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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2017 – present *Rice University*
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Department of Sociology and the Religion and Public Life Program
Mentor: Elaine Howard Ecklund

EDUCATION

2017 Ph.D., Sociology, Baylor University
Title: *Religion and Differential Justice*
Committee: Paul Froese (Chair), Jerry Park, Matt Bradshaw, Lindsay Wilkinson, Garrett Cook
2014 M.A., Sociology, Baylor University
2012 M.A., Theological Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary
2002 M.S., Geotechnical Engineering, University of Cincinnati
2000 B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Cincinnati

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Social Stratification, Criminology & Deviance, Quantitative Methodology, Science & Religion, Religion in Public Life

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTER

- 2018 Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “The Methodological Challenges and Possibilities of Social Scientific Study of Religion and Science Across National Contexts.” Invited chapter in edited volume *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* (Eds. Bernard Lightman and Fern Elsdon-Baker). Forthcoming.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God, Party, and the Poor: How Politics and Religion Interact to Affect Economic Justice Attitudes.” *Sociological Forum* 33(2): 334-353.
- 2017 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Phil Davignon. “Religious Belief in Christian Higher Education: Is Religious and Political Diversity Relativizing or Secularizing?” *Social Compass* 64(3): 404-423.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God versus Party: Their Competing Effects on Attitudes Concerning Criminal Punishment, National Security, and Military Service.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(4): 839-858.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “More Than Friends and Family? Estimating the Direct and Indirect Effects of Religiosity on Substance Use in Emerging Adulthood.” *Journal of Drug Issues* 46(4): 326-346.

- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Sung Joon Jang. "Homeschooling and Underage Drinking: Is It More Protective than Public and Private Schools?" *Deviant Behavior* 37(3): 281-301.
- 2015 Phil Davignon and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Christian Colleges and Universities as Moral Communities: The Effects of Institutional Characteristics on Student Religiosity." *Review of Religious Research* 57(4): 531-554.

BOOK

- In Press Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Steven Lewis, Kirstin Matthews, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Di Di. *Secularity and Science: What Scientists around the World Really Think about Religion*. Oxford University Press.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Jerry Z. Park, and Diana Kendall. "Religious Conservatives and TV News: Are They More Likely to be Religiously Offended?" Revise and resubmit, *Social Problems*.

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Buffering the Stigma? On the Racialization of Religion and Health among Former Inmates."

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Watching While White: Racial Privilege and Attitudes about Police."

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Religion in Civil Society: The Influence of Black Religious Ecology on Crime in the South."

- Dan Bolger, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The Religious Transitions of Scientists in Cross-National Context."

- Di Di, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Parenting, Publishing, and Perishing: A Cross-National Comparison of Gender Gaps in Science."

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Sharan Kuar Mehta, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Gender and Religion among Scientists: A Cross-National Study."

- Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Dan Bolger, Sharan Mehta, and Di Di. "Irrational Science: Perceptions of Discrimination in Global Physics and Biology."

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Crime and Changes in Religious Adherence (2000-2010): A Longitudinal Test."

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Parapets of the Ivory Tower: Racial Stratification among US Physicists and Biologists."

Sharan Kuar Mehta, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Scientific versus Religious Tools? The Construction of Political Identities among American Scientists."

Di Di, Simranjit Khalsa, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Global Spirituality among Scientists."

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Faith in the New Millennium: The Future of Religion and American Politics, Edited by Matthew Avery Sutton and Darren Dochuk." Book review in *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* 54(1).
- 2017 Renae Wilkinson and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Structure, Agency, and Social Change in a 'Lost Generation.'" Class Activity published in *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. (<http://trails.asanet.org>).
- 2005 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Gary J. Foose. "Chemical Compatibility and Durability of Soil-Bentonite Mixtures," *Proceedings of the Sessions of the Geo-Frontiers 2005 Congress* (ASCE Conference Proceedings 168, 14)
- 2002 Gary J. Foose and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Effects of Freeze-Thaw Cycling on the Hydraulic Conductivity of Soil-Bentonite Mixtures," *Cold Regions Engineering: Cold Regions Impacts on Transportation and Infrastructure Proceedings of the 11th International Conference* (ASCE Conference Proceedings 254, 81)

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

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| 2017 | Baylor University Outstanding Dissertation Award |
| 2017 | Baylor University Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (Nominated) |
| 2012 – 2017 | Graduate Student Fellowship, Baylor University |
| 2012 – 2017 | Professional Development Travel Awards, Baylor University |
| 2012 | Academic Excellence in Theological Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary |
| 2011 – 2012 | International Society of Theta Phi, Asbury Theological Seminary |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teacher of Record:

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| Summer 2017 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 22 students |
| Fall 2016 | Criminology (Section 1), Baylor University, 35 students |
| Fall 2016 | Criminology (Section 2), Baylor University, 36 students |
| Summer 2016 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 23 students |
| Spring 2016 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 124 students |
| Fall 2015 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 69 students |
| Summer 2015 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 17 students |
| Spring 2015 | Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 65 students |

Continuing Education Courses:

Fall 2018 Religion and Public Life, Rice University (co-teaching)

Guest Lectures:

Mar. 2018 Religion and Public Life (combined graduate/undergraduate), Rice University
Apr. 2014 Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University: “Religion, Work, and Delinquency”
Nov. 2013 Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University: “Integrated Theory”

Teaching Assistant:

Spring 2014 Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University
Spring 2014 Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Fall 2013 Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University
Fall 2013 Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Spring 2013 Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Fall 2012 Methods of Social Science, Baylor University

SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical Software:

SAS • Stata • SPSS • R • ArcGis • Geoda • GeodaSpace

Statistical Methods:

linear regression • multilevel modeling • structural equation modeling • longitudinal data analysis • spatial modeling

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Buffering the Stigma? On the Racialization of Religion and Health among Former Inmates.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar. “Racial Differences in Promotion, Publication, and Pay among US Physicists and Biologists.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Sharan Kaur Mehta and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Scientific versus Religious Tools? The Construction of Political Identities among American Scientists.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Di Di, and Jerry Park. “Christian (In)Tolerance in the USA.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Watching While White: Racial Privilege and Attitudes About Police.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.

- 2017 Sharan Mehta, Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “The Intersection of Gender with Religion and Science.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Di Di, Simranjit Khalsa, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Global Spirituality Among Scientists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Dan Bolger, Sharan Mehta. “Perceptions of Discrimination in Global Science.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Sharan Kaur Mehta, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “How Religious and Political Identities Intersect for US Scientists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Daniel Bolger, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “The Religious Transitions of Scientists in Cross-National Context.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God, Party, and the Poor: How Politics and Religion Interact to Affect Economic Justice Attitudes.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Religion in Civil Society: The Spatial Effects of Black Protestant Affiliation Rates on Crime in the South.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Phil Davignon. “Religious Belief in Christian Higher Education: Is Religious and Political Diversity Relativizing?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “More Than Friends and Family? Estimating the Direct and Indirect Effects of Religiosity on Substance Use in Emerging Adulthood.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Sung Joon Jang. “Homeschooling and Underage Drinking: Is It More Protective than Public and Private Schools?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God, Party, and American Justice.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Jerry Z. Park, and Diana Kendall. “Religious Exclusivism and Perceived Anti-Religious Media Bias.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, CA.

2013 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Political Ideology and Image of God in the Culture Wars.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
 Section on Crime, Law & Deviance
 Section on Race, Class, & Gender
 Section on Sex and Gender
 Section on Sociology of Population
 Section on Science, Knowledge, & Technology
 Section on Sociology of Religion
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Religious Research Association
Southern Sociological Society
Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Reviewer *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Social Forces, Journal of Criminal Justice, The Sociological Quarterly, Sociological Focus, Justice Quarterly*
2014 - 2015 Representative, Graduate Student Association, Baylor University
2011 – 2012 President, International Society of Theta Phi, Asbury Theological Seminary

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2017 *Rice University*
 Statistical consultant for the study “Religion among Scientists in International Context”
 (Elaine Howard Ecklund, PI)
2012 – 2017 *Baylor University*
 Teaching and Research Assistant / Teacher of Record
2007 – 2012 *Asbury Theological Seminary*
 Associate Director of Admissions / Admissions Counselor
2002 – 2007 *H.C. Nutting Company / Terracon*
 Project / Staff Geotechnical Engineer
2000 – 2002 *University of Cincinnati*
 Graduate Assistant

REFERENCES

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Professor of Sociology and Baylor Religion Survey
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Baylor University

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