

Penny Edgell

Professional Positions

- 2007 Professor, Sociology Department, University of Minnesota
Affiliated program: American Studies
Steering Committee: Religious Studies
- 2002 Associate Professor, Sociology Department, University of Minnesota
Affiliated program: American Studies
- 1995 Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, Cornell University
Affiliated programs: Women's Studies, Religious Studies, American Studies

Education

- 1995 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago
Dissertation: "'How We Do Things Here': Culture and Conflict in Local Congregations"
Nominated for Social Science Division Geller Prize as best dissertation in sociology, 1995
- 1989 M.A. Sociology, University of Chicago
- 1986 A.B. Sociology, *magna cum laude*, Princeton University

Fields of Interest

Culture; Religion in the U.S.; Sociology of Religion; Gender, Family, and Work

Grants, Honors

- 2011 Principal Investigator, \$283,443 grant from the National Science Foundation, Sociology Program. Kathy Hull, co-PI. "The Role of Cognition in the Development of Social Fragmentation, Commonalities, and Consensus."
- 2010 Residential Fellowship, Spring Semester. Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota.
- 2008 Life Course Center Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
- 2006-2002 Principal Investigator, \$700,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for a national survey of religion, work, and family; Christopher Ellison and Brad Wilcox, co-PIs
- 2006-2002 Principal Investigator, American Mosaic Project, \$340,000 grant from Edelstein Family Foundation to study race, religion, and tolerance in U.S.; Douglass Hartmann and Joseph Gerteis, co-PIs
- 2005-2004 Sabbatical Supplement Grant, University of Minnesota
- 2005-2004 Sabbatical Grant, \$45,000, Religious Institutions Grant Program, Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture, Louisville Seminary
- 2005-2003 Life Course Center Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
- 2002 Summer Stipend, \$8000, Louisville Institute, Louisville Seminary
- 2001-2000 Visiting Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University
- 2001-2000 Visiting Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Human Values, Harvard University (declined)
- 2001-1998 Cornell Careers Institute, Cornell University, Summer Research Fellowship, \$5000 to \$10,000
- 2000-1997 Principal Investigator, \$280,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment for a comparative study of institutional links between religion and family in four communities in upstate New York
- 1996-1995 Ford Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Program, Summer Stipend, Cornell University
- 1993 Robert Park Prize Lecturer in Sociology, University of Chicago
- 1993-1992 Institute for the Study of Protestantism in American Culture Dissertation Fellowship
- 1990-1987 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship

Publications

Books:

- 2006 Edgell, Penny. *Religion and Family In a Changing Society*. Princeton University Press Series in Cultural Sociology. *Distinguished Book Award 2006*, ASA Religion Section.

- 1999 Becker, Penny Edgell. *Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life*. Cambridge University Press. *Best Book Award 2000*, ASA Religion Section.
- 1997 Becker, Penny Edgell, and Nancy Eiesland, eds. *Contemporary American Religion: An Ethnographic Reader*. Alta Mira Press/Sage.

Articles and Book Chapters:

- 2011 “Making Ends Meet: Insufficiency and Work-Family Coordination in the New Economy.” Penny Edgell, Samantha Ammons, and Eric Dahlin. *Journal of Family Issues* (in press).
- 2011 “How Americans Understand Racial and Religious Difference: A Test of Parallel Items from a Recent National Survey.” Doug Hartmann, Daniel Winchester, Penny Edgell, and Joe Gerteis. *The Sociological Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- 2010 “Shared Visions? Diversity and Cultural Membership in American Life.” Penny Edgell and Eric Tranby. *Social Problems*, 57(2):175-204.
- 2008 “Religion and Family: Contemporary Problems, Emerging Issues.” Pp. 1038-64 in the *Oxford Handbook for the Sociology of Religion*, ed. Peter Clarke. New York & London: Oxford University Press.
- 2007 “Religious Influences on Understandings of Racial Inequality in the United States.” Penny Edgell and Eric Tranby. *Social Problems*, 54(2):263-288.
- 2007 “Religion and Work-Family Tradeoffs.” Samantha Ammons and Penny Edgell. *Journal of Family Issues*, 28(6):794-826.
- 2007 “Beyond the Nuclear Family? Familism and Gender Ideology in Diverse Religious Communities.” Penny Edgell and Danielle Docka. *Sociological Forum* 22(1):25-50.
- 2006 “Atheists as ‘Other’: Moral Boundaries and Cultural Membership in American Society.” Penny Edgell, Joseph Gerteis and Douglas Hartmann. *American Sociological Review*, 72(2):211-234. Reprinted in *Secularization*, ed. Bryan Turner, Sage Publications, 2010.
- 2003 “In Rhetoric and Practice: Defining ‘The Good Family’ in Local Congregations.” Pp. 164-178 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, Dillon, editor. Cambridge University Press.
- 2003 “Sunday Morning Rush Hour.” Heather Hofmeister and Penny Edgell. Pp. 203-219 in *It’s About Time: Couples and Careers*, edited by Phyllis Moen. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- 2001 “Work, Family, and Religious Involvement for Men and Women.” Penny Edgell and Heather Hofmeister. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(4):707-722.
- 2001 “Religious Involvement and Volunteering.” Penny Edgell Becker and Pawan Dhingra. *Sociology of Religion*, 62(3): 315-335.
- 2000 “Boundaries and Silences in a Post-Feminist Sociology.” Penny Edgell Becker *Sociology of Religion*, 61(4):399-408.
- 1999 “Scaling Back: Dual-Earner Couples’ Work-Family Strategies.” Penny Edgell Becker and Phyllis Moen. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 61:995-1007.
- 1998 “Making Inclusive Communities: Congregations and the ‘Problem’ of Race.” Penny Edgell Becker, *Social Problems*, 45(4):451-472.
- 1998 “‘Rational Amusement and Sound Instruction’: Constructing the True Catholic Woman in the *Ave Maria*.” Penny Edgell Becker. *Religion and American Culture*, 8(1):55-90, Winter.

- 1998 "Congregational Models and Conflict: A Study of How Institutions Shape Organizational Process." Penny Edgell Becker. Pp. 231-255 in *Sacred Companies: Organized Aspects of Religion and Religious Aspects of Organization*, Demerath, Dobkin Hall, Schmitt, and Williams, editors. Oxford University Press.
- 1997 "'What is Right' and 'What is Caring': Identifying a Religious Logic in Local Congregations." Penny Edgell Becker. Pp. 121-145 in *Contemporary American Religion: An Ethnographic Reader*. Becker and Eiesland, editors. Alta Mira .
- 1997 "Understanding Local Mission." Penny Edgell Becker. Pp. 267-285 in *Connectionalism: Ecclesiology, Mission, and Identity*. Report on the United Methodism and American Culture Project. Campbell, Lawrence, Richey, editors. Abingdon Press.
- 1997 Contributor to *Congregation and Community: Stability and Change in American Religion*, by Nancy Ammerman. Rutgers University Press.
- 1993 "Straining at the Tie that Binds: Congregational Conflict in the 1980s," with Stephen J. Ellingson, Richard W. Flory, Wendy Griswold, Fred Kniss and Tim Nelson. *Review of Religious Research*, 34(3):193-209.

In Progress:

"A Cultural Sociology of Religion: New Directions for Empirical Research." Invited, *The Annual Review of Sociology*, Volume 38, 2012; to be submitted August 2011.

"Work-Family Conflict, Couples' Religion, and Relationship Quality." With Christopher G. Ellison and Xiaohe Xu. *Under Review*.

"The Composition of Emotional Support." With Eric Tranby and Darin Mather. *Under Review*.

"Racial Difference in Work-Family Spillover." With Samantha Ammons and Eric Dahlin. To be presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, 2011.

Reviews, Comments, Essays:

- Present - 2009 Regular contributor to [Call and Response](#), Duke Divinity School, and [The Immanent Frame](#), Social Science Research Council.
- 2011 Review of *American Grace* by Robert Putnam. *Journal of Religion and Politics*, forthcoming.
- 2010 Review of *Souls in Transition*, by Christian Smith. *Sociological Forum*, 25(3):630-634.
- 2009 Contributor, essays on emerging adults ("Work and Careers," "Faith and Spirituality") for the [Changing S.E.A. Project](#), sponsored by the Catholic University of America.
- 2008 "We Still Don't Know if Christianity 'Works,' Much Less Why: Reply to Smith." *Sociology of Religion*, 69(4):445-52.
- 2008 "Trust Me." Blog entry on The Immanent Frame, sponsored by the Social Science Research Council. Available at: http://www.ssrc.org/blogs/immanent_frame/2008/04/18/trust-me/.
- 2008 "Be Still and Know that I am Bright." Review of *Breaking the Spell*, by Daniel C. Dennet. *Contexts*, 7(1):64-65.
- 2005 Review of *Heaven's Kitchen*, by Courtney Bender. *Social Forces*, 84(2): 1318-1319.
- 2003 Review of *Evangelical Identity and Gendered Family Life*, by Sally K. Gallagher. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 65(4):1089-1090.
- 2002 Review of *Choice and Religion*, by Steve Bruce. *Journal of Religion*, 82(1):141-2.

- 2001 "It's Not Just a Matter of Time: How the Time Squeeze Affects Congregational Participation." *Journal of Family Ministry*, 15(2):11-26.
- 2001 "The Sacred Turn: Fieldnotes from CTIII." *ASA Culture Section Newsletter*, 15(3):14-15.
- 2001 Review of *The Gold Coast Church and the Ghetto*, by James A. Wellman. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 40(2):350.
- 2000 Review of *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, edited by Victoria Bonnell and Lynn Hunt. *Social Forces*, 79(1):349-51.
- 1999 Review of *The Battered Wife: How Christians Confront Family Violence* by Nancy Nason-Clark. *Sociology of Religion*, 60(3):335-6.
- 1999 Review of *Being There: Culture and Formation in two Theological Schools*, by Jackson Carroll, Barbara Wheeler, Daniel Aleshire and Penny Long Marler. *Contemporary Sociology*, 28(2):199.
- 1998 Review of *Presbyterian Pluralism*, by William J. Weston. *Sociology of Religion*, 59(4):418-19.
- 1998 Review of *Feminization of the American Clergy*, by Paula Nesbitt. *American Journal of Sociology*, 103(6):1751-2.
- 1996 Review of *Mennonite Peacemaking*, by Leo Driedger and Donald Kraybill. *Sociology of Religion*, 57(3):327-328.
- 1996 Review of *Full Pews, Empty Altars: The Demographics of the Priest Shortage in United States Catholic Dioceses*, by Richard A. Schoenherr and Lawrence A. Young. *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 41(3):534-7.
- 1996 Review of *Material Christianity*, by Colleen McDannell. *American Journal of Sociology*, 102(2):644-5.
- 1995 Review of *Jesus Christ, Sun of God: Ancient Cosmology and Early Christian Symbolism*, by David Fideler. *Review of Religious Research*, 36(3):328-329.
- 1994 Review of *Slim's Table*, by Mitchell Duneier. *American Journal of Sociology*, 99(5):1391-1392.

Invited Lectures

- 2009 "Religion as Cultural Repertoire, or, the Post-Secular as Scholarly Turning Point." Presented at Yale University at Exploring the Post-Secular, a conference co-sponsored by the SSRC, April 3-4.
- 2009 Keynote speaker, conference at Columbia University, Belief Matters: Reconceptualizing Belief and Its Use. April 2. Conference organized by and for graduate students in the study of religion.
- 2009 "Cultural Approaches to the Study of Religion." Presented at the First Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion at IUPUI. Indianapolis, June 4-7.
- 2009 "Work & Family: How Race and Religion Shape Experiences of Sufficiency and Stability." Presented at the Gender and Inequality Workshop, Dept. of Sociology, UC-San Diego. June 2.
- 2008 "Spillover and Instability: Understanding Short-Term and Long-Term Work-Family Conflict in a Diverse Population." Presented at the colloquium series, Dept. of Sociology, UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2007 "Race, Class, and Gender: Religion's Role in Existing Institutional Arrangements." Invited panelist, American Sociological Association/Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, New York
- 2006 "Religion and Myths: Ozzie and Harriet and Mainstream Religious Familism." Invited panelist, Conference on Religion and Myths, MARIAL Center, Emory University
- 2003 "Religion and Family in a Changing Society." Culture Workshop, Northwestern University, September

- 2002 "In Rhetoric and in Practice: the 'Good Family' in Congregational Life." Groves Conference on Marriage and Families, Chataqua, New York, June 5-9
- 2001 Panel presentation on "The Future of Theory in the Sociology of Religion." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Columbus OH, October
- 2001 "Work, Faith, and Family." The Ties that Bind: Religion and Family in Contemporary America Conference, Princeton University, May 16-17
- 2001 "What You Take for Granted: Religion, Family, and Gender Today." Cultural Dynamics Conference, Princeton University, March 30-31
- 2001 "Longing for Ozzie and Harriet: The 'Time Bind' and Religious Institutions." Duke University Sociology Colloquium, January; Columbia University Sociology Colloquium, March
- 2001 "In Rhetoric and in Practice: Defining 'The Good Family.'" Sociology Department colloquia Series at Princeton University, Swarthmore College, Rutgers University
- 2000 "Religion and Family." Politics, Culture, and Society Workshop, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 2000 "Religious Involvement and Volunteering." School of Social Work and the Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania, November

Courses Taught

- "Social Theory," upper-level undergraduate course required for sociology majors
- "Senior Projects Seminar," upper-level undergraduate workshop for majors to help complete required senior thesis
- "Religion, Community, and Politics in the U.S.," upper-level undergraduate course for sociology majors
- "Understanding Formal Organizations," upper-level writing-intensive course for sociology majors
- "Culture and Conflict in Organizations," sophomore seminar, part of undergraduate writing program
- "Religion and Family in the U.S.," intro-level survey course
- "Culture and Agency," graduate seminar
- "Religion and Society, graduate seminar
- "Qualitative Methods," combined undergraduate/graduate fieldwork seminar
- "Research Practicum," required graduate writing seminar

Students Advised

Dissertation Advisor, Cornell University:

Elaine Howard Ecklund, Rice University (Ph.D. 2004)
Pawan Dhingra, Oberlin College (Ph.D. 2002)

Committee Member, Cornell University

Amy Foerster, Evelyn Bush, Heidi Swarts, Kirsten Grace, Ester Prins, Geoffrey Ream, Jessie Saul, Heather Hofmeister, Stacy Merola.

Dissertation Advisor, University of Minnesota:

Daniel Winchester, Andrew Johnson, Darin Mather, Danielle Docka (co-advisor), Xuefeng Zhang, Maureen Clark, Deborah Smith (co-advisor, Ph.D. 2010), Amy Alsup

Committee Member, University of Minnesota:

Sam Boerboom, Kelly Chermack, Aysegul Kozak, Julie Zaloudek, Samantha Ammons, Amy Ronnkvist, Andria Strano

Research Positions, Consulting

- 2006 Consultant, *National Congregations Study, II*. Director: Mark Chaves.
- 2002-1996 Hartford Seminary Advisory Board. Review Committee for Hartford Institute for Religion Research.
- 1998-1997 Consultant, *National Congregations Study*. Director: Mark Chaves.
- 1997 Consultant on methodology, *Congregations, Communities, and Leadership Development Project*, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Director: Ronald Sider.
- 1996-1995 Consultant on methodology, *Congregations and Generational Cultures Project*, directed by Jackson Carroll, Duke University, and Wade Clark Roof, University of California at Santa Barbara.
- 1993-1992 Research assistant, *Congregations in Changing Communities Project*, Emory University and the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture at Boston University. Director: Professor Nancy Ammerman.

Academic Service

Editorial:

- 2012-2009 Advisory Editor, *Social Problems*
- 2006-2000 Co-Editor, with Mary-Jo Neitz, Qualitative Studies of American Religion Series, NYU Press
- 2006-1992 Manuscript and Book Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal of Family Issues*, *Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*
- 2005-2003 Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2006-2004 Reviewer, National Science Foundation
- 1993-1992 Student Book Review Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 1991-1992 Associate Book Review Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 1991-1990 Editorial Intern, The Center for the Study of Politics, History and Culture, University of Chicago

Department, College, University Service:

- 2011-2008 Religious Studies Steering Committee, University of Minnesota
- 2010-2008 Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2010-2005 Social Sciences Policy and Review Council, University of Minnesota
- 2010-2005 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
- 2010-2008 Winton Chair Committee, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2008-2005 Executive Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
- 2008-2003 Life Course Center Advisory Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota
- 2007-2006 Religious Studies Working Group, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2007-2005 Social Sciences Course Proposals Review Committee, University of Minnesota
- 2006-2005 CLA Humanities Cluster Hire Search Committee, University of Minnesota
- 2006-2005 Research Committee of the Faculty Senate, University of Minnesota
- 2006-2005 Steering Committee on the Future of Religious Studies, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2005-2003 CLA Assembly Representative, University of Minnesota
- 2005-2003 Committee for Curriculum, Instruction, and Advising, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
- 2004-2003 Personnel Committee, University of Minnesota Sociology Department
- 2003-2002 Chair of Awards Committee, SRI, University of Minnesota Sociology Department
- 2003-2002 Personnel Committee, University of Minnesota Sociology Department
- 2003-2002 Undergraduate Affairs Committee, University of Minnesota Sociology Department
- 2001-1996 Executive Board, Women's Studies, Cornell University
- 2000 Genomics Project, Ethics, Social, and Legal Implications Thrust Committee, Cornell University
- 1999-1998 Junior Hiring Committee, Sociology Department, Cornell University

1999-1998 Faculty Senate, Cornell University
 1998 Admission Selection Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University
 1999-1997 University Committee on Educational Policy, Cornell University
 1999-1997 Women's Studies Steering Committee, Cornell University
 1998-1996 Departmental Colloquium Committee Chair, Sociology Department, Cornell University
 1997-1996 Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, Cornell University.
 1989-1988 Society for Social Research (SSR), Sociology Department, University of Chicago.

Professional Associations and Related:

2010 ASA Culture Section Book Award Committee
 2007 ASA Religion Section Distinguished Book Award Committee
 2005 ASA Religion Section Program Committee for Annual Meeting
 2005-2003 Council Member, Culture Section, American Sociological Association
 2003-2002 Nominating Committee, Association for the Sociology of Religion
 2002-2001 Nominating Committee, Religion Section, American Sociological Association
 2002-2000 Council Member, Religion Section, American Sociological Association
 2002-2000 Executive Council, Association for the Sociology of Religion
 2001-1999 Executive Council, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
 2001-1997 Director at Large, Religious Research Association
 1997-1995 Nominating Committee, Culture Section, American Sociological Association (Chairperson 1995-6)
 1996-1995 Student Paper Award Committee, Culture Section, American Sociological Association

Organizer:

2005 Session on Qualitative Approaches to the Study of Religion, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, Rochester, NY, Nov. 4-6
 2003 Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Session organizer, review session on Omar McRoberts' *Streets of Glory*
 2002 Program Chair, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Oct. 31-Nov. 3
 2001 Co-Organizer, Religion and Family Conference, Princeton University, May 16-17
 2000 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Author-meets-critics session, *A Particular Place: Urban Restructuring and Religious Ecology*
 1999 Religious Research Association Annual Meeting, Author-meets-critics session, *Studying Congregations*
 1999 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Session organizer, "Religion and the Family"
 1998 Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Session organizer, "Religion and Family"
 1996 Religious Research Association Annual Meeting, Session organizer, "Religious Ethnography: Insights from the Field"
 1994 Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Session organizer, "Gender and Leadership in Religious Organizations"

Memberships

American Sociological Association
Sections: Culture; Religion; Family; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Sex & Gender
 American Academy of Religion
 Association for the Sociology of Religion
 Religious Research Association
 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion