

CHRISTOPHER P. SCHEITLE

West Virginia University
Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University, Sociology, August 2008
M.A. The Pennsylvania State University, Sociology, May 2005
B.A. Trinity University, magna cum laude, Sociology and Religion, May 2003

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

May 2015-Current Assistant Professor, West Virginia University
2010-May 2015 Adjunct Assistant Professor, St. John's University (MN)
2008-2010 Senior Research Assistant, Penn State University, University Park

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Crimes against Religious Organizations, Religion and Science, Religious Nonprofit Sector

TEACHING INTERESTS

Introduction to Sociology, Data Analysis and Social Statistics, Research Methods, Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Organizations, Social Movements, Crime and Deviance, Wealth and Poverty

EXTERNAL FUNDING

2014-2016 National Science Foundation. \$299,369 – Principal Investigator (with Jeff Ulmer) for “Collaborative Research: The Frequency and Patterns of Crime Against Religious Congregations.”
2010-2013 National Science Foundation. \$286,834 – Principal Investigator (with John McCarthy) for “Nonprofit Religious Organizations and Entrepreneurialism.”
2009 Higher Education Research Institute Spirituality in Higher Education Research Award. \$10,000 – Principal Investigator for “Does a Science Education Reduce Religiosity and/or Spirituality?”

BOOKS

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Roger Finke. 2012. *Places of Faith: A Road Trip across America's Religious Landscape*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2010. *Beyond the Congregation: The World of Christian Nonprofits*. New York: Oxford University Press.

REFEREED ARTICLES

Dollhopf, Erica J., Christopher P. Scheitle and John D. McCarthy. 2015. “Initial Results from a Survey of Two Cohorts of Religious Nonprofits.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 54: 156-165.

- Johnson, David R., Christopher P. Scheitle and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2015. "Individual Religiosity and Orientation towards Science: Reformulating Relationships." *Sociological Science* 2: 106-124.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Nicole Cornell. 2015. "Hearing Clergy Speak about Social and Political Issues: Examining the Effects of Religious Tradition and Personal Interest." *Social Science Quarterly* 96: 148-160.
- Dollhopf, Erica J. and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2013. "Decline and Conflict: Causes and Consequences of Leadership Transitions in Religious Congregations." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52: 675-697
- Smith, Buster, Christopher P. Scheitle and Christopher Bader. 2012. "The Ties that Bind: Network Overlap among Independent Congregations." *Social Science Computer Review* 30: 259-273.
- Scheitle, Christopher P., Jennifer Buher-Kane and Jennifer Van Hook. 2011. "Demographic Imperatives and Religious Markets: Considering the Individual and Interactive Roles of Fertility and Switching in Group Growth." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 50: 470-482.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Buster G. Smith. 2011. "A Note on the Frequency and Sources of Close Interreligious Ties." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50: 410-421.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2011. "Religious and Spiritual Change in College: Assessing the Effect of a Science Education." *Sociology of Education* 84: 122-136.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Bryanna B. Hahn. 2011. "From Pews to Policy: Specifying Religion's Influence on States' Treatment of Sexual Orientation." *Social Forces* 89:913-934.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2011. "U.S. College Students' Perception of Religion and Science: Conflict, Collaboration or Independence? A Research Note" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.50: 175-186.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2011. "Google Insights for Search: A Note Evaluating the Use of Search Engine Data in Social Research." *Social Science Quarterly* 92: 285-295.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Amy Adamczyk. 2010. "High-Cost Religion, Religious Switching and Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51:325-342.
- Scheitle, Christopher P., Stephen M. Merino and Andrew Moore. 2010. "On the Varying Meaning of 'Open and Affirming.'" *The Journal of Homosexuality* 57: 1-14.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Kevin D. Dougherty. 2010. "Race, Diversity, and Membership Duration." *Sociological Inquiry* 80: 405-423.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2009. "Leadership Compensation in Christian Nonprofits." *Sociology of Religion* 70: 384-408.

Winner of the 2007 Association for the Sociology of Religion's Robert McNamara Student Paper Award

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2009. "Identity and Government Funding in Christian Nonprofits." *Social Science Quarterly* 90: 816-833.

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Roger Finke. 2009. "Pluralism as Outcome: The Ecology of Religious Resources, Suppliers and Consumers." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* 5 (Article 7): www.religjournal.com

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Amy Adamczyk. 2009. "It Takes Two: The Interplay of Individual and Group Theology on Embeddedness." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48: 16-29.

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Roger Finke. 2008. "Maximizing Congregational Resources: Selection versus Production." *Social Science Research* 37: 815-827.

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Kevin D. Dougherty. 2008. "The Sociology of Religious Organizations." *Sociology Compass* 2: 981-999.

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Kevin D. Dougherty. 2008. "Density and Growth in a Congregational Population: Reformed Churches in New York, 1628-2000." *Review of Religious Research* 49: 233-250.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2007. "Organizational Niches and Religious Markets: Uniting Two Literatures." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* 3 (Article 2): www.religjournal.com

Winner of the 2007 American Sociological Association's Section on Religion Student Paper Award

Ecklund, Elaine Howard and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2007. "Religion among Academic Scientists: Distinctions, Disciplines, and Demographics." *Social Problems* 54: 289-307.

*Portions Re-Printed in *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction* by Eugenie C. Scott. 2009. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press*

Finke, Roger, Matt Bahr, and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2006. "Toward Explaining Congregational Giving." *Social Science Research* 35: 620-641.

Finke, Roger and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2005. "Accounting for the Uncounted: Computing Correctives for the 2000 RCMS Data." *Review of Religious Research* 47: 5-22.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2005. "The Social and Symbolic Boundaries of Religious Groups: An Analysis of Congregational Website Links." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* 1 (Article 6): www.religjournal.com.

Winner of 2006 American Sociological Association's Section on Religion Student Paper Award

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2005. "In God We Trust: Religion and Optimism toward Biotechnology." *Social Science Quarterly* 86: 846-856.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2005. "Bringing Out the Dead: Gender and Historical Cycles of Spiritualism." *Omega* 50: 245-261.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Finke, Roger and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2014. "Sources of Religious Pluralism: Revisiting the Relationship between Pluralism and Participation." Pages 177-190 in *Religions as Brands: New Perspectives on the Marketization of Religion and Spirituality*. Edited by Jean-Claude Usunier and Jorg Stolz. Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing.

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Buster G. Smith. 2012. "Religious Affiliation, College Degree Attainment, and Religious Switching." Pages 205-226 in *Research in the Sociology of Work, Volume 23 (Religion, Work and Inequality)* edited by Lisa A. Keister, John McCarthy and Roger Finke. Bingley, UK: Emerald Group Publishing.

Finke, Roger and Christopher P. Scheitle. 2009. "Understanding Schisms: Theoretical Explanations for Their Origins." Pgs. 11-33 in *Sacred Schisms: How Religions Divide*, edited by J.R. Lewis and S. M. Lewis. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Scheitle, Christopher and Amy Adamczyk. 2006. "Campus Crusade for Christ." Pgs. 102-105 in *Youth Activism: An International Encyclopedia*, edited by L. Sherrod, C.A. Flanagan and R. Kassimir. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing.

WORK UNDER REVIEW

Scheitle, Christopher P., Erica J. Dollhopf and John D. McCarthy. "Why Do So Many Religious Congregations Register with the IRS When it is not Required?"

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Amy Adamczyk. "Responding to a Call: Religion as a Resource and Motivator in the Organizational Founding Process."

Scheitle, Christopher P. "Variation in the Nonprofit Founding Process: Exploring the Effects of Founder Characteristics."

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The Influence of Celebrity Scientists on the Public's View of Religion and Science: An Experimental Assessment."

Johnson, David, Christopher P. Scheitle and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "State Evangelicalism and Anti-Evolution Legislation Efforts: Mediators and Outcomes."

Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Christopher P. Scheitle and Jared Peifer. "Climate Change and Evolution Skepticism May Not Be Two Sides of the Same Religious Coin."

TEACHING PUBLICATIONS

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Kevin D. Dougherty. 2009. "Teaching and Learning Guide: The Sociology of Religious Organizations." *Sociology Compass* 3: 361-366.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2006. "Web-Based Data Analysis: Creating a Sociological Laboratory." *Teaching Sociology* 34: 80-86.

Finke, Roger, Christopher Scheitle and Amy Adamczyk. 2004. "The American Religion Data Archive: An Online Resource for Teaching and Research." *American Theological Library Association Summary Proceedings*. (21 pages).

BOOK REVIEWS

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2012. "Assessing the State of the Sociology of Religion." Review of *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion* (2011, New York: Oxford University Press). *Contemporary Sociology* 41: 155-157.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2009. Review of *Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money* (2008, New York: Oxford University Press). *Contemporary Sociology* 38: 316-317.

Scheitle, Christopher P. 2008. Review of *Marx, Critical Theory, and Religion: A Critique of Rational Choice Theory* (2006, Boston: Brill Academic Publishers). *Sociology of Religion* 69: 364-366.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

2007 Robert McNamara Student Paper Award – Association for the Sociology of Religion – "Leadership Compensation in Christian Non-Profit Organizations."

2007 Student Paper Award – American Sociological Association's Section on Religion – "Organizational Niches and Religious Markets: Uniting Two Literatures."

2006 Student Paper Award – American Sociological Association's Section on Religion – "The Social and Symbolic Boundaries of Religious Groups: An Analysis of Congregational Website Links."

2006-2007 Joan Huber and William Form Graduate Scholarship in Sociology — The Pennsylvania State University

2006-2007 College of the Liberal Arts Dissertation Support Grant —The Pennsylvania State University

PRESENTATIONS

Scheitle, Christopher P. and Roger Finke. 2013. "Author Meets Critics: *Places of Faith: A Road Trip across America's Religious Landscape*." Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting. New York, NY.

Dollhopf, Erica, Christopher P. Scheitle and John D. McCarthy. 2013. "Accounting for the Early Vitality of New Religious Nonprofit Organizations." Roundtable paper at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY.

- Scheitle, Christopher. 2012. "Factors Affecting Rates of Spiritual Entrepreneurialism across U.S. Counties." Presentation given at the "Religion in Contemporary Society" conference organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Science and Brigham Young University. Washington, D.C. May 14-15.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2011. "Religion, College Degree Attainment and Religious Switching." Stratification and Social Change Conference. Penn State University. University Park, PA.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2010. "Parachurch Organizations: The Religious Market's Other Supplier." Invited lecture at Chapman University. February 19.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2009. "Does a Science Education Reduce Religiosity and/or Spirituality?" Spirituality in Higher Education Project Research Symposium. Los Angeles, CA.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. 2009. "The Rise, Fall and Rise again of the Parachurch Sector." Association for the Study of Economics, Religion and Culture. Washington, D.C.
- Scheitle, Christopher P. and Roger Finke. 2006. "Maximizing Organizational Resources: Production versus Selection." American Sociological Association Meeting. Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard and Christopher Scheitle. 2005. "Religion and Spirituality in the Academy: A Look at Differences between Natural and Social Scientists." Association for the Sociology of Religion Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- Scheitle, Christopher. 2005. "Linkages and Boundaries: Determinants of Religious Network Formation." Eastern Sociological Society Meeting. Washington, D.C.
- Scheitle, Christopher. 2005. "In God We Trust: Religion and Optimism towards Biotechnology." International Association for Science, Technology and Society Meeting. Baltimore, MD.
- Scheitle, Christopher. 2003. "The Role of Women in the Proliferation of the Dead in Everyday Life: On the Connection between Gloria Steinem and Casper the Ghost." Southwestern Social Science Association Meeting. San Antonio, TX.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2007-2008: Committee Member for the American Sociological Association's Section on Religion's Student Paper Award
- 2007-2008: Student Representative for the American Sociological Association's Section on Religion

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2014: Sociology of Religion, Introduction to Sociology, First Year Seminar on Ethical and Social Issues in Science and Medicine---College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University

- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Fall 2013: Introduction to Sociology, First Year Seminar on Ethical and Social Issues in Science and Medicine---College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Spring 2013: Social Research Methods; First Year Seminar on Exploring Social and Ethical Issues through Documentary Film—College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Fall 2012: Introduction to Sociology, First Year Seminar on Exploring Social and Ethical Issues through Documentary Film
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Spring 2012: First Year Seminar on Religion, Science and Society—College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Fall 2011: Introduction to Sociology (2 sections), First Year Seminar on Religion, Science and Society—College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Fall 2010: Sociology of Religion—College of Saint Benedict-Saint John's University
- Social Influence and Small Groups---Penn State World Campus (Online)
- Summer 2006: Introduction to Sociology—The Pennsylvania State University
- Summer 2005: Introduction to Sociology—The Pennsylvania State University

OTHER TEACHING AND ADVISING ACTIVITIES

- Summer 2014: Supervisor for Nicole Cornell's Honors Thesis Research Fellowship
- Spring 2014: Faculty Moderator for Independent Learning Project on "Examining Crimes Against Congregations Through Newspaper Records." Three students.
- Fall 2013: Faculty Moderator for Independent Learning Project on "Examining Crimes Against Congregations Through Newspaper Records." Three students.
- Summer 2013: Supervisor for Nicole Cornell's Internship at The Association of Religion Data Archives
- Fall 2012: Faculty Moderator for Independent Learning Project on "Readings on Interfaith Issues." Seven students.
- Summer 2012: Supervisor for Nicole Cornell's Internship at Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
- Spring 2012: Faculty Moderator for Independent Learning Project on "Current Issues in Sociology of Religion." Six students.

- 2012-2013: Nominated for Academic Advisor of the Year Award at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University
- 2011-2014: Faculty Advisor for the Sociology and Anthropology Club at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

REFERENCES

Dr. Roger Finke
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