

## Emily McKendry-Smith

University of West Georgia  
Department of Sociology  
1601 Maple Street, Carrollton GA 30118  
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### PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

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- 2018 -**        **University of West Georgia**  
Associate Professor of Sociology
- 2013-2018**    **University of West Georgia**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

### EDUCATION

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- 2013**        **PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Sociology**  
*Dissertation:* “Old Gods, New Religions, and Modern Marriages in Nepal.”  
*Dissertation Committee:* Lisa Pearce (chair), Jacqueline Hagan, Kenneth Andrews, Philip Cohen, Christian Smith  
*Comprehensive Exams:* Religion (with distinction), Family
- 2007**        **MA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Sociology**  
*Thesis:* “Social Context and the Subjective Importance of Religious Faith in the Lives of American Teenagers: An Exploration of Family, School, and Community.”  
*Thesis Committee:* Lisa Pearce (chair), Christian Smith, Jacqueline Hagan
- 2005**        **BA, Knox College, Anthropology/Sociology, Political Science**  
*Magna cum laude* with College Honors in Anthropology/Sociology

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS & BOOK CHAPTERS

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- McKendry-Smith, Emily and Anne Kristen Hunter. 2022. “Characterizing Dimensions of Social Research.” Ch. 3 in *Social Research Methods: Sociology in Action*, edited by Kristin Kenneavy, Catherine Eve Harnois, Maxine P. Atkinson, and Kathleen Odell Korgen, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2022. “Public Household, Private Congregation: The Brahma Kumaris as a ‘Public Private’ Space for Nepali Women.” *Nova Religio* 25(3): 32-56.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2018. “‘New Congregationalism’ in Nepal: The Brahma Kumaris and the Rationalization of Hindu Religious Practice.” Pp. 305-319 in *Religion im Kontext / Religion in Context: Handbuch für Wissenschaft und Studium*, edited by Annette Schnabel, Melanie Reddig, and Heidemarie Winkel, Baden-Baden, Germany: Nomos.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2017. “‘Enjoy the Heat of the Log and Heed the Advice of the Elders’: Religious, Educational, and Neighborhood Determinants of Parental Influence on Spousal Choice in Nepal.” Pp. 1-26 in *Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research, Vol. 11. Intimate Relationships and Social Change: The Dynamic Nature of Dating, Mating, and Coupling*, edited by Christina L. Scott and Sampson Lee Blair, Bingley, UK: Emerald.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. “‘Baba Has Come to Civilize Us’: Developmental Idealism and Framing the Strict Demands of the Brahma Kumaris.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(4): 698-716.

Guo, Guang, Jessica Halliday Hardie, Craig Owen, Jonathan K. Daw, Yilan Fu, Hedwig Lee, Amy Lucas, Emily McKendry-Smith, and Greg Duncan. 2009. “DNA Collection in a Randomized Social Science Study of College Peer Effects.” *Sociological Methodology* 39(1): 1-29.

### **ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, BOOK REVIEWS, & OTHER WRITING**

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McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2021. “Review: *Revelatory Events: Three Case Studies of the Emergence of New Spiritual Paths* by Ann Taves.” *International Journal for the Study of New Religions* 11(1): 121-123.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2020. “Brahma Kumaris.” Pp. 92-93 in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of the Sociology of Religion, vol 1*, edited by Adam Possamai and Anthony J. Blasi. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2020. “Review: *Ark Encounter: The Making of a Creationist Theme Park* by James S. Bielo.” *American Journal of Sociology* 125(5): 1397-1399.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2019. “Review: *Religious Journeys in India: Pilgrims, Tourists, and Travelers* edited by Andrea Marion Pinkney and John Whalen Bridge.” *Reading Religion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/religious-journeys-india>

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2018. “Review: *Cousin Marriage, Between Tradition, Genetic Risk, and Cultural Change* edited by Alison Shaw and Aviad Raz.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 24(4): 851-852.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2018. “Review: *Religion vs. Science: What People Really Think* by Elaine Howard Ecklund and Christopher P. Scheitle.” *Reading Religion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-vs-science>

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2017. “Review: *Religion, Secularism, and Ethnicity in Contemporary Nepal* by David N. Gellner, et al.” *Reading Religion*. <http://readingreligion.org/books/religion-secularism-and-ethnicity-contemporary-nepal>

Gezon, Lisa L., Emily McKendry-Smith, and Anne Kristen Hunter. 2016. "The Health Benefits of a Bicycle-Pedestrian Trail." *Parks & Recreation* December: 16-17.

*Reprinted as:* Gezon, Lisa L., Emily McKendry-Smith, and Anne Kristen Hunter. 2017. "People for Parks: The Health Benefits of a Bicycle-Pedestrian Trail." *West Georgia Living* Commemorative GreenBelt Edition: 65-67.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "Review: *New Monasticism and the Transformation of American Evangelicalism* by Wes Makofski." *Contemporary Sociology* 45(4): 478-479.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "Cross-Cousin Marriage." Pp. 487-488 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies, Vol. I. A-C*, edited by Constance L. Shehan, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "Sati." Pp. 1723-1725 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies, Vol. IV. Q-Z*, edited by Constance L. Shehan, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

McKendry-Smith, Emily and Tiffany Jenkins. 2016. "Wife Capture." Pp. 2054-2056 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies, Vol. IV. Q-Z*, edited by Constance L. Shehan, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "Review: *From Jicama to Jackfruit: The Global Political Economy of Food* by Kimberly A. Weir." *International Sociology* 31(2): 174-175.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "My Debt to the Nepali People." *Contexts* 14: 76.

#### **REFERREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2021. "Good Tradition, Bad Tradition, and True Tradition: Competing Uses of Tradition as a Legitimizing Discourse among the Brahma Kumaris in Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Associations, October 2021, virtual.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2020. "Polysemic Understandings of Tradition and Legitimacy among the Brahma Kumaris of Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, December 2020, virtual.

McKendry-Smith, Emily and Anne Kristen Hunter. 2019. "Christian Music as Social Movement Music? Contemporary Christian Music and Young Adult Religious Involvement." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 2019, New York, NY.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2019. "Networks, Grievances, Ideologies: Gender Differences in Narratives of Recruitment into a New Religious Movement." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, April 2019, Chicago, IL.

- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2019. "Enchanted by Modernity: Max Weber Meets the Brahma Kumaris New Religious Movement." Presented at the annual meeting for the Southern Sociological Society, April 2019, Atlanta, GA.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily, Anne Kristen Hunter, and Lisa L. Gezon. 2018. "Gender Differences in the Health Benefits of a Pedestrian Trail." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, March 2018, Minneapolis, MN.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2017. "Communicating Outside the Academy: Stories and Guidance II." Presented at the Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Refereed Roundtables at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2017, Montreal, Canada.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2017. "Becoming a Brahma Kumari: Gender Differences in Understanding Participation in a New Religious Movement." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 2017, Montreal, Canada.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "Public Puja, Private Ashram: Using Brahma Kumaris in Nepal to Rethink Public/Private Religion." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2016, San Antonio, TX.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2016. "From Hindu to Secular and Halfway Back: Non-Affiliation Amidst Social and Political Change in Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, April 2016, Atlanta, GA.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily and Winston Tripp. 2014. "Fish in the Sea, Birds in the Sky, Beasts of the Field: The Relationship between God Images and Attitudes toward Climate Change." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 2014, San Francisco, CA.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2011. "Religious 'Nones' in Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2011, Milwaukee, WI.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2010. "'We Have Been Mistaken to Worship Stone': Religious Change and Modern Self-Identity in Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 2010, Atlanta, GA.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2009. "Public Puja, Private Ashram: The Brahma Kumaris and Public/Private Religion in Nepal." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2009, Denver, CO.
- McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2008. "Social Context and Subjective Importance of Religious Faith in the Lives of American Teenagers: An Exploration of Family, School, and Geography."

Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2008, Boston, MA.

Smith, Emily. 2006. "U.S. Roman Catholic Teenagers and the Importance of Religious Faith." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2006, Portland, OR.

Smith, Emily. 2005. "'One Foot In and One Foot Out': Positional Identity and Catholic Youth." Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society, April 2005, Miami, OH.

### **PRESENTATIONS FOR PUBLIC AUDIENCES**

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McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2021. "Stop Asian Hate: Healing and Action after the Atlanta Tragedy." Co-organizer (with Yan Yang and Stephanie Chalifoux) and moderator at the University of West Georgia "Stop Asian Hate" event, March 2021, Carrollton, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2018. "Becoming a Brahma Kumari: Gender and Recruitment in a Nepali New Religious Movement." Presented at the University of West Georgia Asian Studies speakers series, November 2018, Carrollton, GA.

Hunter, Anne Kristen, Emily McKendry-Smith, and Lisa L. Gezon. 2018. "Gender Differences in the Health Benefits of a Pedestrian Trail." Presented at the annual Interdisciplinary Conferences in the Social Sciences, October 2018, Carrollton, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. "Gender Differences in Joining a Religious Community: Recruitment Narratives of the Brahma Kumaris in Nepal." 2018. Presented at the annual Interdisciplinary Conference in the Social Sciences, October 2018, Carrollton, GA.

Smallwood, Amber, Emily McKendry-Smith, and Jennifer Beggs Weber. 2017. "Go Clubbing and Turn Up: Book Club Style, Two Ways." Presented at the annual Innovations in Pedagogy Conferences, May 2017, Carrollton, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "Many Places, Many Refugees." Panelist at the University of West Georgia "Many Places, Many Refugees" event, November 2015, Carrollton, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "Thoroughly Modern Meditation: Religion in Rural Nepal." Presentation at the University of West Georgia - Newnan "College for a Day" event, August 2015, Newnan, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "Brahma Kumaris in Chitwan." Presentation to the Rotary Club of Bharatpur, August 2015, Bharatpur, Nepal.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "Participant Observation and Interview Research Methods." Presentation at the Institute for Agricultural and Animal Sciences, July 2015, Rampur, Nepal.

McKendry-Smith, Emily. 2015. "Public Household, Private Congregation: Situating the Religious Experiences of Nepali Women." Presentation for the UWG Women's Studies Program's "Multicultural Conversations Series," March 2015, Carrollton, GA.

McKendry-Smith, Emily and Tiffany Parsons. 2014. "Using Pinterest.com to Curate Online Media for Instructional Use." Presented at the annual Innovations in Pedagogy Conference, May 2014, Carrollton, GA.

### **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2020      | UWG Sociology Department, Outstanding Service Award                            |
| 2018      | Emerald Publishing, Emerald Literati Award for Outstanding Author Contribution |
| 2018      | UWG College of Social Sciences, Outstanding Service Award                      |
| 2018      | UWG Sociology Department, Outstanding Service Award                            |
| 2017      | Global Religion Research Institute, Course Development Grant                   |
| 2017      | UWG College of Social Sciences, Outstanding Junior Faculty Award               |
| 2017      | UWG Sociology Department, Outstanding Mentorship Award                         |
| 2016      | UWG Faculty Research Grant (with Lisa L. Gezon)                                |
| 2016      | UWG Faculty Research Grant   |
| 2015      | UWG College of Social Sciences, Outstanding Service Award                      |
| 2008      | Religious Research Association, Constant H. Jacquet Research Award             |
| 2008      | Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Student Research Award           |
| 2008      | Cornell University, Foreign Language and Area Studies Grant (Nepali)           |
| 2005-2006 | UNC-CH, Scholars for Tomorrow Fellowship                                       |
| 2005      | Knox College, Phi Beta Kappa   |

### **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

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|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2019 | Association of American Colleges & Universities, Institute on Integrative Learning and Signature Work |
| 2018 | American Academy of Religion, Countering Islamophobia Workshop  |
| 2016 | Quality Matters, UWG Online Quality Matters Certification   |
| 2008 | Cornell University, Intensive Nepali Language Program (funded by FLAS)                                |
| 2008 | University of North Carolina, SOCI 980: Seminar on the Teaching of Sociology                          |

### **DIRECTION OF STUDENT WORK**

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Locke, Amber. "Well Intentioned White Folks: White Women in Interracial Relationships' Experiences with Race." MA Thesis, completed Summer 2021.

McPherson, Valerie. "Capitalizing on Social Media: The Cost of Seeking Health Practices Online." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2021.

- Fischer, Rachel N. "The Proverbs 31 Woman: *Brio* Magazine and Cultural Scripts for Evangelical Teenage Girls." MA Thesis, completed Fall 2019.
- Adhikari, Bishnu P. "Effects of Education, Gender, and Religious Salience on Age at Marriage in Nepal." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2019.
- Griffin, Vicki J. "Domestic Violence: Perceptions of Educators on the Educational Outcomes of Youth in Georgia." MA Thesis, completed Fall 2018.
- Moore, Lacey Byram. "The Equalization of Education: How School Type and Public Service Influence Educational Outcomes and Social Mobility." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2018.
- Beaver, Victoria. "Social Media Sister: Applying Interaction Ritual Chain Theory to Sorority Women and their Social Media Usage." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2016.
- West, Kelsey. "Chaco Christianity: How Millennials Redefine and Reinforce Religion in Campus Ministries." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2016.
- McDaniel, John. "What it Means to Have a Spiritual Awakening in Alcoholics Anonymous." MA Thesis, completed Fall 2015.
- Pitts, Jennifer. "Women at Risk: Examining the Relationship between Health Capital and Health Risk on Women's Sexual Health Risk Behavior." MA Thesis, completed Fall 2015.
- Neupane, Suresh Nath. "Political Opportunity Structure and Framing of Nepal's Madhesi Ethnic Conflict." MA Thesis, completed Spring 2014.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

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|         |  |
|---------|--|
| FA 2021 | SOCI 3293: Sociology of Family (online)<br>SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory<br>SOCI 6305: Advanced Sociological Theory                     |
| SU 2021 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online)<br>SOCI 6982: Special Topics - Family and Contemporary Social Issues (online)                    |
| SP 2021 | SOCI 3543: Sociology of Religion<br>SOCI 6013: Social Research<br>XIDS 4000: Asian Studies Capstone                                      |
| FA 2020 | SOCI 3293: Sociology of Family (dual modality)<br>SOCI 3293: Sociology of Family (online)<br>SOCI 3743: Social Movements (dual modality) |
| SU 2020 | SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology (online)  |

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| SP 2020 | SOCI 3293: Sociology of Family<br>SOCI 3543: Sociology of Religion  |
| FA 2019 | SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology (online)<br>SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory<br>SOCI 6013: Social Research   |
| SU 2019 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online)   |
| SP 2019 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online)<br>SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 4999: Special Topics - Religion and Global Social Problems<br>SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship |
| FA 2018 | SOCI 3293: Marriage and Family<br>SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 6013: Social Research<br>XIDS 2002: Shangri-La and Ideas of Utopia                                    |
| SU 2018 | SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology (online)   |
| SP 2018 | SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 4999: Special Topics - Religion and Global Social Problems<br>SOCI 6305: Advanced Sociological Theory                                   |
| FA 2017 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory<br>SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship   |
| SU 2017 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online)<br>SOCI 4386: Internship  |
| SP 2017 | SOCI 3543: Sociology of Religion<br>SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship<br>SOCI 6305: Advanced Sociological Theory                                |
| FA 2016 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory<br>SOCI 4386: Internship<br>SOCI 6182: Graduate Sociology of Religion  |
| SU 2016 | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online)<br>SOCI 4999: Special Topics - Global Families (online)   |
| SP 2016 | SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology  |



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|           | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online) |
|           | SOCI 4386: Internship                   |
|           | SOCI 4982: Capstone Internship          |
|           | SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship          |
| FA 2015   | SOCI 3543: Sociology of Religion        |
|           | SOCI 4386: Internship                   |
|           | SOCI 4982: Capstone Internship          |
|           | SOCI 6013: Graduate Social Research     |
| SU 2015   | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory (online) |
|           | SOCI 4386: Internship                   |
|           | CRIM 4286: Criminology Internship       |
| SP 2015   | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory          |
|           | SOCI 4386: Internship                   |
|           | SOCI 4982: Capstone Internship          |
|           | SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship          |
|           | SOCI 6305: Advanced Sociological Theory |
| Fall 2014 | SOCI 3001: Communicating Sociology      |
|           | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory          |
|           | SOCI 4386: Internship                   |
|           | SOCI 4982: Capstone Internship          |
|           | SOCI 6013: Graduate Social Research     |
| SU 2014   | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory          |
| SP 2014   | SOCI 3543: Sociology of Religion        |
|           | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory          |
|           | SOCI 6305: Advanced Sociological Theory |
|           | SOCI 6286: Graduate Internship          |
| FA 2013   | SOCI 1101: Introductory Sociology       |
|           | SOCI 4053: Sociological Theory          |

### **SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA**

#### *Service to UWG Sociology Program (2020-present)*

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2021      | Faculty Search Committee, member               |
| 2020 -    | Sociology MA Program, head of graduate studies |
| 2019 -    | Sociology Graduate Programs Committee, chair   |
| 2014-2021 | UWG Faculty Senate, Sociology representative   |

#### *Service to the Department of Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology*

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| 2021 - | Departmental Budget Committee, member                              |
| 2021   | Antonio J Waring Archaeological Lab Staff Search Committee, member |

*Service to College of Arts, Culture and Scientific Inquiry (2020-present)*

2020 - Graduate Studies Committee member

*Service to University of West Georgia*

2020 - Asian Studies minor, co-chair  
2020-2021 Faculty Senate, Academic Policies Committee, chair  
2018 - Interfaith Council, co-chair  
2016-2020 Faculty Senate, liaison to UWG LEAP Committee  
2016-2018 Faculty Senate, Academic Policies Committee, chair  
2015-2021 Faculty Senate, Academic Policies Committee, member  
2015-2020 Asian Studies Committee, member  
2014-2015 Faculty Senate, Budget Committee, member  
2014-2015 Community Engagement Taskforce, member

*Service to College of Social Sciences (2013-2020)*

2014-2016 COSS Research Day organizer

*Service to Department of Sociology (2013-2020)*

2019-2020 Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology MA Program  
2019 Promotion & Tenure Committee, member  
2019 Departmental Assistant Search Committee, member  
2018 Promotion & Tenure Committee, chair  
2017-2019 Undergraduate Programs Committee, chair  
2016 Chair Search Committee, member  
2014-2019 Internship Program Coordinator  
2014-2015 Faculty Search Committee, member  
2013-2016 Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society, faculty advisor  
2013-2016 *SociNews* Newsletter, faculty advisor  
2013-2014 Promotion & Tenure Revisions Committee, chair  
2013-2014 Faculty Search Committee, member  
  
2016-2018 UWG Models and Business club, faculty advisor  
2013-2016 UWG Sociological Collective club, faculty advisor

**SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE**

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2020 Member, ASA Religion Section Distinguished Article Award Committee  
2019 Presider for the “Religion, Marriage, and Family” roundtable at ASA  
2019 Panelist for the “Developing Your Scholarly Identity” workshop and convener for the “Religiosity Across the Life Cycle: Young Adults” and “Religion and Popular Culture” sessions at ASR  
2019 Volunteer session organizer and presider for the “Religious Efficacy as an Explanatory Model” session at MSS  
2018 Presider for the “Considering Geographic and Social Media Spaces and Health” session at MSS

2017-2020 Member of the ASA Sociologists for Trans Justice Committee  
2017 Convener for the “Constructing Gender Identities” session at ASR  
2014 Presider for the “Everyday Religion” session at ASA  
2014 Convener for the “Religion and Societal Engagement” session at ASR

Ad hoc reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and *Violence Against Women*.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association (ASA, *sections*: Religion, Family, Global & Transnational)  
American Academy of Religion (AAR)