

BRIDGET RITZ
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ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

2022 – Present Research Affiliate, Center for the Study of Religion and Society,
University of Notre Dame

EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Dissertation: “Peircean Realism, Critical Realism, and Cultural Sociology”
Committee: Christian Smith (chair), Ann Mische, Eugene Halton, Stephen Vaisey

2015 M.A., Social Sciences, The University of Chicago

2013 B.A., Politics, Ave Maria University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Pragmatism, Culture, Religion, Family, Science, Qualitative Methodology

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK

2020 Christian Smith, **Bridget Ritz**, and Michael Rotolo. *Religious Parenting: Transmitting Faith and Values in Contemporary America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Reviewed in: *American Journal of Sociology*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Contemporary Sociology*; *Social Forces*; *Christian Higher Education*; *Politics, Religion & Ideology*; *Horizons*; *Journal of Religious History*; *Anglican Theological Review*

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Forthcoming **Bridget Ritz**. “Social Mechanisms: Bridging Critical Realist and Pragmatist Approaches.” *Journal of Critical Realism*.

2023 **Bridget Ritz**. “Continuities Between Peircean Realism and Critical Realism: On Causation, Ontology, and Truth.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*.

2022 **Bridget Ritz**. “Peircean Realism: A Primer.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 52(3).

2022 Sarah K. Cowan, Tricia C. Bruce, Brea Perry, **Bridget Ritz**, Stuart Perrett, and Elizabeth M. Anderson. “Discordant Benevolence: How and Why People Help Others in the Face of Conflicting Values.” *Science Advances* 8(7).

2020 **Bridget Ritz**. “Comparing Abduction and Retroduction in Peircean Pragmatism and Critical Realism.” *Journal of Critical Realism* 19(5).

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Brandon Vaidyanathan and **Bridget Ritz**. *A Quest for Beauty: How Emotions and Aesthetics Drive Scientific Inquiry*.

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Milena Ivanova, Brandon Vaidyanathan, **Bridget Ritz**, and Marcela Duque. "Beauty in Experiment: Beyond the Case Study." (Under Review)

Ritz, Bridget. "Revisiting the Pragmatist Foundations for Theorizing Action and Personal Cultural Change." (Draft available)

Brandon Vaidyanathan and **Bridget Ritz**. "Spirituality and Aesthetic Experience in Science." (Preliminary analysis complete)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming Book Review. *Religion's Power: What Makes It Work*, by Robert Wuthnow. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

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

RECENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Qualitative Research Manager, Interviewer Trainer, Interviewer
Work and Well-Being in Science (2021 – Present), PI: Brandon Vaidyanathan

Core Strategy Team Member, Interviewer Trainer, Interviewer
The Cultural Experiences of Younger Adult Americans (2021 – Present), PI: Christian Smith

Research Assistant, Interviewer
National Abortion Attitudes Study (2019 – 2020), PI: Tricia C. Bruce

Research Assistant
Intergenerational Religious Transmission Project (2016 – 2019), PI: Christian Smith

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023 (Fall) Guest Lecturer, "The 'How' of Interviewing," SOC 63913: Research Methods

2022 (Spring) Guest Lecturer, "The 'How' of Interviewing," SOC 30902: Methods of Sociological Research

2021 (Spring) Teaching Assistant, SOC 20666: Environment, Food, and Society

2020 (Fall) Instructor, SOC 30900: Foundations of Sociological Theory

2019 (Spring) Guest Lecturer, "Pragmatism," SOC 63911: Classical Social Theory

2017 (Spring) Teaching Assistant, SOC 30900: Foundations of Sociological Theory

GRANTS, AWARDS & HONORS

- 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Small Grant for Beauty in Science Book Workshop
- 2021 SSHA Richard Sutch Student Travel Grant
- 2016-2021 Notre Dame, Graduate Fellowship, Center for Ethics and Culture
- 2020 Notre Dame, Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate, Kaneb Center
- 2020 Notre Dame, Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate, Kaneb Center
- 2019 Notre Dame, Travel Grant, Center for the Study of Religion and Society
- 2018 Notre Dame, Travel Grant, Center for Ethics and Culture
- 2015 The University of Chicago, MAPSS GfK Award for Innovative Research

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2023 "Dewey's Aesthetics and Its Peircean Debt." Accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia.
- 2023 "The Beauty of Understanding: Scientific Understanding as Aesthetic Experience." Presented at the annual conference of the John Dewey Society, Chicago.
- 2022 "Toward A Realist-Pragmatist Conception Of Social Mechanisms." Paper presented at the annual conference of the International Association for Critical Realism.
- 2021 "Peircean Realism: A Primer." Paper presented at the annual conference of the Social Science History Association, Philadelphia.
- 2021 "Revisiting the Pragmatist Action Theory Foundations for Theorizing Cultural Change." Paper presented at the virtual meetings of the American Sociological Association.
- 2021 Author Meets Critics for *Religious Parenting: Transmitting Faith and Values in Contemporary America* (with Christian Smith and Michael Rotolo). Virtual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion.
- 2020 "Discordant Benevolence: How and Why People Help Others in the Face of Conflicting Values" (with Sarah K. Cowan, Tricia C. Bruce, Brea Perry, Stuart Perrett, and Elizabeth M. Anderson). Paper presented at the virtual meetings of the American Sociological Association.
- 2019 "The Problem of Teleology: Returning to the Theoretical Foundations of Culture in Action." Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association, New York.

- 2019 “Problematizing the Abortion Attitudes’ Binary” (with Tricia C. Bruce). Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York.
- 2018 “Social Class and Catholic Religious Parenting.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas.
- 2018 “Social Class and Cultural Conceptions of Religious Parenting.” Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia.

Invited Presentations

- 2023 “The Beauty of Understanding: Scientific Understanding as Aesthetic Experience.” Presented at the History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium Series at the University of Notre Dame.
- 2016 “What is ‘Ideal Fertility’? Exploring Meaning Through Cognitive Interviews.” Presented at the annual GfK Microgrant Awardee Research Presentation, Chicago, Illinois.

SERVICE

- 2018-2021 Mentor, Graduate Program in Sociology, Notre Dame
- 2021 Organizer, Author Meets Critics Panel for Maureen Day’s *Catholic Activism Today* (NYU Press) at the annual conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2021 Co-Organizer, Sociology of Culture Section Roundtables at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association
- 2016-2020 Mentor, STEMentorship Program in Sociology, Notre Dame
- 2016-2019 Proposal Reviewer, Global Research on Religion Initiative, University of Notre Dame, Templeton Foundation
- 2018 Coordinating Editor, *American Sociological Review*
- 2017 Student Representative to the Graduate Studies Committee, Notre Dame
- 2017 Organizer (with Michael Rotolo), “Philosophical Bases of Social Theory,” Graduate Workshop, Notre Dame
- Reviewer: *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, *Journal of Critical Realism*, *Journal of Religion in Europe*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association: Theory, Culture, and Religion sections