Curriculum Vitae

**Nathaniel Porter**

Department of Sociology ● The Pennsylvania State University

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**Education**

PhD Candidate, Sociology**.** *The Pennsylvania State University***.**

Doctoral Minor in Social Thought

Certificate in Quantitative Methodology

Dissertation: Religious islands, partners, and bridges: Studying cross-denominational shared ideas using book co-purchase networks

Committee: *Roger Finke*, Diane Felmlee, Alan Sica, Stephen Browne

MA, Sociology**.** *The Pennsylvania State University***.** May 2013.

Thesis: Social Networks and Religious Identity Salience in Adolescence: A New Baseline for Peer Networks and Religious Development

Committee: *Roger Finke*, Diane Felmlee, Derek Kreager

MA, Systematic Theology & Ministry in Daily Life*. Luther Seminary*. May, 2009.

Thesis:Imago Christi and the Japanese Imagination: Toward a Narrative Contextual Theology of Vocation

BS, Sociology. *Western Washington University*. June, 2005.

BA, East Asian Studies. *Western Washington University*. June, 2005.

**Research and Teaching Interests**

Social Network Analysis, Computational Sociology, Quantitative Methods, Data Visualization, Sociology of Religion, Social Theory

**Awards and Fellowships**

Outstanding Paper Award. Penn State Social Thought Conference. 2015. “Mix, Match, and Split: Accidental Algorithmic Intrusions on the Democratizing Premise of the Internet.” Award amount: $250.

Runner-up, Working Paper Award. Penn State Sociology Graduate Student Paper Competition. 2015. “Understanding Religion through Book Co-Purchasing Networks: A Pilot Study.”

QuaSSI (Quantitative Social Science Initiative) Graduate Research Predoctoral Fellow, Penn State Big Data Social Science Program, 2013-2014.

Participant, Graduate Student Workshop at the Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Society. June 7-8, 2013.

University Graduate Fellowship. The Pennsylvania State University. 2011.

Research and Creative Opportunities for Undergraduates Grant. Western Washington University Bureau for Faculty Research. 2004. Award amount: $500.

Carl H. Simpson Memorial Scholarship in Sociology. Western Washington University. 2004-2005.

**Peer Reviewed Articles**

Porter, Nathaniel D. 2016. “Preparation in Context: Comparative Outcomes of Alternative Clergy Training in the ELCA.” *Review of Religious Research* 58(2):319-338. DOI: 10.1007/s13644-016-0246-5.

**Book Chapters**

Porter, Nathaniel D. and Christopher D. Bader. Forthcoming. “Pathways to Discovery and Enlightenment: Amazon's Recommendation System as a Source of Information on Religious and Paranormal Consumption Patterns.” Chapter 10 in *Faithful Measures: Applications in the Art and Science of Measuring Religion*, ed. Roger Finke and Christopher D. Bader. NYU Press.

Baker, Joseph O., Jonathan P. Hill and Nathaniel D. Porter. Forthcoming. “Using Mechanical Turk and Quasi-experimental Designs to Test and Evaluate New Measures.” Chapter 3 in *Faithful Measures: Applications in the Art and Science of Measuring Religion*, ed. Roger Finke and Christopher D. Bader. NYU Press.

Nathaniel D. Porter. Forthcoming. “Reading the Christian Family: What book-buying patterns reveal about how Americans define ‘Christian Families.’” Lutheran University Press.

**Articles and Chapters in Preparation**

Nathaniel D. Porter, Ashton M. Verdery and S. Michael Gaddis. “Big Data’s Little Brother: Enhancing Big Data in the Social Sciences with Micro-Task Marketplaces.”

Nathaniel D. Porter, Ashton M. Verdery, S. Michael Gaddis, and Shawn Bauldry. "Mturktools: Commands for Standardized Reporting on Amazon Mechanical Turk for Research."

Nathaniel D. Porter. “Family, Peers and Religious Communities in the Formation of Adolescent Religious Identity.” (MA Thesis).

**Book Reviews and Research Briefs**

China House Church Methodology Brief. August 2014 (unpublished). Prepared for Fenggang Yang, Purdue University. Described possible approaches and limitations to integrating network data in a referral-sample study of Chinese Christians.

Review of *Secularization and its Discontents*, by Rob Warner. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2013, 52(1):229-230.

**“**Briefly Noted” contributor, *Contemporary Sociology*. 2012-2014 (titles follow).

*Café Society*, by Aksel Tjora and Graham Scambler.

*God Talk: Experimenting with the Religious Causes of Public Opinion*, by Paul A. Djupe and Brian R. Calfano.

*Fashioning Japanese Subcultures*, by Yuniya Kawamura.

*The Emerging Church: Religion at the Margins*, by Josh Packard.

*Sociologists and Social Progress: How Defeating Narratives Affect U.S. and Caribbean Sociological Academies*, by O. Alexander Miller.

*The Pursuit of Happiness: An Economy of Well-being*, by Carol Graham.

**Open Access Datasets Collected**

“Religion and Spirituality Book Co-Purchasing.” Principal Investigators: The Association of Religion Data Archives, Nathaniel D. Porter, Chris Bader and Muhammed Idris. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Forthcoming at The Association of Religion Data Archives.

“Religious and Irreligious Identity Quasi-Experimental Data.” Principal Investigators: The Association of Religion Data Archives, Joseph O. Baker, Jonathan P. Hill, and Nathaniel D. Porter. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Forthcoming at The Association of Religion Data Archives.

“Book Co-Purchase Network Samples.” Principal Investigators: Nathaniel D. Porter and Muhammed Idris. Files at <http://github.com/ndporter/bcns>.

“Google Ngrams Data, 1800-2000.” Principal Investigators: The Association of Religion Data Archives, Roger Finke, Jennifer M. McClure, and Nathaniel D. Porter. Funded by the John Templeton Foundation. Available at <http://thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/NGRAMS.asp>.

**Research Experience**

Research Assistant, Ashton Verdery. 2015-Present.

Collected crowdsourced data using Amazon Mechanical Turk (AMT) platform, including survey and HTML/Javascript design, designed randomized survey experiment, implementation, and worker evaluation; lead author of methodology paper on using AMT to augment big data; programmed suite of Stata tools to automatically process raw AMT data; Built web-ready interactive population pyramid in D3 (JavaScript)

Research Associate, The Association of Religion Data Archives. 2011-Present.

Assisted in management and expansion of premier religious social science data archive; prepared codebooks and data for publication; responded to public inquiries; participated in collaborative research on measuring religion; collected and enhanced original data

Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) Consultant, *Faith Between Cultures: Exploring Latina Women’s Conversion to Islam in South Texas*. 2013-2014. Principal Investigator: Gabriel Acevedo, University of Texas at San Antonio.

**Programming Languages and Statistical Tools**

Primary languages:

Python (programming, text processing, web scraping, data management)

Stata (multilevel and longitudinal, event history, propensity score, multiple imputation, data management)

Html/CSS/JavaScript (online data collection and experiments, data visualization with d3.js)

Secondary languages:

R (networks, visualization, statistics)

SQL (SQLite/MySQL; database management and access)

SAS (time-varying effects models, replication, data management)

Additional tools:

Specialized network analysis tools (Pajek, UCINET, Gephi)

HLM (multi-level models)

MPlus (measurement models and SEM)

SPSS (general statistics and data management, event history)

**Professional Presentations**

“Studying Paranormal Beliefs through Book Networks.” Nathaniel D. Porter and Chris Bader. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR). Atlanta, GA. October 2016.

“Using Mechanical Turk for Big Data.” Nathaniel D. Porter, Ashton Verdery and S. Michael Gaddis, American Sociological Association (ASA). Methodology Section paper session. Seattle, WA. August 2016.

“Reading the Christian family: What book-buying patterns reveal about how Americans define "Christian Families." Convocation of Teaching Theologians. Saint Peter, MN. August 2016.

“Inter-denominational Shared Knowledge: Christian Book Co-Purchase Networks.” SSSR. Newport Beach, CA. October 25, 2015.

“Understanding Religion through Book Co-Purchasing Networks: A Pilot Study.” (Religion Section Roundtable). ASA. Chicago, IL. August 23, 2015.

“Facebook, Twitter, and Polarization: The Implications of Content Personalization for Religiously-Charged Online Conversation.” Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR). Chicago, IL. August 22, 2015.

“Mix, match, and split: Accidental algorithm intrusions on the democratizing premise of the internet.” Penn State Social Thought Conference (STC). April 11, 2015.

"Differentiating Irreligious Subcultures through Cultural Consumption Networks." SSSR. Indianapolis, IN. October 31, 2014.

“Bits and Cites: Scholarly Memory in Pre- and Early-Digital Research.” STC. April 5, 2014.

“Adapting RDS to Big Data: Known Dependent Sampling in Online Recommender Data.” Sunbelt XXXiV (International Network for Social Network Analysis), Saint Petersburg, FL. February 22, 2014. With Muhammed Idris.

“Popularity, Autonomy and Moral Communities: School Friendship Networks and Religious Change.” SSSR. Boston, MA, November 9, 2013.

“Through the Lens of 8 Million Books: Religious Trends from 1800 to 2009.” Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, & Culture. Washington, DC, April 13, 2013. Roger Finke, Laurence Iannaccone, and Nathaniel Porter.

“When is a Change not a Change? Improving the Measurement of Liminal Religious Identity.” SSSR. Phoenix, AZ, November 9, 2012.

“Second-Career Spiritual Capital: Evaluating the Success and Shortcomings of an Alternative Ministry Preparation Program.” Religious Research Association (RRA). Phoenix, AZ, November 10, 2012.

“Ethics and its Sources: Considering Religious and Irreligious Vocational Ideology.” ASR. Denver, CO, August 17, 2012.

“Obeying Our Demon: Enriching the Understanding of Community and Obligation Using Weber’s Secularized Philosophy of Vocation.” STC, April 7, 2012.

**Service and Leadership**

Treasurer: Penn State Social Thought Student Group. 2013-15.

Conference Co-organizer: Penn State Social Thought Conference. April 2014, April 2015.

Creator and Organizer: Social Thought Writing Month. 2014-2015.

Voting Delegate: Penn State University Graduate Council (Committee on Programs and Courses). 2014-15.

Co-Chair: Graduate and Professional Student Association Student Health Insurance Committee. 2014-15.

Chair: Graduate and Professional Student Association Parents and Committed Couples Committee. 2014-15.

Treasurer: Penn State Progressive Student Coalition. 2014-15.

Ad-hoc reviewer, convener, and discussant. American Sociological Association, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Religious Research Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. 2011-Present.

Coordinator: Thurston County Faith-Based Youth Development Coalition. 2008-2009.

Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Lacey, WA. 2008-2009.

President: Western Washington University Demography Club. 2004-2005.

**Teaching Experience**

Capstone Writing Seminar in Sociology (SOC 400W). Penn State University. Summer 2015.

Guest lecture on Vocation and Economic Life in Introduction to Sociology (SOC 003). Penn State University. March 26, 2014.

“Choosing a Social Network Tool: An Introduction for Non-specialists.” Penn State University Quantitative Social Science Initiative. December 5, 2013. Hands-on workshop. Archive online at <http://github.com/ndporter/snademo>.

Director of Youth and Family Ministries, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Lacey, WA. 2008-2009. Designed and taught youth and adult Christian education classes; coordinated all educational ministries.

Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (LD 4520). Teaching Assistant. Summer 2008. Taught and evaluated all quantitative material. Luther Seminary.

Introduction to Mixed Methods Research (LD 4520).Teaching Assistant. Summer 2007. Provided statistical tutoring and review sessions. Luther Seminary.

On-call Statistics Tutor. D.Min. and Ph.D. Programs. Luther Seminary. 2007-2008.

**Foreign Languages**

Japanese (college minor), German (intermediate)

**Professional Organization Memberships**

American Sociological Association (Sections: Science, Knowledge and Technology; Mathematical Sociology; Methodology; Religion; Theory; Social Psychology; Culture)

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Religious Research Association

International Network for Social Network Analysis

American Academy of Religion