

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL DEBOER, *et al*,

Civil Action No. 12-cv-10285

Plaintiffs,

HON. BERNARD A.
FRIEDMAN

v

RICHARD SNYDER, *et al*

MAG. MICHAEL J.
HLUCHANIUK

Defendants.

Expert Report of Mark D. Regnerus, Ph. D.

I. Assignment

1. I have been asked to provide an assessment of adult outcomes among children whose parents were reported to have had same-sex romantic relationships, based on my survey data collection project entitled the New Family Structures Study, and its accompanying publications.

II. Qualifications

2. I am an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, where I am also a research associate at the university's Population Research Center. I am also a senior fellow at the Austin Institute for the Study of Family and Culture.
3. All of my degrees are in sociology, including my Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I was an assistant professor of sociology at Calvin College from 2001-2002, and director of its Center for Social Research, after which I joined the sociology department at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2007 I was promoted to the rank of associate professor, with tenure.

4. I have published on romantic relationship behavior and sexual decision-making since 2005, including two books,¹ both of which earned numerous positive published reviews by peers.
5. I am being compensated \$250 per hour for my time spent preparing this report. My compensation does not depend on the outcome of the case or the opinions or testimony that I provide. I have not previously testified as an expert at trial or by deposition.
6. I was the principal investigator of the New Family Structures Study (“NFSS”), a survey data collection project that screened over 15,000 young adults about their childhood household structure, and collected complete surveys from just under 3,000 of them, including 248 respondents who reported a parental same-sex romantic relationship.

III. Summary of Findings

7. A persistent claim by those supporting same-sex marriage is that there is “no difference” in the outcomes of children raised by a biological mother and father and those who have been raised by two women or two men. That claim has been made by associations like the American Psychological Association (“APA”), although the APA report on same-sex parenting was largely written by only one scholar, Dr. Charlotte Patterson of the University of Virginia.² Such a claim, however, has been based largely on studies involving non-random, non-representative samples, often with relatively few participants, or employs comparison groups of reduced kinship, such as stepfamilies. Comparisons have seldom been made with children growing up in stably-intact households consisting of a married mother and father, long understood to constitute an optimal child development setting.³
8. So the claim that another parenting relationship—one consisting of both a solitary gender of parent and at least one source of diminished kinship—produces child outcomes just as good as (or even better than) intact biological parents is a surprising proposition,⁴ one that must be rigorously tested, and until then, viewed with healthy skepticism.

¹ Mark Regnerus, *Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers* (Oxford University Press, 2007); Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker, *Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marrying* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

² Charlotte J. Patterson, *Lesbian and Gay Parents and their Children: Summary of Research Findings*. Lesbian and Gay Parenting: American Psychological Association, 2005.

³ McLanahan, Sara, Sandefur, Gary. *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA. 1994.

⁴ Timothy J. Biblarz and Judith Stacey, “How does the Gender of Parents Matter?” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72 (1), 3–22, 2010.

9. After all, kinship reduction has long been associated with less-optimal outcomes among children. A recent examination of the benefits of monogamous unions noted, among other things, that, “(l)iving in the same household with genetically unrelated adults is the single biggest risk factor for abuse, neglect and homicide of children. Stepmothers are 2.4 times more likely to kill their stepchildren than birth mothers, and children living with an unrelated parent are between 15 and 77 times more likely to die ‘accidentally.’”⁵ One should not read such statements as a blanket indictment of step-parenting or adoption, whether gay or straight, since most such arrangements are and remain peaceable. Nevertheless, on average genetically-related parents pose a lower risk to their children than those parents or guardians who are not genetically related to the children in their care.
10. Conducting high-quality empirical studies on this topic, however, is challenging for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is the comparatively small population we seek to locate (randomly) and study, and the lack of settled protocols about how to identify parental sexual orientation. In large, population-based datasets, the share of Americans who identify as experiencing same-sex attractions is larger than that share that has reported same-sex sexual behavior, which is in turn larger than that share which identifies as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.
11. Research in this area is further complicated by the political climate surrounding this subject matter. The late family sociologist Dr. Norval Glenn remarked, “Given the widespread support for same-sex marriage among social and behavioral scientists, it is becoming politically incorrect in academic circles even to suggest that arguments being used in support of same-sex marriage might be wrong.”⁶ In other words, few scholars dare to tread here, and those who do risk professional hostility if they raise standard methodological concerns. Editors publish critical research at their peril. It is not an optimal environment for the conduct of science.
12. Despite the challenges noted above, the hallmark of a rigorous study is a large, representative pool of participants drawn from a population-based random sample. I conducted a large, population-based study of

⁵ Joseph Henrich, Robert Boyd, and Peter J. Richerson, “The Puzzle of Monogamous Marriage.” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences* 367: 657-669, 2012.

⁶ Norval D. Glenn, “The Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage.” *Society* 41 (6): 25-28, 2004.

young adults called the New Family Structures Study (“NFSS”), which included survey information from 248 respondents who reported that a parent of theirs had been in a romantic relationship with someone of the same sex while they (the children) were growing up. A total of 2,988 young adults completed the survey, providing ample opportunity for comparisons.

13. The initial published study based on the NFSS data looked at social behaviors, health behaviors, and relationships comparing 40 different outcomes (as reported by the adult children in the study rather than by those who raised them) across various groups, including respondents who spent their childhood with their married biological parents, those who spent most time in step-parenting arrangements, with single parents, as well those respondents who reported that a parent had been in a same-sex romantic relationship (among other types of household arrangements and experiences).
14. When compared with children who grew up in biologically (still) intact, mother-father families, the children of women who reported a same-sex relationship—and spent time living with her mother’s partner—report markedly different outcomes across a variety of domains (19 out of 40 outcomes are statistically significantly different, after controls). The latter attained less education, are less apt to be employed full-time, more apt to be currently unemployed and on public assistance, more likely to have experienced sexual violence against them, more apt to have had an affair, and more likely to smoke and to have been arrested, among other outcomes. Some specific examples of the differences between the two groups are:
 - Received public assistance (i.e., welfare) while growing up: 17% vs. 70%
 - Currently receiving public assistance: 10% vs. 49%
 - Currently employed full-time: 49% vs. 17%
 - Currently unemployed: 8% vs. 40%
 - Had been forced to have sex against their will: 8% vs. 27%
 - Had an affair while married or cohabiting: 13% vs. 38%

Perhaps because of the smaller sample size for fathers who have had gay relationships, there were not as many significant findings as compared to mothers who have had lesbian relationships. However, adult children of fathers who are or have been in a same-sex relationship are more apt (than adult children raised by intact biological parents) to smoke, have been arrested, pled guilty to non-minor offenses, and report more numerous sex partners.

15. Those children who identified a parent as having had a same-sex relationship self-reported outcomes that were consistently less optimal than those respondents whose biological parents were—and remain—married. The outcome patterns among those children who lived for some duration with their mother in a residential relationship that included her same-sex partner compare most favorably with never-married single mothers. This may be due in part to the comparative brevity of their mother’s (residential) relationship with her partner.
16. The NFSS data is not longitudinal, and not conducive to making strong claims about direct influences of parenting. As a result, I did not make claims about causation in the study. My analytic intention was more modest than this: to test for the presence of simple group differences, and—with the addition of several control variables—to assess just how robust any between-group differences were. Thus any suboptimal outcomes may not be due to the sexual orientation of the parent, which was not measured. The exact sources of group differences would be difficult if not impossible to adequately sequester.
17. In fact, no existing study yet bears the ability to randomly locate, track, and compare large numbers of children—thousands, or even hundreds—raised continuously by gay couples with the same among heterosexual couples over many years. The science here remains young.
18. The publication of this study in the July 2012 issue of *Social Science Research*⁷ was met with considerable hostility, primarily located in gay and lesbian interest groups. An effort led by Dr. Gary Gates, expert witness for the plaintiff in this case, called for the journal to retract the study. Retractions, however, are historically appropriate only when egregious errors or outright fabrication has occurred. Neither is true with respect to this study, and the original article remains in print. The ad hominem attacks aimed at me, as well as the editor of the journal *Social Science Research*, continue unabated.
19. The NFSS enjoys a variety of strengths as well as important limitations, the latter of which skeptics and critics have focused on since the publication of the study. Nevertheless, there is much that scholars can learn from it, regardless of their sentiments on the subject matter of same-sex parents or same-sex marriage.

⁷ Mark Regnerus, “How Different are the Adult Children of Parents who have Same-Sex Relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study.” *Social Science Research* 41: 752-770, 2012.

20. How was the NFSS conducted, and how and why are the findings from my NFSS-based study distinctive from so much research on same-sex parenting? The NFSS survey data collection, which screened over 15,000 Americans between ages 18 and 39 about their childhood household structure and experiences, and then completed full interviews with 3,000 of them, was underwritten by two private organizations—the Witherspoon Institute and (joined later by) the Bradley Foundation—known for their political conservatism. Witherspoon’s support was declared to potential consultants (including two of plaintiff’s expert witnesses, Gary Gates and Michael Rosenfeld, who each declined), as well as in the study text itself.
21. The data collection was undertaken by the research firm Knowledge Networks (“KN”), with whom the University of Texas at Austin subcontracted. KN maintains an active panel of around 50,000 adults whom interested researchers can contract to survey.⁸ Plaintiff’s expert witness Michael Rosenfeld has conducted his own survey project using KN’s KnowledgePanel®, as have hundreds of other academic and government survey researchers.
22. I uploaded the NFSS survey data to a data repository at the University of Michigan in November 2012⁹, thus freely opening it to re-analyses and criticism. The same practice, however, has not been displayed by the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (“NLLFS”) and other privately-funded datasets on sexuality (including the 2009 National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior, or “NSSHB”) that remain securely away from public and scholarly peer scrutiny. I released the data because I said I would, and because it is a scientific value, not because of political pressure to do so.
23. It is a challenging matter to discern how best to screen a generation (ages 18-39) whose parents may not have self-identified as gay or lesbian. In coordination with several academic consultants, our project team decided to privilege the measurement of the romantic relationship behavior of the young-adult respondents’ parents rather than the respondent’s perceptions of their parent(s)’ sexual orientation (stated or otherwise).
24. The study surveyed adults ages 18-39 who reflected on their parent(s)’ past same-sex romantic relationship behavior, which conceivably occurred as recently as a few years ago or as far back as 30 or more years. The NFSS thus captures what might be called an “earlier

⁸ <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/knpanel/>

⁹ <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/34392?q=nfss&searchSource=icpsr-landing>

- generation” of children of same-sex parents, and includes among them many who witnessed a failed heterosexual union. We screened over 15,000 Americans with a short sequence of questions about their households while growing up. Among that sample, 175 people reported that their mother had had a same-sex romantic relationship at some point in their growing-up years; 73 reported the same about their father.
25. I noted in my November 2012 response to critics that my use of the acronyms “LM” (lesbian mother, for those respondents whose mother had a same-sex relationship) and “GF” (gay father, for those whose father had a same-sex relationship) were unfortunately prone to conflating sexual orientation—which the NFSS did not measure—with same-sex relationship behavior, which it did measure. The original study, indeed the entire data collection effort, was always focused on the respondents’ awareness of parental same-sex relationship behavior rather than their own assessment of parental sexual orientation, which may have differed from how their parent would describe it.
26. This measurement approach was intended to capture a combination of same-sex households, ones in which two men or two women had (1) adopted a child (that is, the survey respondent), (2) conceived via artificial reproductive technology (ART), or (3) brought with them into a same-sex relationship a child conceived in a heterosexual union. We found the latter of these, a failed heterosexual union, to constitute around 55 percent of such respondents’ origins. Another 30 percent reported no father or mother’s same-sex partner in the first year of their life.
27. In other words, few young-adult children in the NFSS appear to be the product of what might be labeled the “ideal type” same-sex couple portrayed in media narratives and that scholars have privileged as an optimal comparison group: two men or two women in a stable relationship who agree to pursue a child by ART. Just how much more commonly children conceived by ART are today among same-sex households is unknown. (In the United States, however, just about one percent of all successful pregnancies begin by ART, and statistically the majority of them are believed to be infertile opposite-sex couples.) Given its costs, however, ART is out of reach of couples—gay or straight—who lack the resources to afford it.
28. Yet every child born to a couple via ART (a “planned” gay or lesbian family) retains at least one non-biological “step” parent, suggesting the

more favorable comparison group would not be the biologically-intact, mother-father households but heterosexual stepfamilies.

29. On the other hand, half of all US pregnancies are unplanned. No ART birth is unplanned.
30. The demographic characteristics (e.g., race, income) of the NFSS's sample of children of men and women who have had same-sex relationships are very similar to estimates of those same-sex couples in the 2000 US Census's 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). Plaintiff's expert witness Rosenfeld reported that 37% and 42% of children from female and male same-sex (coupled) households in the PUMS sample are Black and Hispanic, respectively.¹⁰ Rosenfeld also noted that same-sex couples with children have, on average, less education and lower household incomes than both heterosexual couples with children and same-sex couples without children. Plaintiff's expert witness Gary Gates notes the same—that African American and Latino same-sex couples are more likely than white same-sex couples to be raising children.¹¹ The NFSS found similarly: 43% of respondents who reported a maternal same-sex relationship were either Black or Hispanic. In a recent publication based on the NLLFS, however, only 12% of the NLLFS sample is nonwhite.¹² Moreover, 94% reported college-educated parents, a figure dramatically higher than the national average (which is just over 30%).¹³
31. This means that the sample-selection bias problem in many studies of gay and lesbian parenting—including the 19 published NLLFS-based studies—is not minor or incidental, but likely profound, rendering the ability of non-population-based research to offer valid interpretations of average household experiences of children with a lesbian or gay parent suspect. In other words, most snowball-sample-based research has shed light only on above-average or privileged gay and lesbian households. What it cannot do is tell us much about the lives of lesbian parents across the country, because it is decidedly not a population-based data collection effort, but has been widely interpreted as such in

¹⁰ Michael J. Rosenfeld, "Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress through School." *Demography* 47: 755–775, 2010.

¹¹ Gary J. Gates and Adam P. Romero. "Parenting by Gay Men and Lesbians: Beyond the Current Research," in Elizabeth Peters and Claire M. Kamp Dush, eds., *Marriage and Family: Perspectives and Complexities*, pp. 227-243, 2009.

¹² Loes van Geldern, Henny M.W. Bos, Nanette Gartrell, Jo Hermanns, and Ellen C. Perrin, "Quality of Life of Adolescents Raised from Birth by Lesbian Mothers: The US National Longitudinal Family Study." *Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics* 33 (1): 1-7, 2012.

¹³ <http://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/education/data/cps/2012/tables.html>

scholarly and media outlets. It is not.

32. Gay and lesbian parents are, in reality, economically, racially, and socially far more diverse than data collection efforts like the NLLFS imply. Dr. Charlotte Patterson, author of the APA report on same-sex parenting, notes this decided lack of diversity in studies: “Despite the diversity of gay and lesbian communities, both in the United States and abroad, samples of children [and parents] have been relatively homogenous....Samples for which demographic information was reported have been described as predominantly Caucasian, well-educated, and middle to upper class.”¹⁴
33. What the social science of gay parenting based on nonprobability samples has taught us is that it is possible for children raised in same-sex households to develop normally and competently across a variety of domains, but not whether it is probable that they will. Only studies based on probability samples can do that. Very few data collection efforts employing probability samples are able to address this subject. Indeed, publications featuring the three largest North American probability samples on this topic—Census-based studies in the US and Canada, and the NFSS—have emerged only in the past three years.
34. Other published research—including those based on the NLLFS—featured sample sizes too small to provide ample statistical power to detect genuine between-group differences that exist in social reality (i.e., making a Type II error). That is, the sample may be too small for inferential statistics to detect differences that actually exist in the population. But that shortcoming did not curb the publication of numerous such studies making claims about “no differences” employing inferential statistics on samples whose underlying biases cannot be discerned.
35. Source bias is also a common problem in many comparative studies. One scholar notes that “parental self-report, of course, may be biased. It is plausible to argue that, in a prejudiced social climate, lesbian and gay parents may have more at stake in presenting a positive picture,” such that “future studies need to consider using additional sophisticated measures to rule out potential biases.”¹⁵ The NFSS avoids source bias by asking young adults ages 18-39 to report on their own life situations as well as their reflections on their childhood,

¹⁴ Charlotte J. Patterson, “Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents.” *Child Development* 63: 1025-1029, 1992.

¹⁵ Fiona Tasker, “Same-sex Parenting and Child Development: Reviewing the Contribution of Parental Gender.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72, 35–40, 2010

rather than parents talking about their children, bringing needed source diversity to studies in this area.

36. As noted above, scholars have leveled numerous criticisms at my published study based on the NFSS. Some of the questions directed at my study based on the NFSS are fair and legitimate, and were welcomed and addressed in a follow-up response to critics in the November 2012 issue of *Social Science Research*.¹⁶
37. One likely reason for the heightened criticism of my NFSS-based study is its emphasis on general description rather than skipping description and moving rapidly toward explanation. Indeed, the study's analyses present average between-group differences across 40 different outcomes, assessing first their simple statistical differences and then whether between-group differences remain statistically significant after controlling for the respondent's current age, race/ethnicity, gender, their mother's level of education, and their perceptions of family-of-origin income while growing up. I also controlled for a retrospective measure of having experienced bullying—something believed to be a common experience among children with gay or lesbian parents—and a measure of the gay-friendliness of the respondent's current state of residence, a measure thought to be positively correlated with better outcomes among gay and lesbian adults and their children.
38. A common approach in studies of gay parenting outcomes is to avoid the display of—and any discussion around—average differences between groups, and instead to move immediately to more complex, regression-based analyses where simple differences are not noted. This is not inherently a problem, but rather a different approach to analyses. I elected to privilege the description of social reality rather than skipping quickly to explaining, since explanations seem best as following mapping and description rather than preceding or replacing them. Description is also a plausible, reasonable goal for a new data collection project's first publication: such has been the case in the past with other nationally-representative studies.¹⁷

¹⁶ Mark Regnerus. "Parental Same-Sex Relationships, Family Instability, and Subsequent Life Outcomes for Adult Children: Answering Critics of the New Family Structures Study with Additional Analyses." *Social Science Research* 41: 1367-1377, 2012.

¹⁷ Michael D. Resnick, Peter S. Bearman, Robert W. Blum, Karl E. Bauman, Kathleen M. Harris, Jo Jones, Joyce Tabor, Trish Beuhring, Renee E. Sieving, Marcia Shew, Marjorie Ireland, Linda H. Bearinger, J.R. Udry, "Protecting Adolescents from Harm: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health." *Journal of the American Medical Association* 278 (10), 823–832, 1997.

39. My study did not seek to assess the magnitude of effects (of having a parent in a same-sex relationship). Its stated purpose was more narrow: to test for between-group differences, and in so doing evaluate the popular claims being made about their being “no differences” among those raised in same-sex households (however measured).
40. Some criticisms concern my subjective measurement decisions made possible by the very comprehensive information that the NFSS afforded to scholars, including household “calendars” that asked respondents to document who lived in their household each year from the time the respondent was born until the present. This enables analysts to document the arrival and departure of parental romantic partners, including those of the same sex. However, the calendars revealed that household histories are often messy, meaning that respondents noted that some parental (residential) romantic relationships were brief and/or numerous. This reality of many American households, however, creates a challenge for NFSS data analysts with respect to parental same-sex relationships.
41. According to the household calendar data, just over half (90) of the 175 respondents whose mother had a lesbian relationship reported that they did not live with both their mother and her same-sex partner at the same time. How long those same-sex relationships lasted is indiscernible. Do such maternal same-sex relationships matter, given the respondent didn’t live with the mother’s partner? Should analysts only pay attention to those 51 children whose mothers spent only a year or two in a residential same-sex relationship, or stick to the even smaller minority of respondents whose mothers appeared to be in more stable relationships, who spent 5, 10, or 15 years in such a relationship? (This would create a statistical power problem—too few cases to analyze with confidence that one could detect statistical differences that in fact existed.)
42. The two respondents who lived with their mother and her partner for all 18 years of their childhood did indeed appear comparatively well-adjusted on most developmental and contemporary outcomes. But two out of 175 respondents—or out of 248 if you also include those respondents whose fathers had a same-sex relationship—suggests very tall odds against enjoying a stable same-sex household for the duration of one’s childhood in the NFSS. And what about those children who did not live in the same household with the parent who was in a same-sex relationship (a far more common scenario where fathers were in such relationships)? Does a non-residential parent still influence a child?

Unless they play no part in their lives—which we do not know—it is rational to assert that non-residential parents may still influence their children, as they do in very many stepfamily and single-parent situations.

43. Simply put, those NFSS respondents who reported a parental same-sex relationship were far more likely to also report household instability and parental relationship “dynamism.” One can “control for” such instability in evaluating between-group differences, but it was a very common experience among such respondents in the NFSS. Whether such household instability and parental relationship upheaval remains true today is not clear.
44. The tendency to overlook “pathways” in favor of control variables more broadly reflects a common pattern in social science research to search for “independent” effects of variables, thereby missing the ability to explain how social phenomena actually operate in the real world. If, for example, most men smoked, but few women did, it is entirely unhelpful to declare that—controlling for smoking—there is no effect of gender on lung cancer. In that case, men’s predilection for smoking would merit close scrutiny and concern. In the same way, parental same-sex relationships, household instability, and more problematic young-adult life outcomes are quite possibly connected, and a key purpose of social science here is not only to document such pathways but to figure out why they exist.
45. If stability was comparatively rarer in the parents who had same-sex relationships decades ago when stigma was more pronounced and social support for lesbian and gay parents far more modest than it is today, is it a safe assumption that the NFSS study is a “dated” one by definition? That is, if the study could be replicated among same-sex parents of younger children today that the troubling outcomes that were more likely to appear among them in the NFSS would very likely disappear or fail to materialize? Perhaps, but this conclusion is hardly certain. What is known about the comparative relationship stability of gay and lesbian adults in general?
46. Other research on gay and lesbian adults—including but not limited to parents—has noted the comparative volatility of lesbian relationships. A study of Norwegian and Swedish same-sex relationships notes that divorce risk is higher in same-sex marriages and that the “risk of divorce for female partnerships actually is more than twice that for

male unions.”¹⁸ Moreover, early same-sex marriages—those occurring shortly after a shift in marriage law—exhibited a similar risk of divorce as did more recent marriages, suggesting no notable variation in instability over time as a function of new law or pent-up demand among more stable, longstanding relationships. The study authors estimate that in Sweden, 30% of female marriages are likely to end in divorce within 6 years of formation, compared with 20% for male marriages and 13% for heterosexual ones.

47. A follow-up assessment of more recent Norwegian statistics, presented at the 2012 annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA), found no evidence that the gender gap in same-sex divorce has closed.¹⁹ An October 2013 release from the UK’s Office for National Statistics revealed that in the seven years since civil unions were recognized in Britain, the lesbian break-up rate was nearly twice that seen among gay male couples.²⁰
48. Michael Rosenfeld, expert witness for the plaintiff in this case, detected the same pattern in a study of nationally-representative data on American relationships presented at the 2012 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.²¹ Lesbian couples reported higher relationship satisfaction alongside higher break-up rates. The data source for Rosenfeld’s study is the same as that for the NFSS: KN’s KnowledgePanel®.
49. In that study, the highest stability rates appear among heterosexual married couples, while notably better stability is located among married gay and lesbian couples than among those in civil unions (as would be expected). Yet Rosenfeld’s analysis also detects greater instability among lesbian couples in general, a finding that persists even after a lengthy series of control variables are included. While lesbian couples in the study are more apt to be raising children, the presence of children does not appear to be a factor in the diminished relationship stability evident among them.

¹⁸ Gunnar Andersson, Turid Noack, Ane Seierstad, Harald Weedon-Fekjaer, “The demographics of same-sex marriages in Norway and Sweden.” *Demography* 43, 79–98, 2006.

¹⁹ Turid Noack, Ane Seierstad, and Kenneth Aarskaug Wiik. “Divorce Risk in Norwegian Same-Sex Marriages, 1993-2010.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco, May 2012.

²⁰ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_329457.pdf

²¹ Michael J. Rosenfeld, “Couple Longevity and Formal Unions in the era of Same-Sex Marriage in the U.S.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Denver, August 2012.

50. While gay men’s relationships appear more stable than lesbian relationships, but are less likely to be sexually monogamous when compared with lesbian or heterosexual relationships, as attested to in analyses of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health’s Wave IV data, collected during respondents’ mid-20s and early 30s.²² While the effect of relationship stability on child health and development is well-documented, the effect on children of parental nonmonogamy is not well understood.
51. Respondents from stably-coupled same-sex households were simply rare in the NFSS. Some critics have suggested that stable same-sex households were genuinely undercounted in the study. The study’s screening protocol, however, did not prevent stably-coupled same-sex households from appearing. They were simply uncommon in the experience of respondents in an earlier era.
52. If stability is a key asset for households with children, then it is sensible to use stably-intact biological families in any comparative assessment, as my NFSS-based study did.
53. An argument for “no differences” or “few differences” in the NFSS could more readily be made when the children of parents who’ve had same-sex relationships are compared with the children of opposite-sex parents who display a notable degree of genetic dissimilarity, such as children who largely grew up in stepfamilies or with single mothers.
54. My study joins two other peer-reviewed publications in the past two years in which child outcomes are assessed and compared using data from large, population-based probability samples, revealing suboptimal outcomes of children from same-sex relationships when contrasted with biologically-intact households. One was a re-analysis of US Census data conclusions first reached by plaintiff’s expert witness Rosenfeld²³ and the other an analysis of Canadian census data.²⁴ Each of the three datasets measures parental same-sex experience differently. The US Census estimates same-sex parental households by gender, without any knowledge of parents’ sexual identity, orientation, or behavior, while the Canadian census asked young-adult children living at home whether their parents were currently in a same-sex

²² Kara Joyner, Wendy Manning, and Ryan Bogle. “The Stability and Qualities of Same-Sex and Different-Sex Couples in Young Adulthood.” Working Paper, Bowling Green State University Center for Family and Demographic Research, 2013.

²³ Douglas W. Allen, Joseph Price, Catherine Pakaluk. “Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress Through School: A Comment on Rosenfeld.” *Demography* 50 (3): 955-961, 2013.

²⁴ Douglas W. Allen, “High School Graduation Rates among Children of Same-Sex Households.” *Review of the Economics of the Household* 11: 635-658, 2013.

relationship. In other words, there is no established social science norm concerning how exactly to measure same-sex households with children.

55. Nevertheless, a probability sample like these—including the NFSS—is required whenever a researcher wishes to make claims about the larger population from which the sample was drawn. If one of the goals of social-science research on same-sex households is to make claims about children living, or who have lived, in such households, then a probability sample must be drawn from the larger population of same-sex parents, couples, or households with children. Without a probability sample, there is no way to discern just how biased or unbiased a sample of respondents is; that is, how “unusual” or “normal” the sample of a particular population is. Without a probability sample, inferential statistics make little sense to employ, since the employment of inferential statistics assumes a real-world population “behind” a sample, and it is those real-world population “parameters” that we are estimating when employing statistics.
56. There is no alternative to using a probability sample if the goal is to generalize from a sample to a larger population, which is a very sensible goal when analyzing data whose results may have significant consequences for social policy debates such as this one.
57. Much published research on same-sex parenting, however, has not employed probability samples. Indeed, 19 peer-reviewed publications have emerged from just one nonprobability “snowball” study—the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study.²⁵ Thus it is possible (and even correct) to state that the vast majority of social science until very recently has confirmed the “no differences” (or very few differences) conclusion. Unfortunately, the NLLFS subjects were allowed to select themselves into the study, creating bias of unknowable magnitudes and disabling the ability of scholars to generalize from its sample to the population of lesbian families as a whole. I don’t wish to impugn smaller studies simply because their research methods involved small or nonrandom samples. Such is often the case in exploratory studies of small populations. My criticism rather concerns the confident declarations about “no differences” often made based upon them. It ought to raise concern when they are used to support broad public policy changes, like those at issue in this case. In short, it is faulty to credibly, much less confidently, claim “no difference” with such thin support.

²⁵ <http://www.nllfs.org/publications/>

IV. Conclusions

58. The NFSS, which cannot definitively assess causation but rather simply documents associations, reveals that to be stably rooted in your married mother and father's household is to foster the greatest chance at lifelong flourishing. It is neither necessary nor is it a guarantee. It just displays the best odds. Adoption commonly remains a next-best option for many children, though it too is understood as a concession, an accommodation to circumstances in which a child is unable to remain in the custody of his/her biological parents.
59. Of course, such kinship ties are often broken, sometimes with intention (by mutual divorce, sperm donation, and some instances of surrogacy), sometimes by accident (as through the death of a parent), and sometimes by necessity (in the case of seeking protection from domestic violence). Prudent government seeks to discourage broken kinship ties, and to wrestle over how to manage situations in which brokenness seems unavoidable, but they should not respond by declaring biological bonds to be irrelevant or such brokenness and its consequences only imagined.
60. Certainly same-sex couples, like other parenting structures, can make quality and successful efforts in raising children. That is not in question. In social reality there may genuinely be two "gold standards" of family stability and context for children's flourishing—a stably-coupled heterosexual household and a stably-coupled homosexual household, but no population-based sample analyses have yet been able to consistently confirm wide evidence of the latter.
61. No existing study yet bears the ability to randomly compare large numbers of children raised by gay couples with the same among heterosexual couples over a long period of time. The social science of same-sex parenting structures remains young, and subject to significant limitations about what can be known, given that the influence of household structures and experiences on child outcomes is not a topic for experimental research design.
62. As a result, social scientists are unable to document with any degree of certainty that no developmental harm is done to children growing up in households wherein parents are in (or have been in) same-sex relationships. Additionally, the past three years have witnessed the publication of three peer-reviewed studies that assess children's outcomes of having lived in a same-sex household or having witnessed the same-sex romantic relationship of a parent using data from large,

population-based samples: my NFSS-based study, a re-analysis of US Census data, and an analysis of Canadian census data. All three raise concerns, suggesting that any consensus about “no differences” is premature at best, and may well be inaccurate.

63. With so many significant outstanding questions about whether children develop as well in same-sex households as in opposite-sex households, it remains prudent for government to continue to recognize marriage as a union of a man and a woman, thereby promoting what is known to be an ideal environment for raising children.

Date: December 20, 2013

By: /s/ Mark D. Regnerus, Ph. D.

MARK REGNERUS

(December 2013)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000.

M. A., Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1997.

B. A., Sociology, with high honors, Trinity Christian College, 1993.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2007-present: Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.

2002-present: Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

2002-2007: Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.

2001-2002: Assistant Professor of Sociology and Director, Center for Social Research, Calvin College.

2000-2001: Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Carolina Population Center.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Regnerus, Mark and Jeremy Uecker. 2011. *Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think about Marriage*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sex Roles*, *The New Republic*, *Commentary*, and *First Things*.

Regnerus, Mark D. 2007. *Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *The New Yorker*, *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, and *Journal of Sex Research*.

Articles

- Regnerus, Mark and David Gordon. 2013. "Social, Emotional, and Relational Distinctions in Patterns of Recent Masturbation among Young Adults." [Under review]
- Price, Joseph, Rich Patterson, and Mark Regnerus. 2013. "How Much More XXX is Generation X Consuming? Evidence of Changing Attitudes and Behavior Related to Pornography since 1973." [Working paper.]
- Regnerus, Mark. 2012. "Parental Same-Sex Relationships, [Family Instability](#), and Subsequent Life Outcomes for Adult Children: Answering Critics of the New [Family Structures Study](#) with Additional Analyses." *Social Science Research* 41: 1367-1377.
- Regnerus, Mark. 2012. "How Different are the Adult Children of Parents who have Same-Sex Relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study." *Social Science Research* 41: 752-770.
- Regnerus, Mark. 2012. "Contemporary Mating Market Dynamics, Sex-Ratio Imbalances, and their Consequences." *Society* 49: 500-505.
- Woodberry, Robert D., Jerry Z. Park, Lyman A. Kellstedt, Mark D. Regnerus, and Brian Steensland. 2012. "The Measure of American Religious Traditions: Theoretical and Measurement Considerations." *Social Forces* 91: 65-73.
- Uecker, Jeremy and Mark Regnerus. 2010. "Bare Market: Campus Sex Ratios, Romantic Relationships, and Sexual Behavior." *The Sociological Quarterly* 51: 408-435.
- McFarland, Michael J., Jeremy E. Uecker, and Mark D. Regnerus. 2010. "The Role of Religion in Shaping Sexual Frequency and Satisfaction: Evidence from Married and Unmarried Older Adults." *Journal of Sex Research* 47: 1-12.
- Stokes, Charles and Mark D. Regnerus. 2009. "When Faith Divides Family: Religious Discord and

Adolescent Reports of Parent-Child Relations." *Social Science Research* 38: 155-167.

Hill, Terrence, Amy Burdette, Mark Regnerus, and Ronald Angel. 2008. "Religious Involvement and Attitudes toward Parenting among Low-income Urban Women." *Journal of Family Issues* 29: 882-900.

Uecker, Jeremy, Nicole Angotti, and Mark D. Regnerus. 2008. "Going Most of the Way: 'Technical Virginity' among American Adolescents." *Social Science Research* 37: 1200-1215.

Uecker, Jeremy, Mark D. Regnerus, and Margaret Vaaler. 2007. "Losing My Religion: The Social Sources of Religious Decline in Early Adulthood." *Social Forces* 85: 1667-1692.

Regnerus, Mark D. and Jeremy Uecker. 2007. "Religious Influences on Sensitive Self-Reported Behaviors: The Product of Social Desirability, Deceit, or Embarrassment?" *Sociology of Religion* 68: 145-163.

Regnerus, Mark D. and Viviana Salinas. 2007. "Religious Affiliation and AIDS-based Discrimination in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Review of Religious Research* 48: 385-401.

Trinitapoli, Jenny and Mark D. Regnerus. 2006. "Religion and HIV Risk Behaviors among Married Men: Initial Results from a Study in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 45: 505-528.

Regnerus, Mark D. and Jeremy Uecker. 2006. "Finding Faith, Losing Faith: The Prevalence and Context of Religious Transformations during Adolescence." *Review of Religious Research* 47: 217-237.

Regnerus, Mark D. and Amy Burdette. 2006. "Religious Change and Adolescent Family Dynamics." *The Sociological Quarterly* 47: 175-194.

Regnerus, Mark D. and Laura B. Luchies. 2006. "The Parent-Child Relationship and Opportunities for Adolescents' First Sex." *Journal of Family Issues* 27: 159-183.

- Regnerus, Mark D. and Christian Smith. 2005. "Selection Effects in Studies of Religious Influence."
Review of Religious Research 47: 23-50.
- Regnerus, Mark D. 2005. "Talking about Sex: Religion and Patterns of Parent-Child Communication about Sex and Contraception." *The Sociological Quarterly* 46: 81-107.
- Regnerus, Mark D., Christian Smith, and Brad Smith. 2004. "Social Context in the Development of Adolescent Religiosity." *Applied Developmental Science* 8: 27-38.
- Regnerus, Mark D. 2003. "Linked Lives, Faith, and Behavior: An Intergenerational Model of Religious Influence on Adolescent Delinquency." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42: 189-203.
- Regnerus, Mark D. 2003. "Moral Communities and Adolescent Delinquency: Religious Contexts and Community Social Control." *Sociological Quarterly* 44: 523-554.
- Regnerus, Mark D. 2003. "Religion and Positive Adolescent Outcomes: A Review of Research and Theory." *Review of Religious Research* 44: 394-413.
- Regnerus, Mark D. and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 2003. "Religion and Vulnerability among Low-Risk Adolescents." *Social Science Research* 32: 633-658.
- Regnerus, Mark D. and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 2003. "Staying on Track in School: Religious Influences in High and Low-Risk Settings." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42: 633-649.
- Rostosky, Sharon S., Mark D. Regnerus, and Margaret L.C. Wright. 2003. "Coital Debut: The Role of Religiosity and Sex Attitudes in the Add Health Survey." *Journal of Sex Research* 40: 358-367.
- Smith, Christian, Robert Faris, Melinda Lundquist Denton, and Mark D. Regnerus. 2003. "Mapping American Adolescent Subjective Religiosity and Attitudes of Alienation Toward Religion: A Research Report." *Sociology of Religion* 64: 111-133.

- Regnerus, Mark D. 2002. "Friends' Influence on Adolescent Theft and Minor Delinquency: A Developmental Test of Peer-Reported Effects." *Social Science Research* 31: 681-705.
- Smith, Christian, Melinda Denton, Robert Faris, and Mark D. Regnerus. 2002. "Mapping American Adolescent Religious Participation." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 41: 597-612.
- Ge, Xiaojia, Glen H. Elder, Jr., Mark D. Regnerus, and Christine Cox. 2001. "Pubertal Transitions, Overweight Self Perceptions, and Adolescent Psychosomatic Adjustment: Gender and Ethnic Differences." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 64: 363-375.
- Regnerus, Mark. 2000. "Shaping Schooling Success: A Multi-level Study of Religious Socialization and Educational Outcomes in Urban Public Schools." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 39: 363-370.
- Steensland, Brian, Jerry Park, Mark Regnerus, Lynn Robinson, Bradford Wilcox, and Robert Woodberry. 2000. "The Measure of American Religion: Toward Improving the State of the Art." *Social Forces* 79: 291-318.
- Regnerus, Mark, David Sikkink, and Christian Smith. 1999. "Voting with the Christian Right: Contextual and Individual Patterns of Electoral Influence." *Social Forces* 77 (4): 1375-1401.
- Regnerus, Mark and Christian Smith. 1998. "Selective Deprivatization among American Religious Traditions: the Reversal of the Great Reversal." *Social Forces* 76: 1347-72.
- Regnerus, Mark, Christian Smith, and David Sikkink. 1998. "Who Gives to the Poor? The Role of Religious Tradition and Political Location on the Personal Generosity of Americans toward the Poor." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 37: 481-493.

Book Chapters

- Regnerus, Mark D. 2013. "The Family as First Building Block." In *What Makes for a Thriving Society*.

[Chapter in preparation for submission.]

Regnerus, Mark D. 2010. "Religion and Adolescent Sexual Behavior." In *Religion, Families, and Health* (Christopher Ellison and Robert Hummer, editors). New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Regnerus, Mark D. 2009. "Imitation Sex and the New Middle Class Morality" (Chapter 6 of *Forbidden Fruit*), reprinted in *Speaking of Sexuality: Interdisciplinary Readings, 3rd Edition* (J. Kenneth Davidson, Nelwyn B. Moore, and Terri D. Fisher, eds.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Regnerus, Mark D. 2005. "Adolescent Delinquency." Pp. 259-276 in Helen Rose Ebaugh (ed.), *Handbook of Religion and Social Institutions*. New York: Kluwer/Plenum.

Sikkink, David and Mark Regnerus. 1996. "For God and the Fatherland: Protestant Symbolic Worlds and the Rise of German National Socialism." Pp. 133-147 in Christian Smith (ed.), *Disruptive Religion: the Force of Faith in Social Movement Activism*. New York: Routledge.

Select Other Publications

Regnerus, Mark. "Right Side of History or Primed to Say Yes?" *National Review*, August 20, 2013.

Regnerus, Mark. "Lesbian Mothers' Children." *National Review*, November 12, 2012.

Regnerus, Mark. "Sex is Cheap." *Slate*, February 25, 2011. (9th-most read *Slate* article of 2011).

Regnerus, Mark. "Sexual Behavior in Young Adulthood." The Changing Spirituality of Emerging Adults Project. <http://www.changingsea.net/essays/Regnerus.pdf>, 2010.

Regnerus, Mark. "Freedom to Marry Young." *Washington Post* op-ed, April 23, 2009.

Regnerus, Mark and Jeremy Uecker. "How Corrosive is College to Religious Faith and Practice?" Social Science Research Council. http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Regnerus_Uecker, 2009.

- Reprinted in *Opposing Viewpoints: America's Youth*. 2007. Edited by Jamuna Carroll. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press.

Regnerus, Mark D., Christian Smith, and Melissa Fritsch. "Religion in the Lives of American Adolescents: A Review of the Literature." A Research Report of the National Study of Youth and Religion, No. 3. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, 2003.

Regnerus, Mark D. "Living up to Expectations." Report, Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, University of Pennsylvania, 2003.

Regnerus, Mark D. "Making the Grade: The Influence of Religion upon the Academic Performance of Youth in Disadvantaged Communities." Report, Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, University of Pennsylvania, 2001.

Regnerus, Mark. "Challenges to Liberal Protestant Identity and Diversity Work: a Qualitative Study." *Sociological Analysis* 1998, 1: 139-149.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of: *Charitable Choices: Religion, Race, and Poverty in the Post-Welfare Era*, John P. Bartkowski and Helen A. Regis, New York: NYU press. In *Social Forces* 82: 861-863 (2003).

Review of: *They Still Pick Me Up when I Fall: The Role of Youth Development and Community Life*, Diana Mendley Rauner, New York: Columbia University Press. In *Social Forces* 79: 1545-1547 (2001).

FUNDING AND GRANTS

Principal Investigator, "The New Family Structures Study." \$640,000 grant from the Witherspoon Institute, May 2011-August 2013. (Approved, 100% under PI's supervision)

Principal Investigator, "The New Family Structures Study (supplementary assistance)." \$90,000 grant from the Bradley Foundation, Nov 2011-Nov 2012. (Approved, 100% under PI's supervision)

Principal Investigator, "The New Family Structures Study." \$55,000 planning grant from the Witherspoon Institute, Oct 2010- June 2011. (Approved, 100% under PI's supervision)

Principal Investigator, "The New Pentecostals and Political and Social Activism."
\$9,565 grant from the
National Science Foundation (Dissertation Improvement Grant, for Nicolette
Manglos), 2010-11.
(Approved but returned).

Principal Investigator, "Testing Differences: The Transfer and Transformation of
HIV Testing from the
West to Sub-Saharan Africa." \$7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation
(Dissertation
Improvement Grant, for Nicole Angotti), 2008-2009.

Seed grant for "Sex and Emotional Health in Emerging Adulthood." \$4,000 grant
from the Population
Research Center and \$2,000 grant from the College of Liberal Arts, University of
Texas at Austin, 2007.

Co-Investigator, "Developing Health Behaviors in Middle Adolescence" (Lynn Rew,
PI, University of
Texas School of Nursing). National Institute of Nursing Research, 2006-2011.
(Approved, <5% under my
supervision)

Research Internship (Mentor), \$22,333. Office of Graduate Studies, University of
Texas at Austin; 2006-
2007 (for graduate student Nicolette Manglos).

Dean's Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin, Spring
2006.

Co-Investigator, "Religious Organizations, Local Norms, and HIV in Africa" (Susan
Watkins, PI,
University of Pennsylvania). \$864,000 grant from the National Institute of Child
Health & Human
Development; June 2005 – May 2008; (Regnerus is PI of \$279,000 sub-contract to
UT-Austin). R01-
HD050142-01.

Principal Investigator, "Race, Religion, and Adolescent Sexual Norms and Conduct."
\$148,650 grant from
the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development; December 2004 –
November 2006. R03-
HD048899-01.

Co-Investigator, "Project on Religion and Economic Change" (Robert D. Woodberry,
PI). \$500,000 grant
from the Metanexus Institute (with the support of the John Templeton
Foundation). March 2005-

September 2007 (<5% under my supervision)

Principal Investigator, "Religious Organizations, Local Norms, and HIV in Africa."
\$6,000 grant from UT-
Austin, Office of the Vice President for Research. September 2004 – August 2005.

Principal Investigator, "Contexts and Consequences of Spiritual Transformation."
\$131,206 grant from the
Metanexus Institute (with the support the John Templeton Foundation). May
2003-April 2005.

Principal Investigator, "Religious Influences in the Lives of Youth." \$24,478 grant
from the National Study
of Youth and Religion, UNC-Chapel Hill. January-December 2004.

Seed Grant for participation in the Malawi Diffusion and Ideational Change Project
Survey Wave III,
March-April 2004. \$2,000 grant from the PRC Mellon Center Grant on
Urbanization and Internal
Migration in Developing Countries.

Principal Investigator, "Family Health and Well-Being: Understanding Positive and
Negative Pathways
from Religion." \$13,300 grant from UT-Austin, Summer Research Assignment.
June-August, 2003.

Principal Investigator, "Mapping Austin Social Indicators." \$12,700 from the Austin
Bridge Builders
Association. August-December, 2003.

Co-Investigator, "The Religious Practices of American Youth." \$3,900,000 grant
from the Lilly
Endowment. June 2001-August 2005 (Christian Smith, UNC-CH, Principal
Investigator; <5% under my
supervision).

SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Premarital Sex in America," Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill,
Chapel Hill, NC, January 2012.

Book discussion session on *Premarital Sex in America*, Society for the Study of
Emerging Adulthood,
Providence, October 2011.

"The Future of Sex and Marriage in American Evangelicalism." National Association
of Evangelicals,
Advisory Board. Washington, D.C., October 2011.

Heyer Lecture, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, September 2011.

Thematic Session on “The Cultural War and Red/Blue Divide: Re-Examining the Debate Demographically and Behaviorally.” American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, August 2011.

“Sexual Economics: The Forces Shaping How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Marry.” Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., May 2011.

“Marital Realities, Current Mindsets, and Possible Futures.” Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, Ottawa, May 2011.

Panel on “Teen Pregnancy: What is California Doing Right?” Zócalo Public Square, Los Angeles, December 2010.

“Marriage and Parenthood in the Imagination of Young Adults.” Baby Makes Three: Social Scientific Research on Successfully Combining Marriage and Parenthood, Princeton, June 2010.

“Saving Marriage before it Starts.” Q, Lyric Opera, Chicago, April 2010.

“The Price of Sex in Contemporary Heterosexual Relationships,” TEDxUT, UT-Austin, April 2010.

“Love and Marriage in the Minds of Emerging Adults.” ChildTrends & Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C., October 2009.

“Forbidden Fruit? Sex and Religious Faith in the Lives of Young Americans,” Baylor University, September 2007.

Introduction and Chapter 1 to “Great Expectations: Culture, Emotion, and Disenchantment in the Sexual Worlds of Young Americans,” to the Bay Area Colloquium on Population, Berkeley, California, September 2007

“Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers.” Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, April 18, 2007.

“Sex and Emotional Health in Emerging Adulthood.” Department of Sociology, Penn State University, March 2007.

“Suboptimal Sex or Healthy Expressions? Heterosexual Practice among American Adolescents.”

Department of Sociology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 2007.

“Trends in American Adolescent Sexual Behavior.” Department of Health and Human Services Abstinence

Grantees Symposium, Arlington, Virginia, December 2006.

“An Illness or a Judgment? Interpreting the African HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Malawi and the US.”

Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, November 2006.

“Religion and Adolescent Sexual Practice,” Conference on Religious Effects Research, jointly sponsored

by the Heritage Foundation and Child Trends, Washington, D.C., November 2005.

“New Approaches to Understanding Religious Influence.” Georgia Institute of Technology School of

Public Policy, Atlanta, Georgia, October 2005.

“Living up to Expectations: How Religion alters the Delinquent Behavior of Low-Risk Adolescents.” Sixth

Annual Spirituality Research Symposium: The Role of Religion in Understanding Risk and Protective

Factors for Adolescents.” Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 2003.

Invited presentation on Adult and Juvenile Crime & Delinquency to “Integrating Research on Spirituality

and Health and Well-Being into Service Delivery: A Research Conference. National Institutes of Health,

Bethesda, MD, April 2003.

“Talking and Knowing about Sex: Are Religious Parents Communicating with their Adolescent

Children?” Educational and Counseling Psychology Colloquium, University of Kentucky, February

2002.

Invited presentation to panel discussion “Can Churches save the American Family? What New

Research shows about Religion’s Effect on Fatherhood and Academic Achievement.” National Press

Club, Washington, D.C., December 2001.

Invited session on Peer Influences on Adolescent Behavior. Add Health User’s Conference, NIH,

Bethesda, MD, August 2001.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2000)

“Gender and Heterosexual Sex.” Panel discussion at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2013.

“The New Family Structures Study: Introduction and Initial Results.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, May 2012.

“Religious Distinctions in Nonmarital Romantic Relationship Formation (with Ellyn Arevalo). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2011.

“Premarital Sexual Initiation and Fertility among Pentecostal Adolescents in Brazil.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, April 2011.

“Red Sex, Blue Sex: Distinguishing Political Culture and Religious Culture in the Sexual Decisions of Young Americans.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, October 2009.

“Bare Market: Campus Sex Ratios and Romantic Relationships (with Jeremy Uecker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, May 2009.

“Religion and Sexual Initiation in Brazil” (with Ana-Paula Verona). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, April 2009.

“Going Most of the Way: Religion, Pledging, and ‘Sexual Substitution’ among Young Americans” (with Jeremy Uecker and Nicole Angotti). Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, Oregon, October 2006, and the Population Association of America, March 2007.

“Does True Love Wait? Religion, Pledging, and the Premarital Sexual Behavior of Married Adults” (with Jeremy Uecker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, Oregon, October 2006.

“Religious Discord and Parent-Child Relations: What Happens when Faith Divides Family” (with Charles Stokes). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, August 2006.

“Village Sexual Norms and Links between Religion and HIV Infection Risk in Rural Malawi” (with Jenny Trinitapoli). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Los Angeles, March 2006.

“Religious Affiliation, Ethnicity, and AIDS-related Discrimination in Sub-Saharan Africa” (with Viviana Salinas). Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, NY, November 5, 2005 and at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Los Angeles, March 2006.

“Finding Faith, Losing Faith: The Prevalence and Context of Religious Transformations during Adolescence.” (with Jeremy Uecker). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, NY, November 2005.

“Religious Responses to AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: An examination of religious congregations in rural Malawi.” (with Jenny Trinitapoli). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 2005.

“Religion, Race, and Adolescent Sexual Behavior.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Philadelphia, April 2005.

“Religion and HIV Risk Behaviors among Men in Rural Malawi: Initial Results from a Panel Study.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, October 2004, and at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Philadelphia, April 2005.

“The Sexual Norms and Conduct of Religious Youth.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, October 2004.

“Selection Effects and Social Desirability Bias in Studies of Religious Influences.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Kansas City, October 2004, and at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Philadelphia, April 2005.

“Religion and Adolescent Sexuality and Behavior.” Paper presented at the Religion, Families, and Health conference, Austin, April 2004.

“Religious Experiences and Adolescent Behaviors: Evidence from the National Study of Youth and Religion.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, October 2003.

“Religion and Adolescent Family Well-Being.” (with Amy Burdette). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, October 2003.

“Does Religion affect Asian American Adolescents’ Subjective Well-Being?” (with Elisa Jiexia Zhai). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, October 2003.

“Religion and Adolescent Sexual Behavior: A Review and Program of Research.” (with Christopher Ellison). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Salt Lake City, November 2002.

“Religious and Vulnerability among Low-Risk Adolescents” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, August 2002.

“Religious Influences on Adolescent Resilience and Vulnerability.” Paper presented to the Add Health HIV Prevention Research Team, University of Kentucky, February 2002.

“The Influence of Adolescent Religion on Sex Attitudes and Sexual Debut.” Poster presented (with S. Rostosky and M.L.C.Wright) at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, April 2002.

“Talking and Knowing about Sex: Are Religious Parents Communicating with their Adolescent

Children?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Columbus, October 2001, and at the American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 2002.

"Staying on Track in School: Religious Influences in High and Low-Risk Settings." Paper presented at 2001 Add Health Users Conference, NIH, Bethesda, MD, August 2001 and at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, August 2001.

"The Overestimation of Peer Influence on Adolescent Delinquency: A Developmental Test of Peer-Reported Effects." Paper presented at 2001 Add Health Users Conference, NIH, Bethesda, MD, and at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, August 2001.

"Moral Communities and Adolescent Delinquency: Subcultural Aspects of Social Disorganization." Paper presented at 2000 Add Health Users Conference, NIH, Bethesda, MD, August 2000 and at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Washington, D.C., August 2000.

ADVISING

Ph.D. Committees (* Co-Chair/Co-Supervisor, ** Chair/Supervisor)

Current	Stanley Kasun
Current	Nina Palmo
2012	Catherine McNamee
2012	Nicolette Manglos **
2011	Charles Stokes
2010	Nicole Angotti **
2010	Jeremy Uecker **
2010	Viviana Salinas
2010	Ana Paula Verona
2010	Georgina Martínez Canizales
2008	Sara Yeatman
2008	Margaret Vaaler
2007	Jenny Trinitapoli **
2007	Amy Burdette *
2007	Elisa Zhai
2007	Bryan Shepherd

M.A. Committees (* Co-Chair/Co-Supervisor, ** Chair/Supervisor)

2013	Ellyn Arevalo*
2012	Kristen Redford **
2011	David McClendon **
2010	Aida Ramos Wada
2008	Nicolette Manglos **
2007	Andrea Henderson
2006	Jeremy Uecker **
2004	J. Matthew Bradshaw
2004	Jenny Trinitapoli **
2004	Margaret Vaaler
2004	Brian Coleman
2003	Elisa Zhai
2003	Heather Powell

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor (Honors or Plan II)

2011	Mary Lingwall
2008	Hong Nguyen

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Moderator, Plan II thesis symposium, 2011.

Member, COLA Undergraduate Research Award selection committee, 2010-12

Member, Executive committee, Sociology, 2004-06, 2009-11, 2012-13

Member, Department promotions & tenure review committee, 2010-11, 2012-13

Member, Department Graduate Steering committee, 2007-09, 2010-11

Presenter, TEDxUT, Spring 2010

Presenter, Tejas House, Fall 2009 (Sexual Health Panel), Spring 2011 (Orange Jackets' Week of Women)

Guest presenter, UT Peer Sexual Health Educator courses, 2008-12

Member, Population Research Center governing board, 2009-10

Member, Graduate admissions committee, Sociology, 2004-05; 2009-10, 2012-13

Chair, Department of Sociology religion search committee, Fall 2008

Participant and presenter, UT Faculty Fellows Program, 2007-09

Member, Department of Sociology population junior search committee, Fall 2007

Member, Department Speaker Colloquium committee, Fall 2007

Presenter, Explore UT, 2006

Supervisor, UT Sociology Undergraduate Research Assistance Program, Spring and Fall 2006

Reviewer, Award application, Office of the Vice President for Research, 2005

Faculty Overseer, Department of Sociology website, 2004-05

Member, Research Experience for Undergraduates program admissions committee, PRC, 2003-05

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board member, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 2004–2011

Editorial Board member, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, 2005–2011

Nominating Committee member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2007–2009

Council member, ASA Section on the Sociology of Religion, 2004–2007

Distinguished Article Award Committee member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2009–2010.

- Committee chair, 2010

Distinguished Article Award Committee member, American Sociological Association (Religion Section), 2010–2011.

- Committee chair, 2011

Jack Shand Research Award committee member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2005–2007.

Ad-hoc reviewer for: National Institutes of Health, 2007; National Science Foundation, 2001 (one review), 2004 (one review), 2010 (one review); United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation, 2003 (one review); William T. Grant Foundation, 2004 (one review).

Ad-hoc journal reviewer for: *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Problems*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Social Science Research*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Gender & Society*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*, *Review of Religious*

Research, International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, Social Service Review, Journal of Psychology and Christianity, Journal of Marriage and Family, Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Adolescent Health, Social Science & Medicine, Social Science Quarterly, Sociological Forum, Biodemography and Social Biology.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

Best Article Award, ASA Religion Section, 2001, for “The Measure of American Religion: Toward Improving the State of the Art” (with Brian Steensland, Jerry Park, Lynn Robinson, Brad Wilcox, and Robert Woodberry).

Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, University of Pennsylvania, 2001-2003.

Runner-up (2nd place), Best Student Paper Award, ASA Crime, Law, and Deviance Section, 2000, for “The Overestimation of Peer Group Traits and Behaviors on Adolescent Delinquency.”

Runner-up (Honorable Mention), Best Student Paper Award, ASA Religion Section, 2000, for “Moral Communities and Adolescent Delinquency: Subcultural Aspects of Social Disorganization.”

Carolina Consortium on Human Development Pre-doctoral Trainee Fellow, Center for Developmental Science, UNC-CH, 1999-2000.

Best Article Award, ASA Religion Section, 1999, for “Selective Deprivatization among American Religious traditions: The Reversal of the Great Reversal.”

Runner-up (Honorable Mention), Best Student Paper Award, ASA Religion Section, 1999, for “Re-Interpreting Religious Effects on Adolescent Educational Expectations and Achievement.”