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**Robert E. Brenneman**  
*Curriculum Vitae* – January 2016

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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|--------------|---|
| 2015-present | Associate Professor of Sociology, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.                    |
| 2010-2015    | Assistant Professor of Sociology, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.                    |
| 2009-2010    | Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame. |

## EDUCATION

- |      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| 2009 | Ph.D. | University of Notre Dame, Sociology. Dissertation: "From Homie to <i>Hermano</i> : Conversion and Gang Exit in Central America." Supervisor: Christian Smith.       |
| 2005 | M.A.  | University of Notre Dame, Sociology. Thesis: "Faith and the Foreigner: Exploring the Impact of Religion on Attitudes toward Immigrants." Supervisor: David Sikkink. |
| 1997 | B.A.  | Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia  |

## PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Social Theory         | Restorative Justice       |
| Sociology of Religion | Microsociology            |
| Central America       | Sociology of Architecture |
| Urban Gangs           |                           |

## BOOK

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2012 | Brenneman, Robert. <i>Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. |
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## REFEREED ARTICLES

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Forthcoming | Brenneman, Robert and Brian Miller. "When Bricks Matter: Four Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings." <i>Sociology of Religion</i> .   |
| 2015        | Brenneman, Robert. "¡Solo pajas! Volver a un Sitio de Campo Desordenado." In <i>SENDAS</i> . 2:39-54. Instituto de Investigaciones del Hecho Religioso, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City. |
| 2014        | Brenneman, Robert. "Wrestling the Devil: Conversion and Exit from the Central American Gangs." <i>Latin American Research Review</i> . Vol. 49, Special Issue.                                       |

- 2009 Brenneman, Robert. "Embodied Forgiveness: John H. Yoder and the (Body) Politics of Footwashing," *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*. 83:7-28.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming Brenneman, Robert. "Enfrentando la 'Crisis de valores:' La seguridad y las iglesias en Centroamérica" in *El Impacto de las Iglesias Pentecostales y Carismáticos sobre la Participación Cívica*. Eds. Jeannette Aguilar and Karla Rodriguez. San Salvador, ES: UCA Editores.
- 2016 Brenneman, Robert. "Violence, Religion, and Institutional Legitimacy in Northern Central America." Pp. 371-394 in *Religious Responses to Violence in Latin America: Human Rights in Latin America Past and Present*. Ed. Alexander Wilde. Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame Press.
- 2015 Brenneman, Robert. "Violencia, Religión y Legitimidad Institucional al Norte de Centroamérica." Pp. 381-404 in *Las Iglesias ante La Violencia en América Latina: Los derechos humanos en el pasado y el presente*. Ed. Alexander Wilde. Mexico City, MX: FLACSO-Mexico.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert and Adriana García. "Latin American Youth Gangs." In Oxford Handbooks Online. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2011 Brenneman, Robert. "Evangelical Movements" in *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. eds. Wade Clark Roof and Mark Juergensmeyer. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

## SELECTED BOOK REVIEWS

- Forthcoming Review of *City of God: Citizenship in Postwar Guatemala* by Kevin O'Neill for *Religion and Society*.
- 2015 Review of *God's Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery* by Edward Orozco Flores for *Contemporary Sociology*.
- 2014 Review of *Cleansing Honor with Blood: Masculinity, Violence, and Power in the Highlands of Brazil, 1845-1889* by Martha Santos for the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 33:4 pp. 502-504.
- 2013 Review of *The Rational Believer: Choices and Decisions in the Madrasas of Pakistan* by Masooda Bano for *Sociology of Religion*. 74:2 pp. 289-290.
- 2011 Review of *An Amish Paradox: Diversity and Change in the World's Largest Amish Community* by Charles E. Hurst and David L. McConnell for *American Journal of Sociology*. 116:4 pp. 1388-90.
- 2009 Review of *Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence and Survival in Honduras* by Adrienne Pine, in *Contemporary Sociology*. 39:1 p. 78-79.
- 2009 Review of *Land, Protest and Politics* by Gabriel Ondetti, in *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*. 14:2 pp. 264-265.

2009                      Review of *Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities* by Nolt and Myers for *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*. 70:4 pp. 455-457.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

In Progress            Spanish Translation of *Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America*.

In Progress            “Refuge and Resistance: Youth Violence and the Church in Central America, 2008-2014.” Conducted 17 follow-up interviews with ex-gang member participants in dissertation research. Analysis to begin in 2015.

## FUNDED RESEARCH

2012-2013            Member, Advisory Team: “Religion and Violence” Luce Foundation-Funded Research Grant, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, American University, Washington, D.C.

2010-2012            Advisor for Guatemala Team: “The Impact of Pentecostal and Charismatic Catholic Movements on Local Community Organization and Civic Participation in Central America.” Joint research grant (\$400K) of University of New Mexico and Jesuit University of Central America (UCA).

2007-2009            Doctoral Dissertation: Conducted 104 interviews in Central America including sixty-three in-depth interviews with former gang members.

2007-2008            Chicago Study of Congregations – Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies: Conducted ethnographic research on a large Latino immigrant congregation on Chicago’s West Side.

## GRANTS AWARDED

2015                    (\$5000) Jack Shand Research Grant from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for research on the sociology of religious buildings in Guatemala.

2015                    (\$1000) Politi Travel Grant (Saint Michael’s College) for travel and guest presentation at Rafael Landivar University, Guatemala City

2014                    (\$2500) Expense Defrayment Grant (Saint Michael’s College) for Spanish translation of Chapters 1-3 of *Homies and Hermanos*.

2013                    (\$4500) Travel grant (American University, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies) for follow-up research and videotaping of short documentary films about Guatemalan ex-gang members.

2013                    (\$4000) Junior Faculty Summer Research Stipend (Saint Michael’s College) for follow-up research among ex-gang members in Honduras.

2013                    (\$2000) Expense Defrayment Grant (Saint Michael’s College) for follow-up research among ex-gang members in Honduras.

2012	(\$550) Faculty Development Grant (Saint Michael's College) to off-set costs for proof-reading and indexing <i>Homies and Hermanos</i> .
2008-2009	(\$15,000) University of Notre Dame Writing Center – Pre-doctoral Teaching and Writing Fellowship.
2009	(\$5,000) Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts – For funding student travel during cross-cultural component of SOC-25354.
2008	(\$5,000) Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Studies Intramural Grant for funding student travel during cross-cultural component of SOC-25354.
2008	(\$1,500) Jack Shand Graduate Student Writing Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
2007	(\$5,000) Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Studies Dissertation Seed Money Grant for travel funds related to dissertation research.
2007	(\$1,000) Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Research for travel and research related to the dissertation.
2008	(\$1,000) Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts for qualitative analysis software and transcription of interviews.
2008	(\$250) Mennonite Central Committee, Dwight Moody Wiebe Endowment Fund Scholarship for former international volunteers conducting dissertation research on a topic of social concern in an international context.
2006	(\$2,000) Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns Course Development Grant for course proposal “Coffee, Globalization, and the Fair Trade Movement.”

## MAJOR GRANTS SUBMITTED

2014	Recommended (after peer review stage) for a Fulbright Teaching Award in Guatemala Council for International Exchange of Scholars, U.S. Department of State. Awarded “alternate” status after policy-budgetary review.
2013	Unsuccessfully submitted full proposal to study “God, Gangs, and Drugs: Religion and the ‘New’ Violence in Central America” for the SSRC Drugs, Security and Democracy Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
2013	Participant in team of five Guatemala-Colombia-US scholars which unsuccessfully sought funding (\$150,000) from International Development Research Centre’s “Secure and Inclusive Cities.”
2009	Finalist for Individual-level award (\$72,000) for Templeton-funded Pentecostal and Charismatic Research Initiative, USC Center for Religion and Civic Life. Was not a grant recipient.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 Faculty Panelist for First Year Seminar Campus Read, *Station Eleven*. August 29.
- 2015 Featured Guest Speaker at “Sociedad, poder, cultura y religión: el gobierno de lo social y la formación d sujetos.” Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City, November 8-10.
- 2014 Panelist at “Restorative Justice! Encounter Mercy: A Conference on Restorative Justice.” Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, November 21.
- 2014 Featured speaker at “Encuentro de construcción de paz urbana.” International workshop on urban peacemaking hosted by Mennonite Central Committee in Guatemala City, Guatemala, October 16-18.
- 2014 Fall Speaker at Boston College Sociology Department Lunch Seminar Series, October 1.
- 2014 Panelist for “Urban Violence and Crossborder Criminal Activity: New Challenges for Peacebuilding” at Alliance for Peacebuilding Annual Conference – United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC, May 21.
- 2014 “Maras para Cristo: What the Gang Conversions Have to Teach us about Pentecostalism in Central America.” Regent University, March 1.
- 2013 Featured speaker at “Entendiendo las raíces de la violencia urbana.” Conference on urban violence sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee’s Bogotá office, September 30-October 1, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2013 Panelist at State Department Briefing “An Assessment of Gang Dynamics in the Northern Triangle of Central America.” Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA, May 23.
- 2013 “Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape.” Presentation for workshop on “Religious Responses to Violence in Latin America,” at American University, January 14.
- 2012 “Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape.” Presentation for workshop on Religion and Violence in Latin America, at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2012 “Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America.” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Bishop Sullivan Center for Catholic Studies Lecture Series, October 5.
- 2012 Panelist at “Global Youth, Civilian Security, and National Security.” Foreign Service Training Center, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Panelist for “Religion and Violence in Central America” at the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, American University. Washington, D.C., July 21.

- 2012 “Homies and Hermanos: God, Gangs, and the Drug War in Central America” Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace Studies Program, St. Olaf College, March 29.
- 2011 Panelist for ASA Presidential Plenary Session on Comparative Mafias: “Homies and Hermanos: Gang, Church, and the Rules of Engagement in the Central American Barrio,” Las Vegas, NV, August 21.
- 2011 “*La Mara de Cristo*: Homies and Hermanos in the Central American Barrio” Conference on Religion, Social Movements, and Progressive Reform in Latin America, Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Boston University, May 8.
- 2010 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Global and Regional Studies Program, University of Vermont, November 3.
- 2010 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Presentation at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 7.
- 2010 “Peaceful Pentecostals? Pietistic Interpersonal Pacifism in the Central American Barrio.” Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, Notre Dame, February 9.
- 2009 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Presentation at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 11.

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

- 2015 “Light, Sound, and Barriers in the Production of Emotional Energy: Case Studies in Religious Architecture.” Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, IL, August 21.
- 2014 “Building Up the Temple: Five Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31.
- 2014 “‘Pure Bull\*\*\*\*!’ On Returning to a Messy Field Site.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31.
- 2014 Introductory Remarks for Special Plenary: World Debut of Dr. Andrew Johnson’s Documentary, “If I Give My Soul: Pentecostalism in Rio’s Prison’s.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, November 1.
- 2013 “First Impressions from a Longitudinal Study of Ex-gang Members.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA, November 9.
- 2013 “Pentecostalism, Security, and the ‘Crisis of Values’ in Central America.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA, November 9.
- 2012 “Religious Responses to Gang Violence in Latin America: An Update.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ, November 13.

- 2012 “Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ, November 13.
- 2011 “¿Hijos del Rey? Religious Responses to Relative Deprivation in Central America.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28.
- 2010 “Peaceful Pentecostals? Pietistic Interpersonal Pacifism in the Central American Barrio.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 29.
- 2010 Panelist in panel discussion, “Defining Religion from the Ground Up.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 31.
- 2010 “Pentecostal Human Rights Activists?” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA, August 14.
- 2009 “Don’t Mess with Curly: Leaving the Central American Gang via the ‘Evangelical Escape Clause.’” Association Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, CA, August 11.
- 2008 “Measure of America” Departmental Colloquium. Panelist at Notre Dame Sociology panel discussing the UN Human Development Report, October 28.
- 2008 “Crusaders and Samaritans: Catholic and Evangelical Gang Initiatives in Northern Central America.” Society of the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY, October 18.
- 2008 “Transgressing the Code of the Barrio: Emotion and Conversion among Former Gang Members.” Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, MA, July 31.
- 2008 Panelist for Author Meets Critics session exploring David Smilde’s *Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism*. Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, MA, August 1.
- 2007 “When the Saints Go Washing: Mennonite Footwashing since 1960.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, FL, November 4.
- 2006 “Flipping the Tortilla: The Emergence of ‘Color-Blind’ Ideology in Guatemala.” North Central Sociological Society, Indianapolis, IN, March 24.
- 2005 “Faith and the Foreigner: Exploring the Impact of Religion on Immigration Attitudes.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 15.

## **PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY**

- 2015 Co-Organizer and Participant: “La Nueva Cara de la Violencia en Centroamérica: Respuestas de las Iglesias.” Workshop at General Assembly of Mennonite World Conference, Harrisburg, PA, July 26.
- 2015 Brenneman, Robert. “Civics Lessons from Guatemala.” Web blog post on *AULA Blog*. American University, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. May 26, 2015.

- 2014 “Five Myths about the ‘Surge’ of Central American Immigrant Minors.” Web blog post. *OUPblog*. Oxford University Press. August 3, 2014. Republished in entirety at *HNNblog* and *USAPP* (London School of Economics) and partially republished in Andrew Sullivan’s *The Dish*.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert. “Struggling with the Legacy of Ríos Montt.” Guest scholar on *Interfaith Voices* National Public Radio syndicated show aired March 26.
- 2014 “Habemus papum menonitum” in *The Mennonite*, March 1.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert. “La Mara de Cristo: Iglesias y pandillas en Centroamérica.” In [\*El Faro Académico\*](#), January 21, 2014.
- 2013 “Vom Töten zum Beten.” In *Welt-sichten*, German magazine for global development and ecumenical cooperation. November 11, 2013, pp. 19-21.
- 2013 Launched [www.homiesandhermanosbook.wordpress.com](http://www.homiesandhermanosbook.wordpress.com) “A Sociologist’s Blog about Urban Violence and Religion in Central America.”
- 2013 Guest speaker on “Temas y debates” morning talk show program of *Radio Infinita*, Guatemala, July 15.
- 2013 Press conference in Guatemala City resulting in four articles on national daily newspapers in Guatemala, July 16.
- 2013 Television interview on *Este o Este* weekly television talk show broadcast on *Canal Antigua* (Guatemala), July 24.
- 2013 Book Launch with guest panel at Sophos bookstore, Guatemala City, July 20.
- 2013 Interviewed for feature spread “O con Dios o con la Mara” in *Contra Poder*, Guatemalan semi-weekly magazine of politics and culture, July 12, 2013.
- 2013 Panelist for Faculty Panel on the Death Penalty, Saint Michael’s College, March 26.
- 2012 “Talking about Gun Rights, Laws and Culture after a Tragedy.” Invited Guest on *Vermont Edition*, Vermont Public Radio daily talk show, July 30.
- 2012 “Gun Violence and Its Sources.” Special Guest on *The Mark Johnson Show*, WDEV call-in radio show, Waterbury, VT, July 31.
- 2012 Cited as expert in violence in “Has society become accustomed to violent acts?” by Eric Adler and Ian Cummings. Op-ed for the *Kansas City Star*, July 20, 2012.
- 2012 “Kicking a Bad Habit” Op-Ed in *Sojourners Magazine*. May. 41:5 p. 11.
- 2012 Presented “The Promises and Perils of Techno-media” as panelist for Saint Michael’s College “Disconnect to Reconnect” Event, April 19.
- 2012 Review of *Eaarth* by Bill McKibben in *Edible Green Mountains*, May.

2010	“Homies and <i>Hermanos</i> ” Interview on New Hampshire Public Radio’s syndicated daily radio show <i>Word of Mouth</i> , November 21.
2011	“Becoming an Occupier” guest blog on website for Burlington Peace and Justice Center.
2011	Panelist for SMC Honors Colloquium: “Should Marijuana Be Legal?” December 1.
2011	“Man up! Lessons in Beer-tasting and Masculinity” guest blog in “This Week in Sociology.”
2009	“The Cross and the Crossfire” in <i>Sojourners Magazine</i> , April. 38:4 p. 18. Also published web-exclusive online interview.
2007	Filed Expert Affidavit in a trial regarding the refugee status of victim of Salvadoran gang violence.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

2012/2014	SO-310 Special Topics: God, Gangs, and Globalization: month-long international course taught in Guatemala City (Saint Michael’s College).
2012-2014	SO-218 Deviance, Norms, and Social Control (Saint Michael’s College).
2010-2014	SO-301 Foundations of Social Theory (Saint Michael’s College).
2010-2014	SO-101 Introduction to Sociology (Saint Michael’s College).
2010	SOC-10002 Understanding Societies (University of Notre Dame).
2009	SOC-10033 Social Problems (University of Notre Dame).
2009	SOC-23534 Coffee, Globalization, and the Fair Trade Movement taught with 9-day study-abroad component in Guatemala (University of Notre Dame).
2008	FY-13100 First-year Composition: Arguing about Globalization (University of Notre Dame).
2007-2008	S-161 Principles of Sociology (Indiana University South Bend).

## **PEER REVIEWER**

Reviewer for *Sociology of Religion* (Oxford Journals) since 2010.

Reviewer for *Social Problems* (California Press) since 2011.

Reviewer for *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (Wiley) since 2011.

Manuscript reviewer for *Oxford University Press* since 2013.

## **AWARDS**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2009 | Kane Award for Outstanding Graduate Student—Notre Dame Sociology Department.  |
| 2009 | David L. Dodge Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching—Notre Dame Sociology Department  |
| 2009 | William D’Antonio Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Sociology of Religion – University of Notre Dame, Center for the Study of Religion and Society. |
| 2008 | Notre Dame Graduate Research Symposium. Awarded First Place among more than fifty entries in Social Sciences Division for Dissertation Poster Presentation.     |

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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|-----------|---|
| 2013-2015 | Co-instructor for weekly “Adult Forum” at Saint Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral, Burlington, VT. |
| 2012-2014 | Soccer Coach for Essex Youth Soccer.  |
| 2011-2012 | Volunteer Driver at Vermont Migrant Justice.  |
| 2010      | Night Shift Volunteer at Our Lady of the Road Catholic Worker House, South Bend, IN.        |
| 2010      | Sales Volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages (fair trade store).                                |

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 2011 – Present | Latin American Studies Association           |
| 2006 – Present | Society for the Scientific Study of Religion |
| 2006 – Present | Association for the Sociology of Religion    |
| 2005 – Present | American Sociological Association            |