

souls in transition

murray institute retreat / 13 january 2014 / saint paul, minnesota

outline

- morning prayer
- part one: brief review of the landscape inhabited by young adults
- part two: implications for our work together
- lunch break
- part three: what is the next right question?
- closing prayer

part one: landscape of/for emerging adults

national study of youth and religion

- directed by christian smith (notre dame) and lisa pearce (chapel hill)
- begun in august of 2001 and continued through 2013
- designed to enhance our understanding of the religious lives of american youth from adolescence into young adulthood, using telephone survey and in-depth interview methods
- <http://www.youthandreligion.org/research>

cultural worlds of emerging adults

- disruptions (75)
- distractions (76)
- differentiation (78)
- postponed family formation and childbearing (79)
- keeping options open (79)
- honoring diversity (80)

cultural worlds, continued

- self-confident self-sufficiency (81)
- self-evident morality (82)
- partying, hooking up, having sex and cohabiting (83)
- religion as a resource for stability and recovery (84)
- ongoing relations with parents (85)

(page number references to “souls in transition”)

six “types” of religious emerging adults

- committed traditionalists (166)
- selective adherents (167)
- spiritually open (167)
- religiously indifferent (168)
- religiously disconnected (168)
- irreligious (168)

(page number references to “souls in transition”)

note

- emerging adults more in continuity than contrast with their parents, as well as previous generations (102)
- jewish and catholic categories lost the largest percentages as proportional to where they began, and self-identified “non religious” emerging adults grew by nearly 93% (105)
- moralistic therapeutic deism is alive and well (154ff)

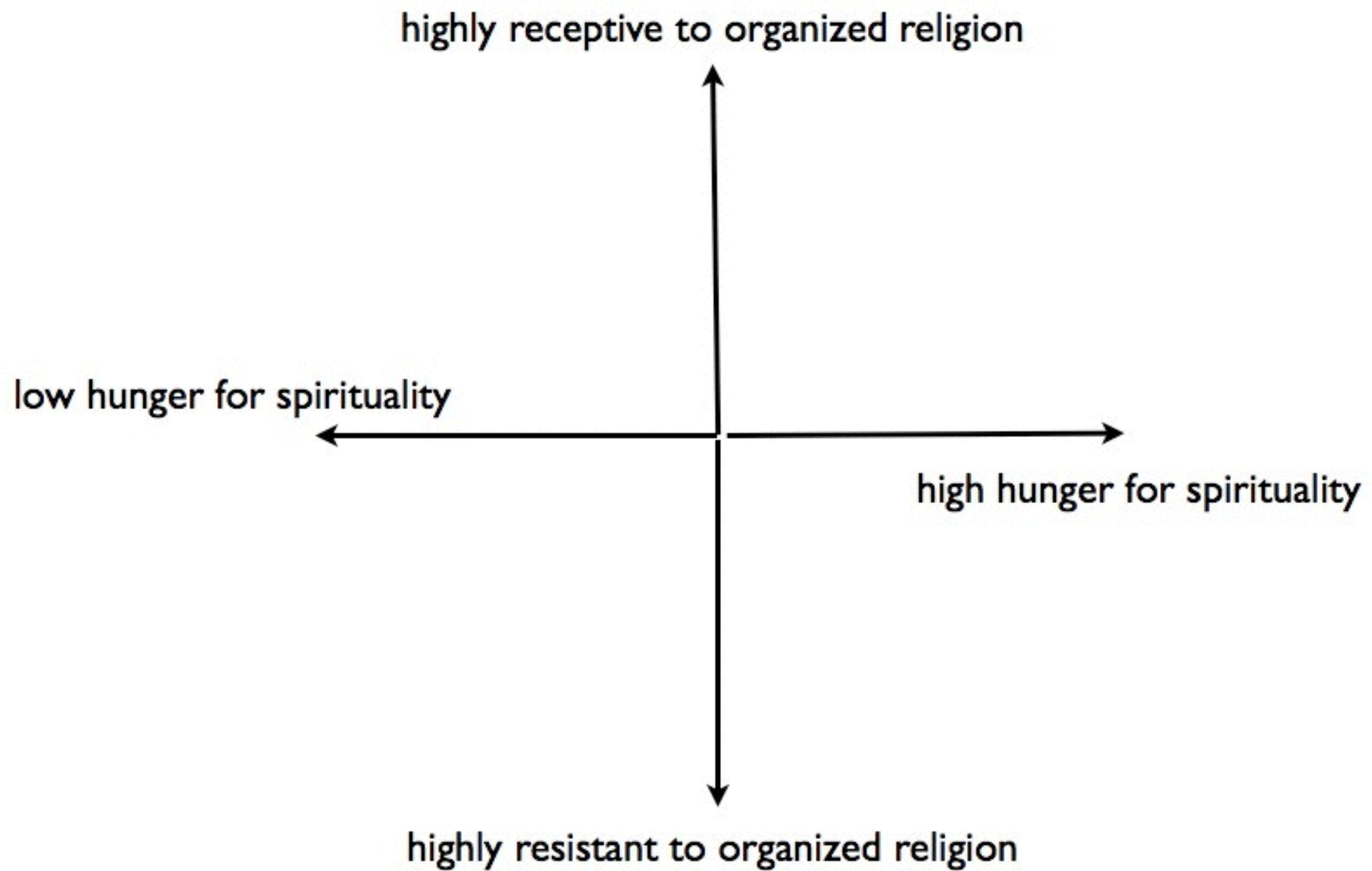
discussion: how does this match or diverge from
our own experiences with young adults?

break

part two: what are the implications of this research
for our work together?

john roberto and faith20/20 project

- will trends in u.s. culture lead people to become more receptive to organized religion, and in particular christianity or will trends lead people to become more resistant to organized religion and christianity?
- will people's searching and hunger for God and the spiritual life increase over the next decade or will people's need for God and the spiritual life decrease?
- <http://www.faithformation2020.net/index.html>



networked religion (heidi campbell, texas a&m)

- storied identity (fluid and dynamic identity construction, performative in nature)
- shifting authority (authority is built, not assumed structurally)
- networked community (loosely bounded social networks)
- convergent practice (personalized blending of belief and ritual, internet becomes a hub for assembling religious identity)
- multi-site reality (distinction between “online” and “offline” no longer adequately descriptive)
- <http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com/podcast/podcast-heidi-campbell-on-religion-in-a-networked-society/>

authority

authenticity

agency



begin in dyads: what implications would you note?

shared discussion

gathering our thoughts: brief time of silent writing,
and then offer one word to the group

*lunch break (think about what might be the next
right question for murray to ask)*

after lunch come back to the room and write your question on a post-it note and place it on the board, then read everyone else's

part three: what is the next right question?

shared discussion

an exercise in listening

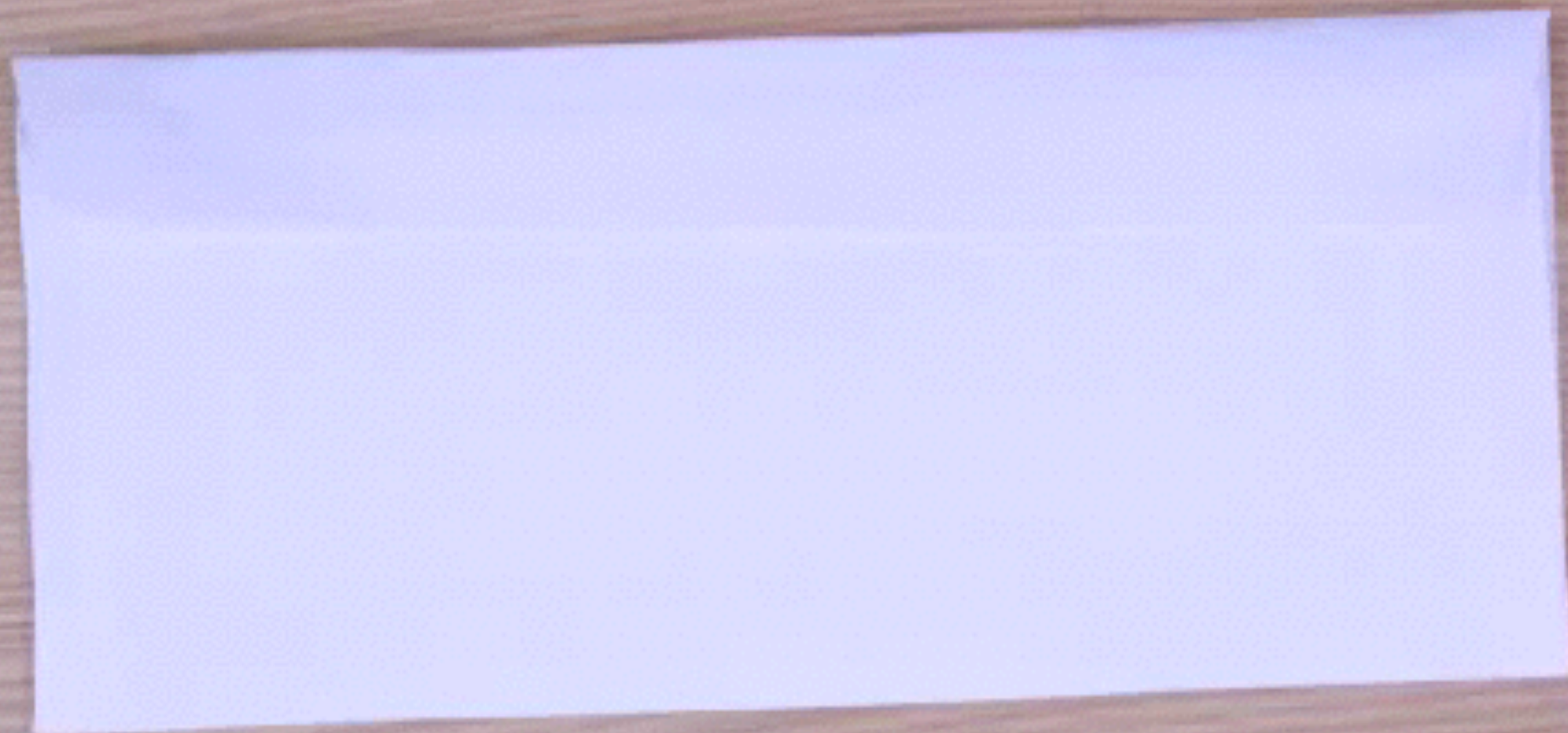
michael wesch (kansas state university)

- cultural inversions
- express individualism, value community
- express independence, value relationships
- express commercialization, value authenticity

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPAO-IZ4_hU









what is the next right question?

presentation by mary hess of luther seminary in st. paul, mn
<http://meh.religioused.org/web/Home.html>

commercials available online:

apple ipad (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiylcz7wUH0>)

apple iphone (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhwhnEe7CjE>)

johnson&johnson (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzPPx36r3oY>)

capital one 360 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCFqAuE8WnE>)

forever young pepsi (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLfrdRgpKfl>)