circulated and reviewed. Our sessions will emphasize both presentations and discussions, allowing faculty and fellow students to provide constructive and detailed feedback on each paper.

****APPLICATION PROCESS****

To apply, please submit a one-page summary along with your CV. The summary should include your name, university affiliation, email, graduate advisor, and a brief 300-500 word description of your work. Applications must be submitted by clicking ***HERE*** no later than ***April 17, 2026***. Please include a draft of your paper in the proposal if one is available, even if it is not complete. We will strongly favor submissions that include a paper.

****ACCOMMODATIONS & FUNDING****

IRES will provide funding to cover expenses for an economy flight, hotel, and group meals during the workshop. Federal regulations prohibit payment of honoraria to F-1 students and individuals on certain other visa types. Depending on your situation and status, travel grants, reimbursements, and other funding options may be available.

****FACULTY PARTICIPANTS****

Guillaume Blanc (Simon Fraser University) **Asli Cansunar** (University of Washington)
Larry Iannaccone (Chapman University) **Mohammad Isaqzadeh** (Chapman University)
Avital Livny (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) **Erik Kimbrough** (Chapman University)
Michael McBride (University of California, Irvine) **Steve Pfaff** (Chapman University)
Hannah Ridge (Chapman University) **Jared Rubin** (Chapman University)
Benjamin Tremblay-Auger (Chapman University) **Carolyn Warner** (University of Nevada, Reno)

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Other Resources for Researchers and Educators



Teaching Resources

The ARDA provides several interactive teaching resources designed to enhance research skills and religion knowledge. These resources assist educators and students in their understanding of religion data, histories, and contexts.

Ahead of the Trend

Each month, Dr. Ryan Burge, author and political scientist at Eastern Illinois University, publishes two columns highlighting the latest news in religion research. Articles include some of today's most notable questions on religion and culture, all drawing on religion data available on the ARDA.

