

Christopher Han-Fai Seto

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APPOINTMENTS & EDUCATION

Assistant Professor of Sociology. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN	2023-
Ph.D. in Criminology , The Pennsylvania State University, State College PA Minor: Social Data Analytics Graduate Certificate: Quantitative Methodology	2020-2023
M.A. in Criminology , The Pennsylvania State University, State College PA	2018-2020
B.S. in Engineering, B.A. in Sociology , Hope College, Holland MI Minor: Mathematics <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	2012-2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Crime & violence; Hate; Firearms; Religion & morality; Health & substance use; Communities, places & space

PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING ARTICLES

* Indicates equal co-authorship.

† Indicates student co-author.

Seto, Christopher, Popy Begum, Darci Schmidgall † & Samuel Perry. 2026. "Christian Nationalism, Race, and Contingent Support for Law Enforcement: Results from Two Survey Experiments." *Criminology* (forthcoming).

Pope, Taylor † & **Christopher Seto**. 2026. "From Swipe to Swindle: A Narrative Review of Research on Older Adult Victims of Romance Fraud." *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08946566.2026.2690996>

Seto, Christopher. 2026. "In God we trust: Christian nationalism, ethno-racial and political identities, and distrust of immigrants." *Sociology of Religion* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srag002>

Seto, Christopher. 2026. "Belonging and blame: Cultural and moral correlates of anti-Asian scapegoating for the COVID-19 pandemic." *Social Forces* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soag035>

- Seto, Christopher** & Taylor Pope †. 2026. "Fright by byte: Exploring fear of digital fraud in the United States from 2015 to 2022." *Crime & Delinquency* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287261434486>
- Seto, Christopher.** 2026. "The faces of God's country: Christian nationalism in the United States and the implicit association of Asian faces with foreignness." *Sociology of Religion* 87(2): 168–194. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srae041>
- Ortiz, Selena & **Christopher Seto.** 2026. "Electoral Governance as a Political Determinant of Health: State Policy Context, Risk Perception, and Voter Safety." Forthcoming at *Frontiers in Public Health* 14:1833040. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2026.1833040>
- Schmidgall, Darci †, Popy Begum, & **Christopher Seto.** 2026. "Deciding for Her: Religio-Political Conservatism, Christian Nationalism, and Public Opposition to Legal Abortion Across Circumstances." *The Sociological Quarterly* 67(2): 339–365. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2025.2596588>
- Seto, Christopher** & Jian Su †. 2026. "Congregations in context: Clarifying the Religious Ecology of Crime." *The Sociological Quarterly* 67(1): 104-130. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2025.2487686>
- Cho, Jisoo †, Jinuk Jeong †, & **Christopher Seto.** 2026. "Community-level analysis of anti-Asian hate crime." *Crime & Delinquency* 72(3): 848-873. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287251335012>
- Seto, Christopher,** Popy Begum, Sakshi Mohanty †, Savannah Brooks †, & Laura Upenieks. 2025. "Pandemic Pressures: Social Isolation, Financial Hardship, and Negative Emotional Affect as Risk Factors for Physical Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251384954>
- Mongilio, Jessica M., Jeremy Staff, **Christopher Seto,** Jennifer L. Maggs, & Rebecca J. Evans-Polce. 2025. "Risk of Adolescent Cigarette Use in Three UK Birth Cohorts, Before and After E-Cigarettes." *Tobacco Control* (online first). <https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2024-059212>
- Seto, Christopher.** 2025. "God and group: The religious ecology of violence against Muslims and Jews in the US" *Justice Quarterly*, 42(6), 988-1018. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2024.2395869>
- Seto, Christopher.** 2025. "A bulwark against tyranny? Fear of the government and implications for gun purchasing" *Social Problems*, 72(4), 1768-1792. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spae048>

- Begum, Popy & **Christopher Seto**. 2025. "Selling Sex in the States: Religious Fundamentalism, Christian Nationalism, and Public Acceptance of Moral Problems." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 52(1), 138-158. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548241288228>
- Seto, Christopher**, Darci Schmidgall † & Samuel Perry. 2025. "Colorblind Cops in Christian America: Christian Nationalism, Race, Politics, and Beliefs About Racist Policing." *The Sociological Quarterly* 66(2), 382–410. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2024.2435445>
- Seto, Christopher** & Samuel Perry. 2025. "Lay down your sword? Christian nationalism, race, and opposition to requiring gun permits." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 48(10), 2035–2058. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2024.2372042>
- Seto, Christopher** & Selena Ortiz. 2024. "Religion and policy preferences in context: Born-Again Christian identity, support for inclusive COVID-19 policies, and the broader political environment" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 63(4): 845-866. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12929>
- Seto, Christopher** & Laura Upenieks. 2024. "Under God and under threat: Christian nationalism and conspiracy beliefs as links between political orientation and gun ownership" *Justice Quarterly* 41(2): 291-316. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2023.2197482>
- Seto, Christopher**, Corina Graif, Aria Khademi †, Vasant Honavar, & Claire Kelling. 2022. "Connected in health: Place-to-place commuting networks and COVID-19 spillovers." *Health & Place* 77, 102891. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102891>
- Block, Ray*, Michael Burnham †*, Kayla Kahn †*, Rachel Peng †*, Jeremy Seeman †*, & **Christopher Seto***. 2022. "Perceived Risk, Political Polarization, and Adherence to COVID-19 Mitigation Guidelines." *Social Science & Medicine* 305, 115091. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115091>
- Seto, Christopher**. 2022. "Saving Grace? Religious Ecology and Deaths of Despair." *Social Science & Medicine* 293, 114642. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114642>
- Seto, Christopher** & Iman Said †. 2022. "Religious Perceptions of Crime and Implications for Punitiveness." *Punishment & Society* 24(1): 46-68. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474520960038>
- Seto, Christopher**. 2021. "Religious Identity and Delinquency: Comparing Muslim, Christian and Non-religious Adolescents in the United Kingdom." *British Journal of Criminology* 62(4): 857-876. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab100>

Seto, Christopher. 2021. “Understanding Delinquency Among the Spiritual but not Religious.” *Sociology of Religion* 82(2): 156-178.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/sraa042>

Staff, Jeremy, Jennifer Maggs, **Christopher Seto**, Julia Dillavou †, & Michael Vuolo. 2020. “Electronic and Combustible Cigarette Use in Adolescence: Links with Adjustment, Delinquency, and Other Substance Use.” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 66:39-47.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2019.08.030>

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS (drafts available on request)

Seto, Christopher & Corina Graif. “Moving target: The role of spatial mobility networks in linking extra-local firearm exposure to US gun homicides between 2005 and 2019.”

Su, Jian †, Darci Schmidgall † & **Christopher Seto** “When Moral Boundaries Meet Structural Barriers: County-Level Religious Climates and Abortion Access in the United States.”

Pope, Taylor † & **Christopher Seto**. “The Politics of Conspiracies: Age, Political Identity, and Distrust of the Government.”

Seto, Christopher, Cory Anderson & Kathryn Groves. “Religious Adherence and Teen Birth Rates: A U.S. County-Level Analysis of Religious Ecological Effects.”

Seto, Christopher & Savannah Brooks †. “Race, Politics, and Fear of Police Brutality from 2014 to 2023.”

Monroe, Rebekah † & **Christopher Seto**. “Clarifying the Muddy Effects of Purity Culture: Religion’s Impact on Happiness and Mental Health for Sexually Active and Non-Active Teenagers and Young Adults.”

BOOKS (crime fiction)

Seto, Christopher. 2025. *The Chocolatier’s Curse*. San Clemente, CA: Tule Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-967678-53-2

Seto, Christopher. 2026. *Little House of Secrets*. San Clemente, CA: Tule Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-970840-73-5

Seto, Christopher. Under contract, to be released in 2026. *Heart of a Killer*. San Clemente, CA: Tule Publishing.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2026. Daryl P. Evans Outstanding Teaching Award

Purdue University, Department of Sociology

2024. Selected to participate in the Religion in the Public Sphere Writing development workshop on Christianity in the US (\$250 honorarium).
Social Science Research Council
2023. CJRC Seed Grant Award, co-investigator (\$7,500)
Big Data and Violence Diffusion across US Communities: Was Diffusion Exacerbated or Weakened during the Covid-19 Pandemic?
The Pennsylvania State University, Criminal Justice Research Center
2023. Distinguished New Criminologist Award
University of Alabama, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
2023. First place in 14th annual Criminology Paper Competition, Working Paper Category
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
2022. First place in ASC Division on Terrorism and Bias Crimes Student Paper Award
American Society of Criminology (ASC)
2022. Religion, Spirituality, and Democratic Renewal Fellowship (\$15,000)
Social Science Research Council
2022. Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant (\$10,000)
The Russell Sage Foundation
2022. Conference travel grant award (\$850)
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
2022. Outstanding Criminology Student Work Award
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
2022. First place in 13th annual Criminology Paper Competition, Published Paper Category
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
2021. Second place in national Gene Carte Student Paper Competition
American Society of Criminology (ASC)
2021. C-SoDA Seed Grant Accelerator Award, co-PI (\$5,000)
The Pennsylvania State University, Center for Social Data Analytics
2021. First place in 12th annual Criminology Paper Competition, Working Paper Category
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
2021. CJRC Graduate Student Research Award Grant (\$2,000)
The Pennsylvania State University, Criminal Justice Research Center

2021. First place in annual Criminology Master's Thesis Award
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
2020. First place in 11th annual Criminology Paper Competition, Working Paper Category
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
- 2018-2019. University Graduate Fellowship (\$30,000)
The Pennsylvania State University
2016. Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, lifetime member
Hope College Chapter
2016. Senior Sociology Award
Hope College, Department of Sociology
- 2012-2016. Presidential Scholarship
Hope College

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) "Lock(down), Stock and Barrel: Perceived Government Overreach, Conspiracy Beliefs, and Gun Purchasing During the COVID-19 Pandemic." American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Washington, DC).
2025. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) "Framing, Blaming, and Naming: How Christian Nationalism and Moral Foundations Shape Anti-Asian COVID-19 Pandemic Scapegoating." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Minneapolis, MN).
2025. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Corina Graif. "Moving target: The role of spatial mobility networks in linking extra-local firearm exposure to US gun homicides between 2005 and 2019." American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference (Chicago, IL).
2025. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Corina Graif. "Mobility and mortality: The role of commuting networks in facilitating exposure to firearms and effects on US gun homicides from 2005-2019." Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (Washington, DC).
2024. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter), Popy Begum (presenter), Joshua Davis, & Laura Upenieks. "Religion, relationships, and risk: Examining the influence of Christian nationalism on intimate partner violence." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA).
2024. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Samuel Perry. "Lay down your sword? Christian nationalism, race, and opposition to requiring gun permits." American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference (Montreal, QC).

2024. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Corina Graif. “Firearm prevalence and homicides across routine mobility networks: Evidence from large-scale commuting and GPS mobile phone data” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (Columbus, OH).

2024. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) “The faces of God’s country: Christian nationalism in the United States and the implicit association of Asian faces with foreignness” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (Columbus, OH).

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) “What Spills Over? Using Big Network Data to Explore Firearm Diffusion and Homicide in the US” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA).

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) “Understanding anti-Asian violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from Google Trends” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA).

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) “Christian nationalism and perceptions of Asian foreignness: Evidence from Project Implicit” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Salt Lake City, UT).

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Corina Graif “Locked down but spilling over? Spatial and social diffusion of violence and drugs before and during the Covid-19 pandemic” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (New Orleans, LA).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) “God and group: The ecology of religiously motivated hate crimes” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Atlanta, GA).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter) & Selena Ortiz. “Church in context: Religious affiliation, support for inclusive COVID-19 aid, and the broader social environment” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Baltimore, MD).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Ethno-racial Violence and Political Competition across Three Elections: A Machine Learning Approach” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference (Los Angeles, CA).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Under God and under Threat: Christian Nationalism and Conspiracy Beliefs as Links between Political Orientation and Gun Ownership” Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Conference (Los Angeles, CA).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Collateral Consequences of Coronavirus: Exploring Contextual and Situational Predictors of Anti-Asian Hate Incidents in the United States during 2020.” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (Atlanta, GA).

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Exploring ecological predictors of violent hate crime against racial and ethnic minorities: A machine learning approach” PSU/UMD/UPENN Virtual Conference.

2021. Graif, Corina & **Christopher Seto** (presenter). “Driving home the Crime? Commuting Network Spillovers and Spatial Criminology.” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Chicago, IL).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Exploring Spatial and Temporal Predictors of Hate Crime in the US: A Machine Learning Approach.” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference (Chicago, IL).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Broadening Questions of Religion and Delinquency.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Portland, OR).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Religious Identity and Adolescent Delinquency: Comparing Muslim, Christian, and Non-Religious Adolescents in the United Kingdom.” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Conference (virtual).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Saving Grace? Religious Ecology and Deaths of Despair.” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (virtual).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter), Aria Khademi, Vasant Honavar, & Corina Graif. “Commuting Network Spillovers and COVID-19 Deaths across US Counties.” Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Conference (virtual).

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Divine Interventions: Articulating a Causal Model and Estimating Religious Effects on Adolescent Substance Use” PSU/UMD/UPENN Virtual Conference.

2019. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Religious Identity and Adolescent Delinquency.” American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2024. **Seto, Christopher** (panelist). “Graduate Student Session Scholars of Religion and the Job Market: Academic and Non-Academic Routes” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA).

2024. **Seto, Christopher** (panelist). “‘There Are (No) Jobs for Scholars Studying Religion’: The Fallacies and Realities of the Academic and Alternative to Academic Job Market” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA).

2024. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “White Christian Nationalism and its Threat to Faith and Democracy.” Chelsea First United Methodist Church. Chelsea, MI.

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Driving home the violence? Homicide spillover and routine mobility networks.” Advanced Methods at Purdue (AMAP) New Faculty Flash Talks. West Lafayette, IN.

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Epidemic of Hate: Understanding Anti-Asian Violence during COVID-19.” Penn State Criminology Brown Bag. State College, PA.

2023. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Epidemic of Hate: Understanding Anti-Asian Violence during COVID-19.” University of Alabama, Distinguished New Criminologist Presentation, Tuscaloosa, AL.

2022. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Saving Grace? Religious Ecology and Death of Despair” Penn State Criminology Brown Bag. State College, PA.

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Collateral Consequences of Coronavirus: Exploring Contextual and Situational Predictors of Anti-Asian Bias Incidents in the United States during 2020” Penn State Criminal Justice Research Center Criminology Forum. State College, PA.

2021. **Seto, Christopher** (presenter). “Religious Identity and Adolescent Delinquency: Comparing Muslim, Christian, and Non-Religious Adolescents in the United Kingdom” Penn State Criminology Brown Bag. State College, PA.

COURSES INSTRUCTED

Instructor, Graduate Seminar in Criminology (SOC 609)
Purdue University, Department of Sociology

Instructor, Criminology (SOC 324)
Purdue University, Department of Sociology

Instructor, Transformative Texts, Critical Thinking and Communication II (SCLA 102)
Purdue University, Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts

Instructor, Graduate Statistical Coding (SOC 596)
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology

Instructor, *Introduction to Criminology* (CRIM/SOC 12)
The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Crime Law & Deviance Section Mentor 2025
American Sociological Association

Population Science Advocacy Day 2025
Population Association of America, 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Graduate Committee 2025-
Purdue University, Department of Sociology

Undergraduate Committee <i>Purdue University, Department of Sociology</i>	2024-2025
Search Committee <i>Purdue University, Department of Sociology</i>	2023
Coding and Data Committee (co-founder) <i>The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology</i>	2020-2022
Graduate Student Recruitment Committee Chair <i>The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology</i>	2021-2023
Diversity Promotion Committee <i>The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology</i>	2018-2022
Occasional reviewer, <i>Social Forces</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Social Problems</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Spatial Demography</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>The Sociological Quarterly</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Justice Quarterly</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Journal of Quantitative Criminology</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Sociological Imagination</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Social Science Research</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Urban Studies</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Digital Humanities Quarterly</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Journal of Health and Place</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review</i>	
Occasional reviewer, <i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i>	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance
Section on Sociology of Religion

American Society of Criminology (ASC)
Division on Terrorism and Bias Crimes
Division on Community and Place

Population Association of America (PAA)
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)
Association for the Society of Religion (ASR)