

Curriculum Vitae
EDWARD C. POLSON

Baylor University
Diana R. Garland School of Social Work
One Bear Place #97320
Waco, TX 76798-7320

Office: (254) 710-4483
Fax: (254) 710-6455
Clay_Polson@baylor.edu

EDUCATION

- 2009 Ph.D., Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
Dissertation: *Cultivating the Common Good: Civic Life and Religious Contexts in American Society*
- 2006 M.A., Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
Thesis: *Taken for Granted? Exploring the Relationships between Social Service Agencies and Religious Congregations*
- 2003 M.S.W., Children and Families, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
- 2003 M.Div., *summa cum laude*, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
- 2000 B.A., Religion and English, *cum laude*, Mississippi College, Clinton, MS.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2014- Assistant Professor, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, Baylor University, Waco, TX.
- 2011-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, Messiah College, Grantham, PA.
- 2009-2011 Assistant Professor, Department of History and Social Sciences, Louisiana State University – Shreveport, Shreveport, LA.
- 2007-2009 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Civic Engagement, Civil Society, Community, Families, Organizations, Religion, Research Methods, Social Inequality, Social Policy, Social Theory

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Refereed Publications (9)

- Polson, E. C.** (2015). Putting civic participation in context: Examining the effects of congregational structure and culture. *Review of Religious Research*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1007/s1364401502234
- Polson, E. C.** (2014). Social diversity and civic engagement: The effects of ethnic and social heterogeneity on the community involvement of American congregations. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0899764014548424
- Jang, S. J., Johnson, B. R., Kim, Y., **Polson, E. C.**, & Smith, B. G. (2014). Structured voluntary youth activities and positive outcomes in adulthood: An exploratory study of involvement in scouting and subjective well-being. *Sociological Focus*. 47(4), 238-267.
- Polson, E. C.**, Kim, Y., Jang, S. J., Johnson, B. R., & Smith, B. (2013). Being prepared and staying connected: Scouting's influence on social capital and community involvement. *Social Science Quarterly*. 94(3), 758-776.
- Dougherty, K. D., Bader, C. D., Froese, P., **Polson, E. C.**, & Smith, B. G. (2009). Religious diversity in a conservative Baptist congregation. *Review of Religious Research*. 50(3), 321-334.
- Polson, E. C.** (2008). The inter-organizational ties that bind: Exploring the contributions of agency – congregation relationships. *Sociology of Religion*. 69(1), 45-65.
- Dougherty, K. D., Johnson, B. R., & **Polson, E. C.** (2007). Recovering the lost: Remeasuring U.S. religious affiliation. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 46(4), 483-499.
- Finke, R., Bader, C. D., & **Polson, E. C.** (2007). A growing web of resources: The Association of Religion Data Archives. *Review of Religious Research*. 49(1), 21-34.
- Mencken, F. C., Bader, C., & **Polson, E. C.** (2006). Integrating civil society and economic growth in Appalachia. *Growth and Change*. 37(1), 107-127.

Book Reviews (1)

- Polson, E. C.** (2013). *Bad religion: How we became a nation of heretics*, by Ross Douthat (New York, NY: Free Press, 2012). *Christian Scholar's Review*. 42(2), 198-201.

Books (1)

- Dolch, N. A., Powell, H., **Polson, E. C.**, & Wells-Lewis, R. (2011). *Social problems: A case study approach*, 3rd ed., Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Book Chapters (2)

Dolch, N. A., Wise, H., **Polson, E. C.**, & Wells-Lewis, R. (2011). Introduction: What is a social problem? In N. A. Dolch, H. Powell, **E. C. Polson**, and R. Wells-Lewis (Eds.), *Social Problems: A Case Study Approach*, 3rd ed., Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Polson, E. C., & Strong, M. T. (2011). Ideology. In N. A. Dolch, H. Powell, **E. C. Polson**, and R. Wells-Lewis (Eds.), *Social Problems: A Case Study Approach*, 3rd ed., Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Non-Refereed Publications and Reports

Finke, R., Bader, C. D., & **Polson, E. C.** (2010). Faithful measures: Developing improved measures of religion. *ARDA Guiding Paper Series*. State College, PA: The Association of Religion Data Archives. Retrieved from <http://www.thearda.com/rrh/papers/guidingpapers/finke.asp>.

Polson, E. C. (2009). *Community profile builder*. State College, PA: The Association of Religion Data Archives.

Maier, J., **Polson C.**, & Rhodes, J. (2008). *Small congregations: A review of empirical findings in the professional literature*. Waco, TX: Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion.

Polson, E. C. (2007). Recent additions and improvements: An update from the Association of Religion Data Archives. *Review of Religious Research*. 48(4), 444-445.

Polson, E. C. (2006). QuickStats: An update from the Association of Religion Data Archives. *Review of Religious Research*. 48(1), 118-119.

Polson, E. C. (2006). *24/7 Dad A.M. program evaluation*. Waco, TX: Central Texas Fatherhood Initiative.

Professional Presentations

Polson, E. C. (November 2014). *Building bridges and strengthening bonds: Examining the relationship between community engagement and congregational health*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN.

Polson, E. C. (March 2013). *Bridging communities: The effects of social diversity on congregational community engagement*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA.

Polson, E. C., Kim, Y., Jang, S. J., Johnson, B. R., and Smith, B. G. (February 2012). *Being prepared and staying connected: Scouting's influence on social capital and community involvement*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, New York, NY.

- Smith, B. G., Johnson, B. R., & **Polson, E. C.** (October 2011). *(In)voluntary associations and religiosity*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI.
- Polson, E. C.** (October 2009). *Shaping civic life: Religious contexts and civic engagement in the US*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.
- Polson, E. C.** (October 2009). *The learning center: New online resources for teachers and students*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.
- Polson, E. C.** (October 2009). *Negotiating a contract*. Panel presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO.
- Polson, E. C.** (October 2008). *Diversity and civic engagement*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY.
- Polson, E. C.** (October 2008). *A growing web of resources: The Association of Religion Data Archives*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, Louisville, KY.
- Polson, E. C.** (August 2008). *Geographies of care: The spatial distribution of US nonprofits*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
- Polson, E. C.** (March 2008). *The spatial distribution of charity: Inequality, religion, and the nonprofit sector*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- Polson, E. C.** (November 2007). *Do churches make good neighbors? The effects of congregational characteristics on civic participation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, FL.
- Finke, R., Bader, C. D., & **Polson, E. C.** (November 2007). *Faithful measures: Toward improving religion metrics*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, FL.
- Liu, E. Y., & **Polson, E. C.** (March 2007). *Ethnic heterogeneity and fear of crime: A multilevel analysis of neighborhoods in the greater Houston area*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, Albuquerque, NM.

Polson, E. C. (October 2006). *Taken for granted? Exploring the relationships between social service agencies and religious congregations*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR.

Dougherty, K. D., Johnson, B. R., & **Polson, E. C.** (October 2006). *Recovering the lost: Remeasuring US. religious affiliation*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, OR.

Mencken, F. C., Bader, C. D., & **Polson, E. C.** (March 2005). *Civic engagement and county economic growth in Appalachia during the 1990s*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association, New Orleans, LA.

Additional Research Experience

- 2010- Research Associate, *Merit beyond the Badges: Eagle Scouts in Later Life* (Byron R. Johnson and Rodney Stark, Principle Investigators).
- 2011-2012 Research Consultant, *Harrisburg YWCA Resident Satisfaction Survey*, Harrisburg, PA (Bill Reed, Director of Veterans' Services).
- 2009-2010 Research Consultant, *U.S. Congregational Life Survey* (Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, Principle Investigators).
- 2007-2010 Research Consultant, Agape Child and Family Services, Memphis, TN (David Jordan, Executive Director).
- June 2007 Participant, *Pollsters and Parishioners: Seminar on Survey Research and American Religion*, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.
- 2006-2010 Research Associate, The Association of Religion Data Archives (Roger Finke, Director).
- 2006-2009 Research Assistant, *America's Four Gods: A Qualitative Interview Project* (Christopher Bader and Paul Froese, Project Directors).
- 2005-2007 Research Consultant, Central Texas Fatherhood Initiative, Waco, TX (Steve Durand, Executive Director).
- 2004-2009 Research Assistant, *Baylor Longitudinal Survey of Religious Values and Behavior* (Christopher Bader and Paul Froese, Principal Investigators).

TEACHING ACTIVITY

Baylor University, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, Fall 2014-present

Assistant Professor

SWO 4322: Social Policy	Spring 2015, 2016
SWO 5182: Research Seminar	Fall 2014, 2015
SWO 5383: Research Project	Spring 2015, 2016
SWO 6343: Program Evaluation	Fall 2015

Messiah College, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, 2011-2014

Assistant Professor

SOAN 101: Introduction to Sociology	Fall and Spring 2011-2014
SOAN 271: Research Methods and Statistics	Spring 2012, 2013
SOAN 315: Urban Sociology	Spring 2012, 2014
SOAN 331: Sociocultural Theory	Fall 2011, 2012, 2013
SOAN 341: Religion and Society	Spring 2013
SOAN 356: Engaging Diversity and Inequality	Fall 2011, 2012, Summer 2013, 2014
SOAN 442: Senior Thesis	Fall 2013

Louisiana State University Shreveport, Department of History and Social Sciences, 2009-2011

Assistant Professor

SOCL 105: Introductory Sociology	Fall and Spring 2009-2011
SOCL 107: Gender, Race, and Class in Society	Spring 2010, 2011, Summer 2009-2011
SOCL 142: Contemporary Social Problems	Spring 2011, Summer 2010
SOCL 465: Sociological Theory	Fall 2009, 2010
SOCL 477: Sociology of Health	Spring 2010, 2011
SOCL 490: Sociology of Religion	Spring 2009, 2010

Baylor University, Department of Sociology, 2004-2008

Adjunct Instructor

SOC 4325: Sociology of Religion	Fall and Spring 2007-2008
---------------------------------	---------------------------

Teaching Assistant

SOC 1305: Introduction to Sociology	Spring 2007, Summer 2004
SOC 4325: Sociology of Religion	Fall 2004, 2005, 2006
SOC 4352: Criminology	Fall 2004

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Baylor University, School of Social Work

2014-	Curriculum Committee
2014-	Research Review Committee
2015-	Doctoral Program Committee
2015-	Alumni Relations Committee

Messiah College

2013-2014 Interim Chair, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
2011-2014 Chapter Representative, Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)
2012-2013 Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
2012-2014 General Education Committee
2012-2014 Advisor, Peace and Conflict Studies Special Interest Housing
2011-2014 Peace and Conflict Studies Committee
2011-2012 Honors Committee, Department of Social Work

Louisiana State University – Shreveport

2010-2011 Instruction and Professional Development Committee
2009-2011 Recruitment Committee, Department of History and Social Sciences

Baylor University, Department of Sociology

2006-2007 Graduate Student Association Representative, Department of Sociology

Peer Reviewer

The Journal of Ideology
The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Nonprofit and Management Leadership
Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly
Qualitative Sociology
The Review of Religious Research
Social Currents
Sociology of Religion

AWARDS AND HONORS

Fellow, Summer Faculty Institute, Baylor University, Waco, TX; Summer 2015.
Research Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2010-present.
Research Fellow, Center for Family and Community Ministries, Baylor University, Waco, TX;
2010-2012.
Outstanding Doctoral Student Paper Award for *Ethnic heterogeneity and fear of crime: A
multilevel analysis of neighborhoods in the greater Houston area*, Southwestern
Sociological Association; March 2007.
Distinguished Paper Award for *Civic engagement and county economic growth in Appalachia
during the 1990s*, Southwestern Sociological Association; March 2005.
Graduate Fellow, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX; 2004-2009.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA)

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)

Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Religious Research Association (RRA)

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

Southern Sociological Society (SSS)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available upon request.