

Curriculum Vitae 2023

F. Carson Mencken
Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology
Baylor University
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Education

Ph.D. Louisiana State University (Sociology) 1994
M.A. Louisiana State University (Sociology) 1989
B.S. College of Charleston, SC (Sociology) 1987

Academic Appointments

Professor, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (6/2006 to Present)
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (8/2002 to 5/2006).
Associate Professor of Sociology, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Applied
Social Sciences, West Virginia University
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Applied
Social Sciences, West Virginia University

Administrative Positions

Chair, Department of Sociology, Baylor University (8/2015 to Present)
Faculty Athletic Representative, Big XII Conference (9/2019 to Present)
Director, Baylor Religion Survey- 1/2003-6/2015
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Baylor University
Chair, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Applied Social Sciences, West
Virginia University
Director of Graduate Studies, Division of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Applied Social
Sciences, West Virginia University

Professional Organizations

American Sociological Association
Rural Sociological Society
Southwestern Sociological Association
National Diversity Council

Research

Peer Reviewed Articles

(*=Graduate Student)

Forthcoming “Religiosity and Fear of Crime: Locating Gender Specific Effects” *Sociological Focus* with Kyra Davidson*, Jesse DeDeyne*, Daniel Allen*, and Amanda McGowan.*

2023 “Bank on It: The Effects of Locally Owned Bank Concentration on Economic Growth in Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Non-Core Commuting Zones.” *Rural Sociology* with Craig Carpenter, Charlie Tolbert and Michael Lotspeich DOI:10.1111/ruso.12488

2022 Christopher Bader and Ed Day “Fear of Crime on Community Engagement: Nonadditive and Nonlinear Effects by Gender.” *The Sociological Quarterly* 63: 379-399. doi=10.1080/00380253.2020.1850189

2020 with Kimberly D. Mencken. “Small Business Lending and Socioeconomic Development in U.S. Counties during the Great Recession.” *Journal of Rural and Community Development* 15(4): 81-99.

2020 with Bethany Smith* and Charles Tolbert. “Self Employment and Civic Inclination” *Sociological Perspectives* 63: 719-737.

2020 Carpenter, Craig Wesley, F. Carson Mencken, Charles Tolbert, and Michael Lotspeich*. “Locally Owned Bank Concentration and New Business Start-Ups in Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Non-Core Rural Counties from 1970-2010.” *The Review of Regional Studies*, 50(1): 17-42.

2019. Lotspeich, M. C., II,* Tolbert, C. M., II, & Mencken, F. C. (2019). “Oil and gas development and small business lending in U.S. nonmetropolitan counties.” *Journal of Maps*, 15(1), 46-51

2019. F. Carson Mencken and Paul Froese “Gun Culture in Action” *Social Problems* 66: 3-27.

2018 With Charles Tolbert “Locally Owned Bank Concentration and Bank Loans for Nonmetropolitan Business Start-Ups and Expansions: A Multilevel Analysis from the 2007 Survey of Business Owners” *Rural Sociology* 83(2):376-401.

2018 with Charles Tolbert, “Small Business Lending and Economic Development in Texas Counties: A Test with Community Reinvestment Act Data” *Journal of Rural and Community Development* 13 (1): 47-66.

2017 With Brittany Fitz* and Matt Henderson* “Social Embeddedness, Image of God and Trust among active Christians.” *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 32: 1-14.

2016. With Chris Bader and Joseph Baker “A Bounded Affinity Theory of Religion and the Paranormal” *Sociology of Religion* 77: 334-358.

2016. With Charles Tolbert, "Restructuring of the Financial Industry and Implications for Sources of Start-Up Capital for New Businesses in Nonmetropolitan Counties." *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* 31:72-83.
- 2014 "Traditional and Alternative Financial Institutions in Rural America: 1976-2007." *Rural Sociology* 79: 355-379. With C. Tolbert Jing Li and L. Riggs.
- 2014 "Taste and Place: College Graduates, Local Retailers, and Community Belonging in the United States" with Sam Stroope*, Charles Tolbert, and Aaron Franzen* *Sociological Spectrum* 34: 143-162.
- 2013 with Brittany Fitz* "Image of God and Community Volunteering among Religious Adherents in the United States." *Review of Religious Research*. 55: 491-508
- 2013 "Small Business Concentration and Diabetes Prevalence among U.S. Counties: A Spatial Error Analysis." With T. Blanchard, C. Tolbert, J. Li at *Public Health*.
- 2013 with Jexia Zhai* "Risk Aversion, Shortage Economy and Gender Differences in Religious Activities in China." *Sociological Focus* 48: 106-118 (first author)
- 2012 with Troy Blanchard and Charles Tolbert. "The Health and Wealth of U.S. Counties: How the Small Business Environment Impacts Alternative Measures of Development" *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society* 5: 149-162.
- 2011 with He Rong. "Judged by Karma: Belief in Karma and Social-Economic Status in Contemporary China" *Religious Cultures in the World* 65: 14-21 (Chinese language).
- 2011 With Wes Hinze* and Charles Tolbert. "From Obama to Osama: Image of God and Trust in Muslims among the Highly Religious in the United States." *Sociological Focus* 44 (1): 18-36.
- 2010 Liu, Yang* and F. Carson Mencken "Fatalistic Voluntarism and Life Happiness in Post-Socialist China." *Sociological Spectrum* 30: 270 – 288.
- 2010 Bader, Christopher, Scott Desmond, F. Carson Mencken and Byron Johnson. "Divine Justice: How Images of God Impact Attitudes toward Criminal Punishment." *Criminal Justice Review* 35: 90-106.
- 2009 with Christopher Bader and Elizabeth Embry*. "'In God We Trust': Image of God and Trust in the United States among the Highly Religious." *Sociological Perspectives* 52: 23-38.
- 2009 with Christopher Bader and Ye Jung Kim* "Round Trip to Hell in a Flying Saucer: The Relationship between Conventional Christian and Paranormal Beliefs in the United States." *Sociology of Religion*: 70:65-85.

- 2009 with Paul Froese "A U.S. Holy War? The Effects of Religion on Iraq War Attitudes." *Social Science Quarterly* 90: 103-116.
- 2008 with Christopher Bader and Rodney Stark "Conventional Christian Beliefs and Experimentation with the Paranormal" *Review of Religious Research* 50: 194-205
- 2007 with Christopher Bader and Paul Froese "American Piety 2005: Content, Methods, and Selected Results from the Baylor Religion Survey." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 46(4): 447-463.
- 2007 with Larry Lyon, Michael Beaty, and James Parker* "The Professionalization of Faculty at Religious Colleges and Universities" *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion*. 46:87-100.
- 2006 with Christopher Bader and James Parker* "Religious Path and Length of Commune Survival." *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion* 45:73-85.
- 2006 with Christopher Bader and Clay Polson* "Integrating Civil Society and Economic Growth in Appalachia." *Growth and Change* 37:107-127.
- 2005 With Larry Lyon, Michael Beaty and James Parker* "Faculty Attitudes on Integrating Faith and Learning at Religious Colleges and Universities: Separation, Integration and Polarization" *Sociology of Religion* 66:61-69.
- 2005 with Charles Tolbert. "Federal Spending and Economic Development in Appalachia" *Rural Sociology* 70:514-539.
- 2004 with Nicole Flynn "Oil and Natural Gas and Local Government Finances in the Gulf of Mexico Region" *Southern Rural Sociology* 20:64-79.
- 2004 "Federal Defense Spending and Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Disparities in Economic Growth in the Southeast." *Social Science Quarterly* 85: 324-339.
- 2004 with J. Nolan and S. Berhanu "Juveniles, Illicit Drug Use, and Homicides against Law Enforcement Officers" *Homicide Studies* 8(3): 327-349.
- 2003 with Kristin Bates and Christopher Bader "Family Structure, Power-Control Theory, and Deviance: Extending Power-Control Theory to Include Alternate Family Forms" *Western Criminology Review* 4(3): 170-190.
2002. With Cynthia Barnett.* "Social Disorganization Theory and Crime in Nonmetropolitan Counties" *Rural Sociology* 67: 372-393.
- 2000 "Right-to-Work Laws and Local Economic Growth: Recent Evidence from Appalachia." *Sociological Focus* 33:79-94.
- 2000 "Federal Spending and Economic Growth in Appalachian Counties" in *Rural Sociology*

- 65(1): 126-147.
- 2000 with Idee C. Winfield "Social Contacts and Job Searching: Does Gender of Contact Matter?" *Sex Roles* 42: 847-864 (first author).
- 1999 with Cynthia Barnett* "Murder, Nonnegligent Manslaughter, and Spatial Autocorrelation in Mid-South Counties." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 15: 407-422.
- 1999 "A Comparative Analysis of Federal Spending in Appalachia" *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 5: 247-255.
1999. With Idee C. Winfield "Employer Recruiting and the Gender Composition of Jobs." *Sociological Focus* 31(4): 357-372.
- 1998 With Josh Masnick Kim and Michael Woolcock. "The Academic Job Market for Ph.D.'s in Sociology." *The American Sociologist* 29:78-89.
- 1998 With Idee C. Winfield "In Search of the 'Right Stuff:' The Advantages and Disadvantages of Recruiting Practices in External Labor Markets." *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 57(2): 135-153.
- 1998 "Persistent Differences in Well-Being between Appalachian Subregions." *Growth and Change* 29:469-479.
- 1998 with Joachim Singelmann. "Business Cycles and Socioeconomic Performance in Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Economies during the 1980s" *The Sociological Quarterly* 39(2): 215-238.
- 1997 "Regional Differences in Socioeconomic Well-being in Appalachia" *Sociological Focus* 30: 79-97.
- 1997 With Kimberly D. Mencken, and Cynthia Rogers. "Female Labor Force Participation in Central Appalachia: A Descriptive Analysis." *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 3(2): 189-210.
- 1997 With Scott Meit, Dorian Williams, and Van Yasek. "The Effects of Patient Gowning on Physician Trust." *The Journal of Family Practice* 45(5) 397-401 (see also the accompanying editorial "The Primary Care Science of the Ordinary: Little Stuff as Big Stuff" by Dr. Howard Stein in the same issue and our response: "From Real Quibbles to Research Questions." February 1998).
- 1996 "Income and Employment Change in Appalachia during the 1983-88 Business Cycle Recovery: Locating Differential Effects in North, Central and South Appalachia." *Journal of Appalachian Studies* 2(1): 77-86.
- 1992 Joachim Singelmann and F. Carson Mencken "Industry Sector and Job Autonomy in Five Industrialized Nations." *Social Science Quarterly* 73:829-843.

Currently Under Review

“Disability and COVID-19 Financial Hardships: An Analysis of Households with Children” with Mackenzie Brewer, Jodien Johnson, and Kyra Davidson* *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*

Books

2017 *Paranormal America: Ghost encounters, UFO sightings, Bigfoot hunts and other Curiosities in Religion and Culture* with Christopher Bader and Joseph Baker*, NYU Press. First edition published in 2010.

2004. *Welfare Reform in the Mountain State* (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, L. Potter*, and D. Williams) West Virginia University Press .

Contributions to Books

2015 “American Civic Community over Space and Time” (w/ Charles Tolbert, Troy Blanchard and Jiang Li) Pp. 235-252. in *Reclaiming Space: New Middle Range Theory in Spatial Demography*. F. Howell and J. Porter (eds) Springer Press.

2008 with Rodney Stark and Christopher Bader “Credulity: Who Believes in Bigfoot?” Pp. 123-132 in *What Americans Really Believe: New Findings from the Baylor Religion Survey*. Rodney Stark (editor). Baylor University Press.

2008 with Rodney Stark and Christopher Bader “New Age Adherents” Pp. 133-140 in *What Americans Really Believe: New Findings from the Baylor Religion Survey*. Rodney Stark (editor). Baylor University Press.

2003 with Melissa Latimer. “Socioeconomic Trends in Mining Dependent Counties in Appalachia ” in Pp. 79-103 in *Communities of Work: Rural Restructuring in Local and Global Contexts* edited by A. Tickamyer, W. Falk and M. Schulman, Rural Studies Series, Ohio University Press.

1999 with Sally Ward Maggard “Informal Economic Activity in West Virginia: A Descriptive and Multivariate Analysis.” Pp. 87-106 in R. Althouse and B. Keith (eds) *Inside West Virginia: Public Policy Perspectives for the 21st Century*. West Virginia University Press.

1999 with Josh Masnick Kim "Household and Local Labor Market Determinants of Economic Well-Being in the State of West Virginia." Pp. 59-85 in R. Althouse and B. Keith (eds) *Inside West Virginia: Public Policy Perspectives for the 21st Century*. West Virginia University Press.

1993 Joachim Singelmann, Forrest A. Deseran, F. Carson Mencken and Jiang Hong Li. "What Drives Economic Performance? The Determinants of Economic Growth in Local Labor Markets." In J. Singelmann and F.A. Deseran (Eds) *Inequalities in Labor Market Areas*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Funded Research

2022-2025. "Let the Children Come: Assessment of Mentoring in Honduras and El Salvador." Sponsored by World Vision \$259,998.

2020-2022 "*The Impact of COVID 19 on the Socioeconomic Well-Being of Rural Households*" F. Carson Mencken (PI), McKenzie Brewer (Co-PI) and Jodien Johnson (Co-PI). \$150,884. USDA-FNS-CN-20-RSMDP-TX-03.

2011-2014 "Rural Community Banks and Small Business Performance" USDA NIFA funded \$486,329. With Charles Tolbert and Lynn Riggs.

2008-2010 "Nascent Employer and Their First Employees: Hope for Development in Rural America" with Charles Tolbert and Troy Blanchard.[Completed] USDA NRI. Funded. \$318,000.

2006-2010 "Empirical Study of Religion in China" Carson Mencken, Project Director, Byron Johnson and Rodney Stark, Associate Project Directors, Christopher Marsh, Fenggang Yang, and Anna Xiao Dong Sun Co-Principal Investigators.[Completed] Funded John Templeton Foundation (\$1.7 million).

2005-2007 "The Longitudinal Survey of Religious Values and Behaviors." Byron Johnson Project Director, Christopher Bader, Paul Froese, Carson Mencken, and Rodney Stark, Co-Investigators.[Completed] Project # 11284 John Templeton Foundation Funded \$715,976.

2003-2005 "Houston Profile Project: Survey of Lifestyle and Religious Values and Behaviors in the Greater Houston Area" with L. Lyon, T. Rodabough, and R. Driskell. \$149,999. [Completed] Mission Houston.

2003-2005 "Demographic Consequences of the Offshore Petroleum Industry" Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Impact Assessment LaJolla, CA. Funded. \$99,000. [Completed] With Roger Olien and John Pederson.

2001-2002 Co-PI "A Proposal to Study Hate Crimes Involving Juveniles as Victims or Offenders." Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \$73, 576 (With James Nolan) [Completed] \$73,000.

2000-2001 Co-PI WV Works 2000. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, and D. Williams). [Completed] \$106,479.00

1999-2000 Co- PI TANF/WV Works Case Closure Study. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (with R. Dilger, E. Blakely, K. Harper, M. Latimer, B. Locke, C. Plein, D. Williams, D. Yoon). [Completed] \$99,000.00.

1999 -2002 Co-PI “The Benefits and Burdens of OCS Activities to Local Communities and Public Institutions.” Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior, Impact Assessment LaJolla, CA (with K Eschbach, J. Hurlbert, N. Flynn, J. Pederson). [Completed] \$600,000.

1998. PI “The Effects of Federal Spending on Economic Change in Southern Nonmetropolitan Counties” Tennessee Valley Authority’s Rural Studies program. [Completed] \$9,170.00

Teaching

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Introductory Statistics (Louisiana State University)

Introduction to Sociology (West Virginia University, Baylor University, Maastricht University [NL])

Social Problems (West Virginia University, Louisiana State University)

Economic Sociology/Economy and Society (West Virginia University)

Social Change and Regional Development (West Virginia University)

Social Research Methods (West Virginia University)

Senior Capstone Experience (Baylor University)

Extreme Deviance (Baylor University, Maastricht University [NL])

Criminology (Baylor University)

Graduate Courses Taught

Introduction to Data Analysis (West Virginia University)

Multiple Regression Analysis (West Virginia University; Baylor University)

Sociology of Regional Processes (Baylor University)

Mail and Internet Surveys (Baylor University)

Teaching and Research Related Awards and Honors

- “Traditional and Alternative Financial Institutions in Rural America: 1976-2007.” *Rural Sociology* 79: 355-379. With C. Tolbert Jing Li and L. Riggs. Outstanding Published Paper Award, Southwestern Sociological Association, 2015.
- Faculty Leader, Baylor in Maastricht (Maastricht University, Netherlands), fall semester 2011.
- 2007 GSA Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies Award, Baylor University

- 2005 GSA Outstanding Graduate Faculty Teaching Award, Baylor University
- "Civic Engagement and County Economic Growth in Appalachia during the 1990s" Co-authored with Chris Bader and Clay Polson received the Southwestern Sociological Association Distinguished Paper Award for 2005.
- *Welfare Reform in West Virginia*, West Virginia University Press, *Honorable Mention*, ForeWord Magazine's 2004 Book of the Year Award.
- The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences (West Virginia University) Outstanding Researcher Award 1999-2000.

Service

Professional Service to Discipline (Last three years)

- President Southwestern Sociological Association
- Chair, Finance and Audit Committee, Southwestern Sociological Association
- Editorial Board *The American Sociologist*
- Reviewer: *Rural Sociology*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, USDA-NRI, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, Oxford University Press, *The American Sociologist*.

University, College, Departmental Service (Last three years- Baylor University)

- Faculty Athletic Representative, Big XII Conference
- College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee
- College of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum Committee
- College of Arts and Sciences Research Leave Committee

Community

- Senior Research Associate, Center for Community Research and Development
- Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty
- DaySpring Baptist Church