

JOEL THIESSEN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

- Sociology of Religion
- Religion in Canada
- Christianity
- Congregations
- Religious Nones
- Millennials
- Qualitative Methods

EMPLOYMENT

2021-present Department Chair of Social Sciences, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2017-present Professor of Sociology, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2016-present Director – Flourishing Congregations Institute, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2013-2017 Associate Professor of Sociology, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2008-2013 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ambrose University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

EDUCATION

2011 Ph.D. University of Waterloo, Department of Sociology Dissertation Topic: “Active and Marginal Religious Affiliates in Canada: Describing the Difference and the Difference it Makes” (Supervisor – Dr. Lorne L. Dawson)

2006 M.A. University of Waterloo, Department of Sociology Thesis Topic: “The Nature and Significance of Religion and Spirituality in Canada: Examining Reginald Bibby’s Renaissance Thesis” (Supervisor – Dr. Lorne L. Dawson)

2004 B.A. Nazarene University College, Department of Behavioural Science Honours Project Topic: “Consequences of Globalization for Religious Beliefs and Practices in Canada” (Supervisor – Dr. Michael Wilkinson)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2021 McAlpine, Bill, Joel Thiessen, Keith Walker, and Arch Wong. *Signs of Life: Catholic, Mainline, and Conservative Protestant Congregations in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Tyndale Academic Publishing.
- 2020 Thiessen, Joel and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme. *None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the U.S. and Canada*. New York, NY: New York University Press.
- 2019 Bibby, Reginald, Joel Thiessen, and Monetta Bailey. *The Millennial Mosaic: How Pluralism and Choice Are Shaping Canadian Youth and The Future of Canada*. Toronto, ON: Dundurn Press.
- 2015 Thiessen, Joel. *The Meaning of Sunday: The Practice of Belief in a Secular Age*. Montreal, QC: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- 2014 Dawson, Lorne L. and Joel Thiessen. *The Sociology of Religion: A Canadian Perspective*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Journal Articles

- 2021 Wong, Arch, Joel Thiessen, Bill McAlpine, and Keith Walker. "Discipleship from Catholic, Mainline and Conservative Protestant Congregant Perspectives in Canada." *Journal of Beliefs and Values*.
- 2021 Thiessen, Joel, Kennedy Quantz, Arch Wong, Keith Walker, and Bill McAlpine. "Evangelistic Belief and Behavior among Canadian Congregants." *Studies in Religion*.
- 2021 Thiessen, Joel. "Evangelism and 'Nones and Dones' in Canada." *Northwest Institute for Ministry Education Research*. Available at: <https://nimer.ca/evangelism-and-nones-and-dones-in-canada/>.
- 2020 Wilkins-Laflamme, Sarah and Joel Thiessen. "Religious Socialization and Millennial Involvement in Organized and Digital Nonbelief Activities." *Secularism and Nonreligion* 9 (2): 1-15.
- 2019 Wong, Arch, Bill McAlpine, Joel Thiessen, and Keith Walker. "Are you Listening? The Relevance of what Pastoral/Denominational Leaders and Theological Educators are Saying about Preparing Leaders for Ministry." *Practical Theology* 12 (3).
- 2019 Thiessen, Joel, Arch Wong, Bill McAlpine and Keith Walker. "What is a Flourishing Congregation? Leader Perceptions, Definitions, and Experiences." *Review of Religious Research* 61 (1): 13-37.

- 2017 Thiessen, Joel and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme. "Becoming a Religious None: Irreligious Socialization and Disaffiliation." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56 (1): 64-82.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. "A Sociological Description and Defence of Secularization in Canada." *Post-Christendom Studies* 1: 97-124.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. "Kids, You Make the Choice: Religious and Secular Socialization among Marginal Affiliates and Nonreligious Individuals." *Secularism and Nonreligion* 5 (1): 1-16
- 2013 Thiessen, Joel and Bill McAlpine. "The Function of Sacred Space: A Sociological and Theological Examination." *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church* 13 (2): 133-146.
- 2012 Thiessen, Joel. "Marginal Religious Affiliates in Canada: Little Reason to Expect Increased Church Involvement." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 49 (1): 69-90.
- 2010 Thiessen, Joel. "Churches are Not Necessarily the Problem: Lessons Learned from Christmas and Easter Affiliates." *Church and Faith Trends* 3 (3): 1-24.
- 2008 Thiessen, Joel and Lorne L. Dawson. "Is There a 'Renaissance' of Religion in Canada? A Critical Look at Bibby and Beyond." *Studies in Religion* 37 (3-4): 389-415. (*Reprinted in Beaman, Lori G., ed. 2012. *Religion and Canadian Society: Contexts, Identities, and Strategies*. 2nd Edition. Pp.91-114).

Chapters in Books

- 2021 Thiessen, Joel and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme. "Nice, Tolerant, Indifferent Canadians: Religious Nones North of the 49th." *Secularity and NonReligion in North America*, edited by Jesse M. Smith and Ryan T. Cragun. New York, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. "Sociological Foundations of Christian Morality." Pp. 47-61 in *Christian Morality: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Thinking about Contemporary Moral Issues*, edited by G.W. Sutton and B. Schmidly. Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick.
- 2013 Thiessen, Joel. "Missionaries in our own Backyard: The Canadian Context." Pp. 127-144 in *Missionary Methods: Research, Reflections, and Realities*, edited by Craig Ott and J.D. Payne. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

Reports

- 2021 Alpha Canada and Flourishing Congregations Institute. "The Priority and Practice of Evangelism: Canadian Church Leader Perspectives in 2021."

- 2021 Thiessen, Joel. "Religious Opinions, Beliefs and Attitudes in Canada." Eurel Project. Available at: <https://eurel.info/spip.php?rubrique1131>.
- 2015 Bird, Warren, Joel Thiessen, and 13 others. "Large Canadian Churches Draw an Estimated 300,000 Worshipers Each Week: Findings from a National Study." *Leadership Network*. 12 pages.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Ryan Burge's *The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going*. *Review of Religious Research* 63 (3): 487-488.
- 2020 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Pamela E. Klassen and Monique Scheer's *The Public Work of Christmas: Difference and Belonging in Multicultural Societies*. *Sociology of Religion* 81 (4): 494-496.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Josh Packard and Ashleigh Hope's *Church Refugees: Sociologists Reveal Why People are DONE with Church but not Their Faith*. *Sociology of Religion* 77 (4): 439-440.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Christel Manning's *Losing Our Religion: How Unaffiliated Parents Are Raising Their Children*. *American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion Newsletter* Fall 2016: 6-7.
- 2016 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Sam Reimer and Michael Wilkinson's *A Culture of Faith: Evangelical Congregations in Canada*. *Sociology of Religion* 77 (1): 104-106.
- 2015 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Douglas J. Davies and Adam J. Powell's *Sacred Selves, Sacred Settings: Reflecting Hans Mol*. *Reviews in Religion and Theology* 22 (4): 325-327.
- 2014 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of David A. Williamson and George Yancey's *There is No God: Atheists in America*. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 53 (2): 453-455.
- 2011 Thiessen, Joel. Book Review of Reginald Bibby's *Beyond the Gods and Back: Religions' Demise and Rise and Why it Matters*. *Church and Faith Trends* 4 (1): 1-4.

RESEARCH AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2020-2023 Council for Christian Colleges and Universities Networking Grant, "Flourishing Congregations in Canada," \$30,000 (USD) (Michael Wilkinson, Principle Investigator)
- 2020-2027 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, "Understanding Nonreligion in a Complex Future," \$2,500,000 (Collaborator; Lori Beaman Principle Investigator)
- 2018-2019 Ambrose University Research Grant Fund, "None of the Above: Having No Religion in the United States and Canada," \$5,000

2018	Visiting Research Fellowship, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (University of Victoria)
2017-2020	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant, “Flourishing Canadian Congregations in Catholic, Mainline and Conservative Protestant Sectors,” \$163,605 (Keith Walker (PI), Joel Thiessen, Arch Wong, and Bill McAlpine)
2017-2019	Stronger Together Research Grant, “Flourishing Congregations Institute Research – National Survey Phase,” \$56,000 (Joel Thiessen (PI), Arch Wong, and Bill McAlpine)
2017-2019	Jack Shand Research Award (Society for the Scientific Study of Religion), “None of the Above: Having No Religion in the United States and Canada,” \$5,000 (USD) (Joel Thiessen and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme)
2015	Ambrose University Research Fund Grant, “Flourishing Congregations: What is Working and Why it Matters,” \$5,000
2012-2013	Church of the Nazarene Canada Research Grant, “Religion along the Continuum,” \$12,000
2008-2010	The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism Healthy Churches Research Grant, “Active and Marginal Religious Affiliates in Canada: Describing and Explaining the Gap,” \$13,280
2008-2010	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship (declined in favour of accepting teaching position at Ambrose), \$35,000
2006-2007	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, \$15,000
2005-2006	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Graduate Scholarship, \$17,500
2005-2010	University of Waterloo President’s Graduate Scholarship, \$17,500
2004-2010	University of Waterloo Graduate Scholarship, \$14,500
2004	Graduated with Summa Cum Laude
2004	Graduating Class Valedictorian
2003-2004	Burton Robertson General Scholarship, \$500
2002-2003	Elma L. Klautt Memorial Scholarship, \$500
2001-2004	Dean’s List

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2020

- “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada.” “Meet-the-Authors” session for Nonreligion in a Complex Future Project, Online (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme).
- “Why Tell Others About Jesus When You Can Just Be Nice?” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Accepted for Presentation (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada.” Author of “Authors Meets Critics” session for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Accepted for Presentation (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada.” Author of “Authors

Meets Critics” session for Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting in London, ON. Accepted for Presentation (cancelled due to COVID-19).

2019

- “Canada’s Churches: Realities, Challenges, Opportunities, and Responses” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.
- “Flourishing Congregations & Leadership: Canadian Perceptions and Experiences” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.
- “College and University Academics in Applied Research” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO.
- “Views of the ‘Other’: The Religiously Affiliated and Unaffiliated in Canada” for Non-Religion and Secularity Workshop in Waterloo, ON.
- “Religious None Perceptions toward the Religiously Affiliated in the United States and Canada” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in New York, NY.
- “Religious Nones and Civic Engagement in Canada” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Canadian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC.

2018

- “Pulpit and Pew: National Survey Results in Canadian Congregations” (with Arch Wong, Keith Walker, and Bill McAlpine) for Religious Research Association Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- “Religious Nones’ Socio-Political Attitudes and Behaviors in North America” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.
- “Religiosity, Spirituality, and Secularity among Nones in the United States and Canada” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Conference, in London, UK.
- “Understanding the ‘Religious None’ Landscape in Canada.” Lecture at Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, in Victoria, BC.

2017

- “Creative Knowledge Mobilization” for Engaging Communities through Research Event, in Waterloo, ON.
- “Building a Comprehensive Model for Religious None Growth in North America” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.
- “Comparing Religious Nones in Canada and the United States” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in Montreal, QC.

2016

- “Flourishing Congregations in Canada: Preliminary Observations” (with Arch Wong) for

- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- “Religious Nones in Canada: Freedom from Religion” for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- Panel Member in “Author Meets Critics” session with Christel Manning (author of *Losing Our Religion*) for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- “The Meaning of Sunday: The Practice of Belief in a Secular Age.” Author of “Author Meets Critics” session for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA.
- “Canadian Large Church Survey: Introduction and Demographic Realities” for Canadian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Calgary, AB.
- “The Meaning of Sunday: The Practice of Belief in a Secular Age.” Author of “Author Meets Critics” session for Canadian Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Calgary, AB.
- “A Glimpse into the Future in the United States: Religious Nones in Canada.” Invited presenter for Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO.
- “Religious Nones in Canada: A Qualitative Exploration” for Evangelical Missiological Society (Canada Region) in Calgary, AB.

2015

- “Too Much of a Good Thing? Faculty and Work-Life Balance” for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- “Becoming a Religious None: Irreligious Socialization and Disaffiliation” (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Ottawa, ON.
- “Where is the Evidence? People who Privilege Science over Religion.” Invited presenter for Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum Workshop in Toronto, ON.
- “USA/Canada Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Consultation.” Invited presenter (with Rich Houseal) for Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers Annual meeting in Kansas City, MO.
- “Religious Nones in Canada and the United States.” Invited presenter for M15 Conference in Kansas City, MO.

2014

- “The Afterlife that Few Desire” for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.
- “Religious Nones in Canada: A Qualitative Exploration” for Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Annual Meeting in Claremont, CA.
- “Dwindling Demand: Abandoning Religious Involvement and Affiliation in Canada” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.
- “Kids, You Make the Choice: Religious Socialization in Canada” for Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.
- “Religious Nones in Canada: A Qualitative Exploration.” Panel Organizer and Presenter for

The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Catharines, ON.

2012

- “Missionaries in our own Backyard: The Canadian Context.” Invited presenter for Evangelical Missiological Society Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.
- “Secularization not Polarization.” Session Convener and Participant in “Author Meets Critics” session with Reginald Bibby (author of *Beyond the Gods and Back*) for Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Waterloo, ON.
- “The Function of Sacred Space in Church Settings.” Session Convener and Presenter (with William McAlpine) for Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Waterloo, ON.
- “Christianity in Multicultural Canada.” Invited Plenary Speaker for Evangelical Missiological Society (Canada Region) in Edmonton, AB.

2010

- “Rational Choice Theory and Religion in Canada: An Empirical Assessment” for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

2009

- “A Demand Side Explanation for Religious Behaviour: The Canadian Circumstance.” Session Convener and Presenter for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.
- “A ‘Religious Renaissance’ in Canada? Are Marginal Religious Affiliates Ready to Return to the Fold?” for Universitair Centrum Sint-Ignatius Antwerpen Summer School in Antwerp, Belgium.

2006

- “Organized Religion and Private Spirituality in Canada: Religious Renaissance or Continued Secularization?” Session Convener and Presenter for Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.
- “Is Canada Experiencing a Religious Renaissance?” for Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, ON.
- “The Nature and Significance of Religion and Spirituality in Canada: Examining Reginald Bibby’s Renaissance Thesis” for University of Waterloo Graduate Student Research Conference in Waterloo, ON.
- “The Nature and Significance of Private and Public Religion in Canada: Examining Reginald Bibby’s Renaissance Thesis.” Invited Presenter for Nazarene University College Behavioural Science Conference in Calgary, AB.

2004

- “The Consequences of Globalization for Religious Beliefs and Practices in Canada” for

Nazarene University College Behavioural Science Conference in Calgary, AB.

- “U2 and Social Justice: Public Religion and Christian Responses to Social Issues.”
Conference Presentation for Institute for Christian Studies in Calgary, AB.

TEACHING

- SO 121, Principles of Sociology
- SO 200, Sociology of Families
- SO 205, Sociology of Sport
- SO 220, Social Problems
- BHS 240, Research Methods
- SO 240, Sociology of Education
- SO 311, Contemporary Social Theory
- SO 320, Sociology of Religion
- SO 340 and CS 620, Religion and Culture in Canada
- SO 350, Religious Diversity in North America
- BHS 400, Seminar in Behavioural Science
- BHS 410, Advanced Qualitative Methods
- SO 495, Independent Research Study in Sociology

STUDENT SUPERVISION

- 2019 Laura Olesen, “The Approaches to Religious Socialization Among Congregation-Based Children's Ministry Leadership and Parents,” Senior honours undergraduate research project
- 2017 Rebecca Kuhn, “Pastor's Kids: Perceptions and Experiences of Family, Friends, the Church, and God,” Senior honours undergraduate research project
- 2013 David Olson, “Achievement Goals: A Qualitative Exploration of their Underlying Influences and Consequences for Personal Well-Being,” Senior honours undergraduate research project (co-supervisor)
- 2013 Laura Poniecki, “Understanding Transition: Needs, Identities and Goals of Women Exiting a Maternity Program” Senior honours undergraduate research project (co-supervisor)
- 2010 Andrea Tynedal, “The Relationship between Personality and Evangelism,” Senior honours undergraduate research project

ACADEMIC SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Religious Research Association
- Canadian Sociological Association
- Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network
- Christian Sociological Association

- Association for Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers

SERVICE

University Community

2021-present	Academic Policy and Planning Committee, Ambrose University
2021-present	Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, Ambrose University
2021-present	General Faculties Council, Ambrose University
2021	Invited workshop presenter for Legacy Youth Conference, Ambrose University (“Ministering Well Among Canada’s Young People”)
2020	Psychology Search Committee, Ambrose University
2019-present	Promotion, Tenure, and Sabbatical Committee, Ambrose University
2018	Invited lecturer at Ambrose University “Personal and Corporate Evangelism” course, Calgary, AB (“Religious Nones, Evangelism, and the Canadian Context”)
2017-2018	Psychology Search Committee, Ambrose University
2017-2018	Mentoring New Faculty Program (Mentor), Ambrose University
2017-2018	General Faculties Council, Ambrose University
2016-2017	Board of Governors Faculty Representative, Ambrose University
2016	Curriculum Core Task Force, Ambrose University
2016	Presenter at Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Dwindling Demand: Abandoning Religious Involvement and Affiliation in Canada”)
2016	Behavioural Science Program Chair (Interim), Ambrose University
2015-2016	Psychology Search Committee, Ambrose University
2015-2018	Research Committee (Chair), Ambrose University
2015	Director of Canadian Poverty Institute Search Committee, Ambrose University
2015	Invited lecturer at Ambrose University “Church and Contemporary Spiritualities” course, Calgary, AB (“Religious/Spiritual Landscape in 21 st Century Canada”)
2015	Invited speaker at Ambrose Faculty Retreat, Calgary, AB (“Sociological Reflections on Community”)
2015	Invited speaker at Ambrose Faculty of Theology Retreat, Calgary, AB (“Canadian Church and Societal Realities: Sociological, Theological, and Practical Reflections”)
2015	Presenter at Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Kids, You Make the Choice: Religious Socialization among the Less Religious”)
2014	Presenter at Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Religious Nones in Canada: A Qualitative Exploration”)
2014	Comprehensive Institutional Review (Category: Mission/Mandate, Educational Objectives and Academic Freedom), Ambrose University
2013-2014	Master of Ceremonies, Undergraduate Graduation Banquet, Ambrose University
2013-2019	Behavioural Science Program Advisory Council, Ambrose University
2012-2014	Professional Employment Issues Committee (Co-Chair), Ambrose University
2012-2018	Presidential Scholarship Selection Committee, Ambrose University
2012	Presenter (with Bill McAlpine) at Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Sacred Space: Function and Mission from a Sociological and Theological Perspective”)

- 2012 Sociology Faculty Hiring Search Committee (Chair), Ambrose University
- 2012 Ambrose Faculty Lecture Series Committee (Chair), Ambrose University
- 2011-2014 Teaching and Learning Committee (Chair), Ambrose University
- 2011 Invited panel member at Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Reflections on Research/Scholarly Activity”)
- 2011 Invited session presenter at Ambrose University Legacy Youth Conference, Calgary, AB (“Poverty in Canada and Around the World: A Sociological Understanding and Theological Response”)
- 2011 Invited session presenter at Ambrose University Global Impact Day, Calgary, AB (“Christianity and Culture in Canada: A Sociological and Theological Perspective”)
- 2011 Legacy Youth Conference Evaluation Team, Ambrose University
- 2011 Coordinated and Facilitated Reginald Bibby Guest Lecture, Ambrose University
- 2010-2013 Behavioural Science Society Faculty Sponsor, Ambrose University
- 2010-2013 Research Ethics Board (Chair), Ambrose University
- 2010 Invited lecturer at Ambrose University “Christianity in Canada” History course, Calgary, AB (“Canada and the ‘Gods:’ Assessing the Contribution of Reginald Bibby”)
- 2010 Invited lecturer at Ambrose University “Christianity and Culture” Religion course, Calgary, AB (“Christianity and Culture in Canada: A Sociological Perspective”)
- 2010 Invited presenter for Ambrose University Research Conference, Calgary, AB (“Rational Choice Theory and Religion in Canada: An Empirical Assessment”)
- 2009 Invited presenter for Ambrose University Behavioural Science Conference, Calgary, AB (“What Religious Renaissance?”)
- 2008-2011 Arts and Science Faculty Lecture Series Committee (Chair), Ambrose University
- 2008 Psychology and Sociology Faculty Hiring Search Committee, Ambrose University
- 2008 Coordinated and Facilitated Tony Campolo Guest Lecture, Ambrose University

Academic Community

- Ongoing Reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, *Canadian Review of Sociology*, *Secularism and Nonreligion*, *Religions*, *Social Science Research*, *Canadian Journal of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity*, *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, as well as New York University Press, Oxford University Press, Sage, Athabasca University Press, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- 2020-present Member of Editorial Board at *Review of Religious Research*
- 2016-present Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Student Travel Awards Committee
- 2014 “Toward the Secular.” Panel Chair for the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Annual Meeting in Ontario, CA.
- 2014 “Prejudice Toward Nonbelievers.” Panel Chair for the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network Annual Meeting in Ontario, CA.

- 2014 “Shifting Religious Identities in Canadian Evangelical Congregations.” Panel Chair for The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Catharines, ON.
- 2014 “The Role of Churches in Immigrant Settlement and Integration in Canada.” Roundtable Presider for The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion Annual Meeting in St. Catharines, ON.
- 2012 “Sociology of Religion: Religious Identity in Contemporary Society.” Session Organizer and Convener for Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Waterloo, ON.
- 2012-2015 Harold Young Research Award Ambrose Representative (Association for Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers)
- 2012-present Association for Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers Ambrose Representative
- 2009 Survey Design Advisor on Renov8 Church Planting Canada Congress Research Team

Larger Community

2021

- Invited plenary speaker for Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Book Club, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for Mennonite Faith and Learning Society, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec Conference, Online
- Invited panelist for Bethel Community Church, Online
- Invited course lecture for Regent College, Online
- Invited panelist for Vancouver School of Theology Webinar, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for Wesley Symposium at Tyndale Seminary, Online
- Invited panelist for Alpha Canada, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for New Leaf Network, Online
- Invited panelist for North American Baptist Conference, Online
- Invited plenary speaker for Huron at Western, Online

2020

- Invited plenary speaker for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Alberta and Territories Synod, Online
- Invited session presenter for Vision Ministries National Advisory Council, Online
- Invited session presenter for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Eastern Synod, Online
- Invited plenary speaker (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for New Leaf Learning Centre Book Club, Online
- Invited plenary speaker (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Toronto and San Jose Intellectual Salon, Online
- Invited panelist for Nonreligion in a Complex Future Webinar, Online
- Invited lecture for North American Baptist Conference Alberta Region, Online
- Invited lecture (with Helen Thiessen) for Nazarene Youth International Leadership

Conference, Mount Vernon, OH

- Invited lecture for Master's College and Seminary, Online
- Invited lecture (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) for Chester Ronning Centre for Study of Religion and Public Life, Camrose, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Ambrose Pastor's Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Ambrose Lecture Series, Ottawa, ON, Toronto, ON, and Calgary, AB

2019

- Invited plenary speaker for Circle Drive Alliance Church, Saskatoon, SK
- Invited session presenter for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Calgary, AB
- Board Secretary at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB (2019-present)
- Invited plenary speaker for Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers Annual Conference, Kansas City, KS
- Invited plenary speaker for Mennonite Faith and Learning Society Conference, Abbotsford, BC
- Invited plenary speaker (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) at New Leaf Network Conference, Hamilton, ON
- Invited E.P. Wahl Lecture for Taylor Seminary, Edmonton, AB
- Invited Simpson Lecture for Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, NS
- Invited session presenter for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Canmore, AB
- Invited workshop speaker for Break Forth One 2019, Edmonton, AB

2018

- Invited plenary speaker at McKillop United Church, Lethbridge, AB
- Invited session presenter for Centre Street Church Board and Senior Leadership Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker at Rosebank BIC Church, Kitchener, ON
- Invited plenary speaker (with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme) at New Leaf Network Conference, Victoria, BC; Vancouver, BC; Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Be in Christ Church of Canada Theological Day, Oakville, ON
- Invited workshop speaker (with Reginald Bibby and Monetta Bailey) for Nazarene Youth International Connect Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Westside King's Church, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Lakeview United Church Council Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Wild Rose United Church Board Gathering, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Canadian Baptists of Western Canada AB/NWT Pastor's Retreat, Gull Lake, AB

2017

- Invited panelist at Westside King’s Church, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Nurture and Venture gathering, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for Canada Central District Nazarene Youth International Retreat, Toronto, ON
- Invited plenary speaker for United Church of Canada Calgary Presbytery, Calgary, AB
- Invited plenary speaker for St. George’s Anglican Church Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Home Ministries Seminar, Calgary, AB
- Invited keynote speaker for Free Methodist Church in Canada General Conference, Toronto, ON
- Invited workshop presenter for Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada General Assembly, Calgary, AB
- Invited keynote speaker for the Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services Annual Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited panelist for Evangelical Fellowship of Canada “Canadian Evangelicals Forum,” Calgary, AB
- Invited presenter for Canadian Baptists of Western Canada Ministerial, Calgary, AB
- Invited presenter for Westside King’s Church Board Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Invited presenter for Nazarene Youth International Leadership Conference, Kansas City, MO
- Invited keynote speaker for Skyview Community Church Board and Ministry Leaders, Calgary, AB
- Invited keynote speaker for The Canadian Armed Forces Chaplain Branch Training Sessions, Edmonton, AB

2016

- Invited speaker for The Synod of Alberta and the Northwest of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Sylvan Lake, AB
- Invited guest interviewee for Valleyview Community Church, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Church of the Nazarene Canada Clergy Days, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Home Ministries Seminar, Calgary, AB
- Invited panelist for Evangelical Fellowship of Canada “Canadian Evangelicals Forum,” Toronto, ON
- Invited speaker for Christian and Missionary Alliance General Assembly, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Church of the Nazarene Canada Pacific District Leadership and Mentoring Program Retreat, Vancouver, BC
- Invited keynote speaker for Going Barefoot Conference, Winnipeg, MB
- Invited workshop presenter for Church of the Nazarene Board of Ministry Candidates session, Calgary, AB
- Invited keynote speaker, Ambrose Pastors Forum, Calgary, AB

2015

- Sabbatical Planning Committee Member at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB
- Invited lecture at Trinity Western University, Langley, BC
- Invited workshop presenter for Pastors Leadership Conference, Church of the Nazarene, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Home Ministries Seminar, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Canada West District Church of the Nazarene District Advisory Board Meeting, Edmonton, AB
- Invited speaker for First Church of the Nazarene Youth Night, Calgary, AB
- Invited facilitator for United Church of Canada “Loving Your Neighborhood” Roundtable Project, Calgary, AB (2015-2017)
- Invited speaker for Church of the Nazarene Canada Pacific District Leadership and Mentoring Program Retreat, Nanaimo, BC
- Invited speaker for Church of the Nazarene Canada Clergy Days – Abbotsford, BC & Toronto, ON & Moncton, NB
- Invited speaker for Skyview Church of the Nazarene Board and Ministry Leaders Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker at “Immerse” for Wainwright Church of the Nazarene, Wainwright, AB

2014

- Invited speaker at Living Hope Alliance Church, Regina, SK
- City Soul Steering Committee Member, Calgary, AB (2014-2015)
- Invited speaker for Canada West District Church of the Nazarene SNAZ Party, Edmonton, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Home Ministries Seminar, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Nexus Centre, Kitchener, ON
- Invited speaker for Church of the Nazarene Canada Board Meetings, Toronto, ON
- Invited speaker for the Christian and Missionary Alliance Canadian Midwest Leader Training Sessions – Regina, Swift Current, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert, SK & Winnipeg and Russell, MB

2013

- Invited workshop presenter for “Survival of the Weakest” conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Nazarene Young Adults Retreat, Collingwood, ON
- Invited speaker for the Christian and Missionary Alliance Canadian Midwest District Executive Committee Meetings, Regina, SK
- Invited speaker for Foothills Alliance Church Leadership Meetings, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Christian and Missionary Alliance Home Ministries Seminar, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Nazarene Youth International Connect Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Church of the Nazarene Board of Ministry Candidates

session, Calgary, AB

- Invited speaker for Christian and Missionary Alliance Western Canadian District Leadership Team meeting, Calgary, AB
- Consultant for Christian and Missionary Alliance “Transformation Tracker” Survey, Calgary, AB

2012

- Finance Committee Member at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB (2012-present)
- Member of Church of the Nazarene Western District Task Force on Shaping Future Responses for Ministry Candidates (2012-2013)
- Board Secretary at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB (2012-2015)

2011

- Invited speaker for North American Baptist “Pastors Connection” Meeting, Edmonton and Calgary, AB
- Invited workshop presenter at Living Well Seniors Retreat, Calgary, AB
- Board Member at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB (2011-2015)
- Drummer at Skyview Community Church, Calgary, AB (2011-present)
- Invited speaker for Alberta and Saskatchewan Area Leaders Meeting, Calgary, AB

2010

- Invited workshop presenter (with Terry Fach) at Church of the Nazarene Pastors and Leaders Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Canada West District Nazarene Youth International 30 Hour Famine, Wainwright, AB
- Invited workshop presenter for Nazarene Youth International Conference, Calgary, AB
- Invited speaker for Centre Street Church Board and Senior Leadership Retreat, Calgary, AB

2009

- Invited speaker at Bethany Chapel, Calgary, AB

2008

- Drummer at Trinity Church, Calgary, AB (2008-2010)
- Monthly volunteer with “Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre,” Calgary, AB (2008-2009)
- Created survey for congregational study, and comparative document on religion in Canada and the United States for Grandview Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON

2006

- Bi-weekly volunteer with “Out of the Cold” through First United Church, Waterloo, ON (2006-2007)

2005

- Drummer at Grandview Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON (2005-2007)
- Coordinator of “Young Married Ministries” at Grandview Baptist Church, Kitchener, ON (2005-2006)

2003

- Weekly volunteer with “Calgary Mennonite Centre for Newcomers,” Calgary, AB (2003-2004)
- Drummer at Trinity Church, Calgary, AB (2003-2004)
- Conducted interviews and co-authored and presented (with Michael Wilkinson) the “Church of the Nazarene Membership Project: Why People are leaving the Nazarene Church” research report for the Church of the Nazarene Canada
- Conducted focus groups and research and co-authored (with Sherry Horvath and Betman Bhandari) the “Learning as Fathers, Husbands, and Citizens in a New Home Country Called Canada” research report for the Calgary Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Calgary, AB

2002

- Co-authored (with Michael Wilkinson) the “Honorbound Men’s Ministry Questionnaire” research report for the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

1999

- Drummer at Bonavista Baptist Church, Calgary, AB (1999-2003)

Media

2021

- November 13, “Stats on Religion in Canada not Surprising for Scholars.” John Longhurst, Winnipeg Free Press.
- November 4, “How Might Churches Flourish after the Pandemic?” Faith Today.
- October 20, “Gotta Have Faith.” Maggie John, Context Beyond the Headlines.
- April 12, “Salvationist Podcast: 2021 Wesley Studies Symposium.” Podcast Interview for Salvation Army with Brandon Laird and James Pedlar.
- March 9, “Opting Out of Religion ... Religious Nones and New Opportunities for the Church.” Podcast Interview for Rekindle with Nick Kadun and Rob Chartrand.
- March 9, “Elder Millennial: This is the Year They Turn 40.” Danielle Nerman, CBC Calgary News.

- January 16, “Researcher Bullish on Belief Despite Growth of Atheism.” John Longhurst, Winnipeg Free Press.

2020

- November 24, “Religious Nones,” Invited article for Alliance Connection.
- October 25, “How conspiracies like QAnon are slowly creeping into some Canadian churches.” Joel Dryden, CBC News.
- September 22, “Religious Nones and Flourishing Congregations.” Podcast Interview for Rossroad Community Church with Craig Thiessen and Holly Mclean.
- July 7, “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada.” Podcast Interview with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme for Impolite Conversation with Dan Clanton and Tim Hill.
- June 13, “Camps, Retreat Centres Hardest Hit Ministries: Survey.” John Longhurst, Winnipeg Free Press.
- May 27, “None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada.” Podcast Interview with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme for New Books in Religion Network with Lindsey Jackson.
- April 7, “Coronavirus & Easter: Lapsed Christians Unlikely to Return to Church even in Uncertain Times.” Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme and Joel Thiessen, The Conversation.
- April 4, “Keeping the Faithful.” John Longhurst, Winnipeg Free Press.
- March 31, “None of the Above.” Phil Zuckerman, Psychology Today.
- March 23, “COVID-19, Science, and the Nonreligious.” Joel Thiessen and Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, New York University Press Blog.
- January 2, “Demographic, Cultural Changes Key to Declining Church Membership: Sociologist of Religion.” Matt Gardner, Anglican Journal.

2019

- September 27, “Reaching the 42 million leaving the Church.” Abigail Theano-Pudwill, Christian News.
- September 14, “The Millennial Mosaic,” Hal Roberts, Bridge City News.
- September 12, “‘Values Chasm’ Between Young and Old Matters in this Election, Says Pollster.” Douglas Todd, Vancouver Sun.
- May 21, “Study: It’s easier to be a ‘None’ in Canada than in the US.” John Longhurst, Religion News Service.
- May 21, “Flourishing Congregations Institute.” Podcast Interview with Mark Buchanan and Bernie Van De Walle, Faith Affects.
- March 1, “The Canadian Millennials Choosing God in a Secular World.” Ellen Samek, National Post.

2018

- December 5, “Are you in a Flourishing Church? How do you Know when You’ve Found One?” Podcast Interview with Karen Stiller, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.
- November 21, “Canadian Christianity Under Construction?” Lorna Dueck, Context TV:

Beyond the Headlines.

- March 26, “Fairness in the Precarious World of Christian College Contracts.” Peter Schuurman, Christian Courier.

2017

- November 28, “Centre Examines Why Congregations Thrive, Others Fade.” Chris Nelson, Calgary Herald.
- April 28, “Why are Millennials Flocking to Toronto’s C3 Church?” Jackie Hong, Toronto Star.
- February 27, “The Meaning of Sunday: The Practice of Belief in a Secular Age ... Continuing the Conversation.” Blog for Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network.
- January 12, Podcast Interview with George Bullard, FaithSoaring Churches Learning Community.

2016

- December 2016, Podcast Series with David Allan, Quick Tips for Christian Ministry.
- November 2, “Altared: Renovating the House of God.” Patrick Langston and Matt Harrison, Ottawa Magazine.
- June 6, Podcast Interview with Jared Siebert, New Leaf Church Planting Initiative.
- May 26, Radio Interview on “The Andrew Lawton Show.” Andrew Lawton, AM 980 Corus Radio (London, Ontario).
- May 24, “Inversion of Moral Order: ‘Nice’ Canadian Parents Defer to Children on Religion.” Albert Mohler, The Briefing.
- May 19, “‘Nice’ Canadian Parents Defer to Children on Religion, Most Everything.” Douglas Todd, Vancouver Sun.
- May 19, “What Counts as a Flourishing Congregation in Canada.” Faith Today.
- May/June, “The FT Interview with Joel Thiessen.” Karen Stiller, Faith Today.
- April 4, “Empty Strip Malls in Edmonton Offer New Homes for Churches: Strip Mall Churches Make for Affordable Houses of Worship.” Trisha Estabrooks, CBC News Edmonton.
- March 6, Radio Interview with Greg Glatz, Corus Radio.
- January, “What it Means to Thrive as a Church in Canada: Five Things Healthy Churches Do Well.” Faith Today.

2015

- October 30, “It’s a Seller’s Market for Metro Vancouver’s Places of Worship.” Susan Lazaruk, The Province.
- August 17, “This Ain’t Your Grandparents’ Sunday Worship.” Christopher Cheung, The Tyee.
- April 11, “Some Hope on Religious Horizon: There is Still a Rocky Road Ahead for Dwindling Faith Groups, Survey Reveals.” John Longhurst, Winnipeg Free Press.
- February 28, “Marketing Religion: The (R)evolution of Church Signs.” Danyael Halprin,

Calgary Herald.

2014

- December 20, “The Sermon on the Monitor: The New Wave of Evangelists Who’ve Turned Preaching into a Multimedia Endeavour.” Claire Brownell, National Post.
- December, “Sacred Space: Why a New Spirituality is on the Rise in our Time-Crunched World.” Joana Lourenco, Elle Magazine.
- July/August, “What do Canadians Think about Organized Religion?” United Church Observer.
- March, “Youth Attitudes Toward Religion and the Christian Education Response.” City Light News.
- January 8, “Rise in New City Churches Bucks Secular Trend.” Amber Hildebrandt, CBC News.

2013

- September/October, “Having Been Forgiven Much, Christian Bikers Learn to Love Much.” Frank Stirk, Promise Keepers Seven Magazine.

2010

- June 17, “A Sociologist’s Perspective.” Interview on Fellowship Networks Radio.
- May 7, “United Church Losses Projected to Continue.” Frank Stirk, Christian Week.

2009

- November, “The Fence-Sitters: How Real is the Hope?” Richard Wright, The United Church Observer.
- June 5, “Aging Congregations Pose a Challenge to Churches.” Frank Stirk, Christian Week.
- April, “Revival Rumours: Sociologist Debunks Claims of Pew Boom amid Economic Bust.” Sarah Boesveld, The United Church Observer.
- March 5, “Church Attendance Makes Life Richer: Studies.” Frank Stirk, Canadian Christianity.
- February 4, “Economic Uncertainty Leads Some to Seek Spiritual Guidance.” Andree Lau, CBC News Online.
- February 1, “Looking to Heaven.” Andree Lau, Interview on CBC News Television (parts of interview also aired on CBC Radio One).
- January 23, “Hallelujah! The Recession Has Come: Church Attendance is on the Rise as the Economy Turns Down.” Hayley Mick, Globe and Mail.

2008

- December 9, “Calgary Today with Mike Blanchard.” Interview on AM 770 CHQR Radio.
- December 7, “O Come All Ye Faithful...More Than Twice a Year.” Graeme Morton,

Calgary Herald (also appeared in other Canwest newspapers).