

Jacqui Frost

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Purdue University
Department of Sociology
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POSITIONS

2022-Present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Purdue University
2020-2022 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Religion and Public Life Center, Rice University

Affiliations

2022-Present Alumni Scholar, Religion and Public Life Center, Rice University
2022-Present Center Affiliate, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Minnesota
2012 M.S. Sociology, Portland State University
2009 B.A. Sociology and Journalism, University of Wyoming

AREAS OF INTEREST

cultural sociology; religion and nonreligion; science and technology; health and wellbeing

BOOKS

Jacqui Frost. *Sacralizing Science: Spirituality and Salvation in Secular Congregations*. Under contract with Oxford University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Evan Stewart, Jaime Kucinkas, Jacqui Frost, and Bradley Wright. *Forthcoming*. "Protecting Mental Health Through Spiritual Awareness and Prayer: Insights from Robustness Testing." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Jacqui Frost, Rachel Schneider, Andrea Henderson, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2026. "Divine Purpose? Race, Religion, and Attitudes Toward Life Extension Technology." *Sociology of Religion* 87(1): 30-54.

Jacqui Frost, Penny Edgell, and Mahala Miller. 2025. "Varieties of Nonreligious Experience: Expanding Understandings of Nonreligious Wellbeing." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 47(5): 1-13.

Jacqui Frost. 2023. "Ritualizing Nonreligion: Cultivating Rational Rituals in Secular Spaces." *Social Forces* 101(4): 2013-2033.

Christopher Scheitle, Jacqui Frost, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2023. "The Association between Religious Discrimination and Health: Disaggregating by Types of Discrimination Experiences, Religious Tradition, and Forms of Health." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(4): 845-868.

Penny Edgell, Mahala Miller, and Jacqui Frost. 2023. "What Makes Life Meaningful? Combinations of Meaningful Commitments Among Nonreligious and Religious Americans." *Sociology of Religion* 84(4): 426-446.

Jacqui Frost, Christopher Scheitle, Elaine Howard Ecklund, and Denise Daniels. 2023. "The Role of Region and Religious Tradition in Predicting Individuals' Expressions of Faith in the Workplace." *Religions* 14: 920.

Jacqui Frost, Christopher Scheitle, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2023. "Patterns of Perceived Hostility and Identity Concealment among Self-identified Atheists." *Social Forces* 101(3): 1580-1605.

Jacqui Frost and Penny Edgell. 2022. "'I Believe in Taking Care of People': Pushing Back Against Rationalized Systems with a Moral Logic of Care." *Poetics* 90: 1-12.

Jacqui Frost. 2019. "Certainty, Uncertainty, or Indifference? Examining Variation in the Identity Narratives of Nonreligious Americans." *American Sociological Review* 84(5): 828-850.

Jacqui Frost and Penny Edgell. 2018. "Rescuing Nones from the Reference Category: Civic Engagement Among the Nonreligious in America." *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 47(2): 417-438.

Penny Edgell, Jacqui Frost, and Evan Stewart. 2017. "From Existential to Social Understandings of Risk: Examining Gender Differences in Nonreligion." *Social Currents* 4(6): 556-574.

Jacqui Frost and Penny Edgell. 2017. "Distinctiveness Reconsidered: Religiosity, Structural Location, and Understandings of Racial Inequality." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(2): 277-301.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Jacqui Frost. 2021. "Religion for Atheists? Transhumanism, Mindfulness, and Atheist Churches." Pp. 1080-1094 in *The Cambridge History of Atheism*, edited by Stephen Bullivant and Michael Ruse. Cambridge University Press.

Jacqui Frost. 2017. "Rejecting Rejection Identities: Negotiating Positive Nonreligiosity at the Sunday Assembly." Pp. 171-190 in *Organized Secularism in the United States*, edited by Ryan Cragun, Lori Fazzino, and Christel Manning. De Gruyter Press.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2026. Templeton Religion Trust Grant, "Moral Perceptions of Posthuman Biotechnologies." \$75,000
- 2025. Engage Grant, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University. \$10,000
- 2025. Distinguished Article Award, ASA Sociology of Religion Section.
- 2024. Daryl Evans Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Purdue University.
- 2020. Templeton Religion Trust Grant, "Sacralizing Science in Secular Congregations." \$114,000.
- 2019. CLA Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Minnesota. \$12,500.
- 2019. Outstanding Teaching Award, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota.

- 2019. Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Culture Section.
- 2019. Student Research Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. \$3,000
- 2019. Council of Graduate Students Conference Travel Grant, University of Minnesota. \$900.
- 2018. Engaged Scholarship Award, University of Minnesota. For work on *The Society Pages*.
- 2018. Anna Welsch Bright Research Award, University of Minnesota. \$2,500.
- 2015. Summer Research Fellowship, American Mosaic Project. \$5,000.
- 2014. Edelstein Fellowship, American Mosaic Project. \$45,000.
- 2014. Ron Anderson Technology and Social Cohesion Award. \$2,500.
- 2013. Sociology Department Fellowship, University of Minnesota. \$8,000.

REVIEWS, COMMENTS, AND ESSAYS

Jacqui Frost. 2024. "Rethinking the Consequences of Religious Decline." *Proceedings: Eighth Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*.

Jacqui Frost. 2022. Review of *Situating Spirituality: Context, Practice, and Power*, edited by Brian Steensland, Jaime Kucinkas, and Anna Sun. *Sociology of Religion*.

Jacqui Frost. 2021. Review of *Secularization*, by Charles Turner. *Secular Studies*.

Jacqui Frost. 2020. "Rethinking the Risks of Rejecting Religion: Secular Speculations and the Construction of Nonreligious Risk Narratives." *TERA* 1(1): 56-62.

Jacqui Frost. 2020. Review of *A Qualitative Study of Black Atheists: "Don't Tell Me You're One of Those!"* by Daniel Swann. *Social Forces*.

Jacqui Frost. 2019. "How Our Paradigms Limit Our Measures." Response to "Is Secularism a World Religion?" by Donovan Schaefer. *Implicit Religion* 22(1): 66-71.

Yağmur Karakaya and Jacqui Frost. 2019. "The Cultures of Cultural Sociology at Minnesota." Department Profile for ASA Culture Section newsletter.

Evan Stewart, Jacqui Frost, and Penny Edgell. 2017. "Special Issue: Intersectionality and Power." *Secularism and Nonreligion* 6(1).

Jacqui Frost. 2016. Review of *American Secularism: Cultural Contours of Nonreligious Belief Systems*, by Joseph Baker and Buster Smith. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Jacqui Frost. 2015. "Measuring Secularity." Response to "Understanding the Secular," with Phil Zuckerman and John R. Shook. *The Religious Studies Project*.

UPCOMING/RECENT INVITED TALKS AND PANELS

- 2025. Invited Panelist for discussion panel on "Success and Failure in Religious/Spiritual Innovations." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Minneapolis.
- 2025. Invited Panelist for book panel on *Religion in a Changing Workplace*, by Elaine Howard Ecklund, Denise Daniels, and Christopher Scheitle. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Minneapolis.
- 2024. Invited Panelist for Symposium on "After Religion: New Conceptual Approaches for Pluralizing Landscapes." University of Montreal.

- 2024. Invited Panelist for Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture. “Rethinking the Consequences of Religious Decline.” Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University Indianapolis.
- 2024. Invited Lecture. “Religion, Transhumanism, and Attitudes Toward Life Extension Technologies.” Center for the Study of Religion and Society. University of Notre Dame.
- 2023. Invited Panelist for book panel on *Beyond Doubt: The Secularization of Society*, by Isabella Kasselstrand, Phil Zuckerman, and Ryan Cragun. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Salt Lake City.
- 2022. Invited Panelist for book panel on *Situating Spirituality: Context, Practice, and Power*, edited by Brian Steensland, Jaime Kucinskis, and Anna Sun. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Baltimore.
- 2022. Invited Panelist for book panel on *The Secular Paradox: On the Religiosity of the Not Religious*, by Joseph Blankholm. American Academy of Religion Conference: Denver.
- 2022. Invited Lecture. “Mechanisms of Wellbeing Among the Nonreligious.” Center for the Study of Religion and Society. University of Notre Dame.
- 2022. Invited Lecture. “Science in Secular Congregations.” Virtual Presentation for Religion and Society Group, West Virginia University.
- 2022. Invited Lecture. “Putting Your Faith in Science: Cultivating Spirituality and Navigating Uncertainty in Secular Congregations.” Virtual Presentation for Department of Sociology, University of Münster, Germany.
- 2021. Invited Lecture. “Ritualizing Nonreligion.” Virtual presentation for Nonreligion in a Complex Future Seminar Series, University of Ottawa, Canada.

UPCOMING/RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025. “Science as Savior: The Politics of Secular Transhumanists.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Minneapolis.
- 2025. “Comparing Factors that Predict Nonreligious Participation in Civic Life.” Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference: Chicago.
- 2025. “Comparing Contested Conceptions of Science in Two Secular Congregations.” International Sociological Association Conference: Rabat.
- 2024. “Sacralizing Science in Secular Congregations in the United States.” Association of Social Science of Religion in Latin America Conference: Montevideo.
- 2023. “Mechanisms of Wellbeing Across the Nonreligious Life Course.” International Sociological Association Conference: Melbourne.
- 2023. “Atheist Utopias: Sacralizing Science in Secular Congregations.” Sociology of Science and Religion Project Grantees Conference: San Diego.
- 2022. “Atheist Utopias: Cultivating Visions of the ‘Good Society’ in Secular Congregations.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Baltimore.
- 2022. “Divine Purpose? Race, Religion, and Attitudes Toward Life Extension.” American Academy of Religion Conference: Denver.

- 2021. "Ritualizing Nonreligion: Cultivating Rational Rituals in Secular Spaces." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Portland.
- 2021. "Anxious Atheists? Factors that Shape Whether Nonreligious People Find Comfort or Anxiety in their Nonreligion." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference: Portland.
- 2021. "Health and Wellbeing Among the Nonreligious: Accounting for the Nonreligious Life Course." Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Conference: Virtual Meeting.
- 2020. "Pushing Back Against Rationalized Institutions with a Logic of Care." American Sociological Association Conference: Virtual Meeting.
- 2020. "Atheist Churches and AI Utopias: Repurposing Religious Means for Secular Ends." Sociology of Science and Religion Project Grantees Conference: Virtual Meeting.
- 2019. "The Meaning of Uncertainty: Navigating States of Certainty and Uncertainty in Nonreligious Narratives." American Sociological Association Conference: New York.
- 2019. "States and Traits: Navigating Nonreligious Uncertainties." Cultures of Unbelief Conference: Rome.

COURSES TAUGHT

Religion and Health (Purdue University)

Transformative Texts: Religion and Science (Purdue University)

Analyzing Culture on TV (Purdue University)

Cities and Social Change (University of Minnesota)

Introduction to Sociology (University of Minnesota)

Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND MEDIA COVERAGE

The Ethical Frontier Podcast. Interviewed for Episode 78, "Atheist Churches." October 26, 2025.

Religion News Service. Interviewed for "The Camino, a Catholic Pilgrimage, Increasingly Draws the Spiritual but Not Religious." July 1, 2024.

Give Theory a Chance Podcast. "Jacqui Frost on Max Weber." May 21, 2024.

German Public Radio. Interviewed for story on "Community Without God: Atheist Churches in the USA." February 22, 2024.

The Conversation. "Church without God: How Secular Congregations Fill a Need for Some Nonreligious Americans." January 11, 2024.

This Week in Sociological Perspectives Podcast. Interviewed about "Ritualizing Nonreligion: Cultivating Rational Rituals in Secular Spaces." July 17, 2022.

Religion News Service. "Atheists Who are Women, Republicans, or Southerners More Likely to Hide Beliefs." March 10, 2022.

Houston Public Media. Radio interview about "Patterns of Perceived Hostility and Identity Concealment among Self-identified Atheists." March 8, 2022.

Beyond Atheism Podcast. Interviewed for Episode 26, "Atheist Churches." November 5, 2021.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Board Member, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* Editorial Board. 2026-2028.

Council Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. 2025-2028.

Board Member, ISA Sociology of Religion Section. 2023-2027.

Session Organizer, ISA Sociology of Religion Section. 2023, 2024, 2025, 2027.

Board Member, *Sociology of Religion* Editorial Board. 2024-2026.

Council Member, ASA Sociology of Religion Section. 2023-2026.

Committee Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Finance Committee. 2024-2025.

Co-Organizer, ASA Sociology of Religion Roundtable Sessions. 2024.

Committee Member, *Sociology of Religion* Distinguished Article Award. 2022-2024.

Committee Member, ASA Altruism Section Distinguished Article Award. 2023.

Consultant, Pew Research Center. 2022.

Committee Member, General Social Survey Religion Core Revision Committee. 2022.

Committee Chair, ASA Sociology of Religion Section Distinguished Article Award. 2022.

Session Organizer, ASA Sociology of Religion Section. 2021.

Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Religion Section Graduate Student Research Award. 2021.

Panelist, ASA Sociology of Religion Section's Virtual Mentoring Panels. 2020, 2021.

Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Culture Section's Graduate Student Paper Award. 2020.

Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Culture Section's Programming Committee. 2020.

STUDENTS ADVISED

Primary Advisor, Purdue University: Madeline Hayman, Cole Schliebe

Dissertation Committee Member, Purdue University: Jian Su, Mingui Gao, Corey Resweber, Jiayin Hu (PhD 2026), Nic Frame (PhD 2025)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member, Rice University: Ajah Hale (BA 2022)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association
International Sociological Association
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network
Network for the Social Scientific Study of Science and Religion