

Daniel Bolger

Southern Methodist University | 310D Hyer Hall | Dallas, TX 75205
214.768.6952 | dbolger@smu.edu

Professional Appointments

- 2024- **Assistant Professor of Sociology**, Southern Methodist University
- 2024- **Visiting Research Collaborator**, Princeton University
- 2022-2024 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Princeton University
Center for Research on Child & Family Wellbeing,
School of Public and International Affairs

Education

- 2016-2022 **Ph.D. Sociology**, Rice University
- 2010-2013 **M.A. Mental Health Counseling**, *Summa Cum Laude*, Trinity International University
- 2010-2013 **M.A. Christian Studies**, *Summa Cum Laude*, Trinity International University
- 2006-2010 **B.S. Psychology**, *Summa Cum Laude*, John Brown University

Publications

- 2026 **Bolger, Daniel**, Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and Christine Jang-Trettien. "The Making of an Epidemic of Pain." *Social Problems*. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spag008>.
- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel**. "Getting Out and Giving Back: Repertoires of Destigmatization in the Private Social Safety Net." *Social Forces* 103(3): 886–904.
*Featured in *Contexts* "In Brief," Winter 2025.
- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel**. "Community-Based Organizations and the Production of Collective Efficacy in Majority Black Neighborhoods in Houston, Texas" *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2025.2501543>.
- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Michelle Livings. "Exploring Variation in Welfare Attitudes among Low-Income Parents." *Journal of Poverty*. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10875549.2025.2575911>
- 2024 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Esther Chan. "Unequal Returns? Exploring Racial Differences in the Mental Health Benefits of Religious Service Attendance." *Race and Social Problems* 16: 267-280.
- 2024 Jang-Trettien, Christine, and **Daniel Bolger**. "Racialized Administrative Burden in Disability Assistance Programs in Two Rural Counties." *Social Service Review* 98(3): 446-481.
**Honorable Mention* – 2025 American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Disability in Society Outstanding Publication Award

- 2024 **Bolger, Daniel**, Andrea Henderson, Bianca Mabute-Louie, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The Intersections Among Race, Religion, and Science in Explaining Mental Health Conditions." *Socius*. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231231225543>.
- 2023 Scheitle, Christopher, **Daniel Bolger**, Denise Daniels, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "The Connection between Perceived Workplace Discrimination and Viewing Work as a Spiritual Calling." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(2): 242-259.
- 2023 Thomson, Robert, **Daniel Bolger**, Elaine Howard Ecklund, and Denise Daniels. "The Relationship Between Workplace Autonomy and Workplace Religious Expression." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(1): 126-143.
- 2022 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Seeing is Achieving: Religion, Embodiment, and Explanations of Racial Inequality in STEM." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 45(1): 3-21.
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Pamela J. Prickett. "Where Would You Go? Race, Religion, and the Limits of Pastor Mental Health Care in Black and Latino Congregations." *Religions* 12: 1062. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12121062>.
**Selected Coverage: The Associated Press, Houston Public Media, BET, Religion News Service, KMGH-TV Denver*
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel**. "The Racial Politics of Place in Faith-Based Social Service Provision." *Social Problems* 68(3): 535–551.
**Winner – 2020 American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion Student Paper Award*
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel**. "The Collective Construction of Need: Group Styles of Determining Deservingness in Christian Social Service Agencies." *The Sociological Quarterly* 63(1): 74-93.
- 2021 Rachel Schneider, and **Daniel Bolger**. "Between the Prophetic and Priestly: The Role of Black Pastoral Authority in Health and Science Promotion." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 89(2): 530–561.
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel**, Robert Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Determinants of Confidence in U.S. Institutions: Comparing Congress and Corporations." *Social Science Quarterly* 102(1): 324-342.
- 2020 Elaine Howard Ecklund, Denise Daniels, **Daniel Bolger**, and Laura Johnson. "A New Study Looks at Faith at Work and Religious Discrimination in the Workplace." *Religions*. Available online: <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/11/6/287>.
**Selected Coverage: The New York Times*
- 2019 **Bolger, Daniel**, Robert A. Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Selection Versus Socialization? Interrogating the Sources of Secularity in Global Science." *Sociological Perspectives* 62(4): 518-537.

- 2019 Elliott, James R., Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and **Daniel Bolger**. “The Successive Nature of Parks: Making and Remaking Unequal Access Over Time.” *City & Community* 18(1): 109-127.
- 2018 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Whose Authority? Perceptions of Science Education in Black and Latino Churches.” *Review of Religious Research* 60(1): 49-70.
- 2018 **Bolger, Daniel**, Cleve Tinsley IV, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Heaven and Health: Pastoral Perspectives on Faith and Medicine.” *Review of Religious Research* 60(3): 389–402.
- 2016 Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Christopher Scheitle, Jared Peifer, and **Daniel Bolger**. “Examining Links between Religion, Evolution Views, and Climate Change Skepticism.” *Environment and Behavior* 49(9): 985-1006.

Under Review

Bolger, Daniel, Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and Christine Jang-Trettien. “The Crisis of Pain.”

Books In Progress

Bolger, Daniel, Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and Christine Jang-Trettien. *American Pain: The Making of an Epidemic*.

Articles In Progress

Bolger, Daniel. “Long Live the Queen: Gendered Responses to Controlling Images.”
Jang-Trettien, Christine, Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, and **Daniel Bolger**. “The Economy of Pain.”
Bolger, Daniel. “Religious (In)Congruence in Faith-Based Social Service Provision.”

Book Reviews

- 2023 **Bolger, Daniel**. “Review of Addiction Recovery and Resilience: Faith-Based Health Services in an African American Community.” *Social Forces*. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soad156>.
- 2019 Elaine Howard Ecklund, Sharan Mehta, and **Daniel Bolger**. “A Way Forward for Sociological Research on Science and Religion: A Review and a Riff.” *Zygon* 54(3): 643-647.

Reports & Public Scholarship

- 2023 Jang-Trettien, Christine, **Daniel Bolger**, Ryan Parsons, Emily Miller, and Kathryn Edin. 2023. “Place and Disability Program Enrollment: Comparing Two Rural Counties.” UW-Madison Retirement and Disability Research Center. Available online: <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/95365>
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel**. “In its 10th year, Community Bridges Projects Confront Ever-apparent Inequalities in Houston.” Urban Edge Blog. Kinder Institute for Urban Research, June 3. Available online: <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2021/06/03/community-bridges-projects-houston-inequality>

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2025 **Outstanding Publication Award Honorable Mention**, American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Disability in Society
- 2021 **Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$6,262)**, National Science Foundation, administered through the American Sociological Association
- 2021 **Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention (\$5,000)**, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, Indiana University-Indianapolis
- 2021 **Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship (\$16,750)**, Rice University
- 2021 **Delores P. Aldridge Dissertation Fellowship (\$29,500)**, Department of Sociology, Rice University
- 2020 **Finalist for 2021 Graduate Teaching Award for Independent Instruction**, Center for Teaching Excellence at Rice University
- 2020 **Student Paper Award**, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Religion
- 2020 **Student Research Grant (\$2,500)**, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2020 **Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$4,980)**, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University
- 2019 **Walter and Helen Hall Student Paper Award Honorable Mention**, Department of Sociology, Rice University
- 2017 **Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (\$1,215)**, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University

Teaching Experience

- 2025-present **Introduction to Sociology: Honors (SOC1-1300_005H)**, Instructor of Record, Southern Methodist University
- 2024-present **Urban Sociology (SOC1 3369)**, Instructor of Record, Southern Methodist University
- 2021-2022 **Inequality and Urban Life (SOC1 470)**, Instructor of Record, Rice University
- 2020-2021 **Community Bridges Training (SOC1 469)**, Instructor of Record, Rice University
- 2020 **Certificate of Teaching and Learning**, Center for Teaching Excellence at Rice University
- 2020 **Urban Sociology (SOC1 310)**, Instructor of Record, Rice University
- 2018 **Introduction to Sociology (SOC1 101)**, Teaching Assistant, Rice University
- 2017 **Research Methods (SOC1 381)**, Teaching Assistant, Rice University

Professional Service

- 2025-2026 **Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee Member**, Southern Methodist University
- 2025- **Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member**, ASA Section on Religion
- 2024-2025 **Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee Member**, Southern Methodist University

- 2023 **Qualitative Methods Training Facilitator**—Department of Public Policy and Administration, Jackson State University
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Consultant**—Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University
- 2020-2022 **Community Bridges Instructor**—Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- 2019 **Graduate Student Ambassador**—Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting
- 2016-2022 **Graduate Research Fellow**—Religion and Public Life Program, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University
- 2015-2016 **Post-Baccalaureate Fellow**—Religion and Public Life Program, Social Sciences Research Institute, Rice University
- 2013-2015 **First Generation Student Advisor**—University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas

Presentations

- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Place and Opportunity: Human Services and Public Policy.” Discussant, *Association for Public Policy & Management* Annual Meeting, November 2025.
- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Long Live the Queen: Race, Gender and Perceptions of the Social Safety Net.” *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting, August 2025.
- 2025 **Bolger, Daniel,** Upneet Kaur, Rish Oberoi, Sumbel Zeb, and Elizabeth Melton. “Telling the Unheard Stories of Texas.” *Texas Tribune*, April 8th.
- 2024 **Bolger, Daniel,** Kathryn Edin, Timothy Nelson, and Christine Jang-Trettien. “The Epidemic of Pain and the Making of Disability Clusters.” *Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management* Annual Meeting, November 2024.
- 2024 **Bolger, Daniel,** Kathryn Edin, Timothy Nelson, and Christine Jang-Trettien. “The Epidemic of Pain and the Making of Disability Clusters.” *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting, August 2024.
- 2023 **Bolger, Daniel,** and Esther Chan. “Unequal Returns: Racial Disparities in the Mental Health Benefits of Religious Service Attendance among Low-Income Mothers.” *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting, August 2023.
- 2023 Jang-Trettien, Christine, and **Daniel Bolger.** “Administrative Burden For Whom? Pathways for Receiving Disability Assistance in Two Rural Counties.” *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting, August 2023.
- 2023 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Race, Gender, and Perceptions of the Sufficiency of the Social Safety Net.” *Eastern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting, February 2023.
- 2023 Bledsoe, Isaac, Christine Jang-Trettien, Ryan Parsons, and **Daniel Bolger.** “Pathways to Disability: A Comparison of Two Rural Counties in the U.S.” *Eastern Sociological Society* Annual Meeting, February 2023.
- 2022 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Being a Community: The Organizational Production of Collective Efficacy in Majority Black Neighborhoods.” *Chicago Ethnography Conference*, April 2022.
- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Getting Out and Giving Back: Navigating Social Service Stigma in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods.” *American Sociological Association* Annual Meeting, August 2021.

- 2021 **Bolger, Daniel.** “Being a Community: Organizational Density and Perceptions of Collective Efficacy in Historically Black Neighborhoods.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting*, August 2021.
- 2020 Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Denise Daniels, **Daniel Bolger**, and Laura Johnson. 2020. “A New Study Looks at Faith at Work and Religious Discrimination in the Workplace.” Abstract Accepted for *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting*, October 2020. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2020 Thomson, Robert, Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Daniel Bolger**, and Denise Daniels. “Workplace Devotion: The Impact of Religious Identity, Organizational Position, and Social Class on Workplace Religious Agency.” Abstract Accepted for *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, August 2020. San Francisco, CA.
- 2020 **Bolger, Daniel.** ““The Impact of Neighborhood Organizational Infrastructure on Community Responses to Gentrification.” Abstract Accepted for *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, August 2020.
- 2019 **Bolger, Daniel.** “The Racialized Politics of Place in Religious Social Service Provision.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting*. St. Louis, October 2019.
- 2019 Schneider, Rachel, and **Daniel Bolger.** “Black Pastoral Authority, Health, and Science.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting*. St. Louis, October 2019.
- 2019 Thomson, Robert Jr., **Daniel Bolger**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “A Tale of Two Populisms: Divergent and Convergent Correlates of Trust in Congress and Corporations.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*. New York, August 2019.
- 2019 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Seeing is Achieving: Religion, Embodiment, and Explanations of Racial Inequality in STEM.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting*. New York, August 2019.
- 2018 **Daniel Bolger.** “The Undeserving Poor: Gender, Rights, and Obligations in Faith-Based Social Service Provision.” *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, August 2018.
- 2018 **Daniel Bolger.** “Faithful Welfare: How Religion Patterns Views of Federal Assistance among Low-Income Mothers.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Section on Sociology of Religion Roundtable. Philadelphia, August 2018.
- 2017 Elliott, James R., Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and **Daniel Bolger.** “The Successive Nature of Parks: Making and Remaking Unequal Access Over Time.” *Social Science History Association*, Montreal, November 2017.
- 2017 **Daniel Bolger**, Robert A. Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Science, Secularization, and Religious Shifts: The Religious Transitions of Scientists in Cross-National Context.” *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting*, Montreal, August 2017.
- 2017 Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Bob Thomson, **Daniel Bolger**, and Sharan Mehta. “Perceptions of Discrimination in Global Science.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Montreal, August 2017.
- 2017 Elliott, James R., Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and **Daniel Bolger.** “The Successive Nature of Parks: Making and Remaking Unequal Access Over Time.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting*, Montreal, August 2017.

- 2017 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “How Latino and Black Christians View the Impact of Science Education on Religious Faith.” *Biologos Conference*, Houston, March 2017.
- 2016 **Bolger, Daniel**, Cleve Tinsley IV, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Heaven and Health: Pastoral Perspectives on Faith and Medicine.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, October 2016.
- 2016 **Bolger, Daniel**, and Cleve Tinsley IV. “Pastoral Views on Faith and Medicine: A Comparative Study.” *Conference on Religion and Medicine*. Houston, March 2016.

Peer Reviewer

- *American Journal of Sociology*
- *Social Forces*
- *Social Problems*
- *Sociological Forum*
- *Sociology of Religion*
- *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- *International Migration Review*
- *American Journal of Public Health*
- *The Sociological Quarterly*

Professional Associations

- *American Sociological Association*
 - Inequality, Poverty and Mobility
 - Sociology of Religion
 - Community and Urban Sociology
- *Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management*