

Steven Foertsch

Steven_Foertsch1@baylor.edu

Education

Baylor University, Waco, TX	Expected: 2024-2025
Doctor of Philosophy (ABD)	
Master of Arts	May 2022
Sociology of Religion	
The New School for Social Research, New York City, NY	May 2020
Master of Arts	
Political Sociology	
Assumption College, Worcester, MA	May 2017
Bachelor of Arts	
Majors in Sociology and History	
Minors in Psychology & Medieval and Early Modern Studies	

Specialties and Interests

Ideology; Deviance; Political Sociology; Sociology of Religion; Cultural Sociology; Mixed-Methods; Historical Comparative; Qualitative Methods; Quantitative Methods; Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory; Political Economy; Political Reactionary Groups; Organizations; Social and Political Philosophy.

Peer Reviewed Publications

2024	Foertsch, Steven , Rudra Chakraborty, and Paul Joosse. 2024. "Asymmetric Conflation: QAnon and the Political Cooptation of Religion." <i>Politics and Religion</i> 17(1): 58-80.
2023	Melton, J. Gordon, Ferguson, Todd, and Steven Foertsch . 2023. "The Others: Finding and Counting America's Invisible Churches." <i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i> 62(4): 901-912.
2023	Foertsch, Steven . 2023. "Metamodernity, American Transcendentalism and Transhumanism in Japanese Anime." <i>Anime, Philosophy, and Religion</i> . Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press.
2023	Foertsch, Steven and Christopher M. Pieper. 2023. "A Social History of Christofascism." <i>Routledge International Handbook of Sociology and Christianity</i> . Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.
2023	Jang, Sung Joon, Foertsch, Steven , Johnson, Byron R., Ozbay, Ozden, and Fatma Takmaz Demire. 2023. "Religiosity and Deviance among College Students in Turkiye: A Test of Ascetic Theory." <i>Deviant Behavior</i> 49(9): 1334-1348.
2022	Foertsch, Steven . 2022. "A Field Study Update on Organizational Satanism and Setianism in the United States." <i>Review of Religious Research</i> 64(1): 981-996.
2022	Foertsch, Steven . 2022. "Children of the Mind and the Concept of Edge and Center Nations." <i>Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy</i> vol. 5.
2022	Foertsch, Steven . 2022. "An Organizational Analysis of the Schismatic Church of Satan." <i>Review of Religious Research</i> 64(1): 55-76.

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Other Publications

- 2024 **Foertsch, Steven.** 2024. “A Book Review of Graeber, David, and Wengrow, David: *The Dawn of Everything*.” *Humanity and Society* 48(1): 100-102.
- 2023 **Foertsch, Steven.** 2023. “Michael L. Mickler, *The Unification Church Movement*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022, 82 pp.” *Journal of Daeseon Thought and the Religions of East Asia* 3(1): 161-163.
- 2021 **Foertsch, Steven.** 2021. “A Book Review of Adler, Gary: *Empathy Beyond US Borders—The Challenges of Transnational Civic Engagement*.” *Review of Religious Research* 63(1): 159–160.
- 2021 Interviewer and Transcriber, “Flavius Apollonius, *Magister Sacorum* of the Church of Satanic Brotherhood.” Held in special collections at UC Santa Barbara.
- 2020 Author, “Surveillance and Compliance”, “State of Exception”, and “Legal-Financial Architecture” for Northeast Jurisdiction of the United States. *The Global Response to COVID-19 Series*. The Young Scholars Initiative of the Institute for New Economic Thinking, the Association for Promotion of Political Economy and Law, the International University College of Turin and Bocconi University.
- Lead author on “Surveillance and Compliance”, second author on “State of Exception” and “Legal Financial Architecture”. Publications can be found on an interactive map here, use Chrome browser for compatibility:
<http://globalresponsescovid19.com/>
- 2019 Author, “The State of Housing 2019 Factsheet Series: Youth Homelessness Fact Sheet,” The United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- Published on the UN-Habitat website a fact sheet overviewing global youth homelessness, holistic quantitative surveys of causes and effects (purchasing, affordability, etc), qualitative case studies, and policy recommendations
- 2014-2019 Contributing Poet, Multiple Publishers
- Under a penname published thirty-four poems under eight publishers in print anthologies and online magazines, including one chapbook and seven collection books
- Winter 2016 Interviewer and Transcriber, Worcester Women’s Oral History Project
- Wrote interview transcript titled “Kristen Hartness-Law” that is held in the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University’s Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library of Women in America

Under Review or In Progress

Foertsch, Steven, and Christopher M. Pieper. “On Christofascism and Its Cases.” Revise and Resubmit at *Critical Research on Religion*.

Foertsch, Steven, and Heewon Yang. “Religious Organization Ecology and Schism in the Contemporary Unification Church.” Revise and Resubmit at *Nova Religio*.

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Foertsch, Steven. “Tracking Emergent Religious Groups in the US and Adherence Over Time.” Under review at *the Journal of CESNUR*.

Foertsch, Steven, and Kevin D. Dougherty. “Politics in Religious Organizations: The National Flag and Christian Nationalism in U.S. Congregations.”

Foertsch, Steven, and J. Gordon Melton. “Global East Religious Diaspora in the US.”

Andersson, Matthew A., **Steven Foertsch,** and Harrison S. Jackson. “Dignity as a Metamodern Ideal”

Wang, Xin, and **Steven Foertsch.** “Zhihu.com, the Evolution of the Public Sphere, and Biopolitique.”

Foertsch, Steven, and J. Gordon Melton. “Religious Others: RCMS Data and the Secularization Paradigm.”

Foertsch, Steven, and Harrison S. Jackson. “Social Reconstructionism, Meta-subjectivity, and Ideational Analysis: An Epistemological and Methodological Proposition.”

Foertsch, Steven. *A Formal Model of Religious Organization Schism.* Dissertation topic.

Foertsch, Steven. *Postmodern Popular Sovereignty and Social Integration: How Individuals Assert Themselves.*

Grants and Awards

2023	Baylor Graduate School Outstanding Research Award for Social Sciences, est. \$400
2023	Outstanding Doctoral Paper Award, Southwestern Sociological Association, \$300
2023	Baylor Libraries Read and Publish Funding, \$6195
2023	Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion Grant for Global East Diaspora Religion Study, \$7000
2021-2023	Travel Awards, Baylor Graduate School, est. \$4800
2022	American Sociological Association Religion Section Travel Grant, \$400
2021	Finalist, Three Minute Thesis Challenge, Baylor University
2019	Recognized for Outstanding Work in Political Sociology, The New School for Social Research
2019	Finalist, Three Minute Thesis Challenge, The New School for Social Research
2017-2018	Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, \$6495
2017-Present	Member, Alpha Kappa Delta (National Honor Society of Sociology)
2015-Present	Member, Phi Alpha Theta (National Honor Society of History)
2015-Present	Member, Eta Sigma Phi (National Honor Society of Classics)
2016	Moggio Essay Prize for Best Short History Essay, Assumption College, est. \$50

Scholarships

2020-Present	Full Tuition and Stipend, Baylor University, est. \$66500 yearly
2018-2020	New School for Social Research Merit Scholarship, est. \$16000 yearly
2015-2017	Christopher R Caron Scholarship, est. \$4000
2013-2017	D’Alzon Scholarship, \$16000 yearly
2014-2016	Assumption Grant, \$8750
2016	Manafort Construction’s Benefactors Scholarship, est. \$500

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Fellowships and Additional Training

2023-2024	Bernard Ramm Scholars Program, Truett Theological Seminary and Baylor University Graduate School, est. \$120
2023	Graduate Student Workshop, Chapman University and Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society, est. \$1200
2022	Don Lavoie Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, \$1250
2021	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Young Scholars Initiative
2021	Data Scholar Program, Baylor University Libraries
2016	The Dangremond Museum Studies Internship, est. \$500

Selected Research Experience

Summer 2022-Present	Research Assistant, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none">Research focus on East Asian diaspora religion, religious “others,” religion and deviance. Managed multiple research projects and saw them to publication. RA duties with J. Gordon Melton, Sung Joon Jang, Todd W. Ferguson, and Byron R. Johnson.
Summer 2020-Present	Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none">Focus on the sociology of religion, political sociology, international relations/political theory, subjective aspect of belief/agency, and ideology. RA duties on multiple projects with Kevin D. Dougherty and Christopher M. Pieper.
Spring- Winter 2020	Jurisdictional Rapporteur for North America, the Association for the Promotion of Political Economy and Law (APPEAL), Various Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed, wrote, and peer reviewed three informative policy reports on COVID-19 responses in North America focusing on the American Northeast. Covered topics ranging from non-democratic procedure, state surveillance and wealth distribution to local protests and economic stimulus.
Summer 2019	Consultant, The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, New York, NY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Served as a consultant for UNHSP (under Economic and Social development, or ECOSOC). Researched, designed, published, and presented fact sheets on global youth homelessness, housing affordability, climate displacement, and short-term rental city data for Habitat’s 2019 Housing Report during the summer semester through the New School’s United Nations Summer Study Practicum. The UN-Habitat Housing Report is a study of global housing issues published every ten years to assess challenges and make recommendations for promoting inclusive and affordable housing.
Winter 2017-Summer 2017	Research Assistant, Assumption College, Worcester, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted theology Professor Matthew Briel with editing and performing background research for his monographs on Greek Orthodox doctrine and its synthesis with western scholastic theologians (such as Aquinas), and figures Gennadios Scholarios, Gemistus Plethon, and Photios

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- Fall 2016 Interviewer and Transcriber, Worcester Women's Oral History Project, Worcester, MA
- Interviewed a notable Worcester woman on behalf of the WWOHP, and transcribed the interview for the Project's use

Selected Teaching Experience

- Fall 2022 Instructor of Record, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX
- SOC 1305: Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2022, 70 students
- Fall 2020-Summer 2022 Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX
- SOC 1305: Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2020 (2 sections), Spring 2021, Summer 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, roughly 540 students total
 - SOC 43C9: Senior Colloquium (Sociology Capstone), Fall 2020, Spring 2021 (2 sections), roughly 60 students total
- Fall 2017-Summer 2018 AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Member/Construction Crew Leader, Hartford County Habitat for Humanity, Hartford, CT
- Built houses throughout Hartford County for families without stable housing
 - Educated and oversaw volunteers on various construction projects as a crew leader and site host
 - Ran logistics for fellow construction leaders
 - Recognized for service during National Service Day by Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin
 - Helped run the HAHFH's 1st Annual Youth Advocacy and Engagement Conference
 - Participated in AmeriCorps Build-A-Thon in Wake County, North Carolina
- Spring 2017- Summer 2017 Educator, The Old North Foundation, Boston, MA
- Gave tours and informational lectures to visitors at Old North Church, a historical (revolutionary war era) and religious site which sees around 500,000 visitors a year

Invited Talks

- Summer 2023 Invited Public Speaker, "Religious Organization Ecology: Exploring Schisms in High-Tension Religious Groups," Asian Religious Connections Research Cluster, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, the University of Hong Kong
- Summer 2023 Speaker with Honorarium (\$200), "Schism in the Unification Church: Religious Economies, Organizational Ecology, and Intersectionality as Explanations," *Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia* and the Daesoon Academy of Sciences
- Spring 2023 Workshop Presenter, "Tracking Emergent Religious Groups in the US and Adherence Over Time," Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society at Chapman University
- Spring 2023 Invited Lecturer, "Political Economy and Mass Media in Postmodern America," Baylor Honors Colloquium

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- Spring 2022 Invited Lecturer, “Political Economy and Mass Media in Postmodern America,” Baylor Honors Colloquium
- Fall 2021 Invited Lecturer, “Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations,” Universidad Viña del Mar, Chile
- Spring 2017 Invited Presenter, “Chaplains, Prisoners, and CO’s- Oh My!: Investigating Prison Chaplains and their work in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” Massachusetts Department of Corrections, Assumption College

Presentations

- Fall 2023 Presenter, “Schism in the Unification Church: Religious Organization Ecology as Explanation,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
- Fall 2023 Presenter, “QAnon: Religion, Politics, or Both?” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Spring 2023 Presenter, “Transhumanism, Metamodernity, and American Transcendentalism: A Case Study of Five Japanese Anime,” Southwestern Social Science Association
- Summer 2022 Presenter, “Politics in Religious Organizations: Christian Nationalism and Display of the Flag in U.S. Congregations,” “On Christofascism,” American Sociological Association
- Summer 2022 Presenter, “Tracking Emergent Religious Groups in the US and Adherence Over Time,” the Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Spring 2022 Presenter, “Updating Frameworks: Satanism, Religious Economies, and Game Theory,” Southwestern Social Science Association
- Fall 2021 Presenter, “A Social History of Christofascism,” Association for Humanist Sociology
- Summer 2021 Presenter, “An Organizational Analysis of the Schismatic Church of Satan,” the Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Summer 2021 Presenter, “Intersections in Chilean Universities: Effects of the 2015 Education Reform on Class and Gender Equality” and “Migrations and Race in America: The Importance of Occupational Prestige in Moderating Xenophobia,” American Sociological Association
- Summer 2021 Presenter, “Indefinite Revolution, Black Lives Matter, and Extreme Accountability,” the Society for the Study of Social Problems
- Summer 2019 Presenter, “Catholicism, Cathars, Templars, and You,” the Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Summer 2019 Presenter, “Housing Report 2019,” United Nations Human Settlement Programme, the New School
- Spring 2019 Presenter and Finalist, “A Sociological Inquest into ‘Free Will,’” the New School for Social Research Three Minute Thesis Competition

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Language Capabilities, Skills, and Certifications

Latin - Reading skills developed over three courses

French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish- Reading with dictionary

Romanian—basic reading with dictionary

Mandarin Chinese- rudimentary competency developed over two courses

Certified in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing

Proficient in SAS and STATA Statistical Software Packages, Canvas learning software, Microsoft Office Suite

Baylor Data Scholar: Training in Microsoft Power BI, NVivo, Gephi, SimplyAnalytics, and ReferenceUSA

Professional Affiliations

The American Sociological Association (ASA)

--Sections: Sociology of Religion, Crime, Law, and Deviance, Theory, and Political Sociology.

The Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)

The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

The Religious Research Association (RRA)

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

The Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA)

Academic Service

Michael Harrington Award Committee for the SSSP Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, 2022

Reviewer for *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, *Politics and Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, and *Sociological Forum*

Recommendations

Upon request.