

DANIEL CUETO-VILLALOBOS

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University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Minnesota, Sociology (*expected May 2027*)
- *Committee:* P. Edgell, M. Phelps, D. Hartmann, C. Abdi, H. F. Burga
- 2022 M.A., University of Minnesota, Sociology
- 2019 B.A., New York University, Metropolitan Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion · Culture · Politics · Race/Ethnicity · Racial Attitudes
Organizational Sociology · Policing · Morality · Immigration · Social Movements

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- 2026** Jonathan Coley, Gary Adler, Jr., Damon Mayrl, Rebecca Sager and **Daniel Cueto-Villalobos**. “Religion and the Everyday State: How Religious Leaders and Local Law Enforcement Officials Interact in Eight U.S. Communities.” Accepted for publication in *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* on July 7.
- 2026** **Daniel Cueto-Villalobos**. “Inhabiting the White Church: Divinized Diversity and Antiracist Projects in Progressive Religious Organizations.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. [Published Early View](#) April 24.
★ Winner, Outstanding Graduate Paper, UMN Department of Sociology
- 2025** **Daniel Cueto-Villalobos**, Laura Gilbertson, and Penny Edgell. “There Wasn’t a Playbook for This: How Twin Cities Churches Addressed the Crises of 2020.” *Sociology of Religion*. [Published Online](#) October 8.
- 2025** Michelle S. Phelps and **Daniel Cueto-Villalobos**. “Making Racial Demands: Tracing the Struggle over Public Safety in Minneapolis.” *Social Problems*. [Published Online](#) September 23.

Manuscripts Under Review & In Preparation

Daniel Cueto-Villalobos. “We’ve Read Them All: Moral Formation and Progressive Christianity Identity in Antiracist Book Clubs.” *In preparation*.

Daniel Cueto-Villalobos, Shania Kuo, and Penny Edgell. “The Role of Religion on Racial Inequality Attitudes in the Racial Middle.” *In preparation*.

Shania Kuo, **Daniel Cueto-Villalobos**, and Douglas Hartmann. “Party or Ideology? Anti-Immigrant Attitudes Among Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans.” *In preparation*.

Daniel Cueto-Villalobos, Lena Kunjan, and Penny Edgell. “Race, Religious Affiliation, and Public Support for Reparations and Redistributive Policies.” *In preparation*.

Public Writing (Sole-authored unless otherwise noted; TSP = The Society Pages)

- 2026** “Eurovision and the Cultural Politics of ‘Recurrent Events’.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Minneapolis United When Immigration Operations Surged – Reflecting a Long Tradition of Mutual Aid.” *The Conversation*. [[Link](#)]
- 2025** “The Gendered Division of Labor Among the Elite.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
- 2024** “Small Businesses and Social Responsibilities During COVID.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
- 2023** “Uncertainty, Work, and Emotions.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
- 2022** “A New Face of Gentrification: *Gente*-fication in Boyle Heights.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Christian Nationalism and the Racial Perception Gap.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
- 2021** “Special Feature: Activism Against the Olympics.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Special Feature: Olympics and Urban Transformation.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Imposter Syndrome and the Limits of Diversity.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Urban Food Deserts: Myth or Fact?” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Sexist Congregations Harm Women’s Health.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Local Policies Shape Undocumented Political Engagement.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Doing Drag.” *TSP* (with Nikoleta Sremac). [[Link](#)]
 “Disaster Relief’s Unequal Aid.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Punitive Policing Persists.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “The Politics of Public Memorials.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
- 2020** “Race and Racism in Service Sector Work.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “Culture, Inequality, and Multilevel Marketing.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]
 “God, Guns, and Fear of Evil.” *TSP*. [[Link](#)]

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2026	2026-27 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, UMN	\$25,000
	2026-27 ASA Minority Fellowship	\$20,000
	Predocutorial Teaching Fellowship, UM-Duluth (declined)	
	Summer Fellow, UMN Immigration History Research Center	\$6,000
	Outstanding Research Paper Award, UMN Sociology	
	Engaged Scholarship Award, UMN Sociology	
2025	Grants for Advancing Graduate Education, CLA	\$12,500
	Summer Research Fellowship, UMN Sociology	\$4,000
2024	Summer Research Fellowship, UMN Sociology	\$4,000
	Pedagogy Grant, Assn. for the Study of Food & Society	
2023	Travel Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	
	Bright Dissertation Award, Sociology	\$3,127
	Social Dimensions of Climate Change, UMN Sociology	\$4,000
	Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, UMN Sociology	
2022	Shimota Family Fellowship, UMN Sociology	\$4,000
	Dissertation Proposal Development Program, CLA	\$4,000
2021	Graduate Research Partnership Program, UMN Sociology	\$4,000

2020 Outstanding Graduate TA Award, UMN Sociology

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (2022 – present)

Invited Talks

- 2026 “Mutual Aid & The Evolution of Everyday and Collective Giving Practices.” 2026 Giving Innovation Summit. Urban Institute, Washington, DC, 6/30.
- 2025 “Presidential Panel: Memorialization, Protest, & George Floyd Square: On-the-Ground Perspectives.” SSSR, 11/1. (Dr. R. Braunstein, organizer).

Conference Presentations

Cueto-Villalobos, D., L. Kunjan, and P. Edgell. “Race, Religious Affiliation, and Public Support for Reparations and Redistributive Policies.”

2026: Economic Sociology Section Roundtables, ASA, 8/11.

Cueto-Villalobos, D., S. Kuo, and P. Edgell. “The Role of Religion on Racial Inequality Attitudes.”

2026: Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section (SREM) Roundtables, ASA, 8/10.

2025: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meetings, Minneapolis, 11/1.

Cueto-Villalobos, D. “The Voluntary Paradox: Racialized Religion and Organizational Life in the US.”

2026: Sociological Research Institute, UMN Sociology, Minneapolis, 4/24.

Cueto-Villalobos, D. “In the Wake of Reckoning: Morality and Agency Among Black, Latinx, and Asian Clergy in 2020.”

2025: Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR), Race and Religion Symposium, Chicago, 8/10; ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, Chicago, 8/11.

Kuo, S., D. Cueto-Villalobos, and D. Hartmann. “Party or Ideology? Anti-Immigrant Attitudes Among Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans.”

2025: SREM Roundtables, ASA, Chicago, 8/11.

Cueto-Villalobos, D., and C. B. Watts. “BIPOC Churches and the 2020 Racial Reckoning.”

2024: SSSR, Pittsburgh, 10/18; ASR, Montréal, 8/10.

Cueto-Villalobos, D. “We’ve Read Them All: Antiracist Books and Progressive Religious Identity.”

2024: ASA, Montréal, 8/12.

Price, K. and D. Cueto-Villalobos. “Climate-Proof Duluth? Proactive, Voluntary Migration in the Climate Crisis.” (Poster)

2024: Population Association of America, Columbus, 4/12.

Cueto-Villalobos, D. “From ‘We Are Learning’ to ‘How Can We Help?’: Antiracist Learning and Action in Twin Cities Churches.”

2023: SSSR, Salt Lake City, 10/17; Midwest Sociological Society (MSS), Minneapolis, 3/24.

Phelps, M. and D. Cueto-Villalobos. “Dismantling the Police: Racial Authenticity & the Meaning of Safety in Minneapolis.”

2023: ASA, Philadelphia, 8/21.

Cueto-Villalobos, D., L. Gilbertson, and P. Edgell. "Withdrawal, Introspection, and Mobilization: How Minnesota Churches Responded to Crisis."

2023: MSS, Minneapolis, 3/23; American Academy of Religion, Denver, 11/20.

2022: SSSR, Baltimore, 11/12.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

SOC/GLOS 3613W: Sociology of Food *Spring 2023, 2024, 2025; Summer 2023, 2026*

★ *Winner, 2023 Outstanding Graduate Instructor, UMN Sociology*

SOC 3701 Social Theory *2024*

Teaching Assistant

SOC 1001: Introduction to Sociology *Fall 2019, 2020, 2021; Spring 2026*

★ *Winner, 2020 Outstanding Graduate TA, UMN Sociology*

SOC 3801: Sociological Research Methods *2022, 2023*

SOC 3701: Social Theory *Spring 2021*

SOC 3421W: Sociology of Work *Spring 2020*

Guest lectures

2026 "Qualitative Research." Sociological Research Methods, UMN Sociology, 4/15. (Dr. A. Luzbetak, instructor).

2025 "Doing Ethnography." Sociological Research Methods, UMN Sociology, 3/6. (Dr. A. Luzbetak, instructor).

2024 "Faith-Based Activism in the US." Invited lecture (virtual), Sociology of Religion, University of Toronto–Scarborough, 2/26. (Dr. M. Philips, instructor).

2023 "Systemic and Cultural Change in Minneapolis after 2020." Invited lecture (virtual), Sociology of Law, Kenyon College, 10/14. (Dr. C. Levesque, instructor).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Boundaries of the American Mosaic/American Mosaic Project (AMP) *2025–present*

- Principal Investigators: P. Edgell, D. Hartmann, and J. Gerteis

Policing in Minneapolis *2023–25*

- Principal Investigator: M. S. Phelps

Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations *2021–24*

- Principal Investigators: S. Thumma and A. Norton

Church and State in Local Government *2020–22*

- Principal Investigators: G. Adler, J. Coley, D. Mayrl, and R. Sager

Beyond Christian Nationalism *2020–21*

- Principal Investigators: P. Edgell, J. Delehanty, and E. Stewart

SERVICE

Disciplinary

Reviewed manuscripts for: *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Sociology of Religion*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Socius*

Graduate Student Representative, ASA Religion Section	2025
Student Ambassador, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	2024–25
Editorial Board, <i>The Society Pages</i>	2020–25

Departmental

Graduate Representative to Faculty Meetings	2024–25
Graduate Representative, Tenure and Promotion Committee	2023–24
Graduate Representative, Executive Committee	2022–23
Graduate Student Organization, Co-Chair	2021–22
Graduate Representative, Events Committee	2020–21
Graduate Representative, Diversity Committee	2019–20

University

Arthur “Red” Motley Teaching Award, Committee Member	2024
Council of Graduate Students Grants, Grant Reviewer	2023

Other

GLU-UE Local 1105, Organizing Committee Member	2020–21
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PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Media Appearances

2026	From Mr. Rogers to Minneapolis, what does it mean to be a ‘neighbor’? <i>The Colin McEnroe Show, Connecticut Public Radio</i> . 3/4 [Link] How Anti-ICE Organising in Minnesota reactivated mutual aid networks started after George Floyd’s murder. <i>The Conversation Weekly Podcast</i> . 2/12 [Link]
2025	“As the Conclave Begins, a Look at Minnesota’s Changing Catholic Church.” <i>All Things Considered with Tom Crann, Minnesota Public Radio</i> . 5/7 [Link]
2024	“The Flag and the Cross: An Interview with Samuel Perry.” SOC 101 Books Podcast (with Forrest Lovette) 6/24 [Link]

REFERENCES

Dr. Penny Edgell Professor of Sociology, UMN Twin Cities; edgell@umn.edu
Dr. Michelle S. Phelps Professor of Sociology and DGS, UMN Twin Cities; phelps@umn.edu
Dr. Douglas Hartmann Professor of Sociology, UMN Twin Cities; hartm021@umn.edu