

Curriculum Vitae

F. Carson Mencken

Professor

Department of Sociology

Baylor University

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Education

B.S. College of Charleston, SC (Sociology) 1987

M.A. Louisiana State University (Sociology) 1989

Ph.D. Louisiana State University (Sociology) 1994

Professional Positions

Professor, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (6/2006 to present)

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (8/2002 to 5/2006).

Associate Professor of Sociology, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University (7/1/00-6/30/2002).

Adjunct Associate Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences, West Virginia University (7/1/00-6/30/2002).

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University (8/94-6/00).

Administrative Positions

Director, Baylor Religion Survey- 1/2008-current

Director of Research, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University – 8/2007 to 2010

Chair, Baylor University College of Arts and Sciences Research Leave Committee 2009/2010

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (6/2003 to 8/2007; 1/12 to current).

Chair, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University (6/1/2001-6/30/2002).

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University (8/96-8/00).

## Book Manuscripts

- 2010 *Paranormal America: Ghost encounters, UFO sightings, Bigfoot hunts and other Curiosities in Religion and Culture* with Christopher Bader and Joseph Baker, NYU Press.
2004. *Welfare Reform in the Mountain State* (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, L. Potter, and D. Williams) West Virginia University Press .

## Refereed Journal Publications

- Forthcoming with Jexia Zhai “Risk Aversion, Shortage Economy and Gender Differences in Religious Activities in China.’ *Sociological Focus* (first author)
- 2012 with Troy Blanchard and Charles Tolbert. “The Health and Wealth of U.S. Counties: How the Small Business Environment Impacts Alternative Measures of Development” *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society* 5: 149-162.
- 2011 with He Rong. "Judged by Karma: Belief in Karma and Social-Economic Status in Contemporary China" *Religious Cultures in the World* 65: 14-21 (Chinese language).
- 2011 With Wes Hinze and Charles Tolbert. “From Obama to Osama: Image of God and Trust in Muslims among the Highly Religious in the United States.” *Sociological Focus* 44 (1): 18-36.
- 2010 Bader, Christopher, Scott Desmond, F. Carson Mencken and Byron Johnson. “Divine Justice: How Images of God Impact Attitudes toward Criminal Punishment.” *Criminal Justice Review* 35: 90-106.
- 2010 Liu, Yang and F. Carson Mencken “Fatalistic Voluntarism and Life Happiness in Post-Socialist China.” *Sociological Spectrum* 30: 270 – 288.
- 2009 with Christopher Bader and Elizabeth Embry. “‘In God We Trust’: Image of God and Trust in the United States among the Highly Religious.” *Sociological Perspectives* 52: 23-38 (first author)
- 2009 with Christopher Bader and Ye Jung Kim “Round Trip to Hell in a Flying Saucer: The Relationship between Conventional Christian and Paranormal Beliefs in the United States.” *Sociology of Religion*: 70:65-85. (first author)
- 2009 with Paul Froese “A U.S. Holy War? The Effects of Religion on Iraq War Attitudes.” *Social Science Quarterly* 90: 103-116.
- 2008 with Christopher Bader and Rodney Stark “Conventional Christian Beliefs and Experimentation with the Paranormal” *Review of Religious Research* 50: 194-205 (first

author)

- 2007 with Christopher Bader and Paul Froese “American Piety 2005: Content, Methods, and Selected Results from the Baylor Religion Survey.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 46(4): 447-463.
- 2007 with Larry Lyon, Michael Beaty, and James Parker “The Professionalization of Faculty at Religious Colleges and Universities” *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion*. 46:87-100.
- 2006 with Christopher Bader and James Parker “Religious Path and Length of Commune Survival.” *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion* 45:73-85.
- 2006 with Christopher Bader and Clay Polson “Integrating Civil Society and Economic Growth in Appalachia.” *Growth and Change* 37:107-127. (first author)
- 2005 with Charles Tolbert. “Federal Spending and Economic Development in Appalachia” *Rural Sociology* 70:514-539. (first author)
- 2005 With Larry Lyon, Michael Beaty and James Parker “Faculty Attitudes on Integrating Faith and Learning at Religious Colleges and Universities: Separation, Integration and Polarization” *Sociology of Religion* 66:61-69.
- 2004 with Nicole Flynn “Oil and Natural Gas and Local Government Finances in the Gulf of Mexico Region” *Southern Rural Sociology* 20:64-79. (first author)
- 2004 with J. Nolan and S. Berhanu “Juveniles, Illicit Drug Use, and Homicides against Law Enforcement Officers” *Homicide Studies* 8(3): 327-349. (first author)
- 2004 “Federal Defense Spending and Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Disparities in Economic Growth in the Southeast.” *Social Science Quarterly* 85: 324-339.
- 2003 with Kristin Bates and Christopher Bader “Family Structure, Power-Control Theory, and Deviance: Extending Power-Control Theory to Include Alternate Family Forms” *Western Criminology Review* 4(3): 170-190.
2002. With Cynthia Barnett. “Social Disorganization Theory and Crime in Nonmetropolitan Counties” *Rural Sociology* 67: 372-393.
- 2000 with Idee C. Winfield "Social Contacts and Job Searching: Does Gender of Contact Matter?" *Sex Roles* 42: 847-864 (first author).
- 2000 "Right-to-Work Laws and Local Economic Growth: Recent Evidence from Appalachia." *Sociological Focus* 33:79-94.
- 2000 “Federal Spending and Economic Growth in Appalachian Counties” in *Rural Sociology*

- 65(1): 126-147.
- 1999 with Cynthia Barnett "Murder, Nonnegligent Manslaughter, and Spatial Autocorrelation in Mid-South Counties." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 15: 407-422. (first author)
- 1999 "A Comparative Analysis of Federal Spending in Appalachia" *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 5: 247-255.
1999. With Idee C. Winfield "Employer Recruiting and the Gender Composition of Jobs." *Sociological Focus* 31(4): 357-372. (first author)
- 1998 With Josh Masnick Kim and Michael Woolcock. "The Academic Job Market for Ph.D.'s in Sociology." *The American Sociologist* 29:78-89.
- 1998 "Persistent Differences in Well-Being between Appalachian Subregions." *Growth and Change* 29:469-479.
- 1998 with Joachim Singelmann. "Business Cycles and Socioeconomic Performance in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Economies during the 1980s" *The Sociological Quarterly* 39(2): 215-238. (first author).
- 1998 With Idee C. Winfield "In Search of the 'Right Stuff:' The Advantages and Disadvantages of Recruiting Practices in External Labor Markets." *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 57(2): 135-153.
- 1997 With Kimberly D. Mencken, and Cynthia Rogers. "Female Labor Force Participation in Central Appalachia: A Descriptive Analysis." *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 3(2): 189-210.
- 1997 With Scott Meit, Dorian Williams, and Van Yasek. "The Effects of Patient Gowning on Physician Trust." *The Journal of Family Practice* 45(5) 397-401 (see also the accompanying editorial "The Primary Care Science of the Ordinary: Little Stuff as Big Stuff" by Dr. Howard Stein in the same issue and our response: "From Real Quibbles to Research Questions." February 1998).
- 1997 "Regional Differences in Socioeconomic Well-being in Appalachia" *Sociological Focus* 30: 79-97.
- 1996 "Income and Employment Change in Appalachia during the 1983-88 Business Cycle Recovery: Locating Differential Effects in North, Central and South Appalachia." *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 2(1): 77-86.
- 1992 Joachim Singelmann and F. Carson Mencken "Industry Sector and Job Autonomy in Five Industrialized Nations." *Social Science Quarterly* 73:829-843.

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

- 2008 with Rodney Stark and Christopher Bader "Credulity: Who Believes in Bigfoot?" Pp. 123-132 in *What Americans Really Believe: New Findings from the Baylor Religion Survey*. Rodney Stark (editor). Baylor University Press.
- 2008 with Rodney Stark and Christopher Bader "New Age Adherents" Pp. 133-140 in *What Americans Really Believe: New Findings from the Baylor Religion Survey*. Rodney Stark (editor). Baylor University Press.
- 2003 with Melissa Latimer. "Socioeconomic Trends in Mining Dependent Counties in Appalachia" in Pp. 79-103 in *Communities of Work: Rural Restructuring in Local and Global Contexts* edited by A. Tickamyer, W. Falk and M. Schulman, Rural Studies Series, Ohio University Press.
- 1999 with Josh Masnick Kim "Household and Local Labor Market Determinants of Economic Well-Being in the State of West Virginia." Pp. 59-85 in R. Althouse and B. Keith (eds) *Inside West Virginia: Public Policy Perspectives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. West Virginia University Press.
- 1999 with Sally Ward Maggard "Informal Economic Activity in West Virginia: A Descriptive and Multivariate Analysis." Pp. 87-106 in R. Althouse and B. Keith (eds) *Inside West Virginia: Public Policy Perspectives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. West Virginia University Press.
- 1993 Joachim Singelmann, Forrest A. Deseran, F. Carson Mencken and Jiang Hong Li. "What Drives Economic Performance? The Determinants of Economic Growth in Local Labor Markets." In J. Singelmann and F.A. Deseran (Eds) *Inequalities in Labor Market Areas*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- 1990 "Military Wives in College" in *Understanding Families* by George Dickinson and Micheal R. Leming. (2nd edition 1995)

### Externally Funded Research

- 2011-2014 "Rural Community Banks and Small Business Performance" USDA NIFA funded \$486,329.
- 2008-2010 "Nascent Employer and Their First Employees: Hope for Development in Rural America" with Charles Tolbert and Troy Blanchard. USDA NRI. Funded. \$318,000.

- 2006-2010 “Empirical Study of Religion in China” Carson Mencken, Project Director, Byron Johnson and Rodney Stark, Associate Project Directors, Christopher Marsh, Fenggang Yang, and Anna Xiao Dong Sun Co-Principal Investigators. Funded John Templeton Foundation (\$1.7 million).
- 2005-2007 “The Longitudinal Survey of Religious Values and Behaviors.” Byron Johnson Project Director, Christopher Bader, Paul Froese, Carson Mencken, and Rodney Stark, Co-Investigators. Project # 11284 John Templeton Foundation Funded \$715,976.
- 2003-2005 “Houston Profile Project: Survey of Lifestyle and Religious Values and Behaviors in the Greater Houston Area” with L. Lyon, T. Rodabough, and R. Driskell. \$149,999. Mission Houston.
- 2003-2005 “Demographic Consequences of the Offshore Petroleum Industry” Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Impact Assessment LaJolla, CA. Funded. \$99,000.
- 2001-2002 Co-PI “A Proposal to Study Hate Crimes Involving Juveniles as Victims or Offenders.” Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \$73, 576 (With James Nolan) \$73,000.
- 2000-2001 Co-PI WV Works 2000. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, and D. Williams). \$106,479.00
- 1999-2000 Co- PI TANF/WV Works Case Closure Study. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, K. Harper, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, D. Williams, D. Yoon). \$99,000.00.
- 1999 -2002 PI “The Benefits and Burdens of OCS Activities to Local Communities and Public Institutions.” Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Impact Assessment LaJolla, CA (with K Eschbach, J. Hurlbert, N. Flynn). \$600,000.
1998. PI “The Effects of Federal Spending on Economic Change in Southern Nonmetropolitan Counties” Tennessee Valley Authority’s Rural Studies program. \$9,170.00

## Teaching

### Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introductory Statistics (Louisiana State University)  
Introduction to Sociology (West Virginia University, Baylor University)  
Social Problems (West Virginia University, Louisiana State University)  
Economic Sociology/Economy and Society (West Virginia University)  
Social Change and Regional Development (West Virginia University)  
Social Research Methods (West Virginia University)  
Extreme Deviance (Baylor University)  
Senior Capstone Experience (Baylor University)

### Graduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Microcomputers in Sociology (West Virginia University)  
Introduction to Data Analysis (West Virginia University)  
Multivariate Regression Analysis (West Virginia University; Baylor University)  
Sociology of Regional Processes (Baylor University)

## Dissertations

2010. Jeniece Williams Lusk “Who’s Neighborhood is it? Urban Development in an Historical African American Community.” Chair, degree awarded December 2010.
2009. Rusty Parker “Migration and Violent Crime in Nonmetropolitan Counties: A Test of Social Disorganization Theory.” Chair, degree awarded December 2009, Baylor University.
- 2008 Jodien Matos Johnson “Government Employment and Regional Processes in Rural America.” Chair, Ph.D. awarded August 2008, Baylor University.
2007. Lacey Chapman Gillentine “Video Games and Racial Stereotypes.” Chair, Ph.D awarded August 2007, Baylor University.
- 2005 Elizabeth Kelly. “A Sociological Analysis of the Presidential Library Process.” Member Ph.D. awarded May 2005, Baylor University.
- 2005 Alex Trouteaud “Industrial Restructuring and Commute-to-Work Time” Member Ph.D. awarded May 2005, Baylor University.
- 1999 Allison Nichols. “Organizational Effectiveness of Gerontology Centers in Higher Education.” College of Human Resources and Education, West Virginia University. Committee member.
- 1997 Mayur Amonkar. “Matching Appalachians’ Preventative Services’ Utilization Strategies for Preventive Care.” Department of Behavioral Pharmacy, West Virginia University

Committee member.

Teaching and Research Related Awards and Honors

- Faculty Leader, Baylor in Maastricht (Maastricht University, Netherlands), fall semester 2011.
- 2007 GSA Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies Award, Baylor University
- 2005 GSA Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award, Baylor University
- "Civic Engagement and County Economic Growth in Appalachia during the 1990s" Co-authored with Chris Bader and Clay Polson received the Southwestern Sociological Association Distinguished Paper Award for 2005.
- *Welfare Reform in West Virginia*, West Virginia University Press, *Honorable Mention*, ForeWord Magazine's 2004 Book of the Year Award.
- The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (West Virginia University) Outstanding Researcher Award 1999-2000.

Service

Professional Service to Discipline (Last three years)

- Executive Council, Southwestern Sociological Association
- Associate Editor *Rural Sociology*
- Reviewer: *Rural Sociology*, USDA-NRI, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, Oxford University Press.
- Program Committee Southern Sociological Society, Awards Committee Rural Sociological Society.

University, College, Departmental Service (Last three years)

- Provost's Strategic Themes Committee
- Administrative Director, Baylor Religion Survey
- University Research Committee
- Arts and Sciences Research Leave Committee (Chair)
- Promotion and Tenure Committee Department of Anthropology

State/Community Service (Last three years)

- Elder, Central Presbyterian Church (CPC), Woodway
- Center for Community Research and Development, Baylor University.