

IRES 2026 Graduate Student Workshop

June 5-6, 2026
Chapman University



Faculty & Students

Faculty

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)
Jared Rubin (Chapman University)
Benjamin Tremblay-Auger (Chapman University)
Carolyn Warner (University of Nevada, Reno)

Students

Humoyun Abdumavlon, University of Pittsburgh
Oluwatobiloba Ajayi, University of Toronto
Renata Canini, Rome Economics Doctorate
Riccardo Di Cato, UC San Diego
Florentine Friedrich, London School of Economics
Kurtis Gilliat, UC San Diego
Alena Gorbuntsova, University of Chicago
Xinhao Li, The University of Hong Kong
Saul Martinez Castellanos, European University Institute
Julio Solis Arce, Harvard University
Eduard van der Merwe, Rice University

Friday, June 5

8:15 AM **Meet in front of Embassy Suites Hotel - Group Uber to campus**

8:45-9:15 AM **Arrive at Chapman – Pastries and Coffee**

**Rules of the game: 30 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for student discussion, then 10 minutes for faculty discussion, followed by 25 minutes for Q&A.*

9:15-10:00 AM **Introductions**

10:00-11:15 AM **IRES Conference Room**

“Strategic Identity Trade Offs in Southwestern Nigeria: Religion, Ethnicity, and Electoral Choice in the 2023 Presidential Election”

Oluwatobiloba Ajayi (University of Toronto)

Student Discussant: Renata Canini

Faculty Discussant: Avital Livny

Laura Scudders Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall

“Religion and Conflict: Evidence from Ramadan”

Humoyun Abdumavlon (University of Pittsburgh)

Student Discussant: Eduard van der Merwe

Faculty Discussant: Mohammad Isaqzadeh

11:15-11:45 PM **Coffee Break**

11:45-1:00 PM **IRES Conference Room**
“Vote as You Pray: Exposure to Catholic Identity and Political Belief Formation”
Saul Martinez Castellanos (European University Institute)
Student Discussant: Julio Solis Arce
Faculty Discussant: Carolyn Warner

Laura Scudders Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall
“Take Thee to a Nunnery: Holy Orders and Public Goods in 19th-Century France”
Florentine Friedrich (London School of Economics)
Student Discussant: Riccardo Di Cato
Faculty Discussant: Guillaume Blanc

1:00-3:00 PM **Lunch - Old Towne Orange**

3:00-4:15 PM **IRES Conference Room**
“Power to the Pentecostals: Religious Media, Political Representation, and Policy”
Renata Canini (Rome Economics Doctorate)
Student Discussant: Kurtis Gilliat
Faculty Discussant: Michael McBride

Laura Scudders Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall
“The Domestic Political Economy of War: Evidence from Russia”
Alena Gorbuntsova (University of Chicago)
Student Discussant: Humoyun Abdumavlon
Faculty Discussant: Asli Cansunar

4:30-6:30 PM **Break**

6:30 PM **Group Dinner at: The Peel restaurant (Inside the hotel Fera / Doubletree)**
100 The City Dr N
Orange, CA 92868-3204
Phone: (714) 634-4500

Saturday, June 6

8:30 AM **Meet in front of Embassy Suites Hotel - Group Uber to campus**

9:00-9:30 AM **Arrive at Chapman – Pastries and Coffee**

9:30-10:45 AM **IRES Conference Room**

“Maritime Risk and Institutional Development of Mazu Temples in Late Imperial China”

Xinhao Li (The University of Hong Kong)

Student Discussant: Florentine Friedrich

Faculty Discussant: Jared Rubin

Laura Scudders Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall

“Preaching Against the Choir: Faith, Norms, and Family Planning in Kenya”

Eduard van der Merwe (Rice University)

Student Discussant: Oluwatobiloba Ajayi

Faculty Discussant: Benjamin Tremblay-Auger

10:45-11:15 AM **Coffee Break**

11:15-12:30 PM **IRES Conference Room**

“A Culture of Consensus: Cooperation and Legitimacy under Alternative Collective Choice Rules in Botswana”

Julio Solis Arce (Harvard University)

Student Discussant: Alena Gorbuntsova

Faculty Discussant: Erik Kimbrough

Laura Scudders Conference Room, Roosevelt Hall

“Seeds of Market-Based Capitalism: Christian Missionaries and China’s Modernization”

Riccardo Di Cato (University of California, San Diego)

Student Discussant: Xinhao Li

Faculty Discussant: Steven Pfaff

12:30-2:00 PM **Lunch, Downtown Orange**

2:00-3:15 PM **IRES Conference Room**

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

Kurtis Gilliat (University of California, San Diego)

Student Discussant: Saul Martinez Castellanos

Faculty Discussant: Larry Iannaccone

3:15 - 3:30 PM **Coffee Break**

3:30 - 4:30 PM **Workshop Debrief with all Students and Faculty**

4:30 PM **Depart for “Friends of IRES” Year-End Party**

Cocktails 5 - 6:00 PM

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Home of Larry Iannaccone

541 S Weymouth Ct

Anaheim, CA 92807

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Thanks to all who contributed to this workshop, including session presenters, student and faculty discussants, and Chapman University.

Helpful links

Hotel – [Embassy Suites](#)

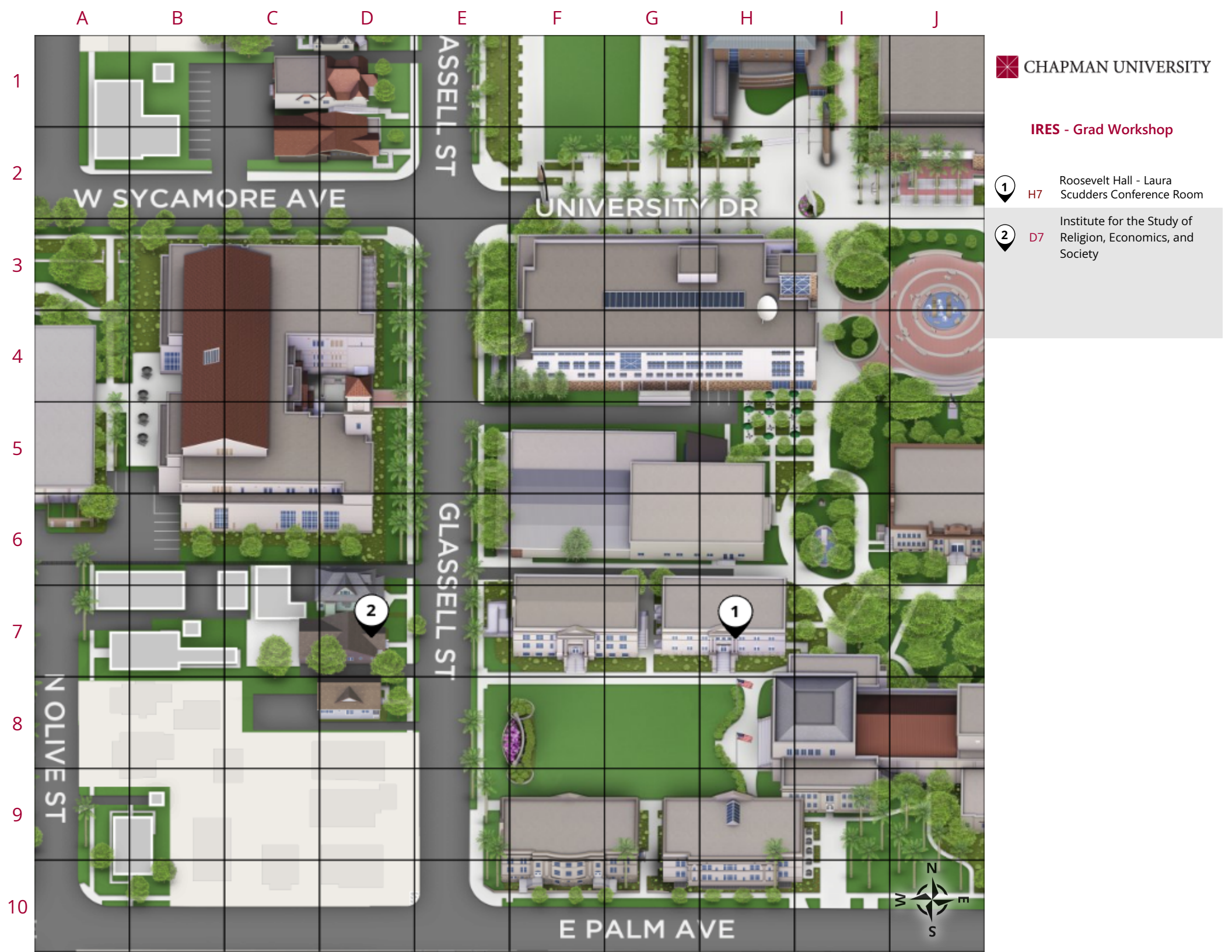
Friday Dinner Restaurant – [The Peel](#)

IRES house - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2eBJGpfgnFh7DY326>

Dr. Iannaccone (Larry's) House - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RnWijJtq9emcHrbE6>
(541 S Weymouth Ct Anaheim, CA 92807)

Chapman University - <https://www.chapman.edu/index.aspx>

IRES - <https://www.chapman.edu/research/institutes-and-centers/institute-religion-economicsociety/>



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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.

