

# ROBERT A. THOMSON JR.

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2019 – present    *The University of Alabama in Huntsville*  
Assistant Professor
- 2017 – present    *Rice University*  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

## EDUCATION

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- 2017    Ph.D., Sociology, Baylor University  
Title: *Religion and Differential Justice*  
*Winner of a 2017 Outstanding Dissertation Award from Baylor University*
- 2014    M.A., Sociology, Baylor University
- 2012    M.A., Theological Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary
- 2002    M.S., Geotechnical Engineering, University of Cincinnati
- 2000    B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Cincinnati

## AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

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Religion, Criminology & Deviance, Social Stratification, Quantitative Methodology, Science & Religion

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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- 2019    Daniel Bolger, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Selection versus Socialization? Interrogating the Sources of Secularity in Global Science.” *Sociological Perspectives* 62(4): 518-537.
- 2018    **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Jerry Z. Park, and Diana Kendall. “Religious Conservatives and TV News: Are They More Likely to be Religiously Offended?” *Social Problems*. Online: [doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spy024](https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spy024).
- 2018    **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God, Party, and the Poor: How Politics and Religion Interact to Affect Economic Justice Attitudes.” *Sociological Forum* 33(2): 334-353.
- 2017    **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Phil Davignon. “Religious Belief in Christian Higher Education: Is Religious and Political Diversity Relativizing or Secularizing?” *Social Compass* 64(3): 404-423.
- 2016    **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. “God versus Party: Their Competing Effects on Attitudes Concerning Criminal Punishment, National Security, and Military Service.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(4): 839-858.
- 2016    **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “More Than Friends and Family? Estimating the Direct and Indirect Effects of Religiosity on Substance Use in Emerging Adulthood.” *Journal of Drug Issues* 46(4): 326-346.

- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Sung Joon Jang. "Homeschooling and Underage Drinking: Is It More Protective than Public and Private Schools?" *Deviant Behavior* 37(3): 281-301.
- 2015 Phil Davignon and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Christian Colleges and Universities as Moral Communities: The Effects of Institutional Characteristics on Student Religiosity." *Review of Religious Research* 57(4): 531-554.

#### BOOK

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- 2019 Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Steven Lewis, Kirstin Matthews, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Di Di. *Secularity and Science: What Scientists around the World Really Think about Religion*. Oxford University Press.

#### EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

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- 2019 Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "The Methodological Challenges and Possibilities of Social Scientific Study of Religion and Science Across National Contexts." Peer-reviewed chapter in edited volume *Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum* (Eds. Bernard Lightman and Fern Elsdon-Baker). University of Pittsburgh Press. Forthcoming.

#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Religion in Civil Society: The Influence of Black Religious Ecology on Crime in the South." Revise and resubmit.
- Di Di, Simranjit Khalsa, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Alternative Spirituality among Global Scientists." Revise and resubmit.
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Buffering the Stigma? On the Racialization of Religion and Health among Formerly Incarcerated Persons."
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Sharan Kuar Mehta, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Doing Gender' and 'Doing Religion' in Science: A Cross-National Examination."
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Di Di, and Jerry Park. "The Moral Menace: Conservative Christians as a Perceived Threat in the USA."
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The *Very* Ivory Tower: Racial Stratification among US Physicists and Biologists."
- Sharan Kuar Mehta, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The Politicization of Science and Religion among US Scientists."
- Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Dan Bolger, Sharan Mehta, and Di Di. "Global Science, Global Discrimination? Perceptions of Discrimination among Scientists in Different National Contexts."

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Watching While White: Racial Privilege and Attitudes about Police."
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Crime and Changes in Religious Adherence (2000-2010): A Longitudinal Test."

- Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Tony N. Brown. "Judge Not? The Bible and Racialized Criminal Stereotyping"
- Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Daniel Bolger, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "A Tale of Two Populisms: Divergent and Convergent Correlates to Trust in Congress and Corporations."
- Di Di, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Parenting, Publishing, and Perishing: A Cross-National Comparison of Gender Gaps in Science."
- Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Race, Religion, and Education Policy: Examining Attitudes toward Educational Spending and Local School Issues."
- Julian Culver, Tony N. Brown, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Racialized Consequences of Individual Religious (Un)affiliation among Emerging Adults: Findings from Three Waves of the National Study of Youth and Religion Study."

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Faith in the New Millennium: The Future of Religion and American Politics, Edited by Matthew Avery Sutton and Darren Dochuk." Book review in *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* 55(1): 73-75.
- 2017 Renae Wilkinson and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Structure, Agency, and Social Change in a 'Lost Generation.'" Class Activity published in *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. (<http://trails.asanet.org>).
- 2005 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Gary J. Foose. "Chemical Compatibility and Durability of Soil-Bentonite Mixtures," *Proceedings of the Sessions of the Geo-Frontiers 2005 Congress* (ASCE Conference Proceedings 168, 14)
- 2002 Gary J. Foose and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Effects of Freeze-Thaw Cycling on the Hydraulic Conductivity of Soil-Bentonite Mixtures," *Cold Regions Engineering: Cold Regions Impacts on Transportation and Infrastructure Proceedings of the 11th International Conference* (ASCE Conference Proceedings 254, 81)

#### GRANTS

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- 2018 – 2020 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Black or Blue: A Pilot Study of Religious and Political Sources of Moral Attitudes Towards Police and Protest," *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Jack Shand Research Grant. Funds Awarded: \$4,450.
- 2012 – 2017 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** Professional Development Travel Awards, Baylor University. Funds awarded: \$4,755.

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

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- 2017 Baylor University Outstanding Dissertation Award
- 2017 Baylor University Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (Nominated)
- 2012 – 2017 Graduate Student Fellowship, Baylor University
- 2012 Academic Excellence in Theological Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary
- 2011 – 2012 International Society of Theta Phi, Asbury Theological Seminary

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Teacher of Record:*

Fall 2019	SOC 103 Introduction to Criminology (2 sections), UAH
Fall 2019	SOC 340 Special Topics: Religion and Crime, UAH
Summer 2017	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 22 students
Fall 2016	Criminology (2 sections), Baylor University, 71 students
Summer 2016	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 23 students
Spring 2016	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 124 students
Fall 2015	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 69 students
Summer 2015	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 17 students
Spring 2015	Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, 65 students

### *Continuing Education Courses:*

Fall 2018	Religion and Public Life: Navigating Work, Politics and Science, Rice University (co-taught)
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### *Panels and Guest Lectures:*

Mar. 2019	“Religious Discrimination, Hate Crimes, and Islamophobia: The Contemporary U.S. and Globe” (co-taught), Rice University
Jan. 2019	“Religion and the University” (panel), Rice University
Nov. 2018	“Sociologists Look at Anti-Semitism, White Nationalism, and Christianity” (co-taught), Rice University
Mar. 2018	Religion and Public Life (combined graduate/undergraduate), Rice University
Apr. 2014	Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University: “Religion, Work, and Delinquency”
Nov. 2013	Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University: “Integrated Theory”

### *Teaching Assistant:*

Spring 2014	Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University
Spring 2014	Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Fall 2013	Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University
Fall 2013	Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Spring 2013	Methods of Social Science, Baylor University
Fall 2012	Methods of Social Science, Baylor University

## SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### *Statistical Software:*

SAS • Stata • SPSS • R • ArcGis • Geoda • GeodaSpace

### *Statistical Methods:*

linear regression • multilevel modeling • structural equation modeling • longitudinal data analysis • spatial modeling

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2019 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Religion in Civil Society: The Influence of Black Religious Ecology on Crime in the South.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

- 2019 Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Denise Daniels, and Deidra C. Coleman. “Conceptions of Racial Discrimination that bring Religion to the Table.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO.
- 2019 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Esmeralda Sanchez Salazar, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Race, Religion, and Education Policy.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, New York.
- 2019 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Daniel Bolger, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “A Tale of Two Populisms: Divergent and Convergent Correlates of Trust in Congress and Corporations.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, New York.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Buffering the Stigma? On the Racialization of Religion and Health among Former Inmates.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Di Di, and Jerry Park. “Christian (In)Tolerance in the USA.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar. “Racial Differences in Promotion, Publication, and Pay among US Physicists and Biologists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Sharan Kaur Mehta and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Scientific versus Religious Tools? The Construction of Political Identities among American Scientists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Watching While White: Racial Privilege and Attitudes About Police.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Sharan Mehta, Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “The Intersection of Gender with Religion and Science.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Di Di, Simranjit Khalsa, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Global Spirituality Among Scientists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Dan Bolger, Sharan Mehta. “Perceptions of Discrimination in Global Science.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Sharan Kaur Mehta, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “How Religious and Political Identities Intersect for US Scientists.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- 2017 Daniel Bolger, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “The Religious Transitions of Scientists in Cross-National Context.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Religion in Civil Society: The Spatial Effects of Black Protestant Affiliation Rates on Crime in the South.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.

- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. "God, Party, and the Poor: How Politics and Religion Interact to Affect Economic Justice Attitudes." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Phil Davignon. "Religious Belief in Christian Higher Education: Is Religious and Political Diversity Relativizing?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "More Than Friends and Family? Estimating the Direct and Indirect Effects of Religiosity on Substance Use in Emerging Adulthood." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Sung Joon Jang. "Homeschooling and Underage Drinking: Is It More Protective than Public and Private Schools?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Paul Froese. "God, Party, and American Justice." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Jerry Z. Park, and Diana Kendall. "Religious Exclusivism and Perceived Anti-Religious Media Bias." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** "Political Ideology and Image of God in the Culture Wars." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA.

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATIONS

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American Society of Criminology  
 American Sociological Association  
     Section on Crime, Law & Deviance  
     Section on Race, Class, & Gender  
     Section on Sex and Gender  
     Section on Sociology of Population  
     Section on Science, Knowledge, & Technology  
     Section on Sociology of Religion  
 Association for the Sociology of Religion  
 Religious Research Association  
 Southern Sociological Society  
 Society for the Social Scientific Study of Religion

#### SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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Reviewer	<i>Social Forces, Justice Quarterly, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, The Sociological Quarterly, Sociological Focus, Sociological Perspectives</i>
2018 – 2019	Distinguished Article Award Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
2014 – 2015	Representative, Graduate Student Association, Baylor University
2011 – 2012	President, International Society of Theta Phi, Asbury Theological Seminary

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2015 – 2017      *Rice University*  
Statistical consultant for the study “Religion among Scientists in International Context”  
(Elaine Howard Ecklund, PI)
- 2012 – 2017      *Baylor University*  
Teaching and Research Assistant / Teacher of Record
- 2007 – 2012      *Asbury Theological Seminary*  
Associate Director of Admissions / Admissions Counselor
- 2002 – 2007      *H.C. Nutting Company / Terracon*  
Project / Staff Geotechnical Engineer
- 2000 – 2002      *University of Cincinnati*  
Graduate Assistant

## REFERENCES

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*Paul Froese*

Professor of Sociology and Baylor Religion Survey

Director

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