

William A Samson, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

Education:

PhD, Sociology (2016) – The University of Kentucky

- Dissertation Topic: *The New Monastics and the Changing Face of American Evangelicalism*
- Concentration Areas: Social Movements, Sociology of Religion
- Research Interests: Religion, social movements, food and food systems, social inequality, social network analysis, work and organizational theory, ethnography

M.S. in Information Systems – The George Washington University (2003)

B.A., General Studies (Concentrations: Theology, Communications) – Liberty University (1993)

Employment:

2014-Present - Non-Academic Employment

Provides training, instructional design and change management methodology to facilitate new technology adoption for corporate and non-profit clients. Directs research and analysis to identify people-side risks in the adoption of new structures and systems. Employs business ethnography and business process improvement methodology to design and implement agile strategy for a variety of clients.

Fall, 2016 – Adjunct Professor, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

Adjunct faculty at Eastern Kentucky University in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, & Social Work.

2012-2014 – Executive Director, Seminary Stewardship Alliance

As part of a 3.5 million dollar grant funded initiative, the Seminary Stewardship Alliance (SSA) works with seminaries and divinity schools to catalyze the integration of environmental and sustainability concerns into their curriculum and practices.

Responsibilities:

- Advise faculty of member schools on ways to connect environmental concerns to their curricular and pedagogical goals
- Facilitate monthly and one on one communications with liaisons from member schools
- Network and interact with seminary and divinity school Presidents and Dean to assist them in inculcating sustainability as an institutional value
- Design curriculum modules for member institutions that provide access to nationally known environmental voices
- Generate scholarship at the intersection of theology and care for the environment
- Secure funding for member institutions, including:
 - \$40,000 for food conference at Duke Divinity School in September, 2013

- \$20,000 for energy audit at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- \$20,000 in seed grant funding for member school faculty that has been used for a variety of projects, including the writing of a eco-theology textbook (George Fox Divinity School) and the enactment of a feasibility study for a campus-wide sustainability coordinator (Fuller Theological Seminary)

Highlights:

- Developed and implemented the SSA program as a new initiative
- Recruited 19 seminaries from across the ideological spectrum to join the Alliance
- Catalyzed numerous new courses at member schools on the environment and sustainability
- Planned and implemented a national gathering of eco-theology scholars in September of 2012
- Planned and implemented a program launch event on Earth Day 2012 at the Washington National Cathedral that included national environmental voices such as Wendell Berry, Bill McKibben and Wes Jackson
- Designed and am implementing a conference on the intersection of food, faith and farming that will bring together noted scholars in this area, including Norman Wirzba and Ellen Davis
- Designed and am implementing a paper conference entitled, "Salvation, Theology and the Healing of the Earth," that will bring together 12 scholars, both noted and emerging, for a volume to be edited for publication

2008-2011 – Assistant Professor, Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY

- 2010-2011 – Assistant Professor of Sociology
- 2008-2010 – Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology

Highlights:

- Personally wrote and had approved 18 syllabi for new courses
- Along with Dr. Eric Carter, designed, created and had approved departmental minor in Sustainable Community Development
- Developed and implemented a three-phase survey of campus community (Faculty, Students and Staff) regarding values and religious identity
- Achieved an average of 4.6/5 on teaching evaluations in last year of teaching while maintaining a 4/4 load and serving on two committees

Courses Taught:

- SOC111: Introduction to Sociology
- SOC113: Modern Social Problems
- SOC211: Community
- SOC302: Classical Social Theory
- SOC304: Contemporary Social Theory
- SOC306: Social Movements
- SOC309: Sociology of Religion
- SOC313: Intergroup Relations
- SOC319: Work & Organizational Sociology

- SOC355: Environment and Sustainability
- SOC395: Qualitative Research Methods
- SOC408: Applied Sociology
- SOC412: Research Methods (mixed)
- SOC415: Food and Society
- SOC420: Research Methods for Community Change
- SOC440: Religion and the Crisis of Secularization (Oxford Tutorial)
- SOC440: Anthropology of Religion (Independent Study)
- SOC470: Activism in the Social Context
- SOC470/HON300: Grasping Happiness (Honors Seminar)

Committees Served:

- Curriculum Committee
- Institutional Review Board
- Christian Mission and Identity Task Force
- Social Justice General Education Revision Sub-Committee
- Service Learning Integration Sub-Committee (for SACS QEP)

January, 2006-August, 2008 – Graduate Assistant, The University of Kentucky – Lexington, KY

While completing doctoral coursework, served as a graduate assistant providing ethnographic, qualitative and quantitative research skills to research projects of departmental faculty. Awarded the Howard Beers Summer Fellowship and the James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for outstanding research in Appalachia; the research gathered during that time resulted in a peer-reviewed publication by Yale University in February, 2012.

1987-2005 - Non-Academic Employment:

- 1995 – 2005: Technology Consultant and Project Manager
- 1987-1994: Political Consultant
- More detailed information available upon request

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

“Evangelical Christians and the Environment: 'Christians for the Mountains' and the Appalachian Movement against Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining,” *Worldviews: Religion, Culture and Ecology* (Yale Divinity School), February, 2012

Journal Reviewer:

Journal of Qualitative Sociology, Spring, 2011

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Spring, 2013

Books:

Enough (Cook Publishing, February, 2009)

Justice in the 'Burbs (with Lisa Samson, Baker Publishing, August, 2007)

Book Chapters:

“The New Monastics,” in *The New Evangelical Social Engagement*, Oxford University Press, November 15, 2013

“Just Suburbs: What does the call of justice mean regarding life in our suburbs?” in *The Emergent Manifesto of Justice*, Baker Publishing, September, 2009

“The End of Reinvention: Mission Beyond Market Adoption Cycles,” in *The Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, Baker Publishing, April, 2007

Conference Papers:

“The New Monasticism: A New Model for Evangelical Social Engagement?,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28, 2011

“Emerging Post-Evangelicalism as a Social Movement Area,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 29, 2010

“Anomie and Religiosity: Data from 104 Professional Football Players,” with Dr. Eric Carter, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 29, 2010

“The Role of New Monasticism in Shaping the Future of Political Evangelicalism,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, CO, October, 2009

“Evangelical Christianity and the Struggle for Creation Care: The Role of Religious Social Movement Organizations in Reframing the Debate About the Environment,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY, October 18, 2008

“Evangelical Christian Activism and the Environment: The Role of 'Christians for the Mountains' in the Appalachian movement against Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining,” Southern Sociological Association, Richmond, VA, April, 2008

Conference Convener:

“Education and Religion,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28, 2011

“Socio-historical Approaches to Religion,” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 29, 2010

“Interfaith Dialogue on Earth Care,” Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY February 20, 2010

“The Faith to Stop Moving Mountains: The Role of Religion in Creating a Sustainable Post-Coal Appalachian Economy,” Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Huntington, WV, March 28, 2008

Invited Lectures:

“New Monasticism” and “The Future of American Evangelicalism,” Wilson-Gross Lecture Series, Union College, Barboursville, KY, November 9 & 10, 2011

“New Monasticism and the Changing American Religious Landscape,” Faculty Lecture Series, Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY, April 4, 2011

“Can Christianity Save the World?” Forester Lecture Series, Huntington University, Huntington, IN, October 26, 2010

“Religion and the Changing World,” Justice and Missions Lecture Series, Belmont University, Nashville, TN October 5, 2010

“The Church that is Emerging,” Kentucky Baptist Seminary guest lectureship, Lexington, KY, November 24, 2008

“The Emerging and Emergent Church,” Student Critical Series Lecture, Asbury College, Wilmore, KY, March 10, 2008

“An Evangelical Environmental Response to Mountaintop Removal,” Beers Fellowship Lectures, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, February 1, 2008

“Statistics in the Real World: Political Polling,” STA291/Statistical Method, University of Kentucky, October 15, 2007

“Multiple Regression in the Analysis of Public Opinion,” STA570/Introduction to Advanced Statistics, University of Kentucky, November 14, 2006

Presentations:

“Simplicity & Eucharistic Community(ies),” FORMED Lecture Series, The 86 Club, Cincinnati, OH, October 2, 2010

“Simplicity as an antidote to Consumerism,” FORMED Lecture Series, Taza Coffee Shop, Cincinnati, OH, October 2, 2010

“Justice in the Dorms: Promoting Justice and Serving on Campus and Community,” The University of Kentucky Christian Studies Center, March 31, 2008

“Organic Catholicity: A Natural Model for Explaining *The Great Emergence*,” The Great Emergence Event, Memphis, TN, December 4, 2008

“New Monasticism: A New Chapter in an Ancient Story,” Community of Christ Peace Colloquy, Independence, MO, October 24, 2008

“Politics, the Environment and the Church,” Political Awareness Week, Asbury College, Wilmore, KY, September 25, 2008

“Leading Into the Future: Toward an Organic Model for Sustainable Leadership,” Kentucky Collegiate Leadership Conference, Georgetown, KY, September 20, 2008

“Global Poverty and Our Everyday Lives,” Harvard Divinity School, April 29, 2008.

“Living Out the Story of Justice,” The Gathering, Salem, MA, April 28, 2008.

“Simple Ways to Get Started Living Sustainably,” Asbury College Green Week, Wilmore, KY, April 22, 2008

“Understanding New Monasticism and the Emerging Church,” Guest Lecture, Asbury College, Wilmore, KY, February 4, 2008

“An Evangelical Environmental Response to Mountaintop Removal,” Rural and Developmental Studies Seminar, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, December 14, 2007

“Oh No! Not the IRB!,” University of Kentucky Department of Sociology, Lexington, KY, November 28, 2007

“Justice after the death of [god],” Nashville Emergent Cohort, Nashville, TN, November 8, 2007

“Living out justice in the suburbs,” St. Bartholomew's Church, Nashville, TN, November 8, 2007

“A journey of faith toward justice,” Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY, October 31, 2007

“Relational Tithing,” Christian Community Development Association, St. Louis, MO, October 12, 2007

“Living out justice in the suburbs,” Indianapolis, IN area churches, October 5, 2007

“Emerging in the 'burbs,” Emergent Midwest Gathering, Rolling Meadows, IL, July 20, 2007

“Best practices for incorporating justice into your congregation,” Bread for the World Gathering, Washington, DC, June 10, 2007

“Living justice in the day to day,” Bread for the World Gathering, Washington, DC, June 9, 2007

Awards:

2007 – The University of Kentucky Department of Sociology: Howard Beers Summer Fellowship

2007 – The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center: James S. Brown Graduate Student Award for Research on Appalachia

Memberships:

American Academy of Religion

American Sociological Association

- Section: Religion
- Section: Collective Behavior and Social Movements
- Section: Public Sociology

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Board and Community Service:

Board of Directors – Common Change (<https://commonchange.com/>)

Chair, Board of Directors – Center for Environmental Leadership (<http://center4leadership.org/>)

Personal Information:

Married to Beth Samson

Avid home cook and gardener

Board Certified Life Coach

Other information available upon request

References:

Available Upon Request