

# Daniel A. Winchester

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## Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Sociology, Purdue University, 2020 –  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Purdue University, 2014 – 2020  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, 2013 – 2014

### Affiliations

Center Affiliate, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Notre Dame  
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture, IU-Indianapolis  
Faculty Fellow, Center for American Political History and Technology, Purdue

## Education

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Minnesota, 2013  
Dissertation: “Assembling the Orthodox Soul: Practices of Religious Self-Formation among Converts to Eastern Orthodoxy”

M.A. Sociology, University of Missouri, 2006  
Master’s Thesis: “Practicing the Faith: Conversion and the Construction of a Muslim Religious Identity”

B.A. Sociology, University of Missouri, 2002, Cum Laude with Departmental Honors

## Areas of Specialization

Culture, Religion, Social Theory, Subjectivity and Identity, Morality, Embodiment, Qualitative Methodology

## Publications (\*denotes equal co-authorship)

### *Journal Articles*

Braunstein, Ruth\*, Jamie Kucinkas\*, Brian Steensland\*, and Daniel Winchester\*. “Religion Unbundled: Toward A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Paradigm for the Sociology of American Religion.” Forthcoming in *American Sociological Review*.

Winchester, Daniel. 2025. “Becoming Religious as an Education of Attention.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 64(3): 279–290.

Kotanko, Adam and Daniel Winchester. 2025. “Making a Martyr?: Scandal, Symbolic Power, and the Controversial Death of Missionary John Chau.” *Qualitative Sociology* 48(3): 381-411.

Mann, Marcus\* and Daniel Winchester\*. 2025. "Beyond Polarization: Right-Wing News as a Quasi-Religious Phenomenon." *Sociological Theory* 43(2): 115-140.

Winchester, Daniel\* and Michal Pagis\*. 2022. "Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention." *Sociology of Religion* 83(1): 12-35.

Winchester, Daniel. 2020. "Windows into Heaven, Mirrors for the Soul: How Icons Shape Identities among the Eastern Orthodox." *Liturgy* 35(2): 48-54.

Winchester, Daniel and Kyle D. Green. 2019. "Talking Your Self into It: How and When Accounts Shape Motivation for Action." *Sociological Theory* 37(3): 257-281.

- Winner of the Junior Theorist Award for Best Article from the American Sociological Association Section on Theory

Winchester, Daniel and Jeffrey Guhin. 2019. "Praying 'Straight from the Heart': Evangelical Sincerity and the Normative Frames of Culture in Action." *Poetics* 72(1): 32-42.

Winchester, Daniel, J. William Spencer, and Denise Baird. 2018. "I felt guilty for being so happy': Narrative Expressions and Management of Post-Divorce Ambivalence." *Sociological Focus* 51(3): 200-216.

Winchester, Daniel. 2017. "'A Part of Who I Am': Material Objects as 'Plot Devices' in the Formation of Religious Selves." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(1): 83-103.

Winchester, Daniel. 2016. "A Hunger for God: Embodied Metaphor as Cultural Cognition in Action." *Social Forces* 95(2): 585-606.

- Winner of the Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article from the American Sociological Association Section on Culture

Winchester, Daniel. 2016. "Religion as Theoretical Case, Lens, and Resource for Critique: Three Ways Social Theory Can Learn from the Study of Religion." *Sociology of Religion* 77(3): 241-260.

Edgell, Penny, Kathleen E. Hull, Kyle Green, and Daniel Winchester. 2016. "Reasoning Together through Telling Stories: How People Talk about Social Controversies." *Qualitative Sociology* 39(1): 1-26.

Winchester, Daniel. 2015. "Converting to Continuity: Temporality and Self in Eastern Orthodox Conversion Narratives." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 54(3): 439-460.

Tavory, Iddo\* and Daniel Winchester\*. 2012. "Experiential Careers: The Routinization and Deroutinization of Religious Life." *Theory & Society* 41(4): 351-373.

Hartmann, Douglas, Daniel Winchester, Penny Edgell, & Joseph Gerteis. 2011. "How Americans Understand Racial and Religious Difference: A Test of Parallel Items from a Recent National Survey." *The Sociological Quarterly* 52(3): 323-345.

Winchester, Daniel and Steven Hitlin. 2010. "The Good, the Bad, and the Social." *Contexts* 9(4): 40-44.

Winchester, Daniel. 2008. "Embodying the Faith: Religious Practice and the Making of a Muslim Moral Habitus." *Social Forces* 86(4): 1753-1780.

**Book:**

Longhofer, Wesley\* and Daniel Winchester\* (Eds). 2023 [2016, 2012]. *Social Theory Re-Wired: New Connections to Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Routledge.

**Book Chapters:**

Winchester, Daniel. 2022. "Doing It: Ethnography, Embodiment, and the Interpretation of Religion." Pp. 66-85 in *Interpreting Religion: The Meanings of Religious Belief and Practice*. Eds. Erin F. Johnston and Vikash Singh. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press.

Pagis, Michal\* and Daniel Winchester\*. 2021. "Mediating the Sacred: Thinking through Religious Experience in the Classics and Beyond." Pp. 301-322 in *Handbook of Classical Sociological Theory*. Eds. Seth Abrutyn and Omar Lizardo. New York: Springer.

Neitz, Mary Jo, Kevin L. McElmurry, and Daniel Winchester. 2018[2010]. "New Sociological Narratives of Morality under Modernity: From Subtraction to Multiplicity." Pp. 181-190 in *Handbook of Cultural Sociology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Eds. John Hall, Laura Grindstaff, & Ming-cheng Lo. Routledge.

Benzecry, Claudio\* and Daniel Winchester\*. 2017. "Varieties of Microsociology." Pp. 42-74 in *Social Theory Now*. Eds. C. Benzecry, M. Krause, and I. Reed. University of Chicago Press.

Winchester, Daniel. 2015. "The Feel of Faith." Pp. 17-35 in *Getting Culture*. Eds. Douglas Hartmann and Chris Uggen. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

**Other Publications**

Winchester, Daniel. 2026. Review of *Guiding God's Marriage: Faith and Social Change in Premarital Counseling*, by Courtney Ann Irby. *Contemporary Sociology* 55(1): 54-55.

Winchester, Daniel. 2022. "Resonance and Religion: Comments on Hartmut Rosa's *Resonance: A Sociology of our Relationship to the World*." Pp. 35-36 in *Proceedings of the Seventh Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture*.

Winchester, Daniel. 2021. "Imagining American Democracy Together." Syndicate Symposium essay in response to Ruth Braunstein's *Prophets and Patriots: Faith in Democracy Across the Political Divide*. Syndicate, <https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/prophets-and-patriots/>

Winchester, Daniel. 2021. Review of *What Happens When We Practice Religion?: Textures of Devotion in Everyday Life*, by Robert Wuthnow. *Sociology of Religion* 82(1): 116-117.

Winchester, Daniel. 2009. "Summer Workshop with Robert Orsi: Ethical, Methodological, and Pedagogical Challenges." *Perspectives: The Magazine of the Program in Religious Studies* 2(1): 9.

\*Golden, Shannon, Wesley Longhofer, and Daniel Winchester. 2009. "Nonprofits in Need." *Contexts* 8(3): 14-15.

## **Awards & Distinctions**

Early Career Award, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion, 2022

College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, Purdue University, 2019-2020

Junior Theorist Award, American Sociological Association Section on Theory, 2019

Clifford Geertz Award for Best Article, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Culture, 2017

Daryl Evans Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Purdue University, 2014

Junior Scholar Spotlight, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Culture, 2013

Public Sociology Award, University of Minnesota, 2011

Invited Scholar, Understanding Morality: Developing Interdisciplinary Perspectives Conference, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA, Summer 2009

Invited Scholar, Young Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference, Notre Dame University, Summer 2009

Outstanding Graduate Research Paper Award for "Embodying the Faith: Religious Practice and the Making of a Muslim Moral Habitus," University of Minnesota, 2009

## **Fellowships & Grants**

Advancing Religion Data Resources and Translational Research at the Association of Religion Data Archives, Lilly Endowment, Inc. (\$202,400), 2025-2029

Purdue College of Liberal Arts Cornerstone Fellowship (\$3,000), 2018.

Sociology of Transformative Experience Funding Initiative (\$96,000), The Experience Project, Universities of Notre Dame and North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 2015-2017

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$22,500), University of Minnesota, 2011-2012

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Fellowship (\$22,500), 2011-2012, *Award Declined*

Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship (\$22,500), Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota, 2010-2011

Anna Welsch Bright Dissertation Research Award (\$6,000), University of Minnesota, 2009-2010

Graduate Research Partnership Program Award (approx. \$5,660), University of Minnesota, Summer 2009

Edelstein Family Foundation AMP Graduate Fellowship (approx. \$18,500), University of Minnesota, 2006-2007

Americorps/Vista Graduate Fellowship (approx. \$10,000), University of Missouri, 2003-2004

## **Teaching Experience**

### ***Courses Taught at Purdue***

#### Graduate Courses

- SOC 602: Contemporary Sociological Theories
- SOC 609: Seminar in Cultural Sociology
- SOC 667: Seminar in the Sociology of Religion
- SOC 681: Seminar in Interview Methods

#### Undergraduate Courses

- SOC 367: Religion in America
- SOC 402: Sociological Theory
- SCLA 102: Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking & Communication II, Modern World

### ***Mentoring***

#### Graduate Adviser for:

- Jian Su, Sociology (current PhD candidate)
- Corey Resweber, (current PhD candidate)
- Adam Kotanko, Sociology (current PhD candidate)
- Scott Roepke (MS Sociology, 2018)

#### Dissertation/Thesis Committee Member for:

- Jiayin Hu (MS Sociology, 2018, current PhD candidate)
- Alex Montgomery (current PhD candidate)
- Cole Schliebe (current MS candidate)
- Charissa Mikoski, (PhD Sociology, 2023)
- Joey Marshall, Sociology (PhD Sociology, 2020)
- Yongguang (Max) Xue (MS Sociology, 2020)
- Samantha Hansford, (MS Sociology, 2018)
- Youngeun Nam (MS Sociology, 2018)
- Fanhao Nie, (PhD Sociology, 2017)
- Yunping Tong (MS Sociology, 2016)
- Belyna Bentlage (MS Forestry & Natural Resources, 2015)

#### Wilke Undergraduate Mentor for:

- Yexin Huang (BS Sociology, 2016)

## **Recent Presentations, Panels, and Invited Talks**

“The Global as Object, Subjectivity, and Frame: Evangelical Mission Mobilization and the Varieties of Global Experience”. Invited presentation/workshop at Yale University’s Center for Cultural Sociology, February 2026.

“Religion Unbundled: Toward A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Paradigm for the Sociology of American Religion,” with Jaime Kucinkas, Ruth Braunstein, and Brian Steensland. Presented at the American Sociology Association Annual Meetings, August 2025.

“The World is A Mission Field: Mapping, Movement, and the Evangelical Global Imaginary.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, October 2024.

“Right-Wing News as a Quasi-Religious Phenomenon,” w/ Marcus Mann. Presented at the American Sociology Association Annual Meetings, August 2024.

“Becoming Religious as an Education of Attention.” Invited paper presentation for the Notre Dame Center for the Study of Religion & Society Workshop, January 2024.

“Becoming Religious as an Education of Attention.” Presented for the Midwest Regional Sociology of Religion Group, January 2024.

“A Formal Theory of Scripture.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, October 2023.

“Christian Cosmopolitans or Colonialists? How Evangelical Missionaries Imagine Religious Universalism in a World of Cultural Difference.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meetings, August 2023.

“Let Us Attend: Religion, Spirituality, and the Education of Attention.” Keynote Address for the Religion and Spirituality as Sites of Learning Conference in Turku, Finland, May 2023.

“Step into God’s Global Timeline: World Christians, Missionary Timescapes, and the Occlusion of Empire.” Paper Presented at Social Science History Association Annual Meetings, November 2022.

“Step into God’s Global Timeline: Missionary Timescapes and the Making of World Christians.” Paper presented at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, November 2022.

“Resonance and Religion.” Invited paper presentation at the Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, IUPUI, June 2022.

“The World is a Mission Field: Missionary Mobilization and the Evangelical Global Imaginary.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, October 2021.

“Accounts, Motivations, and the Choreography of Commitment,” w/ Kyle Green. Keynote Address for the 2021 Junior Theorist Symposium, August 2021.

“Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention,” w/ Michal Pagis. American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, August 2021.

“Interpretation and Sacrifice in Missionary Death,” w/ Adam Kotanko. Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, August 2021.

“Sensing the Sacred: Religious Experience, Somatic Inversions, and the Religious Education of Attention.” Autonomous University of Barcelona, Research in Sociology of Religion (ISOR) Seminar Series. February 2021.

## **Professional Service**

### Departmental Service, Purdue Sociology:

- Colloquium Committee, 2015-16, 2024-2025
- Promotion and Tenure Guidelines Committee, 2024-2025
- Graduate Committee, 2022-2023
- Culture & Cognition Hiring Subcommittee (Chair), 2021
- Law & Society Committee, 2020
- Research Advisory Committee, 2019
- Awards Committee, 2017-2020
- Teaching Committee, 2016-2017
- Advancement Committee, 2015-2016
- Website Committee, 2014-2017

### Service to the College & University:

- College of Liberal Arts Cornerstone Steering Committee, 2019-2021
- College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senate, 2017-2019
- Purdue College of Liberal Arts Cornerstone Fellow, 2018.
- Undergraduate Mentor, Margo Katherine Wilke Undergraduate Research Internship Program, 2015-2016
- Enhancing Research in the Humanities and the Arts Grant Competition Committee, Purdue College of Liberal Arts, 2015.

### Service to the Discipline:

#### *Service to Professional Organizations*

- Council Member, ASA Sociology of Religion Section, 2025-
- Publications Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2024-
- Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2023-2025
- Early Career Award Committee, American Sociological Association Section on Religion, 2023
- Publications Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2020-2022

- Chair, Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article Committee, American Sociological Association Section on Culture, 2018
- Jack Shand Research Award Small Grant Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2015-2016

#### *Editorial Board Service*

- Editorial Board Member, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2026-
- Editorial Board Member, *Sociological Theory*, 2022-
- Editorial Board Member, *Qualitative Sociology*, 2019-
- Advisory Board Member, Princeton Series in Cultural Sociology, 2024-
- Associate Editor, *Sociology of Religion*, 2017-2020
- Graduate Editor, *Contexts*, 2010-2011
- Editorial Board Member, *Contexts*, 2008-2009
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for *Routledge*, *Wiley-Blackwell*, *NYU Press*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Theory & Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *Political Power & Social Theory*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Sociological Methods & Research*, *Sociological Methodology*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Symbolic Interaction*, *Culture and Religion*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociology Compass*, *Sociological Focus*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Sociology of Sport Journal*, and *Contexts*

#### *Service for Professional Conferences*

##### Conference Organizing Committee

- The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2018

##### Conference Session Organizer

- “The ‘Problem’ of Religion in Contemporary Transnational Encounters,” Association for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 2023.
- Author Meets Critics Session for Jeffrey Guhin’s *Agents of God: Boundaries and Authority in Christian and Muslim Schools*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, October 2021
- “Meaning-Making through the Lens of Cultural Cognition.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018
- “Interpreting Religion.” The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018
- “Transformative Experience.” The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018

##### Conference Session Discussant/Critic

- Author Meets Critics Session for Ruth Braunstein’s *My Tax Dollars: The Morality of Taxpaying in America*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, October 2025

- Author Meets Critics Session for Courtney Irby’s *Guiding God’s Marriage: Faith and Social Change in Premarital Counseling*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2024
- Manuscript Meets Critics Session for Ruth Braunstein’s *My Tax Dollars: The Sacred Taxpayer and the Almighty Dollar*, Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 2023
- “Religious Practice in Historical Perspective.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, November 2017
- Author Meets Critics Session for *Prophets and Patriots Faith in Democracy across the Political Divide* by Ruth Braunstein. Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, November 2017
- Author Meets Critics Session for *Alternative Sociologies of Religion: Through Non-Western Eyes* by James Spickard. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., October 2017
- “Sociology of Culture.” Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, August 2016
- Author Meets Critics session for *Summoned: Identification and Religious Life in a Jewish Neighborhood* by Iddo Tavory. Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, August 2016
- “Culture and Communities.” The BOSCONN Symposium on Qualitative Sociology, Boston, MA, May 2014

## Professional Memberships

- American Sociological Association
  - Theory Section
  - Sociology of Culture Section
  - Sociology of Religion Section
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Social Science History Association