

Steven Foertsch

sfoertsc@nebrwesleyan.edu

Education

Baylor University, Waco, TX	August 2025
Doctor of Philosophy	
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; Sociology of Deviance; Sociology of Religion; Political Sociology; Social Theory; Mixed-Methods; Historical Comparative Methods; Political Economy; Social and Political Philosophy.

Peer Reviewed Publications

2026	Foertsch, Steven. 2026. "Defending Critical Epistemology: The Case of Christian Nationalism and Christofascism." <i>Sociological Forum</i> 41(2):164-8.
2025	Foertsch, Steven and Heewon Yang. 2026. "Religious Organization Ecology and Schism in the Contemporary Unification Church." <i>Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies</i> 3(1): 14-40.
2025	Foertsch, Steven, and Harrison S. Jackson (sharing 1 st). 2025. "Meta-Subjectivity and Ideational Analysis." <i>Journal of Metamodern Theory and Praxis</i> 2(1): 17-36.
2025	Foertsch, Steven, and Kevin D. Dougherty. 2025. "Worshipping with the US Flag." <i>Religions</i> 16 (6): 690.
2025	Foertsch, Steven. 2025. "Tracking Emergent Religious Groups in the US and Adherence Over Time." <i>The Journal of CESNUR</i> 9(2): 26-47.
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.

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- 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." *Deviant Behavior* 49(9): 1334-1348.
- 2022 **Foertsch, Steven**. 2022. "A Field Study Update on Organizational Satanism and Setianism in the United States." *Review of Religious Research* 64(1): 981-996.
- 2022 **Foertsch, Steven**. 2022. "Children of the Mind and the Concept of Edge and Center Nations." *Journal of Science Fiction and Philosophy* vol. 5.
- 2022 **Foertsch, Steven**. 2022. "An Organizational Analysis of the Schismatic Church of Satan." *Review of Religious Research* 64(1): 55-76.

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 Daesoon 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:
https://mapster.me/client_files/covid-map-reports/
- 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

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- 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

Wang, Xin, Yang Hai, and **Steven Foertsch**. "The Postdigital Parallel Academy: Bilibili and the Reconfiguration of Knowledge Production in China." Under review at *Discover Education*.

Foertsch, Steven, and Christopher M. Pieper. “On Christofascism and Its Cases.” Under review at the *Journal of Right-Wing Studies*.

Foertsch, Steven. *Schism in Religious Organizations: A New Unified Theory*. Book project, Bloomsbury Academic, *Religion at The Boundaries* Series.

Foertsch, Steven. “Perspective: Withering New Religions Studies? Safe Harbor in Criminology” Under review at *Nova Religio*.

Foertsch, Steven, Yang, Heewon, and Yang Hai. “统一教的宗教组织生态与分裂.” Under review at *Fo Guang Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*.

Foertsch, Steven, and Fábio Py (sharing 1st). “Exporting Sölle’s Obedience: Transnational Christofascism.”

Fábio Py and **Steven Foertsch**. “Staging a Christofascist Succession: Flávio Bolsonaro, Digital Scenes, and the 2026 Brazilian Election.”

Foertsch, Steven, Michael Ohsfeldt, Paul Joosse, and Paul Froese. “Political Ritual and Cult of Personality in Mao’s China.”

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

Parker, Marceline, Lilly Penner, and **Steven Foertsch**. "Not This Sh*t Again!" High-Tension Religions and the Rise of Coercive Control in Child Protection Law."

Foertsch, Steven, Danica Jenck, and Harrison S. Jackson. “The Construction of Collective Persons as Socio-Ontological Objects of Group Identification.”

Foertsch, Steven. “Bridging the Divided Self: Psychoanalytic Integration of East and West in James DeKorne’s *Gnostic Book of Changes*.”

Grants and Awards

2026	Nominated, Dr. Margaret J. Prouty Faculty Teaching Award, Nebraska Wesleyan University
2024-2025	Grant to Study Ex-Jehovah’s Witnesses, KH Foundation, est. \$40,000
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

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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

2020-2025	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

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 Teaching Experience

August 2025-Present	Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE ▪ CRIM 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice—Fall 2025, 16 students, Spring 2026, 17 students ▪ CRIM 3150: Criminology—Spring 2026, 20 students ▪ SOC 1110: Introduction to Sociology—Spring 2026, 14 students ▪ SOC 1330/2330: Race and Ethnicity—Fall 2025, 26 students ▪ SOC 2380/3380: Women and Crime—Fall 2025, 20 students
Fall 2022, Spring 2025	Instructor of Record, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX ▪ SOC 1305: Introduction to Sociology—Fall 2022, 70 students

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- SOC 4352: Criminology (Deviance and Crime)—Spring 2025, 70 students

Fall 2020-Summer 2022,
Fall 2024

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
- SOC 4393: Sociology of Aging—Fall 2024, roughly 30 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

Selected Research Experience

April 2026-Present

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Wuhan University, HB, CN

- Shared duties involve soliciting manuscripts, fielding and providing peer reviews, and editorial guidance. The *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies* is a semi-annual English language publication put out by Wuhan University's School of Philosophy. It seeks to bridge the East/West divide on the topic of new and high-tension religious groups.

August 2025-Present

Affiliated Researcher, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX

- Research focus on East Asian diaspora religion, religious "others," religion and deviance.

Spring 2023-Present

Contributor, Online Spiritual Atlas of the Global East, Purdue University, Various Locations

- Aggregated and contributed data from field study to OSAGE's GIS project charting all East Asian religious diaspora religious groups in the United States. Assisted with feedback and classification of religious groups on various drafts of the mapping project.

Summer 2022-August 2025

Research Assistant, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX

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- 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-August 2025 Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Waco, TX

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Invited Talks

Fall 2026 (Anticipated) Invited Public Speaker, “A Blurry Boundary: Exploring Politics and Religion in Christofascism and QAnon,” Center for Dewey Studies, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Winter 2026 Invited Public Speaker, “A Blurry Boundary: Exploring Politics and Religion in Christofascism and QAnon,” Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Fall 2025 Invited Panelist, “Life on the Academic Job Market,” UCF Advanced Proseminar, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida

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Fall 2024	Invited Presenter/Panelist, “Transhumanism, Metamodernity, and American Transcendentalism: A Case Study of Five Japanese Anime,” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor University
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,” <i>Journal of Daesoon Thought and the Religions of East Asia</i> 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
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

Spring 2025	Presenter, “The United Methodist Church Schism and Religious Organization Ecology,” Eastern Sociological Society
Fall 2024	Presenter, “Meta-Subjectivity and Ideational Analysis,” Japan hub for Innovative Global Education (JIGE) 2024 Global Doctoral Colloquium, Tohoku University
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

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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

Notable Media Mentions and Contributions

George Washington University’s Illiberalism Studies Program series, *Frontiers of American Reaction*: <https://www.illiberalism.org/the-fracturing-coalition-of-the-new-american-right-trump-support-in-christian-nationalism-qanon-and-christofascism/>

Southern Poverty Law Center: <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/hatewatch/christian-supremacy-appeal-heaven-flag-history/>

CounterPunch: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/10/17/the-threat-of-christofascism/>

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, CITI/IRB Social and Behavioral Research

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)

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--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)

Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

The Southwestern Social Science Association (SSSA)

Academic Service

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

Ph.D. Advising: Yang Hai, Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University

Harrison S. Jackson, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Philosophy, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Deputy Editor in Chief, *Wuhan Journal of Cultic Studies*, Wuhan University, HB, CN (April 2026-Present).

Reviewing Editor, Springer Nature

Reviewer Board Member (Volunteer), *Religions*, *Social Sciences*, and *Societies*. (May 2026-Present)

Ad-hoc Reviewer for *Behavioral Sciences*; *Encyclopedia*; *Histories*; *Humanities*; *Humanities and Social Sciences*

Communications; *Humans*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*; *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*; *Politics and Religion*; *Religions*; *Review of Religious Research*; *Social Sciences*; *Societies*; *Sociological Forum*; *the Sociological Quarterly*; *Sociology of Religion*; *Sustainability*; *World*.

University and Community Service

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, At-Large Member

Formal and informal undergraduate advising, roughly 8 students 2025-6

Judge for National History Day, Nebraska State Contest, April 2026.