

Roman R. Williams

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

- 2012–Present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2016–Present Executive Officer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Boston University, Department of Sociology, Boston, Massachusetts, 2010
- Th.M., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts, *summa cum laude*, 2003
- M.Div., Columbia International University, Columbia, South Carolina, 2000
- B.S., Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania, 1993

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND INTEREST

Visual sociology, sociology of religion, cultural sociology, and globalization.

SCHOLARSHIP

Current Projects

Three projects bring together my interests in visual sociology and religion. “Seeing and Believing” investigates the use of photovoice in interfaith dialogue and gathers data on religion in the everyday lives of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish participants. “Cultivating Community” is an ethnography of an urban farm situated on a church property. And “Converted Structures” is a faculty–student collaboration that investigates the prevalence and meaning(s) of religious buildings converted to secular uses (e.g., church to condos) and vice versa.

Book

- 2015 Editor and contributor. *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*. London and New York: Routledge. Details available at <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138778108/>.

Journal Articles

- Forthcoming* (2019). “Engaging Congregations through Photovoice.” *Ecclesial Practices*.
- 2018 “Visual Tools for Visual Times: Innovation and Opportunity in the Visual Sociology of Religion.” *Revista Ciências da Religião—História e Sociedade (Review of Religious Studies—History and Society)* 14(2):98–130.
- 2016 “Religion, Migration, and Change in a European City.” *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds* 15(4):48–57.

- 2015 “Photo Elicitation and the Visual Sociology of Religion” (with Kyle Whitehouse). *Review of Religious Research* 57(2):303–318.
- 2013 “Constructing a Calling: The Case of Evangelical Christian International Students in the United States.” *Sociology of Religion* 74(2):254–280.
- 2010 “Space for God: Lived Religion at Work, Home, and Play.” *Sociology of Religion* 71(3):257–279.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming* (2019). “Through One Another’s Lenses: Photovoice and Interfaith Dialogue” (lead author with William Sachs, Catherine Holtmann, Elena van Stee (student), Kaitlyn Eekhoff (student), Michael Bos, and Ammar Amonette). *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion, Volume 10: Interreligious Dialogue: From Religion to Geopolitics*. Edited by Giuseppe Giordan and Andrew P. Lynch. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.
- 2015 “Visual Sociology and the Sociology of Religion.” Pp. 1–21 in *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*, edited by R.R. Williams. London and New York: Routledge.
- 2015 “Why Study Religion Visually?” Pp. 192–200 in *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*, edited by R.R. Williams. London and New York: Routledge.
- 2012 “Speaking of Methods: Eliciting Religious Narratives through Interviews, Photos, and Oral Diaries” (with Nancy T. Ammerman). Pp. 117–134 in *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion, Volume 3: New Methods in the Sociology of Religion*, edited by L. Berzano and O. Riis. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.

Public Sociology

- 2018 “Interfaith Photovoice Exhibition.” Arts-Based Research Exhibit (May 1–31). An exhibition of 37 photographs composed by 20 Muslims and Christians at the Richmond Public Library (Virginia).
- 2017 “From Evaluation to Engagement.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/from-evaluation-to-engagement>.
- 2016 “Sociological Perspectives on Worship” (with Mark T. Mulder). *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*. Available at <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/sociology-and-learning-about-christian-worship-practices/>
- 2016 “When a Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Visual Program Evaluation.” *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*. Available at <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/when-a-picture-is-worth-a-thousand-words-visual-program-evaluation/>.
- 2016 “Walking with Cameras.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/walking-with-cameras>.
- 2016 “The Art of Change.” Arts-Based Research Exhibit (May 3–29). First United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2016 “Reflections on Family Life.” Arts-Based Research Exhibit (February 25–26). Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2016 “Engaging Congregations with Photovoice.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/engaging-congregations-with-photovoice>.

- 2015 “Ethical Considerations in Visual Research.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/visual-research-ethics>.
- 2015 “Bringing Programs into Focus: Photo Elicitation as a Tool for Program Evaluation.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/bringing-programs-into-focus-photo-elicitation-as-a-tool-for-program-evaluation>.
- 2014 “Congregational Snapshots: Understanding and Engaging Congregations through Cell Phone Photographs.” Available at <http://studyingcongregations.org/blog/congregational-snapshots-understanding-and-engaging-congregations-through-cell-phone-photographs>.

Book Reviews

- 2016 “*Angel Patriots: The Crash of United Flight 93 and the Myth of America*, by Alexander Riley.” *Sociology of Religion* 77(2):214–215.
- 2015 “*Faith on the Avenue: Religion on a City Street*, by Katie Day.” *Sociology of Religion* 76(3):365–366.
- 2014 “*Visual Sociology*, by Douglas Harper; *Doing Visual Research*, by Claudia Mitchell, and *Advances in Visual Methodology*, by Sarah Pink.” *Sociology of Religion* 75(1):167–169.
- 2013 “*Places of Faith: A Road Trip Across America’s Religious Landscape*, by Christopher Scheitle and Roger Finke.” *Sociology of Religion* 74(2):286–288.

Other Publications

- Revise and Resubmit* (2018). “Where’s Waldo? Using Smartphone Photography to Engage Students beyond the Classroom” (with Kevin den Dulk). *Teaching Resources and Innovation Library for Sociology*, American Sociological Association.
- 2012 “An Invitation to Sociology.” Pp. 259–277 in *Faith and Learning: A Handbook for Christian Higher Education*, edited by David S. Dockery. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing.
- 2012 “Missionaries.” In *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by George Ritzer. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2012 “Tanrı’ya Yer verme: İşte, Evde ve Eğlencede Yaşayan Din.” Turkish translation of “Space for God: Lived Religion at Work, Home, and Play” (2010) by Mesut Inan. *Journal of Sakarya University Faculty of Theology* 14(25):211–235.
- 2009 “Picturing Religion in Everyday Life.” *Sociology of Religion: Newsletter of the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association* 11(1):4–5.

Academic Papers and Presentations

- 2018 “Interfaith Photovoice: Amateur Photography, Critical Conversations, and Public Engagement” (with Catherine Holtmann). The annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 2018 “Through One Another’s Lenses: Photovoice and Interfaith Dialogue.” The annual meeting of the International Visual Sociology Association. Evry, France.
- 2017 “Portable Professors: Engaging Students in Learning about Religion and Citizenship with a Mobile App.” The annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, DC.

- 2017 “Swiping Right (or Left) on Mobile Research and Learning.” Nagel Lecture with Kevin den Dulk, Calvin College.
- 2017 “From Classroom Distraction to Portable Professor: On the Use of Smartphones to Engage Students” with Kevin den Dulk. The annual meeting of the International Visual Sociology Association. Montreal, Canada.
- 2016 “Visual Tools for Visual Times: Innovation and Opportunity in the Visual Sociology of Religion.” Plenary address, First International Congress of Religious Studies—Religion: Art and Voices. Mackenzie University, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2016 “Using Mobile Apps for Visual Engagement and Research” with Kevin den Dulk and Kara Bilkert (Student). The annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2016 “Cultivating Character on an Urban Farm” with Kaitlyn Eeckhoff (Student). The annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2015 “Engaging Congregations Visually.” The annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, California.
- 2015 “Old and New Directions in the Visual Sociology of Religion.” The annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2015 “Congregational Self-Portraits, A Progress Report.” Annual meeting of the Congregational Studies Team, Davidson, North Carolina.
- 2015 “Seeing Religion: Old and New Directions in the Visual Sociology of Religion.” The Henry Symposium, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2014 “Why Study Religion Visually?” The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2013 “Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion.” The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2013 “Beyond Mainstream Methods: Photo Elicitation and the Visual Sociology of Religion,” with Kyle Whitehouse. The Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting, New York, New York.
- 2013 “Visualizing the Sociology of Religion.” International Visual Sociology Association annual meeting, London, England.
- 2013 “Seeing Religion: Visual Research Methods in the Sociology of Religion.” Invited presentation for the Calvin College Social Science Seminar Series, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2013 “Visual Sociology: A New Lens for Studying Congregations.” Invited presentation for the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- 2012 “Sociology of Religion and the Visual Turn.” The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2011 “Stages of Research: Methodological Considerations for the Sociological Study of Religion in Everyday Life” with Nancy T. Ammerman. The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

- 2010 “God’s Global Professionals: The Idea of the Calling among American-Educated Evangelicals from India, China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.” The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2010 “The Idea of a Calling among Evangelical International Students from China.” Eastern Sociological Association annual meeting, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 2009 “Lived Religion Beyond Borders: Evangelical Christianity in the Everyday Lives of International Students in the USA.” The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Denver, Colorado.
- 2009 “‘We will have a new China!’ Calling, Career, and Change among American-Educated Chinese Evangelicals.” Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting, San Francisco, California.
- 2008 “Picturing Transnational Religion: Reflections on the Use of Photo Elicitation Interviews among Evangelical International Students.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Louisville, Kentucky.
- 2008 “Space for God: Exploring the Boundaries of Sacred Space in Everyday Life.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting and Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting (joint session), Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2008 “Religion, Spiritual Narratives, and Sacred Space in Everyday Life.” Invited presentation, Trinity Forum Academy, Royal Oak, Maryland.
- 2007 “Time and Space: Photo Interviews and the Temporal Dimension of Religion.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, Tampa, Florida.
- 2007 “A Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Photo Interviews and the Temporal Dimension of Religion.” Invited presentation, Social Science and Religion Network Working Group, Boston University.
- 2006 “Spiritual Narratives in Everyday Life: Theories and Methods for Studying Religion,—A Report on Research Progress” with Nancy Ammerman and Amy Moff Hudec. Invited presentation, Social Science and Religion Network Working Group, Boston University.

Additional Experience

- 2006–2009 Co-investigator, “Spiritual Narratives in Everyday Life” (Nancy T. Ammerman, P.I.). This study, funded by the John Templeton Foundation (\$310,000), explores the ways in which ordinary people live and experience religion and spirituality across the many domains of daily life.
- 2004–2006 Research Assistant to Dana L. Robert, Boston University School of Theology, Center for Global Christianity and Mission.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Calvin College Alumni Research Grant (\$5000) to support “Converted Structures: A Faculty-Student Collaborative Project on the Process, Prevalence, Causes, Consequences, and Meanings of the Conversion of Buildings from Sacred to Secular and Vice Versa.”
- 2017 Louisville Institute, Project Grant for Researchers, “Interfaith Photovoice Initiative” (\$44,900).
- 2016 Calvin Institute for Christian Worship Writing Fellow.

- 2015 Calvin Research Fellowship for the 2016-2017 academic year, which includes a 1-course release to support work on the “Picturing Faith, Strengthening Congregations” project.
- 2015 Nagel Institute Fellowship, “Visualizing Faith and Citizenship” with Kevin den Dulk, co-principal investigator (\$5000).
- 2015 Calvin College Fund for the Scholarship of Engagement, Small Grant (\$2000).
- 2014 Louisville Institute, Project Grant for Researchers, “Picturing Faith, Strengthening Congregations” (\$24,958).
- 2014 Calvin Research Fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year, which includes a 1-course release to support work on the “Picturing Faith, Strengthening Congregations” project.
- 2014 Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, 2014 Major Grant (\$4300).
- 2014 Deur Research Award for a research project titled “Visual Methods for the Social Scientific Study of Religion and the Engaged Scholarship of Religion” Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$4300).
- 2014 Deur Research Award, *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*, Book Subvention, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$2500).
- 2014 Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*, Book Subvention, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$2500).
- 2014 Congregational Studies Fellowship, Engaged Scholars Program (\$15,000).
- 2013 Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, “Visualizing Religion” Working Group Grant, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$3000).
- 2013 Deur Research Award for a research project titled “Talking About Religion: Photo Elicitation and the Social Scientific Study of Religion, A Critical Assessment,” Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$5200).
- 2013 Calvin College Alumni Research Grant (\$5000) to support the “Visualizing the Sociology of Religion” project.
- 2013 Calvin Research Fellowship for the 2013-2014 academic year, which includes a course release to support the work on *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*.
- 2012 Deur Research Award for “Visual Methods and the Sociology of Religion,” Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan (\$3993).
- 2011 Roman R. Williams and Alyssa Karr (Student), “Cooking Gender: Representations of Women in Food Magazines, 1950-2010,” Undergraduate Research Grant, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee (\$1000).
- 2011 Pew Research Grant, Union University, Center for Faculty Development, Jackson, Tennessee (\$4500).
- 2009 Morris Grant, Boston University, Department of Sociology, Boston, Massachusetts (\$900).
- 2008 Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and The Humanities Foundation, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (\$4000).
- 2008 Morris Grant, Boston University, Department of Sociology, Boston, Massachusetts (\$950).
- 2008 Student Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (\$3000).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2015 International Visual Methods Seminar, Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerp, Belgium.

TEACHING

Teaching Appointments

- 2016–Present Visiting Lecturer, Duke University, Divinity School (Doctor of Ministry Program), Durham, North Carolina
- 2012–Present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2010–2012 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Family Studies, Union University, Jackson, Tennessee
- 2009 Lecturer and Senior Teaching Fellow, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, Boston, Massachusetts (Spring Semester)
- 2008 Adjunct Professor, Gordon College, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Wenham, Massachusetts (Fall Semester)
- 2008 Lecturer and Senior Teaching Fellow, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, Boston, Massachusetts (Spring Semester)

Sociology Courses Taught

- Introductory Sociology (Union University, Calvin College)
- Introductory Sociology through Film, Honors (Calvin College)
- Visual Sociology of Social Problems (Calvin College)
- Visual Research Methods (Calvin College)
- Sociology of Religion (Boston University, Gordon College, Union University, Calvin College)
- Qualitative Research Methods (Union University)
- History of Social Thought (Union University)
- Senior Capstone Seminar (Union University)
- Analysis: Understanding and Interpreting Context (Duke Divinity)

ADMINISTRATION

- 2016–2019 Director, McGregor Undergraduate Research Program for the Humanities and the Social Sciences, Calvin College
- 2016–Present Executive Officer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
- 2010–2012 Program Director, Department of Sociology and Family Studies, Union University.
- 2007–2010 Coordinator, Social Science and Religion Network, Boston University.

MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association
Association for the Sociology of Religion
International Visual Sociology Association
Michigan Society of Association Executives
Religious Research Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

University Service

Michigan Colleges Alliance, Course Share Pilot, Course Instructor, Spring and Fall Semesters, 2018.
Department Publicity/Marketing Committee, Calvin College, 2014–present.
Enrollment Management Committee, Calvin College, 2013–present.
Departmental Faculty Development Committee, Calvin College, 2012–2014.
Departmental Assessment Committee, Calvin College, 2012–2014.
The Howard Newell Innovative Teaching Award, 2012 Selection Committee, Union University.
Honors Program Leadership Committee, Union University, 2011–2012.
Workshop Leader with Jim Avery, Justin Barnard, and Steve Beverly, “Innovating with iPads in the Classroom,” Union University, Fall Faculty Workshop, August 23, 2011.

Service to the Profession

Organizer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting, October 13–15, 2017, Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting sessions on visual sociology, October, 2017, Washington, DC.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting sessions, “Visualizing Religion and Public Life” (two sessions, 7 papers), October, 2016, Atlanta, Georgia.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting session, “Visual Engagement: Visual Methods, Engaged Scholarship, and the Sociology of Religion,” October 25, 2015, Newport Beach, California.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting session, “Publishing Visual Research on Religion,” October 24, 2015, Newport Beach, California.
Organizer and Convener, Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting sessions titled, “Visual Sociology of Religion I and II,” August 21, 2015, Chicago, Illinois.
Student Research Awards Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, November 2014–2016 (Chair, 2016).
Organizer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting paper sessions titled, “Visual Bridges: Visual Research Methods I and II,” October 31, 2014, Indianapolis, Indiana.
Organizer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting paper sessions titled “Seeing

Religion: Visual Research Methods I and II,” November 8, 2013, Boston, Massachusetts.
Organizer and Convener, International Visual Sociology Association annual meeting panel titled, “Religion in the Public Eye,” July 8-10, 2013, London, England.
Membership Committee of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, November 2010–2012.
Organizer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting paper session titled, “Taking the Visual Turn: Visual Methods and the Social Scientific Study of Religion,” November 9, 2012, Phoenix, Arizona.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting paper session titled, “Visual Methods in the Scientific Study of Religion,” October 28, 2011, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Presider, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Honors Student Roundtable (Religion and Theory), August 20, 2011.
Organizer and Convener with Richard Flory (University of Southern California), Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting titled, “Religion in Global and Visual Perspective I and II,” October 30, 2010, Baltimore, Maryland.
Organizer and Convener, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting paper session titled, “Religion and Visual Methods: Local, Historical, and Global Considerations,” October 18, 2008, Louisville, Kentucky.

Peer Reviewer

Ad hoc peer reviewer for *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Visual Studies*, and the National Science Foundation (Sociology Program).

Other Service

Workshop Presenter, “Engaging Your Congregation Visually,” Leadership Training Event, Volunteers in Service, Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 13, 2016.
Workshop Presenter, “When a Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Visual Program Evaluation,” Take Your Church to College, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 22, 2016.
Workshop Presenter, “Using Photographs to Monitor and Evaluate Vital Worship Projects,” Day of Learning, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 24, 2015.
Evaluator, Vital Worship Grants 2014 Colloquium, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids Michigan, June 9-10, 2014.
Workshop Presenter, “Visualizing Worship: Using Photographs to Stimulate Conversations about Worship,” Symposium on Worship, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids Michigan, January 31 and February 1, 2014.

REFERENCES

Nancy T. Ammerman, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor of Sociology of Religion
Boston University

Gerardo Marti, Ph.D.

L. Richardson King Associate Professor of Sociology
Chair, Department of Sociology
Davidson College
Editor, *Sociology of Religion*

Mark Mulder, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology
Chair, Department of Sociology
Calvin College

Timothy Shortell, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology
Brooklyn College, City University of New York
Editor, *Visual Studies*