

Rachel C. Schneider
Religion and Public Life Program
School of Social Sciences
Rice University
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RESEARCH SPECIALITIES

Religion and Public Life. Sociology and Anthropology of Religion. Race, Gender, and Inequality. Contemporary US Religion. Global Christianity, South Africa/Africa.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Postdoctoral Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, 2019—Present
Postdoctoral Mentor: Elaine Howard Ecklund, Department of Sociology
<https://rplp.rice.edu/people/rachel-c-schneider>
Ph.D. Religion, Rice University, 2017. Awarded with Distinction.
M.A. Religion, Rice University, 2014.
B.A. Global Studies, English Literature; minor: History, Seattle Pacific University, 2006.

DISSERTATION

The Ethics of Whiteness: Race, Religion, and Social Transformation in South Africa
Dr. Elias Bongmba, Department of Religion, Dissertation Director
Dr. James Faubion, Department of Anthropology, Dissertation Co-Director
Dr. Anthony Pinn, Department of Religion, Rice University, Committee Member

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 **Schneider, Rachel C.**, Deidra C. Coleman, Elaine Howard Ecklund, Denise Daniels. “How Religious Discrimination is Perceived in the Workplace: Expanding the View.” *Socius*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231211070920>
- 2022 **Rachel C. Schneider**, Terry Shoemaker, and Xochitl Alviso, “The Emerging Church Movement: Possible Futures and Trajectories” in *The Emerging Church, Millennials and Religion, Vol. 2*. Edited by Terry Shoemaker, Rachel C. Schneider, and Xochitl Alviso.
- 2022 Alviso, Xochitl, **Rachel C. Schneider**, and Terry Shoemaker, “Introduction” in *Emerging Church, Millennials and Religion, Vol. 2*. Edited by Terry Shoemaker, Rachel C. Schneider, and Xochitl Alviso.
- 2021 Mehta, Sharan, **Rachel C. Schneider**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “‘God Sees No Color’ So Why Should I? How White Christians Produce Divinized Colorblindness,” *Sociological Inquiry* <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12476>
- 2021 **Schneider, Rachel C.** and Daniel Bolger, “Between the Prophetic and Priestly: The Role of Black Pastoral Authority in Health and Science Promotion,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 89(2): 530–561.
- 2020 **Schneider, Rachel C.** and Sophie Bjork-James, “Whither Whiteness and Religion: Implications for Theology and the Study of Religion,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 88(1):175—199.

- 2020 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “White Urban Immersion, Intersubjectivity, and an Ethics of Care in South Africa,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 48(4):620-641.
- 2020 Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Denise Daniels, and **Rachel C. Schneider**, “From Secular to Sacred: Bringing Work to Church,” *Religions* 11(9):442.
- 2018 **Schneider, Rachel C.**, “Race and the Emerging Church: A View from South Africa,” In *The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion, Vol. 1*. Edited by Randall Reed. Wipf & Stock.
- 2018 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “A Web of Subversive Friends: New Monasticism in the United States and South Africa,” *Religions* 9(6): 184.

Books

- 2022 Terry Shoemaker, **Rachel C. Schneider**, and Xochitl Alviso, editors, *Emerging Church, Millennials and Religion, Vol. 2*, Wipf & Stock, 2022.
- _____ **Schneider, Rachel C.** *Christianity, Whiteness, and the Quest for a New South Africa*, under review by invitation, Oxford University Press.

Articles/Chapters Under Review or In Progress

- _____ **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Liminality and Power: Narratives of Lesbian and Transgender *Sangomas* [Traditional Healers] in South Africa,” chapter in progress for edited volume *Living Folk Religions*, editors Aaron Ullrey and Sravana Borkataky-Varma, under contract, Routledge.
- _____ **Schneider, Rachel C.**, Brenton Kalinowski and Elaine Howard Ecklund, “How Houston Christian Leaders Engage with Race After George Floyd’s Murder,” article in progress.
- _____ **Schneider, Rachel C.**, Bianca Mabute-Louie, and Elaine Howard Ecklund, “Religious Coping and Racial Discrimination in the Workplace,” article in progress.
- _____ Kalinowski, Brenton, **Rachel C. Schneider**, Elaine Howard Ecklund, Denise Daniels, “Work as Calling,” article in progress.
- _____ Van Wyngaard, Cobus and **Rachel C. Schneider**. “Haunted by Reconciliation? Theologies of Reconciliation in Post-#FeesMustFall South Africa,” article in progress.

Book Reviews

- 2018 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “The Rise of Network Christianity by Brad Christerson and Richard W. Flory,” for *Religious Studies Review* (44)2: 210.
- 2017 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Beyond the Secular West, edited by Akeel Bilgrami,” for *Religious Studies Review* (43)3: 264.
- 2017 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “The Subject of Virtue: An Anthropology of Ethics and Freedom by James Laidlaw,” for *Religious Studies Review* (43)1: 46.

GRANTS

- 2020–2023 Co-Principal Investigator (Elaine Howard Ecklund, PI), How Houston’s Religious Communities Are Responding to COVID-19 (\$5,000).

- 2019–2025 Co-Principal Investigator (Matthew Russell and Cleve Tinsley IV, Co-PI), Building Transformative Congregational Leaders, Thriving Congregations Initiative, Lilly Endowment (\$1,000,000).
- 2019–2022 Principal Investigator (Cleve Tinsley IV, Co-PI), Reimagining Public Theology and Community Engagement: The Role of Churches in Current Movements for Social Change, Collaborative Inquiry Grant, Louisville Institute (\$45,000).
- 2019 Co-Director (with Matthew Russell and Cleve Tinsley IV), Planning Grant for Building Transformational Leaders in Congregations and Communities, Thriving Congregations Initiative, Lilly Endowment (\$50,000).

Significant Involvement in Grants

- 2019–2022 Co-Writer, *Religion Unmuted* podcast. Ecklund, Elaine Howard, PI (Pamela Prickett, Co-PI), “Turning the Tables on Gender and Religion,” Henry Luce Foundation (\$550,000).

OPINIONS, EDITORIALS, AND ESSAYS

- 2021 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Christians Must Confront the Lies at the Heart of Whiteness.” *Religion Dispatches*, January 19, 2021.
<https://religiondispatches.org/christians-need-to-confront-the-lies-at-the-heart-of-whiteness/>
- 2020 Ecklund, Elaine Howard and **Rachel C. Schneider**, “How White Churches Can Work For Racial Justice,” *Religion News Service* (Op-Ed), June 19, 2020.
<https://religionnews.com/2020/06/19/how-white-churches-can-work-for-racial-justice/>
- 2018 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Religion, Sexuality, and Postcolonial Desire in Africa,” *Marginalia Los Angeles Review of Books*, August 17, 2018.
<https://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/religion-sexuality-and-postcolonial-desire-in-africa/>
- 2016 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Prophecy Cuts Both Ways: Race and Religion in *American Apocalypse*,” *Syndicate*, January 11, 2016.
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/american-apocalypse/>
- 2016 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “The Significance of Race: Response to Matthew Sutton,” *Syndicate*, January 14, 2016.
<https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/american-apocalypse/>
- 2015 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Keeping Sex Sexy: American Evangelicalism and the Problem of Sexuality,” *The Immanent Frame*, February 10, 2015.
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2015/02/10/keeping-sex-sexy-american-evangelicalism-and-the-problem-of-sexuality/>
- 2014 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Jesus, Religion, and Revolution in the South African Elections,” *The Immanent Frame*, June 2, 2014.
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2014/06/02/jesus-religion-and-revolution-in-the-south-african-elections>
- 2014 **Schneider, Rachel C.** “Mourning a Political Saint in Johannesburg,” *The Immanent Frame*, February 19, 2014.
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2014/02/19/mourning-a-political-saint-in-johannesburg/>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2022 *Religion Unmuted* podcast, Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant (\$5,000). Co-award with Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- 2019–Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2019 American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting Travel Grant (\$500).
- 2018–2019 Visiting Research Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2017–2018 Visiting Research Associate, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2018 Fellow, Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion (CEDAR), Hardin-Simmons University.
- 2017 PhD Awarded with Distinction, Department of Religion, Rice University.
- 2014–2015 American Academy of Religion Mentorship Program.
- 2014 Humanities Research Center, Summer Research Grant, Rice University (\$500).
- 2013–2014 Visiting Researcher, Center for Diversity Studies, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
- 2013–2104 Andrew W. Mellon Writing Workshop Participant, Rice University.
- 2013 Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Certificate, Rice University (\$5,000).
- 2013 Humanities Research Center Summer Research Grant, Rice University (\$1,500).
- 2012–2013 Andrew W. Mellon Research Seminar Participant, Rice University (\$5,000).
- 2009–2012 Lilly Graduate Fellow, Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts (\$9,000).

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Critical Race Approaches in the Study of Religion, Fellows Forum, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2019 Early Career Reflections on the Impact of the Graduate Certificate Program, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University.
- 2019 How Knowledge about Science, Health, and Medicine is Transmitted and Legitimated in Black Protestant Church Contexts, Fellows Forum, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University. Co-Presenter Dan Bolger.
- 2018 Supremacy, Fragility, and White Religion, San Francisco Theological Seminary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNUYery8vDo> (57,753 views)
- 2018 Whiteness and White Privilege, Invited Course Lecture for Race Matters: Anthropological Approaches to Racism, University of Central Florida.

- 2018 White Transformation and Christian Public Witness in South Africa, Fellows Forum, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2017 Decolonizing Christianity: Faith-Based Development and Activism in South Africa, Fellows Forum, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University.
- 2015 Truth, Reconciliation, and Justice: Leadership Lessons from Southern Africa, Lubbock Christian University.
- 2014 Probing Whiteness—Insights from the Anthropology of Ethics, Wits Center for Diversity Studies, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
- 2011 “There Is Something In Me:” Lesbian and Transgender Identities among Traditional Healers in Contemporary South Africa, Randolph College.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Divine Purpose? Religion, Race, and Life Extension Technologies.” American Academy of Religion, Denver. Co-Authors Jacqui Frost, Andrea Henderson, and Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- 2022 “Take it to the Lord:” Religion and Responses to Racial Discrimination in the Workplace. American Sociological Association, Religion and Racial Justice Panel, Los Angeles. Co-Authors Bianca Mbutu-Louie, Elaine Howard Ecklund, and Denise Daniels.
- 2021 How Houston Religious Leaders Navigate Race in the Wake of George Floyd’s Murder, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland. Co-Author Brenton Kalinowski and Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- 2021 From Churches to the Workplace: How White Christians Produce Racial Ignorance and Inequality, American Sociological Association (online due to COVID-19). Co-Authors Sharan Mehta, Esmeralda Sanchez, and Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- 2021 Haunted by Reconciliation? Theologies of Reconciliation in Post-#FeesMustFall South Africa. Theological Society of South Africa (online due to COVID-19). Co-Author Cobus van Wyngaard.
- 2020 Beyond Toolkits: How White Christians Produce Racial Ignorance and Inequality in the Workplace through Religious Frames, Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco. Co-Authors Sharan Mehta, Esmeralda Sanchez, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. *Accepted but meeting canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2020 Work as Calling, American Academy of Religion, Boston (online due to COVID-19). Co-Authors Brenton Kalinowski and Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- 2019 Faith at Work: Applying Empirical Research to Church Life, American Academy of Religion, San Diego. Co-Authors Elaine Howard Ecklund and Denise Daniels.
- 2019 The Emerging Church Movement: Possible Futures and Trajectories, American Academy of Religion, San Diego. Co-Authors Xochitl Alviso and Terry Shoemaker.
- 2019 Black Pastoral Authority, Health, and Science, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis. Co-Author Dan Bolger.

- 2018 An Ethics of Care: Faith-Based Urban Engagement and Slum Tourism in South Africa, American Academy of Religion, Denver.
- 2018 Religion Scholars and the Public Good: Reshaping Knowledge Paradigms through Community Engagement, American Academy of Religion, Denver.
- 2017 I am Not Your Negro: Rethinking Race Relations and Becoming Ethical Subjects, Roundtable, American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C.
- 2017 New Monasticism, Poverty, and the Politics of Friendship, American Academy of Religion, Boston.
- 2016 Race and the Emerging Church: A View from South Africa, American Academy of Religion, San Antonio.
- 2015 Unmasking the Powers: Prophetic Politics and Violence in South Africa, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta.
- 2015 White Progressive Christianity and Transformation Ethics in South Africa, Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, San Diego.
- 2015 Religious Pluralism in Johannesburg, African Religion Symposium, Rice University.
- 2014 Nelson Mandela's Spiritual Politics and the Question of the Future African Studies Association, Indianapolis.
- 2014 "Black Souls in White Skins?"—White South African Christians and Faith-Based Activism, Transatlantic Roundtable on Race and Religion, Pretoria.
- 2013 Techniques of Transformation: Pilgrimage, Exile, and Whiteness in Antjie Krog's *Begging to be Black*, Whiteness: Exploring Critical Issues, Oxford.
- 2012 Fractured Memories, Wounded Bodies: White Female Imaginaries in Post-Apartheid South Africa, National Women's Studies Association, Oakland.
- 2011 "There is Something in Me:" Narratives of Lesbian and Transgender Sangomas in Contemporary South Africa, The African Association for the Study of Religion/American Academy of Religion, San Francisco.
- 2011 The Body and Postcolonial Ethics of Transformation: Levinas, Butler, and Coetzee, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas.
- 2010 Towards a "Spirituality of Resistance and Transformation:" The Praxis of Art and Theology in South Africa, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Symposium, Rice University.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

- Spring 2022 Instructor, Religion, Gender, and Inequality, Upper Division Course, Department of Sociology, Rice University. Co-taught with Elaine Howard Ecklund.
- Spring 2016 Instructor, When Religion and Culture Collide with the West, First Year Writing Intensive Seminar, Program in Writing and Communication, Rice University.
- Fall 2015 Instructor, Religion and Politics in Africa, Upper Division Humanities Seminar, Department of Religion, Rice University.

Teaching Assistant

- Fall 2015 Lead Assistant, America through Foreign Eyes, Massive Open Online Course, Rice University/Coursera.
- Spring 2015 Teacher's Assistant, Critical Thinking in a Democracy, First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar, Program in Writing and Communication, Rice University.
- Fall 2010 Teacher's Assistant, African Literature and Religion, Upper Division Humanities Seminar, Department of Religion, Rice University.

COMMITTEES AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Chair, Religion and the Social Sciences Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2022—2025.

Steering Committee, Religion and the Social Sciences Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2021—2025.

Presider, "Religion, Public Health, Nation-States, and NGO," Religion and the Social Sciences Unit, American Academy of Religion, 2021.

Panel Organizer, "Religion and Anti-Racism," Society for the Anthropology of Religion (Invited Session), 2021. Co-Organizer Sophie Bjork-James.

Steering Committee, Emerging Church, Millennials and Religion Seminar, American Academy of Religion, 2016–2019.

Presider, "Gender and Sexuality in the Emerging Church/Millennials," Emerging Church, Millennials and Religion Seminar, American Academy of Religion, 2018.

Rich Family Endowment Selection Committee, Center for Civic Leadership, Rice University, 2017.

Presider, "Wildcard Session on *White Lies: Race and Uncertainty in the Twilight of American Religion*," American Academy of Religion, 2016.

Graduate Student Director for Southwest Region, American Academy of Religion, 2012–2014.

Graduate Student Committee, American Academy of Religion, 2012–2014.

Graduate Liaison, Department of Religion, Rice University, 2012–2013.

Planning Committee, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Graduate Symposium, Rice University, 2010–2012.

Wellness Committee, President’s Strategic Plan, Lubbock Christian University, 2008–2009.

Administrator Group, On-Sight Review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities, Lubbock Christian University, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Qualitative Researcher, *Black or Blue: A Pilot Study of Religious and Political Sources of Moral Attitudes towards Police and Protest*. P.I. Robert A. Thompson, 2019–Present.

Qualitative Research Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, *Faith at Work: An Empirical Study*, 2017–2021, P.I. Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund and Co-P.I. Dr. Denise Daniels, 2018–Present.

Editorial Assistant, *Julie Fette*, French Studies, Rice University, 2018.

Editorial Assistant, *Finance for Non-Finance Professionals*, Rice Online, Rice University, 2018.

Lead Course Assistant, *America Through Foreign Eyes (MOOC)*, Rice Online, Rice University, 2017–2018.

Project Manager, *America Through Foreign Eyes (MOOC)*, Rice University, 2014–2015.

Editorial Assistant, *Religious Studies Review*, Rice University, 2012–2013.

Editorial Assistant, Elias K. Bongmba, *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to African Religions*, 2011.

Research Assistant, *Kinder Institute for Urban Research*, Rice University, 2011.

Director of Student Involvement, Office of Student Affairs, Lubbock Christian University, 2007–2009.

Intercultural Programs Coordinator, Office of Student Programs, Seattle Pacific University, 2006–2007.

COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Radio Guest, “Celebrating the Influential and Inspirational Women in our Lives.” *Town Square*, Houston Public Media, March 22, 2022.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/town-square/2022/03/11/421008/celebrating-the-influential-and-inspirational-women-in-our-lives/>

Invited Speaker, “Practicing Solidarity: How White Christians Can Work for Racial Justice,” Covenant Church, 2022.

Panelist, “Pastors, Pandemics, and Public Health,” Science for Seminarians Program, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 2021.

Interview Guest, “The Dialogue Project: Vital Conversations with Our Community,” Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, 2021.

Moderator, “Keeping Your Religious Community Together During the Time of COVID,” Religious and Civic Leader Gathering, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, 2020.

Moderator, “A Conversation on Race, Social Justice and Science,” Conference on Religion and Science, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, 2020.

Moderator, “Race and Evangelical Politics,” Public Event, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, 2020.

Co-Presenter and Organizer, “Farewell to Innocence: Inequality, Injustice, and the Church's Response to COVID-19,” projectCURATE, Zoom Webinar, 2020.

Co-Presenter, “Louisiana Methodists Stand Against Racism,” Zoom Webinar, 2020.

Co-Presenter, “Whiteness 101: Texas Methodist Conference,” Zoom Webinar, 2020.

Co-Presenter, “Race and Interracial Friendship,” University Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, NC, 2018.

Curriculum Designer, “Whiteness 101: From Privilege to Solidarity,” projectCURATE, Houston, 2018.

Panelist “Religion and Social Movements: 'Friends' vs. Allies in the Struggle for Racial Justice,” Transform Network, Houston, 2018.

Facilitator, Solidarity and Anti-Racism, Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, 2018.

Facilitator, Race, Class, and Religion after Hurricane Harvey, projectCURATE, Houston, 2017.

Course Participant, Race, Diversity, Social Justice, and Transformation in Organizations, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 2014.

Speaker, Beyond Reconciliation: Ethics, Spirituality, and Social Transformation, Quaker Meeting, Johannesburg, 2014.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

2022. “How Religious Discrimination is Perceived in the Workplace” cited 30 times: *Religion News Service, The Hill, MSN Indonesia, Republika, Futurity, Futurity Today, National Geographic Indonesia, Sight Magazine, Church Leader, Rocket News, The Presbyterian Outlook, Times West Virginia, WTAG-AM (Springfield), Mirage, Techcodex, Newsbreak, Samachar Central, Vietnam Explorer, 24HTech, SpaceWeekly.com, New Express, Scienmag, Eurasia Review, Open Access Govt, Study Finds, WND, Baptist News Global, Christian Headlines.*

REVIEWER

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
NTT: Journal for Theology and the Study of Religion
Sociological Focus

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
African Association for the Study of Religion

REFERENCES

Prof. Elaine Howard Ecklund
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Prof. Elias K. Bongmba
Harry & Hazel Chavanne Chair in Christian Theology
Professor of Religion
Rice University
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Prof. Anthony Pinn
Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities
Professor of Religion
Director, Center for African and African American Studies
Rice University
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Prof. James D. Faubion
Radoslav Tsanoff Chair in Civic Affairs
Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus
Rice University
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