

Joseph O. Baker
Curriculum Vitae

East Tennessee State University
P.O. Box 70644
Johnson City, TN 37614-1702

E-mail: BakerJO@etsu.edu
Phone: (423)-439-6584
<https://faculty.etsu.edu/bakerjo>

Employment, Education, Areas of Expertise

Employment

2010–present Assistant to Full Professor – [Department of Sociology & Anthropology](#),
East Tennessee State University
2020–2022 Editor-in-Chief, [Sociology of Religion](#)
2010–2020 Senior Research Associate – [Association of Religion Data Archives](#)
2008–2010 Instructor of Sociology – Baylor University
2008 Adjunct Professor – Central Texas College (Gatesville state prison)

Education

2010 Ph.D. – Sociology, Baylor University, concentrations in religion and criminology
2007 M.A. – Sociology, Baylor University
2005 B.S. – Sociology (summa cum laude), East Tennessee State University

Teaching Areas

introductory sociology; research methods; social statistics; data analysis; criminology; deviance;
sociology of religion; social theory; professional writing

Technical Skills

SAS, SPSS, Excel, GIS, PROCESS, EQS, NVivo, ATLAS.ti

Published Research

Books

Christopher D. Bader, Joseph Baker, L. Edward Day, and C. Ann Gordon. 2020. [Fear Itself: The Causes and Consequences of Fear in America](#). New York: NYU Press.

Reviewed in: *Contemporary Sociology*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Social Forces*, *Surveillance & Society*

Christopher D. Bader and Joseph Baker. 2019. [Deviance Management: Insiders, Outsiders, Hiders, and Drifters](#). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Reviewed in: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Anthropology Book Forum*, *Contemporary Sociology*

Christopher D. Bader, Joseph Baker, and F. Carson Mencken. 2017. [Paranormal America: Ghost Encounters, UFO Sightings, Bigfoot Hunts and Other Curiosities in Religion and Culture](#), second edition. New York, NY: NYU Press.

Reviewed in: *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, *Library Journal* (starred review), *Nova Religio* (review essay), *Reading Religion*, *Religious Studies Review* (review essay), *Review of Religious Research*, *Skeptical*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Washington Post*

Joseph Baker and Buster G. Smith. 2015. [American Secularism: Cultural Contours of Nonreligious Belief Systems](#). New York, NY: NYU Press.

Part of Religion and Social Transformation series

Honorable mention for distinguished book award, American Sociological Association section on religion

Reviewed in: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Anthropology Review Database*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Heythrop Journal* (review essay), *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Principium*, *Reading Religion*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Teachers College Record*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Martinez, Brandon C., Joshua C. Tom, and Joseph Baker. 2022. [Flowing Across with Demonic Hate: Belief in Supernatural Evil and Support for Stricter Immigration Policy](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(2): 408–432.

Metzger, Paul Louis and Joseph Baker. 2022. [Contemporary Issues with Christian Nationalism in the United States](#). *Cultural Encounters* 17(1): 71–83.

Joseph Baker and Christopher D. Bader. 2022. [Xenophobia, Partisanship, and Support for Donald Trump and the Republican Party](#). *Race and Social Problems* 14(1): 69–83.

Samuel Stroope, Rhiannon A. Kroeger, Courtney E. Williams, and Joseph Baker. 2021. [Sociodemographic Correlates of Vaccine Hesitancy in the United States and the Mediating Role of Beliefs About Governmental Conspiracies](#). *Social Science Quarterly* 102(6): 2472–2481.

Samuel L. Perry, Joseph Baker, and Joshua B. Grubbs. 2021. [Ignorance or Culture War? Christian Nationalism and Scientific Illiteracy](#). *Public Understanding of Science* 30(8): 930–946.

Joseph Baker and Amy Edmonds. 2021. [Immigration, Presidential Politics, and Partisan Polarization Among the American Public, 1992 – 2018](#). *Sociological Spectrum* 41(4): 287–303.

Joseph Baker, Ann Gordon, L, Edward Day, and Christopher D. Bader. 2021. [Pandemics Prey on Fears, Both Legitimate and Illegitimate](#). *Contexts*.

Mark Walker, Lead Drakeford, Samuel Stroope, Joseph Baker, and Alexander Smith*. 2020. [Health Differences Between Religious and Secular Subgroups in the United States: Evidence From the General Social Survey](#). *Review of Religious Research* 61(3): 67–81.

Joseph Baker, Samuel L. Perry, and Andrew L. Whitehead. 2020. [Crusading for Moral Authority: Christian Nationalism and Opposition to Science](#). *Sociological Forum* 35(3): 587–607.

Joseph O. Baker, Samuel L. Perry, and Andrew L. Whitehead. 2020. [Keep America Christian \(and White\): Christian Nationalism, Fear of Ethnoracial “Outsiders,” and Intention to Vote for Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election](#). *Sociology of Religion* 81(3): 272–293.

Joseph Baker, Andrea Molle, and Christopher D. Bader. 2020. [The Flesh and the Devil: Beliefs About Religious Evil and Views of Sexual Morality](#). *Review of Religious Research* 62(1): 133–151.

Joseph Baker and Gerardo Marti. 2020. [Is the Religious Left Resurgent?](#) *Sociology of Religion* 81(2): 131–141.

Joseph Baker and Andrew L. Whitehead. 2020. [God's Penology: Belief in a Masculine God Predicts Support for Harsh Criminal Punishment and Militarism.](#) *Punishment & Society* 22(2): 135–160.

Joseph Baker, David Canarte*, and L. Edward Day. 2018. [Race, Xenophobia, and Punitiveness Among the American Public.](#) *Sociological Quarterly* 59(3): 363–383.

Joseph Baker, Samuel Stroope, and Mark H. Walker. 2018. [Secularity, Religiosity, and Health: Physical and Mental Health Differences between Atheists, Agnostics, and Nonaffiliated Theists Compared to Religiously Affiliated Individuals.](#) *Social Science Research* 75: 44–57

Andrew Whitehead, Samuel Perry, and Joseph Baker. 2018. [Make America Christian Again: Christian Nationalism and Voting for Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election.](#) *Sociology of Religion* 79(2): 147–171.

Distinguished Article Award for: Association for the Sociology of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Samuel Stroope and Joseph Baker. 2018. [Whose Moral Community? Religiosity, Secularity, and Self-Rated Health Across Communal Religious Contexts.](#) *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 59(2): 185–199.

Joseph Baker, Dalton Rogers*, and Timothy Moser*. 2018. [Acceptance of Evolution among American Mormons.](#) *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 33(1): 123–134.

Joseph Baker, Christopher D. Bader, and F. Carson Mencken. 2016. [A Bounded Affinity Theory of Religion and the Paranormal.](#) *Sociology of Religion* 77(4): 334–358.

Joseph Baker and Andrew Whitehead. 2016. [Gendering \(Non\)Religion: Politics, Education, and Gender Gaps in Secularity in the United States.](#) *Social Forces* 94(4): 1623–1645.

Joseph Baker and Alexis Booth*. 2016. [Hell to Pay: Religion and Punitive Ideology among the American Public.](#) *Punishment & Society* 18(2): 151–176.

Joseph Baker, Kelli K. Smith*, and Yasmin Stoss*. 2015. [Theism, Secularism, and Sexual Education in the United States.](#) *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 12(3): 236–247.

Joseph Baker, Christopher D. Bader and Kittye Hirsch*. 2015. [Desecration, Moral Boundaries, and the Movement of Law: The Case of Westboro Baptist Church.](#) *Deviant Behavior* 36(1): 42–67.

Joseph Baker and Christopher Bader. 2014. [A Social Anthropology of Ghosts in Twenty-First-Century America.](#) *Social Compass* 61(4): 569–593.

Stefano Longo and Joseph Baker. 2014. [Economy “Versus” Environment: The Influence of Economic Ideology and Political Identity on Perceived Threat of Eco-catastrophe.](#) *The Sociological Quarterly* 55(2): 341–365.

- Samuel Stroope and Joseph Baker. 2014. [Structural and Cultural Sources of Community in American Congregations](#). *Social Science Research* 45: 1–17.
- Joseph Baker. 2013. [Acceptance of Evolution and Support for Teaching Creationism in Public Schools: The Conditional Impact of Educational Attainment](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52(1): 216–228.
- Christopher Bader, Joseph Baker and Andrea Molle. 2012. [Countervailing Forces: Religiosity and Paranormal Belief in Italy](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(4): 705–720.
- Andrew L. Whitehead and Joseph Baker. 2012. [Homosexuality, Religion, and Science: Moral Authority and the Persistence of Negative Attitudes](#). *Sociological Inquiry* 82(4): 487–509.
- Joseph Baker. 2012. [Public Perceptions of Incompatibility between “Science and Religion.”](#) *Public Understanding of Science* 21(3): 340–354.
- Joseph Baker. 2012. [Perceptions of Science and American Secularism](#). *Sociological Perspectives* 55(1): 167–188.
- Scott Draper and Joseph Baker. 2011. [Angelic Belief as American Folk Religion](#). *Sociological Forum* 26(3): 623–643.
- Joseph Baker. 2010. [Social Sources of the Spirit: Connecting Rational Choice and Interactive Ritual Theories in the Study of Religion](#). *Sociology of Religion* 71(4): 432–456.
- Joseph Baker and Scott Draper. 2010. [Diverse Supernatural Portfolios: Certitude, Exclusivity, and the Curvilinear Relationship between Religiosity and Paranormal Beliefs](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(3): 413–424.
- Featured in *Theory-Based Data Analysis in the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition. By Carol S. Aneshensel. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Joseph Baker. 2010. [The Expression of Low Self-Control as Problematic Drinking in Adolescents: An Integrated Control Perspective](#). *Journal of Criminal Justice* 38(3): 237–244.
- Joseph Baker and Buster G. Smith. 2009. [None Too Simple: Examining Issues of Religious Nonbelief and Nonbelonging in the United States](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 48(4): 719–733.
- Joseph Baker. 2009. [The Variety of Religious Experiences](#). *Review of Religious Research* 51(1): 39–54.
- Joseph Baker and Buster G. Smith. 2009. [The Nones: Social Characteristics of the Religiously Unaffiliated](#). *Social Forces* 87(3): 1251–1264.
- Joseph Baker. 2008. [Who Believes in Religious Evil? An Investigation of Sociological Patterns of Belief in Satan, Hell, and Demons](#). *Review of Religious Research* 50(2): 206–220.
- Joseph Baker. 2008. [An Investigation of the Sociological Patterns of Prayer Frequency and Content](#). *Sociology of Religion* 69(2):169–185.

Jerry Z. Park and Joseph Baker. 2007. [What Would Jesus Buy? American Consumption of Religious and Spiritual Material Goods](#). *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 46(4): 501-518.

Book Chapters

Joseph Baker. 2021. [The Many Meanings of the Secular](#). Pp. 56-78 in *Empty Churches: Non-affiliation in America*, edited by Jan Stets and Jim Heft. New York: Oxford University Press.

Joseph Baker. 2020. [The Politics of Humanism](#). In *Oxford Handbook of Humanism*, edited by Anthony B. Pinn. New York: Oxford University Press.

Joseph Baker. 2020. [Race, Gender, and Avowing \(or Avoiding\) the Stigma of Atheism](#). Pp. 293-312 in *Religion is Raced*, edited by Grace Yukich and Penny Edgell. New York: NYU Press.

Joseph Baker. 2018. [Christian Sectarianism, Fundamentalism, and Extremism](#). Pp. 187-198 In *Routledge Handbook of Deviance*, edited by Stephen Brown and Ophir Sefiha. New York: Routledge.

Joseph Baker, Jonathan Hill, and Nathaniel Porter*. 2017. [Assessing Measures of Religion and Secularity with Crowdsourced Data from Amazon's Mechanical Turk](#). Pp. 108-139 in *Faithful Measures*, edited by Roger Finke and Christopher Bader. New York: NYU Press.

Buster G. Smith and Joseph Baker. 2015. [Atheism, Agnosticism, and Irreligion](#). In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, edited by Robert A. Scott, Stephen M. Kosslyn, and Nancy Pinkerton. New York: Wiley.

Joseph Baker and Buster G. Smith. 2014. [Theism, Sexuality, and Social Policy: The Case of the American States](#). Pp. 15-36 in *Theism and Public Policy: Humanist Perspectives and Responses*, edited by Anthony Pinn. Palgrave Macmillan.

Joseph Baker and Ashley Palmer-Boyes. 2008. [Evil: Did Sin Cause the Hurricane?](#) Pp. 79-88 in *What Americans Really Believe* by Rodney Stark (ed.) Waco, TX: Baylor University Press.

Book Reviews

Joseph Baker. 2023. [Tropes of Intolerance: Pride, Prejudice, and the Politics of Fear](#). *Contemporary Sociology* 52(4): 374-375.

Joseph Baker. 2023. [Of Fear and Strangers: A History of Xenophobia](#). *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 46(8): 1702-1705.

Joseph Baker. 2023. [The Everyday Crusade: Christian Nationalism in American Politics](#). *Politics, Ideology, & Religion*.

Joseph Baker. 2017. [The Nonreligious: Understanding Secular People and Societies](#) by Phil Zuckerman, Luke Galen and Frank Pasquale. *Sociology of Religion* 78(2): 239-240.

Joseph Baker. 2015. [Sacred Tribes, Spiritual Stories: Finding Religion in Everyday Life](#) by Nancy T. Ammerman. *Contemporary Sociology* 44(3): 337-338.

Joseph Baker. 2013. [Secularization and Its Discontents](#) by Rob Warner. *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 25(2): 305-306.

Joseph Baker. 2012. [Faith No More: Why People Reject Religion](#) by Phil Zuckerman. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51(2) :395-396.

Joseph Baker. 2009. [Faith-Based Inefficiency](#) by Bob Wineburg. *Sociology of Religion* 70(2): 196-197.

Professional Activities

Selected Presentations and Public Lectures (full list available on request)

2023. with Niki Hall and Olivia Summers. Defending White Israel: British-Israelism and the Sacralization of Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Christian Nationalism. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Salt Lake City, UT.

with Christopher Bader and Tom Clark. Alien Big Cats, Nessie, and the British Bigfoot: Prevalence and Patterns of Belief in British Cryptids. Perspectives on Contemporary Legend. Sheffield, UK.

2022. with Christopher Bader and Tom Clark. "Extending Bounded Affinity Theory: Religion and the Paranormal in the U.K." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD.

Professional Development Panel: Standards in Social Science Research. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD.

2021 Christian Nationalism in White Supremacy Movements. *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Portland, OR.

Conspiracy Theories in American Culture. Public, digital lecture for Brownicity.

2019 Conceptual, Methodological, and Substantive Challenges in the Study of Nonreligion. Keynote address for Nonreligion and Secularity in Canada symposium. University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

2017 The Great Abdicating. Invited lecture for Milligan College Honors Program colloquium. Milligan, TN.

Dinosaurs, Diagrams, and Diabolic Darkness: Sexual Politics in the Creation Museum and among the American Public. New Perspectives on Science and Religion in Society. Manchester, UK.

2016 Views of Science and Religion among the American Public. Invited lecture for the Natural History Museum in Gray, TN.

2014 Paranormal America. Keynote speaker for *Middle Tennessee Psychological Association* in Murfreesboro, TN.

- The Evolution of Creationism. Invited lecture for the Natural History Museum in Gray, TN.
- 2013 God, the Bible, and Public Response to Evolution: From the Scopes Trial to the 21st Century. Invited lecture for the Natural History Museum in Gray, TN.
- 2012 Theism and Sexual Politics in the American States. Invited lecture for the Institute for Humanist Studies at Rice University, Houston, TX.
- RCMS 1980-2010: Trends in American Denominations. *Association for the Sociology of Religion*. Denver, CO. [with Chris Bader]
- 2010 Irreligion as a Relatively Deviant Identity. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD. [with Buster G. Smith]
- Leaving the Past Behind: An Analysis of Two Measures of Religious Change. *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Baltimore, MD. [with Scott Draper]
- 2008 Paranormal America. Invited lecture for *Baylor Alumni Association*. Waco, TX.
- 2007 Keeping Up with the Joneses: The Effects of Community Level Relative Deprivation and Contentment on Financial Satisfaction. *Southwestern Social Science Association*. Albuquerque, New Mexico. [with Carrie Graf]
Winner of outstanding graduate student paper award

Media Appearances

Interviewee for Chicago Public Radio, CNN, *Deseret News*, Huffington Post, National Geographic Channel, *New York* magazine, *New York Times*, *Pacific Standard*, NPR, Religion News Service, Research on Religion, *Sacred Matters*, *Sacred Tribes*, *Washington Post*

Public Forum Writing

Joseph Baker, Samuel L. Perry, and Andrew L. Whitehead. 2020. [Christian Nationalism and Opposition to Science in the United States](#). Science and Belief in Society.

Christopher D. Bader, Joseph Baker, L. Edward Day, and Ann Gordon. 2020. [Danger Control, Not Fear Control Needed Now](#). NYU Press From the Square.

Samuel L. Perry, Andrew L. Whitehead, and Joseph O. Baker. 2020. [Coronavirus Exposes the Religious Right's Racism](#). Religion Dispatches.

Joseph Baker. 2020. [Reasons to be Cautious About a Gen Z "Religious Rebound."](#) Religion in Public.

Joseph Baker, Ann Gordon, Christopher D. Bader, and L. Edward Day. 2020. [Social Inequality, Medical Fears, and Pandemics](#). Society Pages.

Joseph Baker and Christopher D. Bader. 2019. [The Normalization of Alcohol and Cannabis: Lessons from the Repeal of Prohibition](#). University of California Press blog.

Ann Gordon, L. Edward Day, Christopher D. Bader, and Joseph O. Baker. 2019. [Fear of Immigration](#). NYU Press From the Square.

Ann Gordon, L. Edward Day, Christopher D. Bader, and Joseph O. Baker. 2019. [Fear of Muslims in American Society](#). NYU Press From the Square.

Andrew L. Whitehead, Joseph Baker, and Samuel L. Perry. 2018. [Despite Porn Stars and Playboy Models, White Evangelicals Aren't Rejecting Trump. This is Why](#). Monkey Cage.

Joseph Baker. 2017. [Whither the Paranormal in Secular Studies?](#) Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network.

Christopher D. Bader, Joseph Baker, and F. Carson Mencken. 2009. [The Angry Coffee House Ghost](#). NYU Press From the Square.

Awards

ETSU College of Arts and Sciences 2020 Distinguished Faculty Award for Research
ETSU College of Arts and Sciences 2013 summer research fellowship (\$7,500)
Baylor Presidential Scholar 2005-2010 (\$25,000)
ETSU Research Development Grant – (\$1,500)

Service and Professional Affiliations

2017-8 Nominating Committee chair for the Religious Research Association

2013 American Sociological Association religion section outstanding article award committee

2012 program chair for the Religious Research Association annual conference

Affiliated member of Religious Studies program at ETSU (2010-present)

Graduate Coordinator for M.A. in sociology (2011-2013)

ETSU Graduate Faculty member (2010-present)

Member of: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Religious Research Association

Editorial boards

Journal of Ideology (2010–2012)
Sociology of Religion (2011–2015, 2017–2020)
Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion (2016–2021)
Sociological Perspectives (2016–2020)

Peer reviewer for:

Acta Sociologica
American Journal of Criminal Justice
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry

American Journal of Sociology
American Sociological Review
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

Bloomsbury Publishing
Canadian Journal of Sociology
Computers in Human Behavior
Crime, Law, and Social Change
Current Sociology
Deviant Behavior
ETSU research development grants
European Journal of Personality
Humanist Press
Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion
Journal of Adolescent Research
Journal of Church & State
Journal of Consumer Culture
Journal of Contemporary Religion
Journal of Disability & Religion
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Journal of Historical Sociology
Journal of Ideology
Journal of Social Science Studies
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Justice Quarterly
Macmillan Publishers
Minerva
Mortality
National Science Foundation
Nations and Nationalism
New York University Press
Oxford University Press
Palgrave Macmillan
PLOS One
Politics & Religion

Public Understanding of Science
Punishment & Society
Qualitative Sociology
Rationality and Society
Religion
Religions
Research in the Social Scientific Study of Religion
Review of Religious Research
Routledge
Sage Open
Science and Education
Secularism and Nonreligion
Sexuality & Culture
Social Currents
Social Forces
Social Problems
Social Psychology Quarterly
Social Science Computer Review
Social Science Journal
Social Science Quarterly
Social Science Research
Society and Mental Health
Sociological Focus
Sociological Forum
Sociological Spectrum
Sociological Quarterly
Sociology of Education
Sociology of Religion
Temple University Press
Wiley-Blackwell Press