RESEARCH INTERESTS

Culture, Media, Social Theory, Collective Memory, American Politics, Public Sociology

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Ph.D. in Sociology 2025 (expected)

“Congressional Candidates Constructing COVID: Strategic Communication and Social Problems”

Committee: Lyn Spillman, Erika Summers-Effler, Ann Mische, Samuel Woolley, Jeffrey Harden

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Master of Arts in Sociology 2019

“Rah Rah Ritual: High School Basketball and Community Identity”

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, *magna cum laude* 2016

University Scholar

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

“Confronting Systemic Racism in a Post-Truth World”

(with Abigail Bodeau, Baylor University)

January 18, 2021: *Church Life Journal*

“Congressional Candidates Constructing COVID: Strategic Communication and Social Problems”

Ongoing dissertation research; will be 3 articles, titles pending

“1619 and 1776 in 2021: Analyzing the Analysis of Collective Memory in Popular Media and Politics”

In progress

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“1619 and 1776 in 2021: Analyzing the Analysis of Collective Memory in Popular Media and Politics”  
November 2021: Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (presented online)

“Death Rises in Mexico: Political Upheaval and Religious Innovation”  
August 2021: American Sociological Association Annual Conference, online

“Rah Rah Ritual: High School Basketball and Community Identity”  
June 2021: International Conference on Sport and Society, Granada, Spain (presented online)

August 2020: American Sociological Association Annual Conference, online

July 2020: International Conference for Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, online

“Confronting Systemic Racism in a Post-Truth World”  
November 2021: deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, Notre Dame, IN (presented solo)

April 2021: Notre Dame Student Peace Conference, South Bend, IN (presented online) (presented with coauthor)

“Collectivities as Co-Creators and the Call to Love the ‘Woke’ in Our Midst”

November 2022: deNicola Center for Ethics and Culture Fall Conference, Notre Dame, IN

“All Hands on Whose Deck?: COVID-19 as Social Problem, Political Issue, or Both” (poster)

May 2023: Rooney Center for American Democracy Keeping the Republic Conference, Notre Dame, IN

AWARDS

Rev. Robert S. Pelton, CSC Essay Contest winner April 2019

Submission title: “Death Rises in Mexico: Political Upheaval and Religious Innovation”

Kellogg Institute for International Studies Latin American – North American Church Concerns (LANACC)

University of Notre Dame

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant – Theology 33936, Summer Service Learning Program 2021, 2022 (summers)

Managed a remote small group, provided weekly feedback and final grades

Teaching Assistant – Sociology 10033, Social Problems Spring 2021

Assisted with lectures, led two class sessions, provided assignment feedback

John Paul II Junior College, Benque Viejo del Carmen, Belize

Volunteer Instructor 2016-17

Developed syllabi, delivered lectures, assigned tests, quizzes, and papers, graded all assignments for 5 courses (Philosophy 101, Mathematics 101, Humanities 201, Philosophy 102, Rhetoric 101)   
Coached team for Social Security Board National Debate Competition, March 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center to Counter Human Trafficking November 2023 – present

PI: Dr. Claudia San Miguel  
Recruiting practitioners for interview study on forms of human trafficking present in South Texas border cities; will begin interviews in summer of 2024

Notre Dame Undergraduate Religion and Student Life Survey August 2019 – June 2020

PI: Dr. Kraig Beyerlein  
Coded Notre Dame student organizations and events into categories; determined relevant events to include in weekly survey

Landscape Study of Chaplaincy and Campus Ministry in the United States August 2018 – July 2019, PI: Dr. David Sikkink August 2020 – present

Searched and categorized US colleges and universities by religious affiliation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Manager, Center to Counter Human Trafficking November 2023 – present

Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX  
Managing a $1 million grant from US Department of Education to establish a new center at TAMIU; coordinating hiring searches, managing budget, assembled advisory board, serving as point of contact for outside experts and community stakeholders; also taking a prominent role in research on trafficking in South Texas

MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATES

Center for Information Technology and Public Life, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

2021-2024

Summer Institute for Computational Social Science, Rutgers University, Brunswick, NJ (online)

June 2021

Graduate Institute for Engaged Research and Teaching

Center for Social Concerns, University of Notre Dame

October 2022

Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate

Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Notre Dame

December 2022

American Sociological Association

Section memberships: Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology; Applied and Public Sociology

2017-present

REFERENCES

Dr. Lyn Spillman

Professor of Sociology

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

[Spillman.1@nd.edu](about:blank)

Dr. David Sikkink

Associate Professor of Sociology

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

[David.Sikkink.1@nd.edu](about:blank)

Dr. Claudia San Miguel

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Criminal Justice

Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX

[csanmiguel@tamiu.edu](mailto:csanmiguel@tamiu.edu)