

Curriculum Vitae
EDWARD C. POLSON

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX; May 2009.

Dissertation: *Cultivating the Common Good: Civic Life and Religious Contexts in American Society*

M.A., Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2006.

Thesis: *Taken for Granted? Exploring the Relationships Between Social Service Agencies and Religious Congregations*

M.S.W., Families and Children, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2003.

M.Div., Theology, *summa cum laude*, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2003.

B.A., Religion and English, *cum laude*, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS; 2000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Department of History and Social Sciences,
Shreveport, LA

Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2009-present

Baylor University, Department of Sociology, Waco, TX

Instructor, 2007-present

Baylor University, Department of Sociology, Waco, TX

Teaching Assistant, 2004-2007

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Civic Life, Religion, Organizations, Community, Family, Research Methods, Social Problems,
Medical Sociology

COURSES TAUGHT

Introductory Sociology (undergraduate)
Gender, Race, and Class in Society (undergraduate)
Contemporary Social Problems (undergraduate)
Sociological Theory (undergraduate)
Sociology of Health (undergraduate and graduate)
Sociology of Religion (undergraduate and graduate)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Dougherty, Kevin D., Christopher D. Bader, Paul Froese, Edward C. Polson, and Buster G. Smith. (2009). "Religious Diversity in a Conservative Baptist Congregation." *Review of Religious Research* 50(3):321-334.

Polson, Edward C. (2008). "The Inter-Organizational Ties That Bind: Exploring the Contributions of Agency – Congregation Relationships." *Sociology of Religion* 69(1):45-65.

Dougherty, Kevin D., Byron R. Johnson, and Edward C. Polson. (2007). "Recovering the Lost: Remeasuring U.S. Religious Affiliation." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46(4):483-499.

Finke, Roger, Christopher D. Bader, and Edward C. Polson. (2007). "A Growing Web of Resources: The Association of Religion Data Archives." *Review of Religious Research* 49(1):21-34.

Mencken, F. Carson, Christopher Bader, and Edward Clay Polson. (2006). "Integrating Civil Society and Economic Growth in Appalachia." *Growth and Change* 37(1):107-127.

Other Reports and Publications

Maier, Jared, Clay Polson, and Jeremy Rhodes. (2008). *Small Congregations: A Review of Empirical Findings in the Professional Literature*. Waco, TX: Institute for Studies of Religion.

Kindell, Heather S. and Edward C. Polson. (2008). "Community Profile Builder." *The Association of Religion Data Archives*, <http://www.thearda.com/profile/>.

Polson, Edward C. (2008). "Who is Leading America's Congregations? A Social and Demographic Profile of U.S. Pastors." *The Association of Religion Data Archives*, http://www.thearda.com/learningModules/mod_17.asp.

Polson, Edward C. (2008). "Clergy Satisfaction and Vocational Commitment." *The Association of Religion Data Archives*, http://www.thearda.com/learningModules/mod_18.asp.

OTHER REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS, CONTINUED

- Polson, Edward C. (2007). "Recent Additions and Improvements: An Update from the Association of Religion Data Archives." *Review of Religious Research* 48(4):444-445.
- Polson, Edward C. (2006). "QuickStats: An Update from the Association of Religion Data Archives." *Review of Religious Research* 48(1):118-119.
- Polson, Edward C. (2006). *24/7 Dad A.M. Program Evaluation*. Waco, TX: Central Texas Fatherhood Initiative.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Articles

- Finke, Roger, Edward C. Polson, and Christopher D. Bader. "Measurement Matters: Toward Improving Religion Metrics."
- Polson, Edward C. "Social Diversity and Civic Engagement: The Effects of Ethnic and Social Heterogeneity on the Bridging Activity of American Congregations."
- Polson, Edward C. "Geographies of Compassion: A Spatial Analysis of the Distribution of Nonprofit Organizations Across U.S. Counties."
- Polson, Edward C. "The Limits of Charity: Constraints on Volunteerism in the U.S."
- Polson, Edward C. "Do Churches Make Good Neighbors? Congregational Contexts and Individual Civic Participation."
- Liu, Eric Y. and Edward C. Polson. "The Colors of Fear: A Multilevel Analysis of Fear of Crime Across Houston Area Neighborhoods."
- Park, Jerry Z. and Edward C. Polson. "Transferring Religious Resources to Civic Life: Specifying Church Participation."

Books

- Finke, Roger, Edward C. Polson, and Christopher D. Bader. *Measurement Matters*.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Polson, Edward C. "Shaping Civic Life: Religious Contexts and Civic Engagement in the U.S." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO; October 2009.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, CONTINUED

- Polson, Edward C. "The Learning Center: New Online Resources for Teachers and Students." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO; October 2009.
- Polson, Edward C. "Negotiating a Contract." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO; October 2009.
- Polson, Edward C. "Diversity and Civic Engagement." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY; October 2008.
- Polson, Edward C. "A Growing Web of Resources: The Association of Religion Data Archives." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, Louisville, KY; October 2008.
- Polson, Edward C. "Geographies of Care: The Spatial Distribution of U.S. Nonprofits." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA; August 2008.
- Polson, Edward C. "The Spatial Distribution of Charity: Inequality, Religion, and the Nonprofit Sector." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV; March 2008.
- Polson, Edward C. "Do Churches Make Good Neighbors? The Effects of Congregational Characteristics on Civic Participation." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, FL; November 2007.
- Finke, Roger, Christopher D. Bader, and Edward C. Polson. "Faithful Measures: Toward Improving Religion Metrics." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, FL; November 2007.
- Liu, Eric Y. and Edward C. Polson. "Ethnic Heterogeneity and Fear of Crime: A Multilevel Analysis of Neighborhoods in the Greater Houston Area." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, Albuquerque, NM; March 2007.
- Polson, Edward C. "Taken for Granted? Exploring the Relationships Between Social Service Agencies and Religious Congregations." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR; October 2006.
- Dougherty, Kevin D., Byron R. Johnson, and Edward C. Polson. "Recovering the Lost: Remeasuring U.S. Religious Affiliation." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR; October 2006.
- Mencken, F. Carson, Christopher D. Bader, and Edward C. Polson. "Civic Engagement and County Economic Growth in Appalachia During the 1990s." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, New Orleans, LA; March 2005.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Non-Resident Research Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2010-present.

Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Award for “Ethnic Heterogeneity and Fear of Crime: A Multilevel Analysis of Neighborhoods in the Greater Houston Area,” Southwestern Sociological Association; March 2007.

Distinguished Paper Award for “Civic Engagement and County Economic Growth in Appalachia During the 1990s,” Southwestern Sociological Association; March 2005.

Graduate Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2004-2009.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate, *Merit Beyond the Badges: Eagle Scouts in Later Life* (Byron R. Johnson and Rodney Stark, Principle Investigators); 2009-present.

Research Consultant, Christus Schumpert School-Based Health Centers, Shreveport, LA; 2009.

Research Consultant, Agape Child and Family Services, Memphis, TN (David Jordan, Executive Director); 2007-2010.

Research Associate, The Association of Religion Data Archives (Roger Finke, Director); 2006-present.

Research Assistant, *America’s Four Gods: A Qualitative Interview Project* (Christopher Bader and Paul Froese, Project Directors); 2006-2009.

Research Consultant, Central Texas Fatherhood Initiative, Waco, TX (Steve Durand, Executive Director); 2005-2007.

Research Assistant, *Baylor Longitudinal Survey of Religious Values and Behavior* (Christopher Bader and Paul Froese, Principal Investigators); 2004-2009.

Research Assistant, *Service and Faith: The Impact on Christian Faith and Congregational Life of Organized Community Caring* (Diana R. Garland and Dennis Myers, Project Directors); 2002-2003.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Editor, *Quarterly Journal of Ideology*, 2009-present.

Participant, Pollsters and Parishioners: Seminar on Survey Research and American Religion, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI; June 2007.

Participant, Seminars for Excellence in Teaching, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2007-present.

Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2006-2007.

Article reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Quarterly Journal of Ideology*, *Sociology of Religion*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Association for the Sociology of Religion
National Association of Social Workers
Religious Research Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Study of Social Problems
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Sociological Association

SOFTWARE PACKAGES

SAS, SPSS, HLM, GIS, GEODA

REFERENCES

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