

BLAKE VICTOR KENT
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EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. SOCIOLOGY, Baylor University
2015 M.A. SOCIOLOGY, Baylor University
2010 M.A. THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, Regent College (Canada)
2002 B.A. SOCIOLOGY, Wheaton College, *Magna Cum Laude*, Alpha Kappa Delta

EMPLOYMENT

2023- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology; Westmont College
2020-2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology; Westmont College
2019-2020 Research Associate, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School
2018-2019 Post-doctoral Fellow, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2024-2025 Fellow, Carol Houston Center for Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity; Westmont College
2020- Non-Resident Scholar, Institute for Studies of Religion; Baylor University
2020- Research Affiliate, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School
2018- Faculty Affiliate, Human Flourishing Program; Harvard University

AREAS OF INTEREST

Religion/Spirituality, Population Health, Minority Populations, Attachment Theory, American Religious Culture, Quantitative Methods

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Sociology, Statistics & Quantitative Research Methods, Environmental Sociology, Social Determinants of Health, Senior Research Capstone, Senior Seminar, Peoples and Cultures of China, Cross-Cultural Communication

BOOK

2027 **Kent, Blake Victor**, ed. *Strange: Evangelicalism, Race, Politics, Abuse and other Shadows Between Us*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

* Indicates undergraduate student co-author

** Indicates graduate student co-author

† Indicates co-first authors

- In Press Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. "Demographic Variation in Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety Across 22 Global Flourishing Study Countries." *Communications Medicine*.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Jennifer Wortham, Noemie Le Pertel, Tyler VanderWeele, and Byron Johnson. "Childhood Experiences and Adult Self-Rated Physical Health in 22 Countries." *BMC Global and Public Health*.
- Rowatt, Wade, Shawn Latendresse, **Blake Victor Kent**, Thomas Fergus, Erica Warner, Jordan Marr, Yvette Cozier, Alka Kanaya, A. Heather Eliassen, Martha Daviglus, Shelley Cole, Jorge Chavarro, Kenneth Pargament, and Alexandra Shields. "The Structure of Religion and Spirituality among Six Cohorts in the United States: Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, Nilay Shah, and Alexandra Shields. "Religious Affiliations, Religious Practices, and Health Behaviors in U.S. South Asians." *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.
- VanderWeele, Tyler J., Byron R. Johnson, Rebecca Bonhag, Matt Bradshaw...**Blake Victor Kent**...Robert D. Woodberry, Jennifer Wortham, and George Yancey. "The Global Flourishing Study: Study Profile and Initial Results on Flourishing." *Nature Mental Health*.
- 2025 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Jeff Levin, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. "Demographic Variations of Self-Rated Physical Health Across 22 Countries: Findings from the Global Flourishing Study." *BMC Global and Public Health* 3(1):38.
- Chen, Zhuo, Richard Cowden, Alexander Moreira-Almeida, Thomas Breedlove, **Blake Victor Kent**, Noah Padgett, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. "Childhood Predictors of Belief in Life After Death across 22 Countries." *Scientific Reports* 15(1):13300.
- Chen, Zhuo, Richard Cowden, Alexander Moreira-Almeida, Thomas Breedlove, **Blake Victor Kent**, Noah Padgett, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. "Sociodemographic Variations of Belief in Life After Death across 22 Countries." *Scientific Reports* 15(1):14310.
- Vornlocher, Carley, Alexandra Wormley, Daniel McNeish, Shelley A. Cole, Martha L. Daviglus, A. Heather Eliassen, Alka M. Kanaya, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Who Turns to God, and How? Religious and Spiritual Identity Differentially Predict Religious Coping Strategy Use in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 35(4):232-246.
- 2024 Davidson, James C.***, **Blake Victor Kent**, Yvette Cozier, Alka Kanaya, Erica Warner, Heather Eliassen, David Williams, and Alexandra Shields. "Does Religious Service Attendance Modify the Relationship between Everyday Discrimination and Risk of Obesity? Results from the Study on Stress, Spirituality and Health." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 11(5):3076-3090.
- Ishino, Francisco A. Montiel, Katia M. Canenguez, Jeffrey H. Cohen, **Blake Victor Kent**, Belinda Needham, Namratha Kandula, Faustine Williams, Alexandra E. Shields, Alka M. Kanaya. "Dynamic Acculturation Profiles and Cardiometabolic Risk among South Asians Living in the U.S.: Latent Class Analysis of the MASALA Study." *Frontiers in Public Health* 12:1384607.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Laura Upenieks, Daniel Jang*, Christopher Ellison, and Bradley Wright. "'See You Sunday?' Effects of Attending a Specific Weekend Religious Service on Emotional Well-Being: A State/Trait Analysis of the SoulPulse Study." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 63(4):938-957.

- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Anna Schachter, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra Shields. "Why is Religious Attendance Linked to More Anxiety in U.S. South Asians? The Mediating Role of Congregational Neglect." *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities* 11(5):3068-3075.
- Upenieks, Laura, **Blake Victor Kent**, Nagaswami, Megha**, Yue Gu, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra Shields. "Do Religion and Spirituality Buffer the Effect of Childhood Trauma on Depressive Symptoms? Examination of a South Asian Cohort." *Journal of Religion and Health* 63(4):2998-3026.
- Upenieks, Laura, **Blake Victor Kent**, Yvette Cozier, Alka Kanaya, Shelley Cole, Heather Eliassen, and Alexandra Shields. "Forgiveness and Health across Racial-Ethnic Cohorts in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health: Exploring the Conditioning Roles of Religious Attendance and Divine Relationship." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 27(5):474-498.
- Upenieks, Laura, **Blake Victor Kent**, Yvette Cozier, Alka Kanaya, Shelley Cole, Heather Eliassen, and Alexandra Shields. "Belief in Miracles, Religious/Spiritual Struggles, and Depressive Symptoms: Exploring Variation among American Indian, South Asian, and White Cohorts in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 27(6):593-614.
- 2023 **Kent, Blake Victor**†, Laura Upenieks†, Alka Kanaya, Erica Warner, Yvette Cozier, Martha Daviglus, Heather Eliassen, Daniel Jang, and Alexandra Shields. "Religion/Spirituality and Prevalent Hypertension in Five Racially and Ethnically Diverse U.S. Cohort Studies." *Annals of Behavioral Medicine* 57(8):649-661.
- 2022 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Charlotte vanOyen-Witvliet, Byron Johnson, Sung Joon Jang, and Joseph Leman. "Perceptions of Accountability to God and Psychological Well-Being Among U.S. Adults." *Journal of Religion & Health* 61(1):327-352.
- Cowden, Richard, Victor Counted, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Ward Davis. "Resource Loss and Suffering During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Moderating Effects of Positive Religious Coping in a Prospective Sample of U.S. Adults with Chronic Illness." *Mental Health, Religion, & Culture* 25(3):288-304.
- Henderson, W. Matthew and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Attachment to God and Psychological Distress: Evidence of a Curvilinear Relationship." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(1):161-177.
- Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, Erica Warner, Donna Spiegelman, Ying Zhang, Julie Palmer, Alka Kanaya, Shelley Cole, Shelley Tworoger, Lester Orville Shields, Yue Gu, **Blake Victor Kent**, Immaculata De Vivo, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Depression, Religiosity, and Telomere Length in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* 20(3):1465-1484.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Richard Cowden, Victor Counted, Edward Davis, Sandra Rueger, and Everett Worthington, Jr. "Do Religious/Spiritual Factors Moderate the Association Between Suffering and Religious/Spiritual Struggles? A Three-Wave Longitudinal Study of US Adults with Chronic Illness." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 61(3-4):642-662.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Ying Zhang, Donna Spiegelman, Alka M. Kanaya, Namratha Kandula, Anna B. Schachter, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Mental Health and Self-Rated Health among U.S. South Asians: The Role of Religious Group Involvement." *Ethnicity & Health* 27(2):388-406.
- 2021 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, James C. Davidson**, and Stacy de Leon*. "Parents, Peers, and Trajectories of Cigarette Smoking: A Group-Based Approach." *Youth & Society* 53(4):676-694.

Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, Erica Warner, Donna Spiegelman, Shelley Tworoger, **Blake Victor Kent**, Nicholas Spence, and Alexandra Shields. "The Association between Religion, Spirituality, and Salivary Rhythms of Cortisol and DHEA in Postmenopausal Women." *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology* 7:100064.

Kent, Blake Victor and Matt Bradshaw. "Adolescent Context and Depressive Symptom Trajectories in a National Sample: Ages 13 to 34." *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* 19(5):1468-1484.

Kent, Blake Victor, W. Matthew Henderson, Matt Bradshaw, Christopher G. Ellison, and Bradley R.E. Wright. "Do Spiritual Experiences Moderate the Effect of Daily Stressors on Psychological Well-Being?: An Experience Sampling Study of Depressive Symptoms and Flourishing." *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 31(2):57-78.

Kent, Blake Victor, James C. Davidson**, Ying Zhang, Ken Pargament, Tyler J. VanderWeele, Harold Koenig, Lynn Underwood, Neal Krause, Alka M. Kanaya, Shelley Tworoger, Anna B. Schachter, Shelley Cole, Marcia O'Leary, Yvette Cozier, Martha L. Daviglus, Tracey Zacher, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Religion and Spirituality among American Indian, South Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latina, and White Women in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 60(1):198-215.

Ngo, Long, M. Austin Argentieri**, Simon Dillon, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka M. Kanaya, Towia Libermann, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Plasma Protein Expression Profiles, Cardiovascular Disease, and Religious Struggles among South Asians in the MASALA Study." *Scientific Reports* 11(1):961-977.

Schachter, Anna B., M. Austin Argentieri, Bobak Seddighzadeh, Oluwaseyi Isehunwa, **Blake Victor Kent**, Philip Trevvet, Michael McDuffie, Laura Mandel, Ken Pargament, Lynn Underwood, Alexa McCray, and Alexandra Shields. "The R|S Atlas: Accelerating Epidemiological Research on the Influence of Religion and Spirituality on Human Health." *BMJ Open* 11(10):e043830.

Shields, Alexandra, Yuankai Zhang, M. Austin Argentieri, Erica Warner, Yvette Cozier, Chunyu Liu, **Blake Victor Kent**, Andrea Baccarelli, and Julie Palmer. "Stress and Spirituality in Relation to HPA Axis Gene Methylation among Black Women: Results from the BWHS and SSSH." *Epigenomics* 13(21):1711-1734.

Warner, Erica T.†, **Blake Victor Kent**†, Ying Zhang, M. Austin Argentieri**, Wade Rowatt, Kenneth Pargament, Harold Koenig, Lynn Underwood, Shelley Cole, Martha Daviglus, Alka Kanaya, Julie Palmer, Tianyi Huang, Mark Blais, Alexandra E. Shields. "The Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health (SSSH): Psychometric Evaluation and Initial Validation of the SSSH Baseline Spirituality Survey." *Religions* 12(3):150.

2020 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Religion/Spirituality and Gender-Differentiated Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms Age 13 to 34." *Journal of Religion and Health* 59(4):2064-2081.

Kent, Blake Victor, Samuel Stroope, Alka M Kanaya, Ying Zhang, Namratha Kandula, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Private Religion/Spirituality, Self-rated Health, and Mental Health among U.S. South Asians." *Quality of Life Research* 29(2):495-504.

Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Ying Zhang, Alka M. Kanaya, Namratha Kandula, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Self-Rated Religiosity/Spirituality and Four Health Outcomes Among U.S. South Asians." *Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease* 208(2):165-168.

2019 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar*. "Attachment to God and Social Trust." *Sociological Perspectives* 62(6):1001-1021.

- Kent, Blake Victor** and Christopher M. Pieper. "To Know and Be Known: An Intimacy-Based Explanation for the Gender Gap in Biblical Literalism." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 58(1):231-250.
- 2018 Bradshaw, Matt and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Prayer, Attachment to God, and Psychological Well-being in Later Life." *Journal of Aging and Health* 30(5):667-691.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Jeremy E. Uecker. "Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults: A Longitudinal Study." *Research on Aging* 40(5):456-479.
- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor** and W. Matthew Henderson. "Attachment to God, Tenure, Race, and Participation in Congregational Life." *Review of Religious Research* 59(3):319-340.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar*. "Subjective Social Status, Life Course SES, and BMI in Young Adulthood." *Health Psychology* 36(7):682-694.
- Kent, Blake Victor**. "Attachment to God, Religious Tradition, and Firm Attributes in Workplace Commitment." *The Journal of Social Psychology* 157(4):485-501.
- 2016 **Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Kevin D. Dougherty. "Attachment to God, Vocational Calling, and Worker Contentment." *Review of Religious Research* 58(3):343-364.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Elaine Howard Ecklund et al., *Secularity and Science: What Scientists Around the World Really Think About Religion*." *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 73(4):242-244.
- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Patricia Snell Herzog and Heather E. Price, *American Generosity: Who Gives and Why*." *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* 54(1):63-65.
- 2014 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Todd M. Brenneman, *Homespun Gospel: The Triumph of Sentimentality in Contemporary American Evangelicalism*." *Review of Religious Research* 56(3):491-492.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Dunwell, Satanic Temple and Christian Nationalism's Failing." *The Anxious Bench* (op-ed).
- Kent, Blake Victor**. "de(a)scent." *Ekstasis Magazine – The Winter Collection* (poetry).
- Kent, Blake Victor**. "Redeeming Pain and Normalizing Uncertainty: A Better Way to Talk About Christian Doubt." *RealClearReligion* (op-ed).
- 2020 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "What Have We Learned about Religion, Spirituality, and Health in the MASALA Study of U.S. South Asians?" *Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Bulletin* 1(3):18-20.
- Abubakar, Auwal, Angela Monahan, and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Jeff Levin Interview." *Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Bulletin*, 1(2):3-9.
- 2016 Melton, J. Gordon, ed. *Melton's Encyclopedia of American Religions, Vol 1: United States and Vol 2: Canada*. 9th Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale (contributor, researcher, editorial assistant).

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Garnsey, Camille, Mariel Emrich, Katherine Gnall, Crystal Park, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, Heather Eliassen, Martha Daviglus, and Alexandra Shields. "Do Mind-Body Practices Buffer the

Link between Childhood Abuse and Spiritual Struggle? Results from the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health.”

VanderWeele, Tyler J., Byron R. Johnson, Rebecca Bonhag, Matt Bradshaw...**Blake Victor Kent**...Robert D. Woodberry, Jennifer Wortham, and George Yancey. “Longitudinal Analyses in the Global Flourishing Study: Wave 1 Predictors of Wave 2 Flourishing.”

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Byron Johnson, Tyler VanderWeele. “Self-Rated Physical Health and Human Flourishing Around the World: A Longitudinal Outcome-Wide Study.”

Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Byron Johnson, Tyler VanderWeele. “Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety: A Longitudinal Outcome-Wide Study of Associations with Human Flourishing in 22 Countries.”

Bradshaw, Matt, Sung Joon Jang, **Blake Victor Kent**, Rebecca Bonhag, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. “Childhood Predictors of Depression and Anxiety: A Cross-National Analysis of the Global Flourishing Study.”

Cheadle, Alyssa, Daryl Van Tongeren, Robert Henry, Amy Osterbaan, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra Shields. “Associations of Religious Deidentification with Sociocultural Attitudes, Behaviors, and Health: The Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America Study.”

Fergus, Thomas, Wade Rowatt, Shawn Latendresse, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra Shields. “An Investigation of Spiritual Meaning/Connection in Cardiovascular Health.”

Kent, Blake Victor, Matt Bradshaw, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. “Childhood Predictors of Congregational Criticism: A Cross-National Analysis of the Global Flourishing Study.”

Kent, Blake Victor, Matt Bradshaw, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. “Demographic Variations of Congregational Criticism Across 22 Countries: A Cross-National Analysis.”

Kent, Blake Victor, Matt Bradshaw, Laura Upenieks, Byron Johnson, and Tyler VanderWeele. “An Outcome-Wide Study of the Associations of Religious Criticism with Subsequent Well-Being and Other Outcomes in Wave 2 of the Global Flourishing Study.”

Latendresse, Shawn, Wade Rowatt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Erica Warner, and Alexandra Shields. “Invariance Modeling of Religion and Spirituality Across Six Multi-ethnic Cohorts.”

Upenieks, Laura, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, Martha Daviglus, Heather Eliassen, Julie Palmer, Shelley Cole and Alexandra Shields. “Power of a Personal God: How Personal-Deity Definitions of Religion and Spirituality Relate to Religious Belief and Practice.”

Perry, Samuel **Blake Victor Kent**, Phineas Bonner*, and Daniel Jang*. “My Kingdom is ~~Not~~ of this World: Christian Nationalism and the Kingdom of God.”

VanderWeele, Tyler, Byron Johnson, Noah Padgett...**Blake Victor Kent**...Jennifer Wortham, George Yancey. “Longitudinal Analyses in the Global Flourishing Study: Wave 1 Predictors of Wave 2 Flourishing.”

GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND OTHER RESEARCH SUPPORT

2025 Principal investigator, “What is the Kingdom? Where is the Kingdom? When is the Kingdom? A Theologically Grounded Empirical Examination of Christian Nationalism and the Kingdom of

- God.” Dallas Willard Research Center, Martin Institute for Christianity & Culture, Westmont College (\$3,600 grant).
- 2024 Co-principal investigator, “Bangla and Pakistani Translation of Religion/Spirituality Measures for a Muslim Context.” Templeton Foundation (\$40,000 subcontract).
- 2023 Principal investigator, “Do Religion/Spirituality Buffer the Effects of Childhood Trauma on Adult Depressive Symptoms? A Study of South Asians in the United States.” Westmont College Faculty Development Grant (\$3,600 grant).
- 2022-2027 Co-investigator, “Global Flourishing Study.” Principle investigators Byron Johnson and Tyler J. VanderWeele. Templeton Foundation, Templeton Religion Trust, Templeton World Charity Foundation, Well-Being for Planet Earth, Fetzer Institute, Well Being Trust, Paul Foster Family Foundation, and the David & Carol Myers Foundation.
- 2022 Co-investigator, “Inclusive Congregations Project.” Co-principle investigators Jerry Z. Park & Stephanie Boddie. Baylor University (\$3,600 subcontract).
- 2021-2024 Co-investigator, “Investigating the Impact of Multiple Dimensions of Religion and Spirituality on Risk of CVD Across Diverse Racial/Ethnic Communities.” Principle investigator Alexandra E. Shields. Templeton Foundation (\$57,000 subcontract).
- 2021 Principal investigator, “Christian Nationalism and the Kingdom of God.” Westmont College Faculty Development Grant (\$3,600 grant).
- 2018-2021 Co-investigator, “National Spirituality and Health Consortium.” Principal investigator Alexandra E. Shields. Templeton Foundation (post-doc and \$12,000 subcontract).
- 2017-2020 Co-investigator, “Promoting the Use of Field Experiments to Study Religion and Spirituality.” Principal investigator Bradley R.E. Wright. Templeton Foundation.
- 2016-2017 Co-investigator, “Self-control, Spirituality, and Well-being: An Online Experience Sampling Method Study.” Principal investigator Bradley R.E. Wright. Templeton Foundation (\$14,000 subcontract).
- 2014 Co-investigator, “National Study of Entrepreneurial Behavior, Regulatory Focus, and Religion.” Principal investigators Mitchell J. Neubert, Jerry Z. Park, and Kevin D. Dougherty. National Science Foundation.
- 2014-2016 *Melton’s Encyclopedia of American Religions, Vol 1: United States and Vol 2: Canada*. 9th Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale (\$13,000 subcontract).
- 2013-2018 Graduate School Fellowship, Baylor University (\$25,000 fellowship)
- 2008-2009 Chan Memorial Fellowship, Regent College (\$3,000 fellowship)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Ranked in the top .21% and .29% of the “God” and “Spirituality” research areas worldwide by Metrics on Research Productivity and Impact over Previous 5 years, Scholar GPS.
- 2025 Shortlist, Outstanding Achievement in Scholarship or Production, Westmont College
- 2024 Ranked #2 among Scholars Worldwide on Metrics of Research Productivity and Impact over Previous 5 Years for “God” Research Specialty, Scholar GPS.
- 2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Baylor University
- 2015 Outstanding Instructor Award, Kappa Alpha Theta, Baylor University

- 2014 Visual Sociology Design, 2nd runner up, Southwestern Social Science Association
- 2002 Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Kent, Blake Victor.** Panelist, Author Meets Critic. *The Fearless Christian University* by John W. Hawthorne. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Minneapolis, MN. November 2025.
- Rowatt, Wade, **Blake Victor Kent**, Shawn Latendresse, and Alexandra Shields. "Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analyses of Religion/Spirituality in a Diverse Sample of U.S. Adults." International Society for the Psychology of Religion: Birmingham, England. August 2025 (presented by co-author).
- Kent, Blake Victor.** "Demographic Variation on Religious Criticism in the Global Flourishing Study." Global Flourishing Study Research Symposium: Waco, TX. January 2025.
- 2024 **Kent, Blake Victor.** "Belief in Miracles, R/S Struggles, and Depressive Symptoms: Exploring Variation by Racial and Ethnic Cohorts in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Pittsburgh, PA. October 2024.
- 2023 **Kent, Blake Victor.** "State and Trait Effects of Religious Service Attendance on Emotional Well-Being: A Micro-Longitudinal Analysis of the SoulPulse Study." Global Flourishing Conference: Virtual. November 2023.
- Kent, Blake Victor.** "Transmission of Religious Affiliation from Mother to Offspring in Nurses' Health Study II and the Growing Up Today Study." Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Salt Lake City, UT. October 2023.
- 2022 **Kent, Blake Victor.** "Do Religious/Spiritual Resources Moderate the Association Between Suffering and Religious/Spiritual Struggles? A Three-Wave Longitudinal Study of US Adults with Chronic Illness." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Baltimore, MD. November 2022.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and Daniel Jang*. "Religion/Spirituality and Prevalent Hypertension in Five Racially and Ethnically Diverse U.S. Cohort Studies." Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion: Los Angeles, CA. August 2022.
- Kent, Blake Victor.** "Defining Religion and Spirituality for Health Research: Minority Perspectives." National Institutes of Health Scientific Interest Group on Religion and Spirituality: online. July 2022.
- 2021 Ishino, Francisco Alejandro Montiel, Katia Canenguez, Jeffrey Cohen, **Blake Victor Kent**, Belinda Needham, Namratha Kandula, Faustine Williams, Alexandra Shields, and Alka Kanaya. "Assessing Profiles of Cardiometabolic Risk among South Asians Living in the United States Using a Syndemic Framework and Acculturation." American Heart Association EPI|Lifestyle Scientific Sessions: online. April 2021 (presented by co-author).
- Blake Victor Kent.** "Emerging Findings from the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." Panel presentation. "True to Tradition? Religious Roots of Modern Public Health and Emerging Paradigms of Practice." Conference on Medicine and Religion: online. March 2021.
- 2020 Davidson, James C. and **Blake Victor Kent.** "Does Religious Service Attendance Buffer the Association Between Everyday Discrimination and Obesity? Findings from Samples of Black, White, and South Asian Women." Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Pittsburgh, PA. October 2020 (cancelled).

- 2019 Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Do Religiosity and Spirituality Contribute to Better Psychological Well-being across Different Racial/Ethnic Groups?" Annual meeting of the American Public Health Association: Philadelphia, PA. November 2019.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Mental Health and Self-Rated Health among South Asians in the United States: The Role of Religious Involvement in the MASALA Study." Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: St. Louis, MO. October 2019.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and Matt Bradshaw. "Adolescent Context and Depressive Symptom Trajectories in a National Sample: Ages 13 to 34." Aging and the Life Course section refereed round table. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: New York, NY. August 2019.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Erica Warner, Tyler J. VanderWeele, and Alexandra E. Shields. Panel Presentation. "Prevalence of Religious and Spiritual Practices and Beliefs in Diverse Racial/Ethnic Groups: The Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." Conference on Medicine and Religion: Durham, NC. March 2019.
- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor** and Matt Bradshaw. "Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults: A Longitudinal Study." Open refereed roundtable. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: Montreal, Quebec. August 2017.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Brad Wright, Christopher G. Ellison, and Richard Blackmon. "The Effect of Attending a Weekend Religious Service on Emotional Well-Being: Evidence from a Smartphone-Based Daily Diary Study." Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion: Montreal, Quebec. August 2017.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, Christopher G. Ellison, W. Matthew Henderson, and Bradley R.E. Wright. "Daily Stressors, Depression, Flourishing, and the Moderating Effect of Daily Spiritual Experiences: An Experience Sampling Study." Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association: Austin, TX. April 2017.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, and W. Matthew Henderson. "Early-Life Religious Involvement and Trajectories of Alcohol Abuse across Adolescence and Young Adulthood." Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society: Greenville, SC. March 2017.
- 2016 **Kent, Blake Victor**, Jeremy E. Uecker, and Matt Bradshaw. "Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults." Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Atlanta, GA. October 2016.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and W. Matthew Henderson. "On the Edge: Insecure and Anxious Attachments to God, Tenure, Race, and Participation in Congregational Life." Religion section refereed roundtable. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar. "Attachment to God and General Trust in the United States Population." Annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion: Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Kevin D. Dougherty. "Attachment to God, Vocational Calling, and Worker Contentment." Annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society: Atlanta, GA. April 2016.
- 2015 Henderson, Matt and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Non-linear Attachment to God and Psychological

Distress.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Newport Beach, CA. October 2015.

Kent, Blake Victor. “To Know and Be Known: Divine Attachments, Intimacy and Biblical Literalism.” Discussant. Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Newport Beach, CA. October 2015.

Kent, Blake Victor. “Prayer, Attachment to God, and Psychological Well-being in Later Life.” Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association: Long Beach, CA. April 2015.

2014 **Kent, Blake Victor.** “Doubly Attached: God and Work.” Panel presentation, “New Assessments of Religion and the Workplace.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Indianapolis, IN. November 2014.

Kent, Blake Victor. “Ethnic Minorities in Southwest China: Resistance and Accommodation.” Annual meeting of the Southwest Social Science Association: San Antonio, TX. April 2014.

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 “Current Research in Global Flourishing” - Board of Advisors, Westmont College
- 2025 “Research Productivity in the Early Years” (panelist) - Wayfinding Program, Westmont College
- 2024- “Foundations of Sociology” - Gaede Institute Trailhead Program, Westmont College (annually)
- 2024 “Women and/in the Church” (speaker/moderator) - Westmont College
- 2023 “Christian Nationalism and the Kingdom of God” - Free Methodist Church of Santa Barbara
“Asbury Revival” (panelist) - Westmont College Student Association
- 2022 “How Attachment Changes Everything” - MOPS, Santa Barbara chapter
“Secularity and Science” (panelist) - American Scientific Affiliation
“Attachment to God and Mental Health” - Science & Faith Club, Westmont College
- 2021 “Mental Health and Religion/Spirituality among South Asians in the U.S.” - South Asian Medical Student Association, University of Virginia School of Medicine
“The Strong Heart Study, Religion/Spirituality, and Indigenous Health” - University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences
- 2018 “The Meaning of Education” - Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, Baylor University

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2024 Questions for the Next Generation of Christian Higher Education Conference - Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith & Learning, Whitworth College
Christian Spiritual Formation in the Classroom Workshop - Martin Institute, Westmont College
Mosaix Cultural Intelligence Workshop - Office of Diversity, Westmont College
Renew Partnerships Leadership Development Training - Office of Diversity, Westmont College
- 2023 Contextualizing Jesus and the Early Church: Faith-learning Seminar - Westmont College
Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education Conference - University of La Verne
- 2022 Influences, Integration, & Interconnection: Faith-learning Seminar - Westmont College
- 2021 Philosophical Foundations of Christian Liberal Arts: Faith-learning Seminar - Westmont College
- 2019 Lilly Evidence-Based Teaching Conference - Austin, TX
- 2017 Integral Humanism Seminar, Scala Foundation - Princeton Seminary & Oxford University

- 2016 Social Science & Religion Seminar, Program on Integrative Knowledge - Harvard University
- 2015 Sociology, Virtue Ethics, & Human Flourishing Seminar - Yale University
- 2014-2015 Conyers Scholar, Baylor University Institute for Faith & Learning

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer *American Journal of Preventive Medicine Focus*
Applied Research in Quality of Life
Archive for the Psychology of Religion
Critical Research on Religion
Ethnicity & Health
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
International Journal for the Psychology of Religion
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
Journal of Affective Disorders
Journal of Aging & Health
Journal of Black Psychology
Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health
Journal of Psychology & Theology
Journal of Religion & Health
Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health
Mental Health, Religion & Culture
Missiology
Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin
Preventive Medicine
Preventive Medicine Reports
Psychological Reports
Psychology of Religion & Spirituality
Research on Aging
Review of Religious Research
Social Currents
Social Science & Medicine
Society and Mental Health
Sociological Focus
Sociological Methods & Research
Sociology of Religion
Socius
Youth & Society
- 2024-2025 Chair, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Jack Shand Student Research Grant Committee
- 2020- Editorial Board, *Review of Religious Research*
- 2019-2024 Board Member, Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Network
- 2019 Selection committee, Field Experiments in Religion Research Network Small Grants Program
- 2017 Reviewer, "Reading Old Books and the Search for Relevance," in *Stewards in the Academy: Christian Thought and the Academic Life*, Palgrave.

CONSULTING

- 2024 Kingdom Causes, Inc.
2023 J29 Coalition

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Westmont College

- 2025-2026 Member, President's Taskforce on Student Flourishing
Organizer, Faculty Book Club & Faculty Forum Lecture, Dr. John Hawthorne
Organizer, Chapel, Faculty Forum, and All-Campus Lecture, Dr. Michael Emerson
- 2024-2025 Member, Faculty Personnel Committee
Member, Strategic Planning Committee, College Identity and Mission
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture & Faculty Development Seminar, Dr. Matthew Taylor
- 2024-2026 Social Science Division Representative, WSCUC Accreditation Steering Committee
- 2023-2024 Organizer, Chapel, Gaede Institute Lecture, & Faculty Development Seminar, Dr. Malcolm Foley
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture & Faculty Development Seminar, Dr. Andrew Whitehead
Trainer, Biblical Foundations of Justice, Reconciliation, & Diversity GE
Member, History Search Committee
Member, Institutional Learning Outcome Critical Thinking Assessment Committee
- 2022-2023 Author, "The Academic and Cultural Climate of Westmont College"
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture & Frontiers Pastoral Lunch, Dr. Todd Ferguson
Organizer, Chapel, Gaede Institute Lecture, & Faculty Development Seminar, Dr. Malcolm Foley
Organizer, Sociology & Math/Computer Science Research Presentation, Dr. David Hunter
Member, Center for Student Success Student Evaluation Group
Member, Augustinian Scholars Evaluation Committee
- 2021-2025 Member, Diversity Committee (Chair, Spring 2023)
- 2021-2022 Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture, Dr. Matthew Loftus
Member, Nursing Search Committee
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture, Dr. David Pellow
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture & Faculty Development Seminar, Dr. Samuel Perry
Member, Augustinian Scholars Evaluation Committee
- 2020-2021 Analyst, National Survey of Student Engagement
Member, Institutional Learning Outcome Diversity Assessment Committee
Member, Nursing Curriculum Faculty Sub-group
Member, Residence Director Search Committee
Member, Director of Nursing Search Committee
Organizer, Gaede Institute Lecture, Dr. Bradley Wright

Other Institutions

- 2018 Member, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Selection Committee, Baylor University
- 2016-2018 Member, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Committee, Baylor University

MENTORING & ADVISING

Westmont College

2024-2027 Phineas Bonner, Research Advisor, Teaching Assistant Advisor

2024-2025 Kylie Carter, Religious Studies Major Honors Project, Committee Member

2023-2025 Kate O'Hara, Research Advisor, Teaching Assistant Advisor

2021-2023 Daniel Jang, Research Advisor, Teaching Assistant Advisor

2021-2022 Loren Schneider, Communication Studies Major Honors Project, Committee Member

Other Institutions

2020-2021 Megha Nagaswami, Graduate Research Advisor, University of California Los Angeles

2018-2019 James C. Davidson, Graduate Research Advisor, Harvard Medical School/Baylor University

MEDIA COVERAGE (partial list)

Anxious Bench (Patheos)

Attached to the Invisible Podcast

Baptist News Global

The Baptist Standard

BBC

Cranach Blog (Patheos)

The Christian Post

Christianity Today

CrowdScience Podcast

Crux

The Economic Times

Forbes

Hartford Institute

Huffington Post

Inc.

Medical News Today

The Montecito Journal

Newsweek

RealClearReligion

Success Magazine

Templeton Foundation Human Sciences

USA Radio Network

USA Today

Westmont Magazine

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (current)

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Religious Research Association

SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

SAS • Stata • SPSS • Photoshop • Lightroom