

Greg Wurm

Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
2045 JFSB

gwurm@byu.edu
gregwurm.com
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Employment

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
2024-Present Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology

Education

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

2024 **PhD Sociology**

Dissertation: *Escaping the Polarization Paradox: The Possibility, Desirability, and Pursuit of Bridging America's Political Divide*

- "Putting People over Politics: What Makes Political Depolarization Possible"
- "Recognition Polarization: When Hate is off the Scale and Depolarization is off the Table"
- "Polarized about Depolarization? Bridging Identity, Partisanship, and Ties among Civil Society Organizations"

Committee Members: Christian Smith (chair), Lyn Spillman, Terence McDonnell, Erin Rossiter (political science), Abigail Ocobock

Qualifying Exams: Religion (passed with distinction), Theory

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

2018 **MS Sociology**

2016 **BS Sociology**, Magna Cum Laude
Valedictorian, Department of Sociology
Honors Program

2014 University of Cambridge: Pembroke-Kings Programme (summer)
University of Oxford: Seminar on Social Innovation (spring)

MESA AND CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2013 **Associates of Arts**, Summa Cum Laude
Certificate of Global Citizenship

Research and Teaching Interests

Family; Religion; Politics Theory; Culture; Morality Qualitative; Quantitative; Networks

Publications

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

2024 **Wurm, Greg J.** "Religion, Family, and Modernization Theory in the West." 53: 971-995.
Theory and Society.

DOI: [10.1007/s11186-024-09563-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-024-09563-6)

- 2022 **Wurm, Greg J.** "Theorizing Arranged Marriage: The Case of South Asian Muslim Immigrants in Love Marriage Societies." *Journal of Family Theory and Review*. 14(4):644-659.
DOI: [10.1111/jftr.12470](https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12470)
- 2019 David C. Dollahite, Loren D. Marks, **Greg J. Wurm.** "Generative Devotion: A Theory of Sacred Relational Care in Families of Faith." *Journal of Family Theory and Review*. 11(3):429-448.
DOI: [10.1111/jftr.12339](https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12339)
- 2019 Knapp, Stan J., **Greg J. Wurm.** "Theorizing Family Change: A Review and Reconceptualization." *Journal of Family Theory and Review*. 11(2):212-229.
DOI: [10.1111/jftr.12329](https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12329)
- 2018 **Wurm, Greg J.**, David C. Dollahite, and Loren D. Marks. 2018. "The Inner Logic of Religion(s): Theoretical Implications Regarding Eight American Religious-Ethnic Communities." *Marriage & Family Review* 54(7):635-347.
DOI: [10.1080/01494929.2018.1469570](https://doi.org/10.1080/01494929.2018.1469570)

BOOK CHAPTER

- 2019 **Wurm, Greg J.**, David C. Dollahite, and Loren D. Marks. 2019. "The Inner Logic of Religion(s): Theoretical Implications Regarding Eight American Religious-Ethnic Communities." Pp. 19-31 in David Dollahite and Loren Marks (Eds.). *Strengths in Diverse Families of Faith: Exploring Religious Differences*. New York: Routledge.

Works in Progress

TENTATIVE ACCEPTANCE

Wurm, Greg J. Polarized about Depolarization? Bridging Identity, Partisanship, and Ties among Civil Society Organizations. Accepted for special issue at the *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*.

Wurm, Greg J. "Americans' Attitudes Toward Political (De)polarization." Accepted as a book chapter in co-edited volume on "Civic Renewal and Deliberative Democracy" by Braver Angels' Scholar Council (Editors: April Chatham-Carpenter and Charles Hecksher).

Wurm, Greg J. "Normative Inquiry and Lyrical Sociology." Accepted for special collection on normativity at the journal *Civic Sociology*.

REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Wurm, Greg J. "Rethinking the Relationship between Ethics and Ontology: Toward a Theory of Ethical Relationalism." Revising to re-submit to the *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior*.

UNDER REVIEW

Sikkink, David and **Greg J. Wurm.** "Americans' Views of Religion and Public Life: The Effect of Three Cultural Models on Attitudes toward Religious and Nonreligious Groups." Under review at *Social Science Research*.

IN PREPARATION FOR SUBMISSION

Wurm, Greg J. "Putting People over Politics: What Makes Political Depolarization Possible."

Wurm, Greg J. "Recognition Polarization: When Hate is off the Scale and Depolarization is off the Table."

Wurm, Greg J. "The Heteronormative Power of Marriage: Post-Obergefell Families and the Unequal Division of Paid Labor." With student co-author Sierra Mason.

Wurm, Greg J. "The Logic of Bridging: Political Heterophily and Affective Depolarization." Undergraduate co-author: Cameron Braddock.

Awards & Scholarships

2023	ICPSR Workshop on Network Analysis - \$2,275 total - Combined funding from GSPDA, Rooney Center, and ND Department of Sociology
2022-2023	Graduate Fellow – Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (NIDAS) - \$31,000
2022	Research Support Grant – NDIAS - \$1000
2022	Institute for Humane Studies (HIS) Grant - \$1,000
2021	Graduate Student Research Award (ISLA) - \$4,000
2019	GSPDA to attend Levinas Philosophy Summer Seminar - \$1,000
2018-2019	Funding from CSRS to attend SSSR conference - \$600 per year
2018-2023	University Presidential Fellowship - \$29,000
2016-2018	Stipend for BYU Master's Program - \$22,080 per year
2014-2018	Ann Lowden Call/Dayna Lynn Ahern Scholarships - \$4,500
2017	Winner of Mary P. Oenslager National Achievement Award - \$6,000
2015-2017	Phi Kappa Phi, BYU Chapter - Top 7.5% of university class
2016	Grant from <i>Office of Research and Creative Activities</i> towards honor's thesis - \$1,500
2016	First Place in J. Reuben Clark Law Society <i>Religious Liberty in 30 Seconds</i> contest
2014-2016	BYU Undergraduate Continuing Student Scholarship – Full tuition

Presentations

- 2025 "Recognition Polarization: When Hate is off the Scale and Depolarization is off the Table."
- BYU Political Science "Thursday Group" seminar. Provo, UT, February.
- 2025 "Polarized about Depolarization? Bridging Identity, Partisanship, and Ties among Civil Society Organizations."
- Studies in Politics and Movements (SPAM) workshop, Notre Dame, IN, February.
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- 2024 Overview of my work on political depolarization
- For the Benefit of the World Conference. Provo, UT: November.
o Presented in topical session on "Facilitating Peace" and regional session for "US and Canada."
- 2024 Models For, Of, and Against Religion and Non-Religion in the Public Sphere (w/ David Sikkink)
- Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) conference. Montreal, Canada: August 2024. (presented by David Sikkink)
- Research and Analysis in the Sociology of Religion (RASR) workshop, Notre Dame, IN, February.
- Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) conference. Philadelphia, PA: August 2023. (did not attend due to scheduling conflict)

- 2023 Rethinking the Relationship between Ethics and Ontology: Toward a Theory of Ethical Relationalism
- Presented Social Science Historical Association (SSHA) conference. Washington, DC: November.
- 2023 Bridging Political Differences: The Sources and Ends of the Emerging Political Depolarization Field
- Presented at American Sociological Association (ASA) Political Sociology section roundtable. Philadelphia, PA: August.
- 2023 Mapping the Depolarization Field
- Presented a poster at the “Keeping the Republic” conference. University of Notre Dame, IN, May.
- 2023 Polarized about Polarization: Americans’ Attitudes Toward Political (De)polarization
- Presented for a data blitz session at the “Keeping the Republic” conference. University of Notre Dame, IN, May.
 - Presented at Social Movements Workshop, University of Notre Dame, IN, October.
- 2023 Lyrical Sociology and Normative Inquiry
- Presented at Culture and Theory Workshop, Notre Dame, IN, February.
- 2022 Putting People over Politics: Explaining the Possibility of Political Depolarization
- American Sociological Association (ASA) section session for Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity (AMSS): Value Pluralism in Polarized Times. Los Angeles, CA: August.
 - Presentation at Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies (NDIAS) Faculty Seminar. Notre Dame, IN, September.
- 2021 Theorizing Arranged Marriage: The Case of Muslim Immigrants in Love Marriage Societies
- Theory Construction and Research Methods (TCRM) workshop for annual meeting of the National Council of Family Relations (NCFR), November (virtual session).
- 2021 Rethinking the Relationship between Ethics and Ontology: Toward a Theory of Ethical Relationalism
- ASA Theory Roundtable, August (virtual).
- 2021 Political Polarization within the American Family
- Studies in Politics and Movements (SPAM) workshop, Notre Dame, IN, March.
 - Research & Analysis Sociology of Religion workshop, Notre Dame, IN, March.
- 2020 “The (Non)Heteronormative Power of Marriage: Post-Obergefell Families and the Division of Paid Labor.”
- ASA Family Roundtable, August (virtual).
 - Gender Workshop, Notre Dame, IN, April.
- 2019 “Religion, Family, and Modernization Theory in the West”
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) session: St. Louis, MO, October.
 - Research and Analysis in the Sociology of Religion (RASR) workshop, Notre Dame, IN, November.

- 2019 “Doing Normative Inquiry: Toward an Ethical Theory of the Lyric”
 - Chicago Ethnography Conference (CEC) session, Northwestern University: Evanston, IL, March.
- 2018 “The Missing Link in Secularization Theory: The Family as an Autonomous Field”
 - Eastern Sociological Society (ESA) session, Baltimore, MD, February.
- 2018 “A Logic for Research that Changes the World: The Pragmatic Imperative to Change Oneself”
 - Pacific Sociological Association (PSA) session, Long Beach, CA, March.
- 2017 “Theorizing Family Change: A Review and Reconceptualization” (with Stan Knapp)
 - Theory Construction and Research Methods (TCRM) Pre-conference workshop of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), Orlando, FL, November.
- 2017 “Family, Religion, and the Rise of the Non-Religious Humanitarian Field”
 - Social Science Historical Association session (SSHA), Montreal, QC, November.
- 2017 “Living in Detroit: *Doing* and *Interpreting* Lyrical Sociology”
 - Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) session, Montreal, QC, August.
 - Society for the Study of Social Interactionism (SSSI) session, Montreal, QC, August.

Other Research Experience

- 2020-22 *Research Assistant –David Sikkink*
 - Analyzed data from the 2017 Baylor Religion Survey and conducted a literature review on Christian nationalism, civil religion, and anti-Atheist/Muslim prejudice in the U.S.
- 2019-20 *Research Assistant –Abigail Ocobock*
 - Conducted a literature review on arranged marriages among 2nd and 3rd generation South Asian Immigrants to the United States.
- 2018 *Research Assistant –Christian Smith*
 - Conducted a literature review on the connection between the family and economy immediately before and after the industrial revolution.
- 2016-18 *Research Assistant –Stan Knapp*
 - Conducted a literature review on how family change has been conceptualized by scholars over the past half-century.
- 2017 *Research Assistant (spring/summer)- Curtis Child*
 - Assisted in the writing and revision of a paper on the history of the LDS Genesis Group, an auxiliary organization for Black men and women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) formed at a time when those of African descent were banned from holding the church’s priesthood, as well as read interview transcripts, relevant historical work, and attended monthly meetings of this group.
 - Helped briefly with a project on multi-level marketing.

Teaching Experience

- 2025 SOC310 – *Social Inquiry* (Winter – anticipated Spring, Fall)
 SOC 361 - *Theoretical Foundation of Marriage and Family* (Winter – anticipated Fall)

- 2024 SOC 310 - *Social Inquiry (Undergraduate - BYU)*
SOC 361 - *Theoretical Foundation of Marriage and Family (Undergraduate - BYU)*
- 2023 *Introductory Statistics and Data Analysis (Undergraduate)*
- University of Notre Dame, Fall. Teaching undergraduate students the basics of statistics and data analysis using Stata.
- 2021 *Linear Regression Lab (Graduate)*
- University of Notre Dame, Fall. Teaching first-year graduate students the basics of data analysis using Stata.
- 2021 *Statistics Bootcamp (Graduate)*
- University of Notre Dame, Summer term. Accelerated introductory statistics course for incoming graduate students.
- 2019 *Teaching Assistant/Instructor: Introduction to Social Problems (Undergraduate)*
- University of Notre Dame, Spring term w/ Abigail Ocobock (led class for 2nd half of semester while professor was out on maternity leave).
- 2018 *Instructor: "Introduction to Family Sociology" (Undergraduate)*
- Brigham Young University Department of Sociology, Summer.
- 2015 *Family Facilitator Intern for the Strengthening Families Program (Community)*
- Co-taught a 10-week research-based family skills class at Utah Valley University to parents and children recommended by local school districts.

Other Writing, Presentations, and Projects

- 2025 Invited to attend Pluralism in Action Convening in Atlanta, GA (Jan. 30th-Feb.1st) and participate in Ecosystem Hackathon as part of the "Communications Working Group" (which seeks to "raise awareness about the meaning and importance of pluralism.")
- 2024 Invited to meet with delegates from Mongolia who were part of the International Center for Law and Religious Studies (ICLRS) Symposium to discuss potential collaboration on a world religion textbook based in their language and country's context.
- 2024 Invited to share my research on the depolarization field with researchers at [More in Common-USA](#).
- 2023 Political discussion startup (Purple Nation) that I am a part of featured on Notre Dame Innovation Center's website: <https://ideacenter.nd.edu/news-events/news/talking-it-out-startup-founded-by-idea-center-director-seeks-to-promote-positive-outcome-for-political-discussions/>
- 2023 Invited to discuss my research on political depolarization to a local men's group "Tuesday Talkers" that meets zoom. 6/13/23.

- 2023 “Listening and Speaking in a Depolarized and Depolarizing Way.” Invited to present about my research on political depolarization to the Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. St. Joseph, MI. 5/07/23. <https://youtu.be/VZjV8LUkG9s?t=203>
- 2021 **Wurm, Greg J.**, David C. Dollahite, and Loren D. Marks. 2019. “The Inner Logic of Religion(s)” Public Square Magazine. July 7. <https://publicsquaremag.org/faith/the-inner-logic-of-religions/>

Mentoring

- 2025 Sierra Mason. Supervised directed readings (on the gendered division of paid labor).
- 2024-25 Cameron Braddock. Undergraduate research assistant (sociology). Teaching assistant (310). Supervised directed research (project on Christian nationalism in country music)
- In helping me on a project, he found a data error in prominent political science article on affective polarization: <https://academic.oup.com/poq/advance-article/doi/10.1093/poq/nfae051/7907143>
- 2022-23 Allan George. Undergraduate research fellow (neuroscience) with the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Studies (NDIAS).
- Worked with me to create a dataset of current depolarization organizations.

Service

- 2025 Paper Discussant - Polarization Research Lab Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, UT:
- 2025 Student research and internship coordinator – BYU Peacemaker Project
- 2023 Reviewer – *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion (JSSR)*, *Journal of Family Theory & Review (JFTR)*
- 2021 Graduate Admissions Committee, Notre Dame – Student Representative
- 2021 Distinguished Career Award Committee Member - ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity section (AMSS)
- 2021 NCFR Annual Conference Proposal Reviewer
- 2019 Volunteer – Sociology of Development Conference

Professional Associations and Affiliations

Member

American Sociological Association (ASA)

- Sections: Family; Religion; Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity; Theory

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

- Sections: Religion, Spirituality, and Family; Research and Theory

- Focus Groups: Diverse Family Structures; Qualitative Family Research Network; Work & Family

Social Science History Association (SSHA)

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR)

Affiliate

de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, Notre Dame

Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Notre Dame

The Rooney Center for the Study of American Politics, Notre Dame

Braver Angels, Scholars Council

Languages and Programming

Languages

- Spanish - proficient

Programming

- Stata
- R – Network analysis and Computational Text analysis (using LLMs)
- Qualtrics
- Other (Basic)
 - R (besides the above)
 - Python
 - Mplus

References

Christian Smith (sociology)

William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor, University of Notre Dame
christian.smith@nd.edu / (574) 631-4531

Lynette Spillman (sociology)

Professor, University of Notre Dame
lynette.p.spillman.1@nd.edu / (574) 631-8067

Erin Rossiter (political science)

Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame
erossite@nd.edu / (574) 631-1747

Meghan Sullivan (philosophy)

Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy;
Director of Notre Dame Institute of Advanced Study
sullivan.329@nd.edu / (574) 631-4590