

STEPHEN MIGUEL MERINO

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department
Colorado Mesa University
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present Associate Professor of Sociology, Colorado Mesa University
- 2016-2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Colorado Mesa University
- 2012-2016 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
(formerly University of Texas-Pan American)
- 2006-2012 Research Associate, The Association of Religion Data Archives,
Department of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D. Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University
Dissertation: "Social Resources and Influence in Religious Networks:
Consequences for Social Support, Volunteering, and Intergroup Contact"
- 2009 M.A. Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University
Thesis: "Responses to Religious Diversity in Nation and Community:
Examining the Role of Beliefs and Inter-Religious Contact"
- 2006 M.S. Neuroscience, University of Michigan
- 2003 B.S. Neuroscience, Brigham Young University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Religion, Race and Ethnicity, Social Networks/Relationships, Social Psychology, Intergroup Relations/Attitudes, Civic Engagement, Quantitative Research Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Merino, Stephen M. Forthcoming. "Contemporary Christianity, Sexual Identity, and LGBT Issues." *Handbook of Contemporary Christianity in the United States*, edited by

Mark A. Lamport. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Merino, Stephen M. 2019. "Religious Involvement and Bridging Social Ties: The Role of Congregational Participation." *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* 1:291-308.

Merino, Stephen M. 2018. "God and Guns: Examining Religious Influences on Gun Control Attitudes in the United States." *Religions* 9:189.

Ryabov, Igor and **Stephen M. Merino.** 2017. "Recent Demographic Change in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas: The Importance of Domestic Migration." *Journal of Borderlands Studies* 32:211-231.

Cragun, Ryan T., **Stephen M. Merino,** S. Matthew Stearmer, Michael Nielsen, Brent Beal, and Bradley Jones. 2016. "Predictors of Opposition to and Support for the Ordination of Women: Insights from the LDS Church." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 19:124-137.

- Reported on by CNN and *The Salt Lake Tribune*

Merino, Stephen M. 2014. "Social Support and the Religious Dimensions of Close Ties." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 53:595-612.

- Reprinted in: Mirola, William A., Michael O. Emerson, and Susanne C. Monahan, eds. 2018. *Sociology of Religion: A Reader*, 3rd ed. New York: Routledge.

Merino, Stephen M. 2013. "Religious Social Networks and Volunteering: Examining Recruitment via Close Ties." *Review of Religious Research* 55:509-527.

Merino, Stephen M. 2013. "Contact with Gays and Lesbians and Same-Sex Marriage Support: The Moderating Role of Social Context." *Social Science Research* 42:1156-1166.

Merino, Stephen M. 2012. "Irreligious Socialization? The Adult Religious Preferences of Individuals Raised with No Religion." *Secularism and Nonreligion* 1:1-16.

Taylor, Marylee C. and **Stephen M. Merino.** 2011. "Assessing the Racial Views of White Conservative Protestants: Who Do We Compare with Whom?" *Public Opinion Quarterly* 75:761-778.

Merino, Stephen M. 2011. "Neighbors Like Me? Religious Affiliation and Neighborhood Racial Preferences among Non-Hispanic Whites." *Religions* 2:165-183.

Taylor, Marylee C. and **Stephen M. Merino.** 2011. "Race, Religion, and Beliefs about Racial Inequality." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 634:60-77.

Scheitle, Christopher P., **Stephen M. Merino**, and Andrew Moore. 2010. "On the Varying Meaning of Open and Affirming." *Journal of Homosexuality* 57:1223-1236.

Merino, Stephen M. 2010. "Religious Diversity in a 'Christian Nation': The Effects of Theological Exclusivity and Interreligious Contact on the Acceptance of Religious Diversity." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49:231-246.

Merino, Stephen M. and Roger Finke. 2010. "Stimulating Research and Discovery in the Study of Religion: The Association of Religion Data Archives (www.TheARDA.com)." *Geographies of Religions and Belief Systems* 3:3-17.

Merino, Stephen M. 2007. "Major Improvements to the ARDA's 'American Denominations' Feature." *Review of Religious Research* 48:334-335.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Merino, Stephen M. "Religion and Guns: Examining Views of Gun Policies and Proposed Remedies." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Las Vegas, Nevada, October.
- 2017 Merino, Stephen M. "Support for Non-Doctrinal Changes Related to Gender in the LDS Church." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Washington, DC, October.
- 2016 Merino, Stephen M. "Irreligious socialization? Examining intergenerational transmission of nonreligion." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October.
- 2015 Merino, Stephen M. "Predictors of Opposition to and Support for the Ordination of Women: Insights from the LDS Church." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA, October.
- 2015 Merino, Stephen M. "Religious Participation and Status-Bridging Social Ties." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Denver, CO, April.
- 2013 Merino, Stephen M. "Religion and Immigration Attitudes: Examining the Influence of Values." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA, November.
- 2012 Merino, Stephen M. "Contact with Gays and Lesbians and Same-Sex Marriage Support: Considering the Role of Social Context." Paper

presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ, November.

- 2012 Merino, Stephen M. "Religion and Social Support in Close Relationships: Variations by Race and Religious Tradition." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Denver, CO, August.
- 2011 Merino, Stephen M. "Sources of Social Support: Exploring the Religious Dimensions of Close Ties." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October.
- 2011 Merino, Stephen M. "Religious Networks and Volunteering: The Effects of Religious Involvement and Recruitment by Religiously Based Ties." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Las Vegas, Nevada, August.
- 2010 Merino, Stephen M. "The Adult Religious Preferences of Individuals Raised with No Religion." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland, October.
- 2009 Merino, Stephen M. "Neighbors Like Me: White Conservative Protestants and Neighborhood Racial Composition Preferences." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, Colorado, October.
- 2009 Merino, Stephen M. "More than Just Data: An Overview of Recent and Forthcoming Additions to the ARDA." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Denver, Colorado, October.
- 2009 Merino, Stephen M. and Marylee C. Taylor. "Conservative Protestants and Views on Racial Inequality." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Arlington, Virginia, April.
- 2008 Merino, Stephen M. "Religious Diversity in Nation, Community, and Family: Determinants of Willingness to Include Non-Christians in Social Life." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky, October.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016-
(CMU) *Courses taught:*
General Sociology
Social Inequality
Race and Ethnic Relations
Sociology of Religion
Sociological Research Methods
Social Problems
Environmental Sociology
Self and Society
Maverick Milestone: The Dark Side of Communication
- 2012-2016
(UTPA/
UTRGV) *Courses taught:*
Sociology of Religion
Social Psychology
American Minorities/Race and Ethnic Relations
Social Inequality/Stratification
- 2010-2011
(Penn State) *Courses taught:*
Race and Ethnic Relations
Introductory Sociology

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 Faculty Professional Development Grant, CMU
- 2016 Faculty Professional Development Grant, CMU
- 2015 Junior Faculty Travel Grant, Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, UTPA
- 2014 “Survey of Gender Issues in the Mormon Church” (\$4727), Kickstarter, Awarded June 2014. Co-Principal Investigator.
- 2014 Faculty Development Grant (\$2000), Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, UTPA
- 2014 Junior Faculty Travel Grant, Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty

- Affairs, UTPA
- 2013 Junior Faculty Travel Grant, Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, UTPA
- 2012 Junior Faculty Travel Grant, Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, UTPA
- 2012 Alumni Association Dissertation Award, Penn State University
- 2006-2008 Bunton-Waller Graduate Award, Penn State University
- 2004-2005 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, American Psychological Association Diversity Program in Neuroscience
- 2003 Rackham Merit Fellowship, Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan
- 2003 Office of Research and Creative Activities Undergraduate Research Scholarship, Brigham Young University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University

- 2018- Webmaster, CMU Social and Behavioral Sciences Department
- 2017- SBS Representative, Essential Learning Committee, CMU
- 2017- Member, SBS Scholarship Committee, CMU
- 2017 Member, Anonymous Committee for Distinguished Faculty Award, CMU
- 2016-2018 Advisor, CMU Sociology Club
- 2015-2016 Sociology Program Representative, UTRGV Faculty Senate
- 2014-2016 Co-Advisor, UTPA/UTRGV Sociology Club
- 2013-2016 Co-Advisor, UTPA/UTRGV chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society
- 2014-2015 Sociology Undergraduate Student Advisor, UTPA
- 2014-2015 Member, Faculty Development Council, UTPA

- 2011-2012 Student Representative, Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee, Penn State University
- 2011 Member, Planning Committee for the 2011 Penn State Stratification and Social Change Conference
- 2010 Moderator, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Annual Summer Research Conference, Penn State University

Profession

- 2020- Member, Editorial Board, *Review of Religious Research*
- 2011-2012 Student Representative, American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Religion Council

Ad Hoc Reviewer *Social Science Research, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Social Problems, Politics and Religion, Review of Religious Research, Social Psychological Quarterly, Work and Occupations, Political Review, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Contemporary Sociology, Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science, Sociological Spectrum, Politics and Religion Journal (Europe), Journal of Homosexuality, The Sociological Quarterly, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Sociology of Religion, Michigan Sociological Review, Secularism and Nonreligion, American Journal of Sociology, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, Social Forces, Social Currents, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, & Parties, Oxford University Press.*

Memberships Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology Honor Society), Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Association for the Sociology of Religion, Religion Research Association

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- March 5, 2013 KVEO News Center 23, McAllen, Texas
(<http://www.kveo.com/news/one-five-americans-has-no-religion>)
- December 22, 2015 “Reflections on the New Mormon Gender Survey,” Mormon Matters podcast
(mormonmatters.org/2015/12/22/316-reflections-on-the-new-mormon-gender-survey/)