

# BRANDON VAIDYANATHAN

(202) 319-5941 | brandonv@cua.edu

Last updated: May 14, 2026

## POSITIONS

---

Ordinary Professor of Sociology (2024 – present)  
Associate Professor (2017 – 2024), Department Chair (2018 – 2024)  
Director, Institutional Flourishing Lab (2023 – present)  
*Department of Sociology, The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.*

Director of Research (2015 – 2017)  
*The H. E. Butt Family Foundation, Houston TX*

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2013 - 2015)  
*Department of Sociology, Rice University, Houston TX*

### Affiliations and Fellowships

Senior Research Associate, Von Hügel Institute, St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge (2025-2028)  
Research Fellow, Archbridge Institute, Washington DC (2024 – present)  
Hancock Fellow, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California (2023)  
Affiliate Faculty, Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University (2020 – present)  
Nonresident Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University (2018 – present)  
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Human Ecology, Catholic University of America (2017 – present)  
Distinguished Fellow, Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship (2017 – present)

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D., Sociology, 2014  
University of Notre Dame, Indiana  
Dissertation: Living in a Secular Age: Work, Lifestyle, and Religion in Bangalore and Dubai

M.Sc., Business Administration, 2008  
École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) Montréal, Canada.  
Graduated with Great Distinction  
Thesis: Tradition and Modernity in Indian Call Centres

Bachelor of Business Administration, 2002  
St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada.  
Graduated with First Class Honours; University Medal Recipient.

### Executive Education

Specialization in Design Thinking and Innovation, 2016  
Darden Business School, University of Virginia

Performance Management for Nonprofit Organizations, 2016  
Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Books

2027

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, and Bridget Ritz. *The Beauty of Understanding: What Scientists Reveal About the Pleasures of Learning*. Cornell University Press.

2025

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Sara Perla, and Stephen P. White (Eds). *Rebuilding Trust: Clergy Morale in the Wake of the Abuse Crisis*. Catholic University of America Press.

2019

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**. *Mercenaries and Missionaries: Capitalism and Catholicism in the Global South*. Cornell University Press.

\* Honorable mention, 2020 Distinguished Book Award, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion

\* Reviews: [Journal of the American Academy of Religion](#), [Sociology of Religion](#)

Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Kirstin Matthews, Steven Lewis, Robert Thomson, and Di Di. *Secularity and Science: What Scientists around the World Really Think about Religion*. Oxford University Press.

\* Reviews: [Public Understanding of Science](#), [Review of Religious Research](#), [Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith](#)

### Journal Articles

<sup>s</sup> indicates student co-author at the time of submission

2025

Pandey, Poonam, Stefano Sbalchiero, Cesare Silla, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Indifferent, Dogmatic or Pragmatic: A Multi-Country Analysis of How Scientists View the Public and Public Engagement.” *Sociologica* 19(2): 191-214. <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.1971-8853/19401>

Nicoli, Benedetta, Stefano Sbalchiero, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Beyond Disenchantment: How Science Awakens Spiritual Yearning.” *Religions* 16(4), 458. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16040458>

Johnson, David R., and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Open to talent? How scientists assess merit and diversity in hiring” *Higher Education* 89:733–751. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-024-01244-8>

Nicoli, Benedetta, Stefano Sbalchiero, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “The Enchantment of Science: Aesthetics and Spirituality in Scientific Work.” *Sociology of Religion* 86 (1): 50-80. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srae010>

Johnson, David R., and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Is Bias the Problem? Scientists' Perceptions of Bias in Hiring in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, and India." *Innovative Higher Education* (2025): 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10755-025-09788-y>

## 2024

Ivanova, Milena, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Surprise in Science: A Qualitative Study." *Erkenntnis*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10670-024-00880-x>

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**. "Introduction to the Special Issue: The Catholic Priesthood in Times of Change." *Review of Religious Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X241288805>

Upenieks, Laura, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Prone to Wellness? Dispositional Awe, Religion/Spirituality, and Well-Being among Academic Scientists." *Social Science Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2024.103063>

Ivanova, Milena, Bridget Ritz, Marcela Duque<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Beauty in Experiment: A qualitative analysis of aesthetic experiences in scientific practice." *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 104: 3-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shpsa.2024.02.003>

Ritz, Bridget, Di Di, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Evoking, Grounding, and Defining: How Contemporary Scientists Connect Religion, Spirituality, and Aesthetics." *Religions* 15(1): 65. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15010065>

Jacobi, Christopher, Peter J Varga<sup>s</sup>, Zohaib Jessani<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Individual Differences in Scientists' Aesthetic Disposition, Aesthetic Experiences, and Aesthetic Sensitivity in Scientific Work." *Frontiers in Psychology, Section Personality and Social Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1197870>

## 2023

Di, Di, Stephen Cranney, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, and Caitlin Anne Fitzgerald<sup>s</sup>. "Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health Among Scientists During the Pandemic: A Four-Country Study." *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*. 58(4): 815-837. <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12912>

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Bailey Haraburda<sup>s</sup>, and Christopher Jacobi. "Beauty in Biology: An Empirical Assessment." *Journal of Biosciences* 48(15). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12038-023-00342-6>

Fitzgerald, Caitlin Anne<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Faith Leaders' Views on Collaboration with Mental Health Professionals." *Community Mental Health Journal* 59 (3): 477-485. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-022-01031-8>

## 2022

Jacobi, Christopher<sup>s</sup>, Peter Varga<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Aesthetic Experiences and Flourishing in Science: A Four-Country Study." *Frontiers in Psychology, Section Positive Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.923940>

Gabriel Acevedo, Reed DeAngelis<sup>s</sup>, Jordan Farrell<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. "Is it the Sermon or the Choir? Pastoral Support, Congregant Support, and Worshiper Mental Health." *Review of Religious Research* 64 (4): 577-600. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13644-022-00500-6> \* Lead Article

Jacobi, Christopher Justin<sup>s</sup>, Maria Andronicou, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Looking beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Congregants’ Expectations of Future Online Religious Service Attendance.” *Religions* 13(6): 559. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13060559>

Jacobi, Christopher<sup>s</sup>, Jennifer Charles, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Emma Frankham, and Bailey Haraburda<sup>s</sup>. “Effects of familiarity and causal attributions on stigma towards mental illness and substance use disorders in faith communities.” *Stigma & Health* 7(2): 234–246. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000373>

Jacobi, Christopher<sup>s</sup>, Richard G. Cowden, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. Association of Changes in Religiosity with Flourishing During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of Faith Communities in the U.S.” *Frontiers in Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.805785>

Khalsa, Simranjit, Brenton Kalinowski<sup>s</sup>, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Science-Religion Boundaries in Indian Scientific Workplaces.” *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*. 57(2): 322-343. <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12760>

Jacobi, Christopher Justin<sup>s</sup>, Maria Andronicou, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Mental Health Correlates of Sharing Personal Problems in Congregations during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12780>

\* Ranked by Wiley among the top 10% of downloaded articles

## 2021

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Jennifer Charles, Tram Nguyen<sup>s</sup>, and Sahara Brodsky<sup>s</sup>. “Religious Leaders’ Trust in Mental Health Professionals.” *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2021.1967901>

Jacobi, Christopher Justin<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Racial differences in anticipated COVID-19 vaccine acceptance among religious populations in the US.” *Vaccine* 39(43): 6351-6355 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.09.005>

Frankham, Emma, Christopher Jacobi<sup>s</sup>, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. “Race, trust in police, and mental illness crisis support.” *Contexts* (Fall 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042211035343>

DeAngelis, Reed<sup>s</sup>, Gabriel Acevedo, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, and Christopher G. Ellison. “Coping with an Evil World: Contextualizing the Stress-Buffering Role of Scripture Reading.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 60(3): 645-652. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12728>

## 2020

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**. “How minority religion can shape corporate capitalism: An emergentist account and empirical illustration.” *Business and Society* 59 (5): 881-913. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650318775104>

Kirstin R. W. Matthews, Erin Yang, Steven W. Lewis, **Brandon R. Vaidyanathan** & Monica Gorman. “International scientific collaborative activities and barriers to them in eight societies.” *Accountability in Research* 27 (8): 477-495.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08989621.2020.1774373>

## 2019

Salazar, Esmeralda Sánchez<sup>s</sup>, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Elaine Howard Ecklund, Adriana Garcia. “Challenging Evolution in Public Schools: Race, Religion, and Attitudes toward Teaching Creationism.” *Socius* 5:1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023119870376>

## 2018

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Simranjit Khalsa<sup>s</sup>, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2018. “Naturally ambivalent: Religion’s role in shaping environmental action.” *Sociology of Religion* 79(4): 472-494. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srx043>

Johnson, David R., **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2018. “Structural Strain in Science: Organizational Context, Career Stage, Discipline, and Role Composition.” *Sociological Inquiry* 88(1):5-31. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12176>. \* Lead Article

## 2016

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Simranjit Khalsa<sup>s</sup>, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2016. “Gossip as social control?: Informal sanctions on ethical violations in scientific workplaces.” *Social Problems* 63(4):554-572. \* Coverage: [Retraction Watch](#), [Inside Higher Ed](#)

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, David Johnson, Pamela Prickett, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2016. “Rejecting the Conflict Narrative: American Jewish and Muslim Views on Science and Religion” *Social Compass* 63(4): 63: 478-496.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**, Michael Strand, Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick, Meghan Davis<sup>s</sup>, Amanda Varela<sup>s</sup>, and Thomas Buschman. 2016. “Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment and Critique”. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* 46(1):3-26. \* First two authors share authorship equally; Lead Article; Honorable Mention, Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award, Theory section, American Sociological Association, 2010.

Offutt, Steven, LiErin Probasco, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. 2016. “Religion, Poverty and Development.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 55(2):207-215.

## 2015

Herzog, Patricia S., and **Brandon Vaidyanathan**. 2015. “Conflict and Community: Twin Tensions in Becoming a Multiethnic Congregation.” *Review of Religious Research* 57(4):507-529.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon**. 2015. “Professional Socialization in Medicine.” *The American Medical Association Journal of Ethics* 17(2):160-166.

## 2013

Christian Smith, **Brandon Vaidyanathan**, Nancy Tatom Ammerman, José Casanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John H. Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jason A. Springs, Jenny Trinitapoli, and Meredith Whitnah. 2013. “Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology” *Journal for the American Academy of Religion* 81(4): 1-36. \* Lead article

## 2012

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2012. "Professionalism 'from below': Mobilisation Potential in Indian Call Centres." *Work, Employment, and Society* 26(2):211-227. \* Joyce Award for best student paper, Higgins Labor Research Center (2010); Honorable mention, Jeanine A. Becker Memorial Award for best graduate student paper, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame (2010).

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2012. "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf". *Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management Meeting*. doi: 10.5465/AMBPP.2012.209.

## 2011

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** Jonathan P. Hill, and Christian Smith. 2011. "Religion and Charitable Financial Giving to Religious and Secular Causes: Does Political Ideology Matter?" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(3):450-469.

Hill, Jonathan P., and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2011. "Substitution or Symbiosis? Rethinking the Relationship between Religious and Secular Giving." *Social Forces* 90(1):157-180.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2011. "Religious Resources or Differential Returns? Early Religious Socialization and Declining Attendance in Emerging Adulthood." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 50(2): 366-387.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** and Patricia Snell. 2011. "Motivations for and Obstacles to Religious Financial Giving." *Sociology of Religion* 72(2): 189-214.

## Book Chapters

### 2026

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Aesthetic motivation in religious activism." Pp. 211-232 in *Aesthetic Ethics: Towards a Moral Imagination*. M. Mookie C. Manalili, David Goodman and Diana Boros. Routledge.

### 2021

Silla, Cesare, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** "Modernity as a classical problem in sociological theory." *Handbook of Classical Sociological Theory*, edited by Seth Abrutyn and Omar Lizardo. Springer.

### 2018

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** and Hilary Davidson Green. 2018. "Generosity and Social Generativity." Pp. 139-153 in *Social Generativity: A Relational Paradigm for Social Change*. Edited by Mauro Magatti. London: Routledge.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2018. "The Politics of the Liturgy in the Archdiocese of Bangalore." Pp. 180-205 in: *Catholics in the Vatican II Era: Local Histories of a Global Event*. Edited by Kathleen Sprows Cummings, Timothy Matovina, and Robert Orsi. Cambridge University Press.

### 2010

Smith, Christian and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2010. "Multiple Modernities and Religion." Pp. 250-265 in *Oxford Handbook of Religious Diversity*. Edited by Chad Meister. New York: Oxford University Press.

## Other Publications

2026

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “My Mother’s Hidden Radiance.” *Plough* 46 (Winter).  
<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/life/beauty/my-mothers-hidden-radiance>

2025

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “The Beauty of Understanding: What Aesthetic Experience in Science Reveals About Human Flourishing.” *Profectus*. April 29, 2025.  
<https://profectusmag.com/the-beauty-of-understanding/>

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “Summoned by Beauty.” *Wayfare Magazine*. July 3, 2025.  
<https://www.wayfaremagazine.org/p/summoned-by-beauty>

Ritz, Bridget, and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2025. “Aha = wow.” *Aeon*. January 7, 2025.  
<https://aeon.co/essays/how-the-search-for-beauty-drives-scientific-enquiry>

2023

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** Christopher Jacobi, Chelsea Rae Kelly, Tricia C. Bruce, Stephen White, and Sara Perla. “Polarization, Generational Dynamics, and the Ongoing Impact of the Abuse Crisis: Further Insights from the National Study of Catholic Priests.” Research Report. November 2023.  
<https://catholicproject.catholic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Further-Insights-NSCP-Nov-2023-rev.pdf>

Ritz, Bridget and **Brandon Vaidyanathan.** 2023. “The Beauty of Understanding: Scientific Understanding as Aesthetic Experience.” *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 12 (3): 27–35.  
<https://wp.me/p1Bfg0-7Fl>.

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2023. “How Beauty Fuels Hope.” *Virtues & Vocations*.  
<https://socialconcerns.nd.edu/virtues/magazine/how-beauty-fuels-hope/>

2022

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon,** Christopher Jacobi, Chelsea Rae Kelly, Stephen White, and Sara Perla. “Well-being, Trust, and Policy in a Time of Crisis: Highlights from the National Study of Catholic Priests.” Research Report. October 2022.  
<https://catholicproject.catholic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Catholic-Project-Final.pdf>

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “Resisting a Culture of Incoherence: Understanding the forces that fragment our sense of self.” *Comment*, 40(2). Spring 2022.  
<https://comment.org/resisting-a-culture-of-incoherence/>

2020

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “Systemic Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System Is Not a Myth.” *Public Discourse* June 29, 2020. <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2020/06/65585/>

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** “Review of Spirituality, Corporate Culture, and American Business: The Neoliberal Ethic and the Spirit of Global Capital. By James Dennis LoRusso.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 1fz111, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/1fz111>.

**2009**

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2009. Book review of “Globalisation and the Middle Classes in India: The Social and Cultural Impact of Neoliberal Reforms” by Ruchira Ganguly-Scrase and Timothy J. Scrase. *Contemporary Sociology* 38:572-574.

**2008**

**Vaidyanathan, Brandon.** 2008. “Corporate Giving: A Literature Review.” Research report for the Science of Generosity Project. Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame.

### **Other Writing and Public Engagement**

*Beauty at Work.* <https://www.beautyatwork.net> – Substack, Podcast, [YouTube Channel](#) (Presently 100,000+ subscribers, 17+ million views)

*The Immanent Frame.* Social Science Research Council.  
<http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/author/vaidyanathanb/>

*Contending Modernities.* Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame.  
<http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/>

*The Green Room.* Blog of the Faith and Work movement  
<https://greenroomblog.org/author/brvnathan/>

### **GRANTS** (\$8.7 million career total)

---

\$3,890,275 grant (PI, with Tara Isabella Burton as Co-PI), “Can Beauty Save the World?: Aesthetic Engagement Among the Spiritual But Not Religious,” John Templeton Foundation, 2025-2028.

\$324,000 grant (PI), “A Pastoral Outlook for the American Presbyterate: Challenges and Opportunities,” GHR Foundation, 2025.

\$258,664 grant (PI), “Religions and Innovations: Interdisciplinary Collaboration Planning Grant,” Templeton Religion Trust, 2024-2025.

\$693,434 grant (PI), “Spiritual Yearning in Science,” John Templeton Foundation, 2023-2026.

\$99,600 grant (PI), “Religions and Innovations: Laying the Groundwork,” Templeton Religion Trust, 2023-2024.

\$30,154 grant (PI), “Beauty in Science 2023 Meeting,” Burroughs Wellcome Fund, 2023.

\$2,170,246 grant (PI), “Global Research on the Aesthetic Dimensions of Science,” Templeton Religion Trust, 2020-2023.

\$730,000 award (Lead Researcher), “National Study of Catholic Priests,” The Catholic Project / Archdioceses of New York and Washington, 2020-2023.

\$4000 grant (PI), curriculum development grant for course on “Religion and Mental Health in Global Perspective,” Global Religion Research Initiative, 2019-2020.

\$25,000 grant (PI, with Mark Aveyard as Co-PI), “Religiosity and forces of globalization in the UAE,” Global Religion Research Initiative, International Collaboration Grant, 2019-2021.

\$216,787 grant (PI), “Mental Health Literacy and Support in Congregations,” John Templeton Foundation, 2018-2021.

\$225,605 grant (PI, with J. Micah Roos as Co-PI), “Global Research on the Aesthetic Dimensions of Science: Planning Grant,” Templeton Religion Trust, 2018-2019.

\$6,000 award (PI, with Hilary Davidson as Co-PI), “Faith, Generosity, and Social Generativity.” Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, Indianapolis, 2015-2016.

\$4,990 award, “Dialogue and Friendship across Religions.” Boniuk Institute, Rice University. 2014-2015.

\$25,000 award (declined), Graduate Fellowship, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, 2013-2014.

\$8,000 grant (PI), “The Lived History of Vatican II,” Cushwa Center, University of Notre Dame, 2012-2014.

\$3,000 award, Student Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2011.

\$5000 award, Zahm Research Travel Award, University of Notre Dame, 2011.

\$6000 award, Andrew W. Mellon Summer Stipend, 2011.

\$17,500 award, Dissertation Year Fellowship, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2011-2012.

\$5,000 award, ISLA-Mellon award for designing and organizing Interdisciplinary Workshop on Morality and Cognition, 2010-2011.

\$2,000 award, Notebaert Award, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

\$750 award, Graduate Initiatives Grant, Nanovic Institute for European Studies, 2010.

\$7,000 award, Graduate Research Grant, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

\$800 award, Graduate Student Professional Development Award, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, 2010.

\$2,420 award, Zahm Research Travel Award, Graduate School, University of Notre Dame, 2009.

\$2,500 award, Graduate Research Grant, Nanovic Institute, University of Notre Dame, 2008.

\$1,000 award, Downes Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2008.

\$16,500 award, International Travel Grant and Studentship Award, CRIMT (Inter-university Research Centre on Globalization and Work), Montreal: 2006-2007.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

---

2023: Stephen Schneck Award for Excellence in Social Science Research, School of Arts and Sciences, The Catholic University of America

2023: Hancock Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California

2020: Honorable mention, Distinguished Book Award for American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion, for *Mercenaries and Missionaries: Capitalism and Catholicism in the Global South*

2014: Paper selected for Junior Theorists' Symposium of the American Sociological Association: "A cultural theory of differentiation."

2013: "Giving as Habit? Exploring Modes of Cognition and Charitable Donations" (Jonathan Hill, PI, Brandon Vaidyanathan, co-PI), accepted for Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, National survey experiment fielded through NSF Grant 0818839, Jeremy Freese and James Druckman, Principal Investigators.

2012: Paper selected for Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management: "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf."

2011: John J. Kane Award for most outstanding graduate student, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame.

2011: William D'Antonio Award for Graduate Student Excellence in the Sociology of Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame.

2011: Invited participant, Religion and International Affairs Dissertation Workshop, Social Science Research Council.

2011: "Striving for Excellence in Teaching" Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame.

2010: Honorable mention, Jeanine A. Becker Memorial Award for best graduate student paper, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, for “Professionalism ‘from below’: Normative Discourse on Management in Indian Call Centers.”

2010: Joyce Award for best student paper, Higgins Labor Research Center, University of Notre Dame, for “Professionalism ‘from below’: Normative Discourse on Management in Indian Call Centers.”

2010: Honorable Mention, Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award. Theory section, American Sociological Association, for “Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment” (co-authored with A. Choi-Fitzpatrick, M. Strand, and T. Buschman).

2002: University Silver Medal, St Francis Xavier University.

2000: Alumni Recognition Award for contribution to the community. St Francis Xavier University.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### The Catholic University of America (2017-present)

Global Social Problems and Social Justice

Research Methods

Senior Coordinating Seminar

Religion and Mental Health in Global Perspective

Work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Career and Identity in the New Economy

Science, Religion, and Society

Beauty and Society

### Rice University (2014-2017)

Social Sciences Applied Innovation Lab (Lectures on research methods; Advisor)

Gateway Study of Leadership (Lectures on research methods; Advisor)

Religious Diversity and Understanding in Today’s World (Co-instructor)

### University of Notre Dame (2008-2012)

Introduction to Social Problems

Graduate Statistics II (Teaching assistant for Prof. Richard Williams)

Graduate Training Seminar: Stats and Methods (Co-instructor)

### HEC Montreal (2005)

Organizational Behaviour

## **Teaching Workshops Attended**

### Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University (2013-2015)

Effective Teaching: Planning, Delivery, Participation

The Parts of Teaching Nobody Ever Talks About: Classroom Management, Advising, and More!

Tips and Techniques for Engaging Students

Striking a Balance: How to Manage Our Teaching Workloads  
Symposium on Teaching and Learning

Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame (2009-2012)

Community Based Learning  
Articulating Learning Goals  
Teaching Well Using Technology  
Early Semester Evaluations  
Helping Students in Distress  
Designing Grading Rubrics  
Teaching Well by Design  
Using Blogs for Teaching  
Negotiating Power Dynamics

## **INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

---

“Science and the Search for Meaning,” National Institute for Advanced Study, Bangalore, India, Nov 27, 2025.

Healthy Masculinity and Mental Health, PEERS, The Catholic University of America, Nov 17, 2025.

“The State of the Catholic Priesthood: Results from the First Longitudinal Study of Catholic Priests,” The Catholic University of America, October 14, 2025

Invited panelist, “How is digital technology shaping the human soul?” Harvard University, The Public Culture Project, Oct 1, 2025.

Invited panelist, Scaling Nature-based Solutions Through Innovative Finance, Yale Club, New York City, Sep 23, 2025.

Invited panelist, The Tangier Festival, House of Beautiful Business, Tangier, Morocco, May 16, 2025.

"Beyond Branded Tolerance: Rethinking Religious Pluralism in the Arabian Gulf," Rice University Global Paris Center, April 30, 2025.

"An Enchanted Quest: Meaning and Mystery in Science," Magdalen College, University of Oxford, March 11, 2025.

Invited lecture and workshop, University of Notre Dame, Feb 6-7, 2025.

Invited workshop, Dubai Capital Club, Dubai, UAE, Jan 20, 2025.

Invited public lecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA, Nov 14, 2024.

Invited panelist, "Asian Pacific Catholicism and Globalization", Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 18-20, 2024.

Invited lecture and workshop, John Templeton Foundation, Conshohocken PA, October 8, 2024.

“Flourishing among Catholic clergy,” Invited lecture, Abundant Life Flourishing Webinar Series, Regent University, Oct 3, 2024.

Invited panelist, Salt and Light Gathering, Georgetown University, September 24, 2024.

Invited speaker, The PolyOpportunity Gathering, Acosta Institute and House of Beautiful Business, New York City, September 19-20, 2024.

Invited plenary speaker, Annual Meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation, Washington DC, July 29, 2024.

Invited panelist, Roundtable on Social Science Research and the Church, Regent University, Norfolk VA, June 26, 2024.

Invited panelist, Museum of the Bible, June 12, 2024.

Invited speaker, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, May 27, 2024.

Invited panelist, Human Flourishing Forum, Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City, May 23-24, 2024

Invited panelist, Dare to Overcome National Conference, Washington DC, May 21, 2024

Invited lecture, Child & Youth Protection Catholic Leadership Conference, St Louis MO, April 22, 2024.

Invited lecture, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California, April 4, 2024.

Invited panelist, Walden Woods Project (virtual), March 20, 2024

Invited lecture, Educators Without Borders International, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Dec 11, 2023.

Invited panelist, Global Flourishing Conference (virtual), Templeton World Charity Foundation, Nov 30, 2023.

Keynote address, 85th Annual Canon Law Society of America Convention, Milwaukee WI, October 9, 2023.

Invited lecture, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, Sep 23, 2023.

Invited lecture, International Centre for Theoretical sciences (ICTS), Bangalore, India, Sep 21, 2023.

Invited lecture, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, India, Sept 15, 2023.

Invited presentation, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Orlando FL, June 14, 2023.

Invited lecture, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy, June 8, 2023.

Invited lecture, American Financial Services Association, April 28, 2023.

Invited panelist, “A Conversation about Religion + Innovation,” Religion News Association Annual Conference, March 17, 2023.

Invited lecture, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, March 13, 2023.

Invited lecture, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, Italy, March 10, 2023.

Invited lecture, Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Rome, Italy, March 9, 2023.

Invited lecture, University of Padua, Italy, March 8, 2023.

Invited lecture, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, Jan 13, 2023.

Invited discussant, Book panel for Jason Keith Fernandes, “Citizenship in a Caste Polity,” Selva J. Raj Book Award, Society for Hindu-Christian Studies, Denver CO, Nov 18, 2022.

Invited lecture, Molecular and Cell Biology Society, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, Sep 23, 2022.

Invited lecture, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, Sep 23, 2022.

Invited lecture, International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Bangalore, India, Sep 22, 2022.

Invited speaker, Aesthetic Intelligence Labs / Ritz Carlton Group, Sep 6, 2022.

Invited speaker, Greenbelt Festival, UK, August 29, 2022.

Invited speaker, Rimini Meeting 2022, Rimini, Italy, August 23, 2022.

Invited speaker, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, July 14, 2022.

Invited speaker, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, University College London, July 12, 2022.

Invited speaker, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, UK, July 6, 2022.

Invited speaker, House of Beautiful Business, June 3, 2022.

Invited lecture, Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, UK, April 26, 2022.

American Catholic Thought and Culture Endowed Lecture, Michigan State University, October 7, 2021.

Invited panelist, Faith & Entrepreneurship Research Conference, Miami University, April 8, 2021.

Invited panelist, Conference on Faith and Science, Arizona State University, February 13, 2021.

Invited panelist, International conference on “Social generativity: What it is and what it is good for,” Milan, Italy, Oct 11, 2018.

Invited lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Padova. “A post-secular science? Science, religion, and aesthetics in global perspective,” Padova, Italy, Oct 9, 2018.

Invited panelist for international conference on “The dignity of work,” The Busch School of Business, Washington DC, October 5, 2018.

Invited speaker, Conference on “Pathways to hope: Breaking the stigma of mental illness,” San Antonio TX, Aug 24, 2018.

“Mental health issues in faith communities and schools: Ongoing research and interventions,” Invited speaker, Pepperdine University Washington DC campus, June 29, 2018.

“The Church as a Mediating Institution in Contexts of International Migration,” Invited panelist, Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, Arlington VA, Sept 23, 2017.

“Normativity in Sociology,” Invited panelist, Institute for Advanced Study in Culture, University of Virginia, Feb 3, 2017.

“Religion in the Workplace,” Invited panelist, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, Sept 16, 2015.

“Of Missionaries and Mercenaries: Religion and Corporate Life in Bangalore and Dubai,” Business Ethics Society, University of St. Thomas, Houston, Mar 30, 2015.

“Race, Religion, and Attitudes towards Science,” Pew Research Center, Washington DC, Dec 15, 2014.

“Of Missionaries and Mercenaries: Religion and Corporate Life in Bangalore and Dubai,” Department of Sociology, Dec 1, 2014, Davidson College.

“Of Missionaries and Mercenaries: Religion and Corporate Life in Bangalore and Dubai,” Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Nov 5, 2014, Williams College.

“Exploring the Implications of Religion Among Scientists in the U.K. and India,” Oxford and Cambridge Club, London, UK (with Elaine Howard Ecklund and David R. Johnson). Sept 24, 2014.

“A Cultural Theory of Differentiation,” Junior Theorists’ Symposium of the American Sociological Association. Berkeley, CA. August 15, 2104.

“Religious Transnationals: Religion and Civic Engagement in Bangalore and Dubai,” Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University, Houston. April 23, 2013.

“Secularization in the East?: Catholicism and the Transnational Work Regime,” Department of International Studies, American University Sharjah, December 4, 2012.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. “Pluralisms Without Freedom? Innovations in State-Managed Tolerance and Constraint in the Arabian Gulf” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Nov 22, 2025.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon “Enchantment after Disenchantment? Scientific Practice and the Persistence of the Sacred in a Secular Age.” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Minneapolis MN, October 31-Nov 2, 2025.

“Science as a Source of Enchantment,” “Re-Enchanting the World” Conference, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada, Oct 17, 2025.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. “Science as a Vocation in an Era of Precarity.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 9, 2025.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon and Stephen Cranney. “The State of the Catholic Priesthood: Results from the First Longitudinal Study of Catholic Priests.” Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 9-11, 2025.

Sbalchiero Stefano, Benedetta Nicoli, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. “The Spiritual Dimension of Science: Exploring the Surplus of Meaning and Yearning” SISR-ISSR conference (International Society for the Sociology of Religion), Kaunas, Lithuania, June 30 - July 4, 2025.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. “Institutional Trust and Well-Being among Catholic Clergy,” Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 18-20, 2024.

Sbalchiero Stefano, Benedetta Nicoli, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. “Scienza, estetica e spiritualità: l’incanto negli scienziati”, Convegno AIS – Religione, «Secolarizzazione e Carisma», Università di Trento, April 11-12, 2024.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. “Aesthetics and Well-Being in Science: An Empirical Assessment,” Paper presented at the Social Science History Association, Washington DC, November 18, 2023.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon “Aesthetic Experience, Religiosity, and Spirituality in Science: A Four-Country Study,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, Salt Lake City UT, October 2023.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Caitlin Fitzgerald. "Transforming Beauty: Examining US Catholic Priests' Aesthetic Experiences at Work." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association, Salt Lake City UT, October 2023.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Bridget Ritz. "A Beautiful Quest: The Promise and Peril of Beauty in Science," Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia PA, August 2023.

Ritz, Bridget, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Silence in Science." Paper presented at the Group Processes Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2023.

Acevedo, Gabriel, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Vocation" or "Just a Job"? Work Perceptions and Mental Health Among Scientists in Four Countries" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia PA, August 2023.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Christopher Jacobi, and Chelsea Rae Kelly. "A Crisis of Trust: US Catholic Priests' Attitudes Towards Bishops." Paper presented at the Trust and Society Conference, Luxembourg School of Religion and Society, Luxembourg, July 19, 2023.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Christopher Jacobi, and Cella Masso-Rivetti, "Priests, Trust, and Crisis: Findings from the National Study of Catholic Priests," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver CO, Nov 2022.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Engaged Expats and Disengaged Citizens: Civic Participation among Indian Catholic Professionals in Dubai and Bangalore," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver CO, Nov 2022.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Well-being among priests amidst the crisis in the Church." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Religious Research Association Baltimore, MD October 2022.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Caitlin Fitzgerald, and Stephen Cranney, "Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health Among Scientists During the Pandemic: A Four-Country Study," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD October 2022.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Kathryn Middleton, Mackenzie Cox, Alex Maccarelli, Taylor Nelson, and Kayla Tingley, "The mental health toll of the pandemic on congregations in Washington DC," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD October 2022.

Jacobi, Christopher, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Gender differences in scientists' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: Effects of mistreatment and workplace culture," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles CA, August 2022.

Pandey, Poonam, Stefano Sbalchiero, Cesare Silla, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Dogmatic, Pragmatic, or Indifferent: Scientists' Understandings of "the Public" in Four Countries," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.

Nicoli, Benedetta, Stefano Sbalchiero, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Science, Aesthetics, and Spirituality: Enchantment in Scientific Work?," Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Changes in Religiosity and Mental Health in Congregations during the COVID-19 Pandemic," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio TX, Nov 2021.

Jacobi, Christopher, Jennifer Charles, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Stigma towards mental illness and substance use disorder in faith communities." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2021.

Jacobi, Christopher, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "A Problem Shared is a Problem Halved: Mental Health Effects of Sharing Problems in Congregations during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, August 2021.

Jacobi, Christopher, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. "Racial differences in COVID-19 vaccination attitudes among religious populations." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2021.

Acevedo, Gabriel, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Reed DeAngelis, and Jordan Farrell. "Effects of Pastoral and Congregational Support on Mental Health Outcomes," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2021.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Peter Varga, "The Aesthetic Dimensions of Science: Scientists' Experiences of Awe, Wonder and Beauty in Four Countries." Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2020.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Jennifer Charles, Sahara Brodsky, Tram Nguyen, Margaret Kase, and Caitlin Fitzgerald. "Religious leaders' trust in mental health professionals." Paper presented at Research Day at The Catholic University of America, April 2020.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. Author meets critics panel for *Mercenaries and Missionaries: Capitalism and Catholicism in the Global South*. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis MO, Oct 26, 2019.

Elaine Howard Ecklund, David R. Johnson, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. Author meets critics panel for *Secularity and Science: What Scientists Around the World Think About Religion*. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis MO, Oct 26, 2019.

Pablo Gonzales, Brandon Vaidyanathan, and Christopher Ellison. "Psychological Distress and Traumatic Life Events: The Buffering Effect of Religion." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, St. Louis MO, Oct 26, 2019.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Di Di, and J. Micah Roos. "The Aesthetic Dimensions of Science: Scientists' Experience of Beauty, Awe, and Wonder in Four Countries." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, Oct, 2018.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Overlap and Separation: Rethinking Faith-Work Boundaries in the Workplace." Faith at Work Summit, Chicago, Oct 12, 2018.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Social generativity: A new assessment of the contribution of business to the common good." Paper presented at the 10th International Symposium of the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, June 2018.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Simranjit Khalsa, "Beyond Gould: The Tenuous Separation of Science and Religion in India." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington D.C., Nov 2017.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Towards a Post-Positivist Philanthropy." Paper presented at the Beyond Positivism Conference, Montreal, Aug 2017.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Hilary Davidson. "Towards Social Generativity: Rethinking the relationship between Generosity and Human Flourishing." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Aug 2017.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Patrizia Cappelletti, "Towards Social Generativity: Rethinking the Social Impact of Strategic Philanthropy." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the International Association for Business and Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 2017

Salinas, Tara, Michael E. Brown, Brandon Vaidyanathan, and Brad Agle. "Crowd-sourcing a better approach to the AACSB Assessment of Ethical Reasoning: What is everyone doing and does it work?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Association for Business and Society, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 2017

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, Di Di, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Beauty and Awe in Scientific Inquiry: A cross-national study." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Center for Ethics and Culture, Notre Dame, IN, Nov 2016.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2016. "Social Generativity, Religion, and Business Ethics." Paper presented at the International Association for Business and Society, Park City, UT, June 16-19, 2016.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2015. "Finding Escape Velocity: Catholicism and Consumerism in Bangalore and Dubai." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Center for Ethics and Culture, Notre Dame IN, Nov 2015.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2015. "Rethinking Faith-Work Boundaries in the Workplace." Paper presented at the International Association for Business and Society, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, Mar 12-15

Ecklund, Elaine Howard, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2014. "How scientists in India and the United Kingdom negotiate boundaries between science and religion." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 22-25.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "Catholicism and Poverty Relief in the Arabian Gulf." Paper presented at the Fall conference of the Center for Ethics and Culture, Notre Dame, IN, Oct 30 -Nov 1.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "Leave it at the door: Segmenting faith and work in the corporate workplace." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31-November 2.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, David R. Johnson, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2014. "Rejecting conflict: American Jewish and Muslim views on science and religion." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of religion. August 2014, San Francisco, CA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "From Value Spheres to Experiential Realms: Rethinking Differentiation in Secularization Theory." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. 16-19 August, San Francisco, CA.

Johnson, David R., Brandon Vaidyanathan, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2014. "Structural Strain in Science: Organizational Context, Career Stage, and Disciplinary Differences." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. 16-19 August, San Francisco, CA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2014. "Overlap and Separation: Religion-Work Boundaries in the Workplace." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Academy of Management. Philadelphia, PA, 1-4 August.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2013. "The Ambivalence of Religion in the Neoliberal Workplace: Catholicism and Mercenary Professionalism in Dubai and Bangalore" Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Boston, MA, November 2013.

Hill, Jonathan P., and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2013. Religion and everyday financial generosity: Results from a nationally representative survey experiment. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Boston, MA, November 2013.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Pentecostalized Christianity and Corporate Professionals in the Neoliberal City: Catholic Charismatics in Bangalore and Dubai." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Chicago, IL. 17-21 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "On studying a minority religion: Methodology and ethics in multi-sited research." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Phoenix, AZ. 9-11 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Catholicism, Development, and Transnational Professionals in the Neoliberal City." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Phoenix, AZ. 9-11 November 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Mitigating Dystopia: Catholicism and Economic Survival in the Arabian Gulf." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association. Denver, CO. 17-20 August 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2012. "Religion in the Formal and Informal Economy: Catholicism and Professionals in the Arabian Gulf." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. Boston, MA. 3-7 August 2012. [Selected for Best Paper Proceedings]

Mundey, Peter, Melissa Pirkey, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2012. "Dollars and Sense: Institutional Logic and Organizational Inertia in Three Congregations." Paper presented at the Couch/Stone Symposium of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. Northwestern University, Chicago. 20-22 April 2012.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Peter Mundey. 2011. "Cultures of Money: Explaining Congregational Responses to the Economic Crisis." Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, NV. 20 August 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2011. "The Paradox of Professionalism: Enabling and Obstructing Mobilization in Indian Call Centres." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. San Antonio, TX. 15 August 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon, and Jonathan Hill. 2011. "Religion and Charitable Financial Giving to Religious and Secular Causes: Does Political Ideology Matter?" Paper presented at Annual Symposium on Religion and Politics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids MI, April 28-30 2011.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2010. "'The Beauty of the Thing': Aesthetic Motivation in Religion and Social Movements." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 29-31. Baltimore MD.

Snell, Patricia, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2010. "Who are My Neighbors? Cultural Refraction in Contemporary US Ethnic Conflict" Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association. August 14-16. Atlanta GA.

Choi-Fitzpatrick, Austin, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Michael Strand, and Thomas Buschman. 2010. "Causality in Contemporary American Sociology: An Empirical Assessment." Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association. August 14-16. Atlanta GA.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. "Professionalism 'from below': Normative discourse on Management in Indian Call Centres." Paper presented at the annual International Labour Process Conference. March 15-17. New Brunswick NJ.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "Self, Stuff, and Sex: American Young Adults on Human Flourishing and the Common Good." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame. November 12-14. Notre Dame IN.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "Understanding Declining Attendance in Emerging Adulthood: Denominational Differences in Early Religious Socialization." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 23-25. Denver CO.

Smith, Christian, Jonathan Hill, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2009. "Religion and Expressions of Generosity." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 23-25. Denver CO.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2009. "The Discourse of Resacralization: Volunteers at the Rimini Meeting." Paper presented at the Secularization and Revival Conference. Oct 8-10. Baylor University. Waco TX.

Munday, Peter, Katie Spencer and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2009. "Money Talk: Congregational Discourse on the Current Economic Crisis." Paper presented at the 11th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference. February 28. Chicago IL.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2008. "Religious Decline, Persistence and Reform among Call Centre Workers in India." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October 16-19. Louisville KY.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2008. "The Catholic Church and the Indian Call Centre Industry: Present Concerns and Future Directions." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Religious Research Association. October 16-19. Louisville KY.

Patricia Snell, Christian Smith, Kari Christoffersen, Carlos Tavares, and Brandon Vaidyanathan. 2008. "Northern Indiana Youth and Religion Community Forum." Presented at the University of Notre Dame. March 11. Notre Dame IN.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2007. "Globalization, Religion and 'the Reach of Reason.'" Paper presented at the International Symposium on "Pluralism, Politics and God?" September 13-15. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Vaidyanathan, Brandon. 2006. "Moral frameworks and the local-global dynamic." Symposium on "Refractions of modernity: Charles Taylor on Contemporary Culture." November. McGill University, Montreal QC.

## **PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC SERVICE**

---

Member, Research and Data Advisory Committee, Association of Theological Schools (2026-2028).

Editorial Board Member, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (2026-present).

Steering Committee Member, Sociology of Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion (2026-2028).

Fellow, International Society for Science and Religion (2025-present).

Session organizer, "Innovation and Religion: Promises, Pitfalls, and Paths Forward," de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, University of Notre Dame, Nov 14, 2025.

Symposium organizer, "Can beauty save the world?" McGill University, Montreal QC, Oct 24-25, 2024.

Session organizer, "Success and Failure in Religious/Spiritual Innovations," Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion," Minneapolis MN, Oct 31-Nov 2, 2025.

Session organizer, "Is Innovation a Productive Concept for the Sociology of Religion?" Annual Meeting for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, Aug 9-11, 2025.

Committee Member, Jack Shand Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2025.

Workshop co-organizer, "Science and Spirituality" St. Edmund's College, University of Cambridge, June 2-4, 2025

Symposium organizer, "Spiritual yearning in a disenchanted age," McGill University, Montreal QC, Nov 11, 2024

Session organizer, "Innovation in Religion and Spirituality: Contexts and Conditions," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pittsburgh, PA, Oct 18-20, 2024

Session organizer, "Innovation in Religion and Spirituality: Conceptualization and Measurement," Montreal, QC, Aug 9-11, 2024

Guest Editor, Special Issue of *Review of Religious Research* on "The Catholic Priesthood in Times of Change," October 2024.

Senior Fellow, Cardus, 2024-2027.

Editorial Advisory Board, *Comment Magazine*, 2024-2027.

Council Member, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2024-2026.

Member at large, Board of Directors, Religious Research Association, 2022-2025.

Member, Editorial Board, *Religions*, 2021-present.

Advisory Board Member, InCosmiCon International Research Center, Department of Human Sciences, Innovation and Territory (DiSUIT), University of Insubria, Varese, Italy (2020-present).

Advisory Board Member, Genius Vitae Project, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan and the Pontifical Academy of Life (2019 – present).

Member of the Scientific Board, Center for the Anthropology of Religion and Cultural Change, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, 2018 – present.

Co-organizer, Panel and Workshop on "The Beauty of Understanding," Newnham College, University of Cambridge, July 24, 2023.

Member, Undergraduate Board, 2017-present, The Catholic University of America.

Member, Child Protection Committee, The Catholic Project, The Catholic University of America, 2019 – present.

Organizer, “International Symposium on Beauty at Work,” The Catholic University of America, May 26-27, 2023.

Member, Hearing Board, The Catholic University of America, 2021-2022.

Member, Opus Prize Oversight Committee, The Catholic University of America, 2021-2022.

Co-organizer, Sociology of Religion Section Roundtable Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2022, Los Angeles.

Presider and Discussant, Global Religion Session, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Aug 2020.

Chair, Jack Shand International Travel Award Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Oct 2020.

Member, Search Committee for Dean of Arts & Sciences, The Catholic University of America, 2020.

Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor of Sociology, The Catholic University of America, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022.

Jack Shand International Travel Award Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Oct 2019.

Poster Session judge, Research Day, The Catholic University of America, April 9, 2019

Poster Session judge, American Academy for the Advancement of Sciences Conference, Washington DC, Feb 15 2019.

Member, Steering Committee for the University Self-Study for the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE) re-accreditation process, The Catholic University of America, 2019 – 2020.

Executive committee member, Institute for Policy Research, The Catholic University of America, 2018 – 2021.

Member, General Education Curriculum Committee, 2017-2020, The Catholic University of America.

Session/manuscript reviewer, Annual conference of the International Association for Business and Society, 2017.

Co-organizer (with William Weston), Working group on Critical Realism and Human Flourishing, Yale University, 2015-2017.

Session/manuscript reviewer, Annual conference of the International Association for Business and Society, 2016.

Chair, Student paper award committee, Religion Section, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 2015.

Convener, Session on “Economics and the Economy,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion 2012.

Member, Student paper award committee, Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 2012.

Member, Andrew W. Mellon Working Group on Religion and Sociology, 2010-2013.

Session Reviewer, Annual Conference of the Academy of Management, 2011.

Organizer, Interdisciplinary Workshop in Morality and Cognition, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Institute for the Study of Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, 2010-2011.

Organizer, Session on “Future Directions in the Sociological Study of Religion and Social Movements,” Annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 29-31, 2010, Baltimore MD.

Consultant, Instituto Cultural de Liderazgo en el Medio-oeste (Midwest Cultural Institute for Leadership) (ICLM), Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2009-2010. Program evaluations to assess impact of leadership education programs.

Convener, Session on “Religion and Emerging Adult Contexts and Relationships.” Annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 23-25 2009, Denver CO.

Co-organizer, Session on “Rethinking the Boundary between ‘Religion’ and ‘Secular’ in Social Movements”, Secularization and Revival: The Fate of Religion in Modern Intellectual History Conference, Oct 8-10 2009. Baylor University, Waco TX.

Co-organizer, International Symposium on “Pluralism, Politics and God?” September 13-15 2007. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Co-organizer, Colloquium on “Refractions of Modernity: Charles Taylor on Contemporary Culture.” November 2 2006. McGill University, Montreal QC.

Departmental Representative, Graduate Student Union, University of Notre Dame, 2009-2010.

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Sociological Review*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Business and Society*, *Global Networks*, *Mobilization*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Journal of Arabian Studies*, *Religions*, *Routledge Press*, *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Public Understanding of Science*.

## **LANGUAGES**

---

English (native), Tamil (conversational), Hindi (advanced), French (advanced), Italian (advanced)

## **REFERENCES**

---

Available upon request