

# ADAM KOTANKO

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology, Purdue University, Expected May 2026  
Dissertation: "Conceptualizing and Studying Moral Ambassadors."
- MS Sociology, Purdue University, Spring 2020  
Analytic Project: "Becoming Active Allies: The Moral Career of the Social Movement Ally."
- MA Communication Studies, Andrews University, Spring 2014  
Thesis: "Becoming Khaled Said: a Burkean Rhetorical Analysis of Network Society Project Identity as Applied to the Origin of Egypt's "We are all Khaled Said" Facebook Movement."  
Certificate in TESOL Instruction.
- BA Journalism and Spanish Studies, Andrews University, Spring 2008 (Summa Cum Laude).

## PUBLICATIONS

Kotanko, A., Winchester, D. (2025). Making a Martyr?: Scandal, Symbolic Power, and the Controversial Death of Evangelical Missionary John Chau. *Qualitative Sociology*.

## UNDER REVIEW

Kotanko, Adam. 2025. "Doing it for Yourself:" Collective Action at a Personalist Blended Social Movement Organization. *Socius*.

## METHODOLOGICAL EXPERTISE

Participant observation/ethnography.  
Narrative, rhetorical, and textual analysis.  
In-depth interviewing (including life history interviews).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND AWARDS

Purdue University Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award (2022)

### Instructor of Record

Purdue University (2020-2025)  
Introductory Sociology (synchronous online and in-person).  
Sociological Theory (synchronous online and in-person).  
Social Problems (asynchronous online).  
Southwestern Michigan College (August 2012-May 2017)  
Human Communication.  
Introductory Composition.  
ESL Grammar and Writing.  
ESL Reading.

ESL Civics.  
Indiana University, South Bend (August 2013-Dec. 2013)  
Public Speaking.  
Business Communication.

#### **Purdue University Teaching Assistantships**

Sociological Theory.  
Sociology of Law.  
Religion in America.  
SCLA 102: General education course on great readings.  
Introductory Sociology.  
Sociological Research Methods.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **American Sociological Association Conference**

Kotanko, Adam. 2022. Becoming Active Allies: The Moral Career of the Social Movement Ally” (Roundtable).

Kotanko, Adam. 2021. “The Shitty Human Being Test”: Mapping Empathetic Identification” (Section presentation).

Kotanko, Adam. 2020. “Becoming Active Allies: The Moral Career of the Social Movement Ally” (Roundtable).

#### **Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference**

Kotanko, Adam. 2021. “Interpretation and Sacrifice in Missionary Death” (Regular presentation).

Kotanko, Adam. 2019. “Stories of Ordinarity: Evangelical Missionaries’ Redemption Stories as Cultural Meaning-making Tools” (Regular presentation).

Kotanko, Adam. 2018. “Conceptualizing Transcendent Framing in the Islamic State’s English Language Magazine *Rumiyah*” (Regular presentation).

#### **Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference**

Kotanko, Adam. 2019. “The Stickiness of Weak Identity: Identity Convergence and Identity Hubs” (Regular presentation).

#### **Michigan Sociological Association Conference**

Karwacinski, Barbara and Adam Kotanko. “Student Well-Being Matters: The Influence of Student-Teacher Relationships on Identity Formation.” (Regular presentation).

### **OTHER RESEARCH AND WRITING**

#### ***Social Theory Rewired* Textbook (2022).**

Collected/created teaching materials and helped revise 3rd edition of social theory textbook.

#### **Purdue University Research Assistantships**

Sociology Department - Assisted with department recruitment and communication (August 2021-Dec. 2021).

Elizabeth Hoffmann - Organized and compiled data on media depictions of German-Americans and socialist leaders during WWI and on lactation legislation in light of the ACA (Jan.-May 2019).

Daniel Winchester - Collected and analyzed data from books by Evangelical Christian missiologists and missionaries (June 2018-Dec. 2019).

Spencer Headworth - Compiled data on state welfare fraud departments and residential segregation in the USA (Jan. 2018-April 2018).

### **Andrews University**

Participated in archaeological dig in Hesban, Jordan as photographer and square supervisor (2007).

## **SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING**

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology at Purdue University (2021).

Volunteer English Teacher, La Universidad Adventista de Chile (August 2008-December 2009).

Taught ESL courses.

Designed newsletter for the dorms.

Created audiovisual material to promote the university.

## **NONACADEMIC WORK**

Development Assistant, Adventist Frontier Missions (Jan. 2012-August 2017)

Ran queries in The Raiser's Edge and communicated with donors.

Created social media plan.

Wrote and edited promotional videos.

Translated publications from English to Spanish.

Script writer, editor, translator

Maranatha Volunteers International (July 2009-March 2010)

Wrote, edited, created graphics, and translated for a television program.

Logistics manager

Maranatha Volunteers International Malawi/Mozambique (May 2010-Dec. 2010)

Managed Construction teams in Malawi and Mozambique.

Provided logistical support to the project.

Shot and edited video for a monthly television show.

Writer, Editor, Production Manager

Andrews University Media Education Center (Summer 2006-Fall 2007)

Filmed, wrote, and edited a documentary film about street children in Bolivia.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native).

Spanish (fluent).