

ROBERT A. THOMSON JR.

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

2025 – present Associate Professor

2019 – 2025 Assistant Professor

Rice University

2017 – 2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow

EDUCATION

- 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

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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Daniel Bolger, Denise Daniels, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “The Relationship between Workplace Status and Workplace Religious Expression.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(1): 126-143.
- 2022 Denise Daniels, Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Brenton Kalinowski. “The Impact of Gender and Organizational Position on Faith-Work Integration.” *Journal of Management, Spirituality & Religion* 19(2): 124-153.
- 2022 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Buffering the Stigma? On the Racialization of Religion and Health among Formerly Incarcerated Persons.” *Sociological Inquiry* 92(1): 34-63.
- 2021 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Religion in Civil Society: The Influence of Black Religious Ecology on Crime in the South.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 37: 73-99.
- 2021 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “The *Very* Ivory Tower: Racial Stratification among US Physicists and Biologists.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44(7): 1250-1270.
- 2021 Di Di, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Publishing and Parenting: A Study of Different National Contexts.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 7: 1-13.

- 2021 Sharan Kuar Mehta, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Polarized Scientists? Exploring Political Differences around Religion and Science among US Biologists and Physicists." *Sociological Forum* 36(1): 5-28.
- 2021 Daniel Bolger, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Determinants of Confidence in U.S. Institutions: Comparing Congress and Corporations." *Social Science Quarterly*. 102(1): 324-342.
- 2021 Di Di, Simranjit Khalsa, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Alternative Spirituality among Global Scientists." *The Sociological Quarterly* 62(1): 187-208.
- 2020 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Sharan Kuar Mehta, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "'Doing Gender' and 'Doing Religion' in Science: A Cross-National Examination." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(2): 269-288.
- 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.
- 2019 **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* 66(4): 626-644.
- 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

- 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. (Reviews by *Public Understanding of Science*, *Review of Religious Research*, and *Paradigm Explorer: Journal of the Scientific and Medical Network*).

EDITED BOOK CHAPTER

- 2020 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 *Identity in a Secular Age: Science, Religion, and Public Perceptions* (Eds. Bernard Lightman and Fern Elsdon-Baker). University of Pittsburgh Press.

REFEREED TEACHING PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Teaching Race and Gang Violence Using the Documentary *Crips & Bloods: Made in America* (Peralta 2008).” Class Activity published in *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. (<http://trails.asanet.org>).
- 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>).

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2024 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Review of *The Faithful Scientist: Experiences of Anti-Religious Bias in Scientific Training* by Christopher P. Scheitle, 2023 (New York University Press).” Book review in *Review of Religious Research* 66(3): 288-290.
- 2022 Sal Restivo and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Book Talk: *Society and the Death of God*, by Sal Restivo (2021, Routledge), Response.” *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* 18(4): 1-5.
- 2020 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Bringing Back the Social into the Sociology of Religion: Critical Approaches.” Book review in *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 49(1): 24-26.
- 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.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Massimiliano Bonamente, Kishan Yerubandi, Wafa Hakim Orman, Shuang Zhao, and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Voting Drop-Off in the 2024 General Election.”

Kerby Goff, Jauhara Ferguson, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Denise Daniels, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Differences between Conservatives and Liberals in Perceptions of Workplace Discrimination.” (under review)

Morgan, Emily Nicole. and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Bible Beliefs as a Sacred Canopy Protecting Against Hostility Perceived from the News.”

Robert A. Thomson Jr. *Religion & Crime: A Sociological Approach to Faith, Crime, and Victimization* (proposal pending)

Robert A. Thomson Jr. “Judge Not? The Bible and Racialized Criminal Stereotyping”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 Elaine Howard Ecklund and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Why Do Fewer Christian Women Work in Science? Sociologists explain the data behind the gender gap in STEM careers.” *Christianity Today*. March issue. Online: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march/why-do-fewer-christian-women-work-in-stem.html>
- 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

- 2025 Daniel R. Morrison and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Sociology Department Enrollment Innovation Challenge,” UAH CAHS. Funds Awarded: \$3000 project award + \$1500 faculty development funds
- 2022 – 2023 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Black or Blue (Phase 2): A Study of Religious and Political Sources of Moral Attitudes towards Police and Protest,” The University of Alabama in Huntsville New Faculty Research (NFR) Program. Funds Awarded: \$9,660.
- 2018 – 2022 **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

- 2025 CAHS Outstanding Faculty Award, UAH
- 2025 CAHS Nominee for University Distinguished Teaching Award, UAH
- 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

- 2019 – present University of Alabama in Huntsville
- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <i>Introduction to Criminology</i> | <i>Drugs & Society</i> |
| <i>White Collar Crime</i> | <i>Religion & Crime</i> |
| <i>Statistics for the Social Sciences</i> | <i>Statistics Lab</i> |
| <i>Sociology of Religion</i> | <i>Introduction to Sociology</i> |

2015 – 2017 Baylor University
Introduction to Sociology *Criminology*

Student Supervision:

Summer 2024 Supervisor for the Research or Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU) Program, UAH

Summer 2020 Supervisor for the Research or Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU) Program, UAH

Continuing Education Courses:

Fall 2018 Religion and Public Life: Navigating Work, Politics and Science, Rice University (co-taught)

Panels and Guest Lectures:

Oct. 2022 “Science and Religion,” graduate seminar for Sociology of Religion, Baylor University.

Oct. 2020 “Science and Religion,” graduate seminar for Sociology of Religion, Baylor University.

Feb. 2020 “Poverty & Crime,” HON 301, UAH

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 “Religion, Work, and Delinquency,” Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University

Nov. 2013 “Integrated Theory,” Juvenile Delinquency, Baylor University

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

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

- 2025 Morgan, Emily Nicole and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Bible Belief as a Sacred Canopy Protecting Against Hostility Perceived from the News.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2024 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Black or Blue: Examining the role of religion in the construction of responses to anti-Black police violence.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 Kerby Goff, Jauhara Ferguson, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Elaine Howard Ecklund, and Denise Daniels. “The Ideology Gap in Perceptions of Workplace Discrimination.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 Gwynn Thomas, Gabriella Nassif, and **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Exploratory Analyses of the Role of Women’s Policy Machineries in Governmental Responses to COVID-19.” Paper to be presented at the 27th IPSA World Congress of Political Science, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2022 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, Rachel Schneider, and Cleve Tinsley. “Black or Blue: Examining Racial Differences in the Evaluation of Black Lives Matter and Blue Lives Matter among Conservative Christians.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** and Tony N. Brown. “Judge Not? The Bible and Racialized Criminal Stereotyping” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.
- 2021 Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Race, Religion, and Education Policy: Unexamined Dimensions of Support for National Education Spending and Interest in Local Schools.” Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference of the Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP).
- 2019 **Robert A. Thomson Jr.** “Religion in Civil Society: The Influence of Black Religious Ecology on Crime in the South.” Paper 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 presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO.
- 2019 Julian Carver, **Robert A. Thomson Jr.**, and Tony Brown. “Racialized Consequences of Individual Religious (Un)affiliation among Emerging Adults: Findings from Three Waves of the National Study of Youth and Religion Study.” Paper 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 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 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 (PAST AND CURRENT)

American Society of Criminology
 American Sociological Association
 Section on Crime, Law & Deviance
 Section on Race, Class, & Gender
 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

Reviewer *Accountability in Research: Ethics, Integrity and Policy, Social Forces, Social Problems, PLOS ONE, Justice Quarterly, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Criminal Justice, American Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Ethnic and Racial Studies, The Sociological Quarterly, Sociological Focus, Social Currents, Sociological Perspectives, Sociology of Religion, Social Psychology Quarterly, Cultural Dynamics, and Deviant Behavior*

2025 – present UAH CAHS College Awards Committee

2025 – present UAH Faculty Senate (Research Sub-Committee)

2024-2025 UAH Sociology Search Committee

2024 – present UAH Financial Aid Committee

2024 – present UAH Scholarship Oversight Committee

2022 – present UAH Faculty Advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society

2022 – 2023 UAH Sociology Chair Search Committee

2021 – 2024 UAH Student Advising

2021 – present UAH Faculty Advisor for the Student Sociological Association

2021 – present UAH Justice and Equity Studies Program Advisory Committee
 Program Coordinator, 2025 – present

2020 – 2021 UAH Inclusivity in the Classroom Committee

2020 – 2025 UAH Police Advisory Council

2018 – 2020 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

2019 – 2020 *Rice University*
Statistical consultant

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

Available upon request