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PhD

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EDUCATION

- PhD, Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, August 2007
- M.A., Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, December 2003
- B.A., Sociology, Peking University, June 2001

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Gerontology and the Asian/Asian American Studies Program, Miami University (August 2009-present);
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Sociology Department, Baylor University (September 2007-June 2009).

PRIMARY RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- China and East Asia, Religion, Family, Asian Americans and Immigration, Health, Survey Research

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Joseph H. Fichter Research Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2006.
- Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2006.
- Gallagher Travel Grant, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2005.
- Gallagher Travel Grant, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2003.
- Hong Lou Award of Art, Peking University 1998.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa).** “Contrasting Trends of Religious Markets in Contemporary China and Taiwan.” *Journal of Church and State*, forthcoming

7/1/2010

- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**. “Buddhism in Asian America” in *Asian Americans: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, and Political History*, forthcoming
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)** and Charles E. Stokes. 2009. “Ethnic, Family, and Social Contextual Influences on Asian American Adolescents’ Religiosity.” *Sociological Spectrum*, 29(2), 201-226.
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**, Christopher G. Ellison, Charles E. Stokes, and Norval D. Glenn. 2008. “‘Spiritual, but Not Religious’: The Impact of Parental Divorce on the Religious and Spiritual Identities of Young Adults in the United States.” *Review of Religious Research*. vol 49(4): p379-394
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**, Christopher G. Ellison, Norval Glenn, and Elizabeth Marquardt. 2007. “Parental Divorce and Religious Involvement among Young Adults.” *Sociology of Religion*. vol68(2): 125-144.

Other Articles

- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**, Jiangbo Huang, Dedong Wei, and Carson Mencken. 2008. “*White Paper I : Introduction for the Empirical Studies of Values in China Survey.*”
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**. 2008. “*White paper II: Data Validity Comparisons between the Empirical Studies of Values in China Survey and China Census Data.*”

Under Review

- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)** and Robert D. Woodberry. “Religion and Educational Aspirations in Taiwan 1984-2004.”
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**. “Religion, Gender, and Family Relations among Asian Americans.”
- F. Carson Mencken, Changqi Xia, and **Jiexia Zhai**, “Gender and Rural/Urban Differences in Ancestor Worship in Contemporary China.”

Manuscript in Progress

- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**. “Religion and Gender Role Attitudes in Taiwan.”
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**. “Migration, Urbanization, and Religion in Contemporary China”
- **Jiexia (Elisa) Zhai** and Byron R. Johnson. “Reframing the U.S. Religious Landscape: Assessing the Impact of Asian Americans.”
- **Zhai, Jiexia (Elisa)**, Jianbo Huang, Byron R. Johnson, and Rodney Stark. “The Christian Millions?-Empirical Speculation of the Magnitude of Christians in Contemporary China.”

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2009

- “Migration, Urbanization, and Religion in Contemporary China: Findings from National Empirical Survey,” session organizer and paper presenter for the Annual Meeting of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Oct 22-25, Denver, Colorado
- “Mapping Religion in Contemporary China: Empirical Findings from National Survey,” Paper presented at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Oct 16-18, Miami University, Oxford, Oh
- “Migration and Religion in Contemporary China.” Paper presented at the Purdue Symposium on Religion and Spirituality in China Today, April 30-May 2, 2008, Purdue University.

2008

- “The Christian Millions? Empirical Study of Numbers of Christians in Contemporary China” (with Jianbo Huang). Paper will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008.
- “Deities, Fate, and the 'Spiritual but Not Religious' Practices in Contemporary China” (with Carson Mencken). Paper will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008.
- “Atheism in Communist China and Russia.” (with Paul Froese). Paper will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008.
- “An Introduction to the *Empirical Studies of Values in China Survey*” (with Carson Mencken). Paper will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008.

2007

- “Impact of Religion on the Attitudes toward Abortion and Contraception Use in Contemporary Taiwan” (with Wei-hsin Yu). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New York, March, 2007.

- “Religion, Son Preference, and Sex-selective Abortion in Taiwan.” Paper presented at the International Conference on Christianity and the State in Asia: Conflict and Complicity, National University of Singapore, January, 2007.
- 2006
- “Religion, Son Preference, and Sex-Selective Abortion in Taiwan.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, October, 2006.
 - “Religious Impact on Educational Aspiration in Contemporary Taiwan.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, October, 2006.
 - “Does Religion Influence Gender Ideology in Taiwan?” (with Christopher G. Ellison). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, August, 2006.
 - “Religion and Education in the Contemporary Taiwan.” Paper presented at the 3rd Symposium of Scientific Study of Religion in China, Beijing, July, 2006.
- 2005
- “Secularization or Rationalization: Religion in Contemporary Taiwan” (with Fenggang Yang). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, November, 2005.
 - “Pastors, Doctors, and Fortune-tellers: Help Seeking Behaviors of Mental Problems in Taiwan.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, November, 2005.
 - “Jesus Among a Thousand Gods: Why Christianity has Stopped Growing in Contemporary Taiwan.” Paper presented at the Fruit Memorial Symposium, Baylor University, Waco, November, 2005.
 - “The Pluralism Project of Distortion: What Do Asian Americans Believe?” (with Fenggang Yang). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, August, 2005.
 - “Religious Competition in the Education Field: Christian Higher Education and Its Impact on Women’s Education in Modern China.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, August, 2005.
 - “How Social Context Affects Asian American Adolescents’ religiosity in the U.S.” Paper presented on the second Symposium of Religion and Ethnicity in China, Yunan, China, July, 2005.
- 2004

- “The Implications of Parental Divorce for the Religious Lives of Young Adults in the United States” (with Christopher G. Ellison and Norval D. Glenn). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, October, 2004.

2003

- “Christianized Asian Immigrant Adolescents? How Immigration Background and Parental Religiosity Affect Asian Adolescents’ Religiosity in the United States.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Atlanta, August, 2003.
- “Does Religion Affect Asian American Adolescents’ Subjective Well-Being?” (with Mark Regnerus). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, October, 2003.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Reviewer: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009.
- Reviewer: *Review of Religious Research*, 2005, 2007.
- Reviewer: *Sociology of Religion: a Quarterly Review*, 2006, 2009.
- Reviewer: *Sociological Spectrum*, 2008.
- Interpreter: Beijing International Summit for Chinese Spirituality and Society, and John Templeton Foundation China Conference, Oct. 2008.
- Interpreter: the 3rd Sino-US-European Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Beijing, July, 2006.
- Interpreter: the 2nd Sino-US-European Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Beijing, July, 2005.
- Interpreter: the 1st Sino-US-European Summer Institute for the Social Scientific Study of Religion, Beijing, July, 2004.
- Research Assistant: for Mark Regnerus, University of Texas at Austin, participating in the project of “the Religious Practices of American Youth,” summer 2003.
- SPSS data management and analysis: for the National Survey of Rural Workers in Guang-Dong Province in, 2000.

7/1/2010

- Interviewer and Data management: for the Oral-History Research Center of Peking University, studying people in the rural area of He-Bei province of China, 1999.
- Research Internship: in the project of “the Participation of Government in the Development of Urban Communities in China,” Peking University, 1998.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teach Sociology of Religion, Introduction to Social Relations and US/World Cultures, Marriage and Family in Contemporary China, and other related courses at Department of Sociology and Gerontology and Asian/Asian American Studies program at Miami University.
- Lab instructor for Research Methods course in the Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin between 2003 and 2007.
- Teaching Assistant for the following courses:
Introduction of Sociology; Advanced Research Methods; Sociology of Religion; Aging and Life Course; Sociology and Social Psychology; Sociology of Criminal Justice; Sociology of Health and Illness

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- American Sociological Association
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Religious Research Association
- Midwest Conference for Asian Affairs
- Population Association of America

REFERENCES

Jean M. Lynch

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Christopher G. Ellison (Chair of Dissertation Committee)

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