

## INES W. JINDRA

Interim Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology  
 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Religion and Society  
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### **Education**

- 2005      Ph.D., University of Fribourg, Switzerland, Department of Education and Educational Psychology  
 Defense date: December 7<sup>th</sup> 2004  
 Dissertation title: *Narratives of Religious Conversions: A Comparative Analysis* (interdisciplinary, sociology and psychology of religion)
- 1998      MSW, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, Department of Social Work/Social Policy  
 Major: Social Work  
 Minors: Education and Educational psychology; Clinical Psychology  
 Masters thesis: *Soziale Desorganisation in einem Teil von Milwaukees 'inner city' seit den 70er Jahren* (Processes of Social Dislocation in a Milwaukee Inner City Neighborhood since 1970).
- 1993      Halb-Lizentiat (equivalent to BA), Summer 1993  
 University of Fribourg, Switzerland.
- 1995-1996      University of Madison-Wisconsin, graduate coursework in social work, sociology, and education.

### **Academic Experience**

- 2011-2012      Interim Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
- 2009-present      Visiting Research Scholar, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame
- 2010-present      Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame
- 2011-present      Adjunct Faculty at Bethel College, Adult Studies, Bethel College, Indiana

2001- 2010      Assistant Professor of Sociology, Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor MI.  
Tenured, June 2008

1998-2001      Instructor of Sociology, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato MN.

### **Miscellaneous Academic Activities**

Reviewer for *Sociology of Religion*, *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, *Religion*, *Pastoral Psychology*, and *Review of Religious Research*

Since Fall 2011: Editorial Board, *Sociology of Religion*

### **Notre Dame University:**

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies: administrative duties such as counseling students about major and minor requirements, study abroad opportunities, graduate school requirements, senior theses, organizing workshops related to graduate school requirements, summer field experiences, and study abroad experiences, and working together with other departments, the assistant deans' offices.

Center for the Study of Religion and Society: Participation in discussion seminars organized by the Center for the Study of Religion and Society

Initiated and helped organize a visit and lecture by Axel Jansen on the German research method "Objective Hermeneutics," September 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

### **Spring Arbor University:**

SAU Cross Cultural Committee, 2002-2005.

Conducted Focus series workshop (2004), teaching Cell group (2002), ad hoc grade appeal committee (2004), invited as guest lecturer in other professors' classes, presentation on anorexia nervosa (2004).

### **Overall Research Interests**

Narrative analysis, qualitative methods

Biographical trajectories and the life course

Sociology and psychology of religion

Spiritual and religious development

Urban issues and poverty

### **Works in Progress**

Book Project: Religious content, Self-reflexivity, Accounts, Life course agency and Conversions to Various Religious Groups (under review at Oxford University Press)

A Study on Poverty and Overcoming Poverty in South Bend, Indiana (in connection to the Gainey Grant on Bridges Out of Poverty)

“Gender Differences in the Communication of Christian Conversion Narratives”, together with Robert Woods and Jenell Williams Paris

### Publications

- 2011 “How Religious Content Matters in Conversion Narratives to Various Religious Groups,” *Sociology of Religion*, 72(3), 275-302.
- 2010 Together with Donald Ratcliff and Michael Jindra. Chapter 5: Social Structure, Groups and Organizations, in *Sociology*, edited by Cynthia Tweedell. Marion, Indiana: Triangle Publishing.
- 2009 “Comparing Biographical Backgrounds of Religious Founders and Converts to Those Religions,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 58(4), 365-385.
- 2009 Review of *Alien Worlds: Social and Religious Dimensions of Extraterrestrial Contact* edited by Diana G. Tumminia. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2007, *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*, 70(2), 200-201.
- 2008 “Religious Stage Development Among Converts to Different Religious Groups: a Narrative, Preliminary Analysis,” *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*, 18 (3), 195-215.
- 2006 “An Analysis of Conversion Narratives of Jehovah’s Witnesses and their Relationships to Stages of Religious Judgment,” *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, 2006, 17, 1-38.
- 2006 Entry on Professor Dr. Fritz Oser, chair of the department of Education and Educational Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland, In Elizabeth M. Dowling and George W. Scarlett, 2006, *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- 2005 “Gender Differences in the Communication of Christian Conversion Narratives” (together with Robert Woods and David Knight), *Review of Religious Research*, 47(2), 113-134
- 2005 *Konversion und Stufentransformation: Ein kompliziertes Verhältnis*. Münster: Waxmann Verlag. Reihe Internationale Hochschulschriften, Band 446 (published Ph.D. thesis) [Conversion and Stage Transformation: a Complicated Relationship. Münster: Waxmann Verlag. International series for habilitations and doctoral theses].
- 2003 “Structural (‘Objective’) Hermeneutics and the Sociology of Religion” *Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, 14, 253-275 (with Michael Jindra).

- 2002 Book review of *Crossing the Gods: World Religions and Worldly Politics*, N. J. Demerath. *Social Forces*, 81(1), 378-380
- 2000 Book review of *Toward a Just and Caring Society*, David P. Gushee, ed. *Christian Scholar's Review*, 29(4).

### **Papers/Posters presented**

- Summer 2011 Poster Presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Division 36 (Psychology of Religion), Washington DC. "Narcissism and World Religions."
- Fall 2011 Paper presentation, Seminar in the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame, "Gender Roles and Social Problems in Women's Conversion Trajectories to Various Religious Groups – A Neglected Variable."
- Fall 2009 Paper presentation, Seminar in the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame. "Biography, Religious Content, and Life Course Agency in Conversion Processes to Various Religious Groups."
- July 2008 Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR), Boston. "Gender and Conversion: Results from a Follow-up Study."
- August 2007 Poster Presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Division 36 (Psychology of Religion), San Francisco. "Comparing Biographical Backgrounds of Religious Founders and Converts to Those Religions."
- April 2005 Poster Presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mid-year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Division 36 (Psychology of Religion) of the American Psychological Association, Loyola College in Maryland. "Religious Conversions and Religious Stage Development"
- April 2004 Organization of a workshop at the Michigan Women's Association Conference, together with Candy McCorkle. "Combining Raising Children and Paid Work"
- August 2002 Paper presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. "An Analysis of Conversion Narratives of Jehovah's Witnesses"
- August 1999 Paper presentation at the Annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. "Objective Hermeneutics and the Sociology of Religion: Ulrich Oevermann's Model of Religiosity"

### **Funding/Grants and Awards**

*Gainey Mini-Grant* for the Evaluation of “Bridges out of Poverty,” University of Notre Dame, Center for Social Concerns, \$7000, together with Michael Jindra, 2011 (ethnographic work, interviews)

Faculty scholarship grant for project *Gender differences in the communication of Christian conversion narratives*, \$1500, together with Robert Woods, 2005

Faculty scholarship grant for project *Gender differences in the communication of Christian conversion narratives*, additional \$500, 2007

Attendance at a *Spiritual Transformation conference* in Philadelphia, sponsored by the Templeton Foundation, 2002

Nomination in Who’s Who Among Americas Teachers, 9<sup>th</sup> edition

Mankato-area *Ecumenical Task Force on Welfare Reform* grant, funded by the Minnesota Futures Fund to conduct survey and write a report on the relationship between non-governmental social service agencies and churches, 1998, together with Michael Jindra.

### **Classes taught**

#### **Spring Arbor University:**

Religion in the Behavioral Sciences

Modern Social Problems

Marriage and Family

Social Psychology

Introductory Sociology

Gender Roles

Cross cultural course on Switzerland, together with Michael Jindra (includes 3 week stay in Switzerland)

#### **University of Notre Dame:**

University Seminar (co-teaching with Michael Jindra)

Fundamentals of Social and Cultural Anthropology (co-teaching with Michael Jindra)

### **Memberships**

ASA (American Sociological Association)

ASR (Association for the Sociology of Religion)

RRA (Religious Research Association, Inc.)

APA Division 36 (Psychology of Religion Division) (affiliate)

### **Professional Experience (Social work)**

1997-1998      Social work at the *Sheriff's Youth Group Home* in Mankato, MN

- 1996-1997 Social work in *Aux Etangs* (home for single mothers), Fribourg, Switzerland.
- Summer 1995 Mental Health Internship, *Psychiatric Clinic Luzern*, Switzerland.
- 1993-1994 Social Work Internship with the *Presbyterian Church Youth Department, Bamenda*, Cameroon (Africa). Teaching and community work.
- Summer 1992 Social Work Internship at the *Suneboge*, a home for homeless people suffering from alcoholism, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 1991 Social Work Internship in the *Pestalozzidorf* (village for refugee children), Trogen, Switzerland.

### **Additional Research Experience**

- Fall 2001-  
Summer 2004 Dissertation research (see above)
- Fall 1998 Research on the collaboration of local churches and non-profit agencies, together with Michael Jindra.
- 1996-1997 Research practicum in the Institute of Families, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland (quantitative research).
- 1996-1997 Lizentiat research, Westside Neighborhood Center, Milwaukee.
- 1994-1995 Research practicum in the social work department in Fribourg: The evaluation of a youth center in Duedingen (qualitative research).

### **Languages**

Swiss German (mother language), German  
English  
French