

Joseph Roso, Ph.D

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EMPLOYMENT

2024- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ambrose University

2023-24 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Sociology, Duke University

EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D., Sociology, Duke University

Certification areas: Religion, Quantitative methods

Dissertation: *Trends in the Practices and Rhetoric of Religious Organizations and Leaders in 21st Century America*

2020 MA., Sociology, Duke University

2017 BA., *Magna Cum Laude* in Sociology with Highest Honors, Vanderbilt University
Thesis: *A Calling Towards a Major? The Effect of Religious Belief on Educational Decisions*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Politics, Religion, Organizations, Quantitative Methods, Survey Research, Text Analysis

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Roso, Joseph, and David Eagle. Forthcoming. "The United Methodist Church's Schism and the Continued Restructuring of American Religion." Forthcoming in *Sociology of Religion*

Thiessen, Joel, Arch Chee Keen Wong, Emanuel Cusanelli, and **Joseph Roso**. Forthcoming. "Mental Health and Illness Perceptions and Experiences in Canadian Christian Congregations." Forthcoming in *Review of Religious Research*. Published online at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X251348193>

Roso, Joseph. 2025. "Xenophobic and Islamophobic Rhetoric Among Evangelical Opinion Leaders in the Age of Trump." *Socius* 11.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231251342657>

Sellers, Kathleen, and **Joseph Roso**. 2025. "Priestly Politics: Faith Formation and Political Ideology among Catholic Clergy." Published online in *Sociological Focus*.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380237.2025.2511609>

- Roso, Joseph**, Mark Chaves, and Turgut Keskindürk. 2024. "Clergy Political Activism: Findings from the National Survey of Religious Leaders." *Sociological Focus* 57(3): 351-68. doi: <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/c6qen/>
- Cadge, Wendy, Amy Lawton, Anna Holleman, and **Joseph Roso**. 2024. "Which Local Clergy Also Work as Chaplains? A National Overview." *Review of Religious Research* 66(1): 81-91. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X23122290>
- Roso, Joseph** and Mark Chaves. 2023. "Clergy-Lay Political (Mis)Alignment in 2019-20." *Politics and Religion* 16(3): 533-42.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048323000172>
- Media coverage in *Religion News Service* and *The Washington Post*
- Roso, Joseph**. 2023. "Streamable Services: Affinities for Streaming in Pre-Pandemic Congregational Worship." *Religions* 14(5): 641-49.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14050641>
- Roso, Joseph**. 2023. "The Churches They Are a Changin': Processes of Change in Worship Services." *Sociology of Religion* 84(2):190-221.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srac025>
- Chaves, Mark, **Joseph Roso**, and Anna Holleman. 2022. "The National Survey of Religious Leaders: Background, Methods, and Lessons Learned in the Research Process." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(3-4):737-49.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12803>
- Holleman, Anna, **Joseph Roso**, and Mark Chaves. 2022. "Religious Congregations' Technological and Financial Capacities on the Eve of the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Review of Religious Research* 64(1): 163-88.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13644-021-00477-8>
- Roso, Joseph**, Anna Holleman, and Mark Chaves. 2020. "Changing Worship Practices in American Congregations." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(4):675-84.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12682>
- Chaves, Mark, Mary Hawkins, Anna Holleman, and **Joseph Roso**. 2020. "Introducing the Fourth Wave of the National Congregations Study." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(4):646-50.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12684>

RESEARCH REPORTS

- Chaves, Mark, Anna Holleman, and **Joseph Roso**. 2025. *Clergy in America*. Durham, NC: Duke University, Department of Sociology. Available at:
<https://www.nationalsurveyreligiousleaders.org/publications/overviews>

Roso, Joseph and David Eagle. 2024. *Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church in North Carolina: Challenges and Opportunities*. OSF. doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/7ET5R

- Media coverage in *Religion Media Center*:

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/rmc-briefings/united-methodist-church-votes-for-same-sex-equality-but-still-divided/>

Holleman, Anna, **Joseph Roso**, and Mark Chaves. 2024. *Congregations' Buildings: Information from the National Congregations Study and National Survey of Religious Leaders*. Research report prepared for "Activating Hidden Assets: Making the Most of Sacred Places for the Wider Community." 4th-5th April, 2024, Philadelphia, PA.

Chaves, Mark, **Joseph Roso**, Anna Holleman, and Mary Hawkins. 2021. *Congregations in 21st Century America*. Durham, NC: Duke University, Department of Sociology. Available at: <https://www.nationalcongregationsstudy.org/s/NCSIV-report.pdf>

REVIEWS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Roso, Joseph. 2024. "Book Review: *The Spiritual Turn: The Religion of the Heart and the Making of the Romantic Liberal Modernity* by Galen Watts." *Review of Religious Research*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241239567>

Roso, Joseph. 2023. "The Uses of Technology in Twenty-First Century Congregational Worship: A Report from the National Congregations Study." *Liturgy* 38(4):3-10. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/0458063X.2023.2260706>

Roso, Joseph. 2022. "Book Review: *Exploring the Public Effects of Religious Communication on Politics* by Brian Calfano (ed.)." *Review of Religious Research* 64:197-8.

DATASETS AND CODEBOOKS

Chaves, Mark, Anna Holleman, **Joseph Roso**, and Mary Hawkins. 2022. National Survey of Religious Leaders: Data file and codebook. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University, Department of Sociology.

Chaves, Mark, Shawna Anderson, Alison Eagle, Mary Hawkins, Anna Holleman, and **Joseph Roso**. 2020. National Congregations Study: Cumulative data file and codebook. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University, Department of Sociology.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2025 "The Social Structure of Schism." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

2025 "Spiritual but not Religious Individuals are Just Less Religious" Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

- 2024 “The Social Structure of Schism.” Presented at Ambrose Research Day, Ambrose University, Calgary, AB.
- 2024 “The Network Topology of a Religious Schism.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC.
- 2024 “Love or Leave? The Disaffiliation of United Methodist Clergy Over LGBTQ+ Acceptance.” Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2023 “Streamable Services: Affinities for Streaming in Pre-Pandemic Congregational Worship.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2023 “Which Congregational Leaders Also Work as Chaplains?” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT with Amy Lawton.
- 2023 “Clergy Political Actions and Agendas: New Findings from the National Survey of Religious Leaders.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 “Theological Differences and Clergy Activism.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2022 “A Persistent Threat: Evangelical Opinion Leaders on Immigration and Islam in the Age of Trump.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 “The Churches they are a Changin’: Processes of Change in Worship Services.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 “A Persistent Threat: Evangelical Opinion Leaders on Immigration and Islam in the Age of Trump.” Presented at the Religions and Public Life Graduate Student Working Group Conference, Durham, NC.
- 2022 “The Theological Underpinnings of the Political Activism of Religious Clergy.” Presented virtually at the Boisi Center at Boston University’s Conference on Religious Activism, Political Change; Political Activism, Religious Change.
- 2021 “Clergy and Politics.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

- 2021 “American Congregations’ Technological and Financial Capacities on the Eve of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Presented virtually at the Conference for the International Society for the Sociology of Religion with Anna Holleman and Mark Chaves.
- 2021 “US Evangelicals’ Attitudes Towards Immigration Under Trump.” Presented at the Religions and Public Life Graduate Student Working Group Conference, Durham, NC.
- 2021 “Congregational Preparedness on the Eve of COVID-19.” Presented virtually at the Boisi Center at Boston University’s Conference on Pandemic & Religion with Anna Holleman.
- 2020 “The Politics of Religious Leaders: Findings from the National Survey of Religious Leaders.” Accepted for presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburg, PA with Anna Holleman and Mark Chaves. (Canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “Are Changing American Worship Practices Driven by Change Among Existing Congregations or Cohort Replacement? Investigating Change in an Organizational Population.” Accepted for presentation at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. (Canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2019 “Worship and Technology in American Religion: Findings from the NCS-IV.” Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO with Anna Holleman.
- 2019 “Organizing Worship: The Role of Denominational Authority in the Production of Atypical Religious Worship.” Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2018 “A Calling Towards a Major? The Effect of Religious Belief on Educational Decisions.” Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021-22 Graduate Student Teaching Award, Duke University Department of Sociology
- 2021-22 Religions and Public Life Graduate Fellowship, Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University
- 2021 Best Student Paper Award, Boisi Center at Boston University’s Conference on Pandemic and Religion for “American Congregations’ Technological and Financial Capacities on the Eve of the COVID-19 Pandemic.”with Anna Holleman.

- 2021-22 Competitive Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School
- 2020-21 Religions and Public Life Graduate Fellowship, Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University
- 2018-19 Competitive Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School
- 2017-21 James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School
- 2017-18 Graduate Student Fellowship, Duke University Department of Sociology
- 2017 Outstanding Student Finalist, Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology

TEACHING

- Instructor of Record
- SO 311: Contemporary Social Theory. Winter 2026
 - SO 370: Nationalism, Populism, and Democracy. Fall 2025.
 - SO 307: Sociology of Health. Ambrose University. Winter 2025.
 - BHS 410: Basic Multivariate Statistics (w/Lab). Ambrose University. Winter 2025, 2026
 - SO 121: Principles of Sociology. Ambrose University. Fall 2024, 2025; Winter 2026
 - SO 200: Sociology of Families. Ambrose University. Fall 2024.
 - BHS 310: Quantitative Research Methods for Social Science (w/Lab). Ambrose University. Fall 2024, 2025
 - SOCIOLOGICAL 332: Social Research Methods. Duke University. Summer 2021, 2022.
- Independent Research Supervisor
- Ambrose University. Winter 2025; Spring 2025; Fall 2025; Winter 2026
- Teaching Assistant
- SOCIOLOGICAL 721: Logic of Inquiry (required graduate methods course). Duke University. Fall 2019-22.
- Tutoring
- Student-Athlete Tutor in Sociology. Vanderbilt University. Fall 2015; Spring 2016.

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Ad-hoc reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religions*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, *Religions*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Focus*, *The Sociological Quarterly*

Committee Member, Animal Care Committee, Ambrose University

Committee Member, Gallagher International Travel Grant committee, Association for the Sociology of Religion

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019-23 Research Assistant, Mark Chaves, National Congregations Study and National Survey of Religious Leaders National Survey of Religious Leaders, Duke University

2016-17 Research Assistant, Larry Isaac, Vanderbilt University

2015 Contribution to Humanities Action Lab States of Incarceration project

RESEARCH TOOLS

Proficient with *R* (and commonly used packages such as *ggplot*, *dplyr*, *rvest*, *igraph*, etc.) and *SPSS*. Familiarity with *STATA* and *Selenium*.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association

- Sociology of Religion Section
- Methodology Section
- Political Sociology Section

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Association for the Sociology of Religion

International Society for the Sociology of Religion