
Robert E. Brenneman
Curriculum Vitae – January 2016

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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 *Hermano*: 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

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

BOOK

2012 Brenneman, Robert. *Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America*. New York: Oxford University Press.

REFEREED ARTICLES

Forthcoming Brenneman, Robert and Brian Miller. "When Bricks Matter: Four Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings." *Sociology of Religion*.

2015 Brenneman, Robert. "¡Solo pajas! Volver a un Sitio de Campo Desordenado." In *SENDAS*. 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." *Latin American Research Review*. 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 *Homies and Hermanos*.

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 de 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***t!’ 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 “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 *Hermanos*” Interview on New Hampshire Public Radio’s syndicated daily radio show *Word of Mouth*, 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 *Sojourners Magazine*, 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

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