

Kerby Goff

Curriculum Vitae
October 14, 2025

Boniuk Institute
Rice University
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POSITIONS

2023- **Associate Director of Research and head of Postdoctoral Fellows Program**
Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance, Rice University

2023 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University

EDUCATION

2022 **PhD in Sociology (Minor in Social Thought)**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.
Dissertation: *New Occasions Make New Duties: Pious Agency and Gendered Mobilization in the Emergence of the American Protestant Woman's Missionary Movement 1800-1925*
Committee: Roger Finke (chair), Lee Ann Banaszak, Gary Adler, Charles Seguin

2019 **MA in Sociology**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

2016 **MA in Intercultural Studies**
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

2003 **BS in Mechanical Engineering**
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Morality	Social Movements	Gender, Race, & Racism
Culture	Sociology of Religion	Historical Sociology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Goff, Kerby, Moses Biney, Denise Daniels, Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2025. "How Workplace Support of Religion and Spirituality Buffered Burnout during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Sociology of Religion* 0(0):sraf025. DOI: 10.1093/socrel/sraf025.

Iceland, John, Eric Silver, and **Kerby Goff**. 2025. "Racial Identity and Endorsements of Anti-Black and Anti-White Stereotypes." *Sociological Perspectives* 68(1-3):164-185. DOI: 10.1177/07311214251336456

Goff, Kerby, Eric Silver and John Iceland. 2024. "The Moral Foundations of Christian Nationalism." *Sociology of Religion* 0(0):srae029. DOI: 10.1093/socrel/srae029 (Coverage: *PysPost.org* "New

research uncovers the moral foundations underlying support for Christian nationalism.” November 19, 2024. <https://www.psypost.org/new-research-uncovers-the-moral-foundations-underlying-support-for-christian-nationalism>)

Silver, Eric, John Iceland, and **Kerby Goff**. 2024. “Race Differences in Support for Antiracism Policies: Endorsements of Anti-Black and Anti-White Stereotypes.” *Social Science Quarterly* 105(4):1308-1324. 1-17. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.13416

Silver, Eric, John Iceland, and **Kerby Goff**. 2024. “Beyond Racial Resentment: Systemic Racism Beliefs and Public Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice Institutions and Reforms.” *Social Science Quarterly* 105(4):1280-1295. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.13413

Silver, Eric, **Kerby Goff**, and John Iceland. 2023. “Social Justice and Social Order: Moral Intuitions and Endorsements of Anti-Black and Anti-White Stereotypes.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 9. DOI: 10.1177/23780231231217832

Iceland, John, Eric Silver, and **Kerby Goff**. 2023. “Moral Intuitions and Vaccine Hesitancy During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Social Science Quarterly* 104(3): 230-247. DOI: 10.1111/ssqu.13243
- Top 10 most-cited papers published by SSQ in 2023

Iceland, John, Eric Silver, and **Kerby Goff**. 2023 “Moral Intuitions and Attitudes towards Affirmative Action in College Admissions.” *Social Science Research* 110:102848. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2023.102848

Iceland, John, Eric Silver, and **Kerby Goff**. 2023. “For Whom Is Patriotism Blind? Examining the Roles of Moral Intuitions and System Justification.” *Social Science Research* 112:102811. DOI: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2022.102811

Finke, Roger and **Kerby Goff**. 2023. “Regulating Religion in the Public Arena: Lessons Learned from Global Data Collections,” in *Democracy, Religion, and the Market: Law and Religion Series*, edited by Kathleen Flake and Nathan Oman. New York: Routledge Press.

Goff, Kerby, Eric Silver, and John Iceland. 2022. “The Resonance of Repression: Moral Intuitions, Skepticism Toward Racial Injustice, and Public Support for Trump’s ‘Law and Order’ Response to the 2020 Racial Justice Protests.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 8. DOI:10.1177/23780231221110277

Goff, Kerby, Eric Silver and Inga Dora Sigfusdottir. 2022. “Academic Orientation as a Function of Moral Fit: The Role of Individualizing Morality.” *Sociology of Education* 95(2): 153-170. DOI: 10.1177/00380407211072428

Silver, Eric, **Kerby Goff**, and John Iceland. 2022. “Social Order and Social Justice: Moral Intuitions, Systemic Racism Beliefs, and Americans’ Divergent Attitudes Toward Black Lives Matter and Police.” *Criminology* 60(2): 342-369. DOI: 10.1111/1745-9125.12303
- Top 10% most downloaded articles of 2022 in *Criminology*

Mataic, Dane and **Kerby Goff**. 2021. “Organizations and Religious Restrictions: An International Overview of the Intersection of State and Non-Governmental Organizations and Religious Groups.” *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*. DOI:10.1163/9789004468085_011

RESEARCH GRANTS AND PROJECTS

2024	<p>“Revitalizing Interfaith Leadership in Houston & Beyond” (\$316,538) Arthur Vining Davis Foundations (R_2308_24271). Elaine Howard Ecklund PI, Kerby Goff Co-PI, Rachel Schneider Co-PI</p> <p>“Rice Student Survey on Religion” (\$13,000) Provost’s Office, Rice University. Elaine Howard Ecklund PI, Kerby Goff, Co-PI</p> <p>“Boniuk Institute Survey on Science, Politics, and Religion” (\$50,000) Boniuk Institute, Rice University. Elaine Howard Ecklund PI, Kerby Goff, Co-PI</p> <p>“Planning Grant on New Directions in the Study of Religion and Science” (\$200,000) Templeton Religion Trust (TRT-2023-33148). Elaine Howard Ecklund, PI, John H. Evans, Co-PI. (Project manager for multination project to develop a network of scholars and a re-granting proposal.)</p>
2023	<p>“Communicating Outlooks for a New Global Religion and Science Synergy: The Engagement Challenge (CONGRESS II)” (\$839,548) Templeton Religion Trust (TRT-2018-10203). Elaine Howard Ecklund, PI. (Project manager for multination interview-based research project.)</p>
2021	<p>“Moral Intuitions and Public Sphere Polarization: A Focus on Christian Nationalism” (\$2000) Moral Agency and Moral Development Seed Grant, Rock Ethics Institute, Penn State University. Eric Silver, PI (Helped develop grant proposal and survey instrument as graduate student.)</p> <p>“Public Sphere Polarization: A Focus on Moral Intuitions, Political Ideology, Systemic Racism Beliefs, and Christian Nationalism” (\$5,000) Research in Democracy Support Grant, The McCourtney Institute for Democracy, Penn State University. Eric Silver, PI (Helped develop grant proposal and survey instrument as graduate student.)</p> <p>“Religion as Catalyst and Constraint for Women’s Collective Action: The Rise, Fall, and Legacy of the Protestant Woman’s Missionary Movement, 1861-1939” (\$2,988) Student Research Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (Graduate Student Grant)</p>
2019	<p>“Protestant Missionaries, NGO formation and Contemporary Civil Society” (\$900) Research in Democracy Support Grant, The McCourtney Institute for Democracy, Penn State University (Graduate Student Grant)</p>

AWARDS

2021	<p>Constant H. Jacquet Award, Religious Research Association (\$2,250) - “Religion as Catalyst and Constraint for Women’s Collective Action: The Rise, Fall, and Legacy of the Protestant Woman’s Missionary Movement, 1861-1939”</p> <p>RGSO Dissertation Support Competition, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University (\$2,000) - “Precarious Advantage: The Impact and Decline of the Protestant Woman’s Missionary Movement, 1861-1938”</p> <p>Student Travel Grant Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (\$1,035).</p>
2017-19	Graduate Scholar Award, The Pennsylvania State University (\$4000)

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND SCHOLARSHIP

2025 Invited participant, *Religious Liberty and Pluralism Roundtable*, hosted by Interfaith America and Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.

Panelist for *Telling the Story of Religion in Texas through Journalism*, hosted by The Texas Tribune in partnership with Institute for Diversity and Civic Life, Religion News Service and Southern Methodist University's Religious Studies department. Dallas, TX.
(<https://www.texastribune.org/2025/03/13/texas-religion-media/>)

2025 Goff, Kerby, Eric Silver, and John Iceland. "Attitudes toward Christian nationalism don't just boil down to views on race, religion and history – research suggests 'moral foundations' play a critical role." *The Conversation*. January 22, 2025. (<https://theconversation.com/attitudes-toward-christian-nationalism-dont-just-boil-down-to-views-on-race-religion-and-history-research-suggests-moral-foundations-play-a-critical-role-243328>)

2023- Co-Host of *Moral Matters*, the podcast of the Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association
- Interviews with: Michèle Lamont, Francesca Polletta, Penny Edgell, Bin Xu, Ruth Braunstein, Aliza Luft, Jaime Kucinskas, Evan Stewart, Galen Watts, and others

2021 Goff, Kerby and John D. McCarthy. "No, antifa didn't 'infiltrate' Black Lives Matter during the 2020 protests. But did it increase violence?" *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. February 8, 2022 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/02/08/antifa-blm-extremism-violence/>).
Goff, Kerby and John D. McCarthy. "Critics claim BLM protests were more violent than 1960s civil rights ones. That's just not true." *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*. October 12, 2021 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/10/12/critics-claim-blm-was-more-violent-than-1960s-civil-rights-protests-thats-just-not-true/>).

2020 Goff, Kerby. "Indigenous missions transforming global religious landscape: No longer 'the West to the rest.'" *GlobalPlus: Exploring Critical Issues in International Religion*. November 2, 2020 (<http://globalplus.thearda.com/globalplus-missionary-trends/>).

PRESENTATIONS

2025 Session organizer for "Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and U.S. Attitudes Toward the Israel-Gaza War Since October 7, 2023." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Minneapolis, MN. *Upcoming, November 1, 2025*
"Antisemitism, Islamophobia, religious hostility towards Jews and Muslims, and Attitudes Towards the Gaza War: Changes and Trends Since October 7." With Elaine Howard Ecklund and Eduard van der Merwe. *Upcoming, November 1, 2025*
"Traditional, New, Moderate, and Skeptical: American's Four Positions on Definitions of Antisemitism and Islamophobia." With Elaine Howard Ecklund and Eduard van der Merwe. *Upcoming, November 1, 2025*
"Christian Nationalism, Racial Respectability, and National Attachment." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

“The Imposter Experience in Academica.” Veritas Forum Scholars Program, Sociology Cohort. Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

2024
Invited presentation. “Religion in U.S. Workplaces: Calling, Discrimination and Accommodation.” Ukrainian-American Concordia University

Invited Discussant and Convener. “Religion and Race in Historical Perspective.” Race and Religion Symposium, Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

With Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Results and Recommendations from the 2024 Boniuk Institute Student Survey on Religion at Rice.” Provost’s “Rice Reflects” Series. Rice University, Houston, TX.

“Lessons for Diversity and Dialogue: Results from the 2024 Boniuk Institute Student Survey on Religion at Rice.” Critical Dialogues on Diversity Facilitators’ Training. Rice University, Houston, TX.

“What Americans think about Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and the Crisis in the Middle East: Insights from the Boniuk Institute Survey on Politics, Science and Religion.” Religious and Civic Leaders Gathering, Religion and Public Life Center. Rice University, Houston, TX.

“New Occasions Make New Duties: Pious Agency and Gendered Mobilization in the Emergence of the American Protestant Woman’s Missionary Movement, 1800-1925.” Veritas Forum Scholars Program, Sociology Cohort. Rice University, Houston, TX.

2023
With Moses Biney and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Religion and Institutional Support as a Buffer to Burnout during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah.

With Andrea Henderson-Platt and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Moral Logics Behind Attitudes toward Reproductive Technologies & interventions.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, Utah.

“The Ideology Gap between Conservatives and Liberals in Perceptions of Workplace Discrimination.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA

“The Moral Foundations of Christian Nationalism.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA

2022
“Gendered Logics in Field Emergence: The American Woman’s Missionary Movement of the 19th Century.” Annual Meeting of the Religious Research Association/Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD. *Invited presentation as one of the Jacquet Award recipients.*

2021
Invited Discussant for “Generations of Religious Research(ers),” Patricia Wittberg. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion/Religious Research Association, Portland, OR.

“Ecumenism, Education and Transnational Women’s Organizations: A Network Analysis.” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Philadelphia, PA.

With Dane Mataic. "Risky Religion: The Consequences of Religious Restrictions on the Gender Gap in Religiosity." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR.

With Gary Adler. "Which Culture do 'They' Have? How the Evangelical Imaginary Uses Social Science for Global Engagement." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR.

"A Zone of Freedom in the Space Between: Boundary Reconfiguration, Gendered Autonomy, and Western Women Missionaries in Chinese Society, 1807-1954." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. (Presented online due to COVID-19).

"No one parish could contain her: 'Gendered Innovation and Independence in the Emergence of the Woman's Missionary Movement in the United States, 1861-1923.' Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. (Presented online due to COVID-19).

2020
Invited discussant for "Reinterpreting Weber's Protestant Ethic in China," Grace Tien. New Voices in the History of Sociology Working Group, History of Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.

Invited discussant for author meets critic session. *World Christian Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition*, by Gina Zurlo and Todd Johnson. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion/Religious Research Association, Pittsburgh, PA. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

"Women's Organizations, Ecumenism and Education, and World Society: A Network Approach." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. (Presented online due to COVID-19).

2019
"Missionaries of Modernity: Female Protestant Missionaries and the Expansion of Female Education to non-Western Countries, 1960-2010." Annual Meeting of the Society of the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO.

"Two Propositions for Linking the Moral Background and Moral Cognition in the Sociology of Religion." Annual Meeting of the Society of the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis, MO.

"School Attachment in the Schooled Society: A Moral Intuitionist Approach." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York

"Escape from (Academic) Freedom: Towards a Social, Personal and Realist Heuristic for Evaluating Academic Freedom." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York.

2018
Invited discussant for "Prayer Similarity and Negative Affect in Married Indonesian Individuals," Jane Lankes. Family Demography Working Group, Department of Sociology, Penn State University, State College, PA

"Missionaries of Modernities: Female Protestant Missionaries and Long-term Trends in Gender Equality." Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion Conference, Philadelphia, PA

“Legitimacy and Honor in Modernizing Processes: A Case Study of an Egyptian Movement for Academic Freedom.” Honor-Shame Dynamics in Western History, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany

“Empirical Truth or Alternative Facts: the Fact/Value Distinction and the Vocation of Science in the Public Sphere.” Penn State Social Thought Program Annual Conference, Penn State University, State College, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

“Protestantism and American Society.” Boniuk Institute’s Teacher Professional Development workshop, Spring 2023.

SOC 461 Exploring Religion: A Social Scientific Approach, Summer 2022. Instructor of Record. Penn State University

SOC001 Introduction to Sociology, Summer 2021. Instructor of Record. Penn State University

“Religion and Gender in Cross-National Context.” **Religion, Gender, and Inequality**, Spring 2022. Guest Lecturer. Rice University

“Morality and Religion.” **SOC001 Introduction to Sociology**, Winter 2019. Guest Lecturer. Penn State University

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024-25 Religious Pluralism Director Hiring Committee, Rice University
- 2024- Associate, Wiess College, Rice University
- 2024 Parish Fellowship Selection Committee, Rice University
- 2020 Religious Studies Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Penn State University
- 2017-21 Social Thought Program Annual Conference Committee (Chair 2020-21), Penn State University
- 2017-20 Department of Sociology Student Paper Competition Committee (Chair 2019-2021), Penn State University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2024-25 Chair of the 2025 Student Travel Grant Committee, ASA Sociology of Religion Section
- 2023- Editorial Board, Review of Religious Research
- 2020- Communications Committee, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association (Chair 2023-)
- 2020-22 Student Council Member, History of Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2019-23 Ad Hoc Committee on Revising ASA Online Presidential Biographies (Organized by the ASA History of Sociology and Social Thought Section)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association:

Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Race, Gender, and Class

Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity
Sociology of Religion
Comparative-Historical Sociology
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Social Science History Association

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese: Intermediate