ASREC conference 2015
Boston, 20-21 March 2015

Friday March 20th, 2015

7:45am – 8:15am
Breakfast

8:15am – 8:30am
Introduction

8:30am – 10:00am

1A: Religion, Nature and Disasters

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Acts of God: Religiosity and Natural Disasters across 900 Subnational World Districts
  - Jeanet Bentzen, University of Copenhagen
- Church Membership and Social Insurance: Evidence from the American South
  - Philipp Ager, University of Southern Denmark
  - Casper Worm Hansen, University of Copenhagen
  - Lars Lønstrup, University of Southern Denmark
- Rainfall Risk and Religious Membership in the Late 19th-Century U.S.
  - Philipp Ager, University of Southern Denmark
  - Antonio Ciccone, University of Mannheim

1B: Religion and Institutions

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Public Goods, Prosociality, and Institutional Decentralization: An Agent-Based Model of Religion and Political Activism
1C: Culture and Religion in China

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Endogenous Clans: The Path of Development in Historical China
  - Ying Bai, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
  - James Kung, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
  - Chicheng Ma, Shandong University
- The Almighty God and the Not-So-Almighty Government: An Economic Examination of Religious Cults in China
  - Zhilong Ge, Mercatus Center at George Mason University

1D: Castes and Health in India

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Is Self-Employment the Answer to Caste Discrimination? Decomposing the Earnings Gap in Indian Household Businesses
  - Ashwini Deshpande, Delhi School of Economics
  - Smriti Sharma, Delhi School of Economics
- Long-Term Effects of Access to Health Care: Medical Missions in Colonial India
  - Rossella Calvi, Boston College
  - Federico Mantovanelli, Analysis Group
- Is Caste Destiny? Occupational Diversification Among Dalits in Rural India
  - Ira Gang, Rutgers University
  - Kunal Sen, IDPM, University of Manchester
  - Myeong-Su Yun, Tulane University

1E: Jurisprudence and Lawyers

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- The Lawyers’ Comparative Advantage in Parliamentary Elections
  - Raphael Franck, Bar Ilan University
- Do Policies Affect Preferences? Evidence from Random Variation in Abortion Jurisprudence
  - Daniel L. Chen, ETH-Zurich
  - Vardges Levonyan, ETH-Zurich
  - Susan Yeh, George Mason University School of Law

10:15am – 12:00pm

2A: Ethnicity and Economic Outcomes in Historical Germany
Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Religious Diversity and Innovation: Historical Evidence from Patenting Activity
  - Francesco Cinnirella, IFO Institute Munich
  - Jochen Streb, University of Mannheim
- Linguistic Fractionalization and Local Expenditure on Primary Education
  - Francesco Cinnirella, IFO Institute Munich
  - Ruth Schueler, IFO Institute Munich
- Market Integration, Financial Development and Ethnic Segregation
  - Nikolaus Wolf, HU Berlin
  - Marvin Suesse, HU Berlin

2B: Religion, Health and Life Satisfaction

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Suffer for the Faith? Parental Religiosity and Children’s Health
  - Olga Popova, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies
- Religiosity and the Canadian Life Satisfaction Puzzle
  - Maryam Dilmaghani, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary’s University
- Right-Skilling: Rabbis and the Rabbinic Role for a New Century
  - Barak Richman, Duke University

2C: Beliefs, Norms and Economic Behavior

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- The Political Economy of Beliefs: Why Fiscal and Social Conservatives/Liberals Come Hand-In-Hand
  - Daniel L. Chen, ETH-Zurich
  - Jo T. Lind, University of Oslo
- From Peer Pressure to Biased Norms: Formation and Collapse
  - Moti Michaeli, Hebrew University
  - Daniel Spiro, University of Oslo
- From Religion to Economic Behaviour
  - Niels Kærgård, University of Copenhagen

2D: Culture and Norms in Germany

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Are there Cultural Effects in Female Labor Supply? Empirical Evidence from Germany
  - Anja Köbrich-Leon, University of Kassel
- Music in the Air: Estimating the Social Return to Cultural Amenities
  - Stephan Heblich, University of Bristol
- Thou Shall Not Smoke: Religion and Smoking in a Natural Experiment of History
  - Luca Nunziata, University of Padua
  - Veronica Toffolutti, University of East Anglia
12:00pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm – 3:00pm

3A: The Political Economy of Islamic Diversity and Change

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Can Economic Incentives Tame Jihad? The Case of Sudan and Chad
  - Jean-Paul Azam, Toulouse School of Economics
- The Sharia and the Transition towards more Democracy and a Market Economy – Restrictions and Opportunities
  - Rahel Schomaker, Cologne Business School and German Research Institute for Public Administration
- Islamism and Socialism: A Comparison
  - Mario Ferrero, University of Eastern Piedmont

3B: Religion, Trust, Cooperation and Conflict

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- A Bridge over the (Ethnic) Chasm: Culture and Mistrust over and Cooperation in Rwanda
  - Sharun Mukand, University of Warwick and Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton and CAGE
  - Arthur Blouin, University of Toronto and CAGE
- Resource Shocks and Conflict in Europe, 1400-2000
  - Murat Iyigun, University of Colorado
  - Nathan Nunn, Harvard University
  - Nancy Qian, Yale University
- Religion, Division of Labour and Conflict
  - Sascha O. Becker, University of Warwick
  - Luigi Pascali, University of Warwick

3C: Culture, Religion and Trade

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Can Markets Overcome Repugnance? Islamic Trade Response to Anti-Muslim Cartoons
  - Daniel L. Chen, ETH-Zurich
  - Yehonatan Givati, Hebrew University
- Time-Varying Effect of Cultural Differences on Trade
  - Gunes Gokmen, New Economic School and the Center for the Study of Diversity and Social Interactions
- Theocracy and Resilience Against Economic Sanctions
  - Alireza Naghavi, University of Bologna
  - Giuseppe Pignataro, University of Bologna
3D: Church and Power

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- The Politics of Sex Abuse in Hierarchies: A Comparative Study of the Catholic Church and the United States Military
  - Carolyn M. Warner, Arizona State University
- Book Burning
  - Cheryl Litman, George Mason University
- The Paradox of Religiosity: Theocracy Over Time
  - Metin M. Cosgel, University of Connecticut

3:15pm – 4:45pm

4A: The Interaction of Public and Private Institutions

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Heaven on Earth? Religion and Redistribution in the US
  - Matt Lowe, MIT
- Where does School Choice Funding Go? The Incidence of Funding on Secular and Sectarian Private-School Finances
  - Daniel Hungerman, University of Notre Dame
  - Kevin Rinz, University of Notre Dame
- Quantifying the Supply Response of Private Schools to Public Policies
  - Michael Dinerstein, Stanford University

4B: High Holidays: Ramadan and Selichot

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Do Parents Selectively Time Birth Relative to Ramadan? Impact of Maternal Fasting on Height: Evidence from Matlab, Bangladesh
  - Nazmul Ahsan, University of Southern California
- Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan
  - Filipe Campante, Harvard University
  - David H. Yanagizawa-Drott, Harvard University
- Does Religiosity Affect Support for Political Compromise?
  - Danny Cohen-Zada, Ben-Gurion University
  - Yotam Margalit, Columbia University
  - Oren Rigbi, Ben-Gurion University

4C: Woman, Culture and Religion

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- When Religion Interacts with Economics and Culture to Harm Women: An African Example
  - Carrie A. Miles, Chapman University and Empower International Ministries
- Equal Land Rights, Religion, and Outcomes for Women: Evidence From Ethiopia
What Makes Russian Women (Un)Happy? A Closer Look at the Family
- Ekaterina Selezneva, Institute for East and Southeast European Studies

4D: Competition and Religiosity
Chair & Discussant: TBA
- The More Religiosity, the Less Creativity Across US Counties
  - Adam Okulicz-Kozaryn, Rutgers University-Camden
- Decentralized, Dynamic, and Devout: The Use of Knowledge in Piety
  - Brian Hollar, Marymount University
  - Han-Yen Kao, Rutgers University

5:00pm – 6:00pm
ASREC Reception
6:15pm – 7:15pm
Session 5 Keynote
7:30pm
ASREC Late Night Social

Saturday March 21st, 2015

8:00am – 8:30am
Breakfast

8:30am – 10:00am
6A: Human Capital, States, and Culture
Chair & Discussant: TBA
- The Literary Inquisition: The Persecution of Intellectuals and Human Capital Accumulation in Imperial China
  - Mark Koyama, George Mason University
  - Melanie Meng Xue, George Mason University
- Taxes, National Identity, and Nation Building: Evidence from France
  - Noel D. Johnson, George Mason University
- Aspiration and Education: The Persistence of Human Capital in China, 1368-2014
  - Melanie Xue, George Mason University
6B: Ideology, Religion and Politics

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Priming ideology? Electoral Cycles without Electoral Incentives Among Elite U.S. Judges
  - Carlos Berdejo, Loyola Law School
  - Daniel L. Chen, ETH-Zurich
- Faith in Contention: Religious Competition and the Political Representation of Ethnicity
  - Matthew Isaacs, Brandeis University
- Religious Riots and Electoral Politics in India
  - Anand Shrivastava, University of Cambridge
  - Sriya Iyer, University of Cambridge

6C: Which Role for Religion?

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- What Good does Religion Do if it Just Reinforces Culture?
  - Carrie A. Miles, Chapman University and Empower International Ministries
- Classifying Religions
  - Resit Ergener, Bogazici University
- The Great Recession and Wealth: An Examination of Wealth Dynamics By Religious Affiliation
  - Sedefka Beck, Valparaiso University
  - Donka Mirtcheva, The College of New Jersey
  - Kacey Stuck, Valparaiso University

6D: Religious Participation

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Reexamining the Effects of State Religion on Religious Service Attendance
  - Matthew Swift, University of Chicago Law School
  - Charles M. North, Baylor University
- A Firm Entry Approach to Religious Pluralism and Religious Participation
  - Michael Walrath, University of St. Thomas
- Separating the Sheep from the Goats: Clustering Religious People in Europe
  - Fabio Campanini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

6E: Culture, Religion, and Development (I)

Chair & Discussant: TBA

- Dissecting the Act of God: An Exploration of the Effect of Religion on Economic Activity
  - Anastasia Litina, University of Luxembourg
  - Jean-Francois Carpentier, University of Luxembourg
- Armenian and Greek Legacy in Modern Turkish Development
  - Eren Arbatli
• Gunes Gokmen, New Economic School and the Center for the Study of Diversity and Social Interactions

• Market for Missionaries
  o Feler Bose, Alma College

10:15am – 12:00pm

7A: Islamic Institutions and Ideas

Chair & Discussant: TBA

• Religion and the Rise and Fall of Islamic Science
  o Eric Chaney, Harvard University

• Less than Grand Ayatollahs: The Unmaking of the Institution of the Marja’ Taqlid in Shia Islam
  o David Patel, Brandeis University

• Can Ideas be ‘Killed?’ Evidence from Counterterror Targeting of Jihadi Ideologues
  o Richard Neilson, MIT

7B: Religion and Education

Chair & Discussant: TBA

• Religious Norms and Long Term Development: Insurance and Human Capital
  o Uwe Sunde, LMU Munich

• Compulsory Schooling Laws and Formation of Beliefs: Education, Religion and Superstition
  o Naci Mocan, Louisiana State University
  o Luiza Pogorelova, Louisiana State University

• Have Attempts by the Theocratic Regime to Cultivate Religiosity via the Education System been Successful? The Case of Iran After the Islamic Revolution
  o Babak Rezaeedaryakenari, Arizona State University

7C: Research Projects at TheARDA.com

Chair & Discussant: TBA

• Images of God in the Caucasus Region
  o Christopher Bader, Chapman University
  o Andrea Molle, Chapman University

• A Quick Review of 5.2 Million Books: Charting Cultural and Religious Trends with Google’s Ngram Viewer
  o Roger Finke, Penn State
  o Jennifer McClure, Penn State

• New and Forthcoming Resources at TheARDA.com
  o Jennifer McClure, Penn State

7D: Culture, Religion and Development (II)

Chair & Discussant: TBA
• Religious Values and Marriage Practices in Malawi: Implications for Long-Term Economic Development
  o Yuya Kudo, Institute of Developing Economies

• Cultural Lag, Path Dependency, and the Quality of Government
  o Seth W. Norton, Wheaton College

• Religion, Land and Politics: Shrines and Literacy in Punjab
  o Adeel Malik, University of Oxford
  o Rinchan Ali Mirza, University of Oxford

**7E: Religion and Prosocial Behavior**

*Chair & Discussant: TBA*

• On Religious Prosociality, Fairness, and Beauty
  o Ramzi Suleiman, University of Haifa

• Love Thy Neighbor – Religion and Prosocial Behavior
  o Guido Heineck, University of Bamberg

• Religion and Socially Responsible Investment Decisions – A Microeconometric Analysis for Germany
  o Gunnar Gutsche, University of Kassel
  o Anja Köbrich-Leon, University of Kassel

12:00pm – 1:30pm

**Lunch**

1:30pm – 3:00pm

**8A: The Catholic Church, Saints and Power**

*Chair & Discussant: TBA*

• Habemus Papam? Polarization and Conflict in the Papal States
  o Francisco Pino, Université Libre de Bruxelles
  o Jordi Vidal-Robert, University of Warwick

• Saints Marching In, 1590-2009
  o Rachel McCleary, Harvard University
  o Robert Barro, Harvard University

• The Emperor’s New Mind: On Constantine’s I Decision to Legalize Christianity
  o Constantine Bourlakis, Athens University of Economics and Business

**8B: Religion and Finance**

*Chair & Discussant: TBA*

• The Financial Power of the Powerless: Socio-Economic Status and Interest Rates Under Partial Rule of Law
  o Timur Kuran, Duke University
- Jared Rubin, Chapman University
- **Price of Religion: Experiments in Interest-Based and Profit-Loss Sharing Investments in Islamic Communities**
  - Sera Linardi, University of Pittsburgh
  - Rebecca Morton, New York University
  - Kai Ou, New York University
  - Gumilang Sahadewo, University of Pittsburgh
- **Financing New Religions**
  - J. Gordon Melton, Baylor University

### 8C: Deep Roots of Development

**Chair & Discussant:** TBA

- **Fertility and Modernity**
  - Enrico Spoloare, Tufts University
  - Romain Wacziarg, UCLA Anderson School of Management
- **Origins of Persistent Differences in Human Capital Accumulation**
  - Jeremiah Dittmar, London School of Economics and Political Science
  - Ralf Meisenzahl, Federal Reserve Board
- **The Impact of Holy Land Crusades on Political Development in Medieval Europe**
  - Lisa Blaydes, Stanford University

### 8D: Giving

**Chair & Discussant:** TBA

- **Clerics and Sermons: An Experiment on the Impact of Religious Authority on Inter-Ethnic Giving in Afghanistan**
  - Luke Condra, University of Pittsburgh
  - Mohammad Isaqzadeh, American University in Afghanistan
  - Sera Linardi, University of Pittsburgh
- **Polarized Demands for Public Goods and the Generalized Voluntary Contributions Mechanism**
  - R. Mark Isaac, Florida State University
  - Douglas A. Norton, Florida State University
  - Svetlana Pevnitskaya, Florida State University
- **Gifts of Time and Money: The Impact of Church Leadership Roles**
  - Robert J. Stonebraker, Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Winthrop University

### 8E: Islam and Identity

**Chair & Discussant:** TBA

- **Identity and Terrorism**
  - Mukesh Eswaran, Vancouver School of Economics
  - Hugh Neary, Vancouver School of Economics
- **Social Media and the ISIL Narrative**
3:15pm – 5:15pm

Special Session 1 (Religious Freedom Project)

Chair: Timothy Shah (Religious Freedom Project and Georgetown University)

- Does Religious Liberty Promote Economic Development and Other Forms of Social Flourishing?
  - Brian J. Grim, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation
- Religious Liberty and the Violence Trap
  - Karrie Koesel, University of Oregon
  - Anthony Gill, University of Washington
- State Restrictions on Proselytization: Comparing Motivations and Implications
  - Ani Sarkissian, Michigan State University
- Religious Freedom and Small Enterprise in India
  - Rebecca Samuel Shah, Georgetown University
- Aid that Works: Missionaries, Economic Development and the “Reversal of Fortunes”
  - Robert D. Woodberry, National University of Singapore

Special Session 2 (Book session)

Chair: TBC

- War, Peace, and Prosperity in the Name of God: The Ottoman Role in Europe’s Socioeconomic Evolution
  - Murat Iyigun, University of Colorado