

Erin F. Johnston

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Stanford University

2018-Present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University
2016-2018 Lecturer, Thinking Matters Program, Introductory Studies, Stanford University

Princeton University

2015-2016 Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Princeton University (2015-2016)

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D. Sociology (2015)
Dissertation: *Learning to Practice, Becoming Spiritual: Spiritual Disciplines as Projects of the Self*
(Chair: Robert Wuthnow)
M.A. Sociology (2011)

Rutgers University

B.A. Psychology and Sociology (2007), *Summa Cum Laude*
Thesis: “Totalizing Cognitive Authority: Undivided Commitment to an Institutional Worldview”
(Advisor: Eviatar Zerubavel)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Cultural Sociology, Sociology of Religion, Social Psychology, Self and Identity, Culture and Cognition, Narrative, Emotions, Sociology of Education, Contemporary Spirituality, Theory, Qualitative Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters (*equal authorship)

Johnston, Erin F. Forthcoming. "Yoga as a Way of Life: Authenticity through Identity Management," in J. Patrick Williams and Kaylan Schwarz (eds), *Studies on the Social Construction of Identity and Authenticity*. London: Routledge.

DeGloma, Thomas and **Erin F. Johnston**.* 2019. “Cognitive Migrations: Towards a Cultural & Cognitive Sociology of Personal Transformation,” in Brekhus, Wayne and Gabe Ignatow (eds) *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Johnston, Erin F. 2017. “Failing to Learn, or Learning to Fail? Accounting for Shortcomings in the Acquisition of Spiritual Disciplines.” *Qualitative Sociology*. 40(3): 353-372.

Johnston, Erin F. 2016. "The Enlightened Self: Identity and Aspiration in Two Communities of Practice." *Religions*. 7(7): 92.

Johnston, Erin F. 2016. "Anticipating the Future: The Growth of Practice-Oriented Spiritualties," in Eugene V. Gallagher (ed), *Visioning New and Minority Religions: Projecting the Future*. Ashgate.

Johnston, Erin F. 2013. "'I was Always this Way...': Rhetorics of Continuity in Narratives of Conversion." *Sociological Forum*. 28(3): 549-573.

- Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion (Honorable Mention), 2012
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention), 2011

Manuscripts Under Review and In Progress

Johnston, Erin F. and Vikash Singh (eds). *Interpreting Religion: The Meanings of Religious Belief and Practice*. Under contract with Bristol University Press.

"The Feeling of Enlightenment: Emotional Transformation through Yoga and Prayer." [Under Review]

"Failure in Religious Contexts," in preparation for the *Handbook of Failure: Perspectives from Sociology and Other Social Sciences*, edited by Adriana Mica, Anna Horolets, and Mikołaj Pawlak

"Our Songs of Our Selves: The Social Performance of Self-Reflexivity." [with Thomas DeGloma]

"Minding the Gap: Theories of Transformative Change on American Gap Year Programs."

Book Reviews

Johnston, Erin F. Forthcoming. Book review of *Solitary Pagans: Contemporary Witches, Wiccans & Others Who Practice Alone* – by Helen A Berger. *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*.

Johnston, Erin F. 2013. Book review of *Celebrating Debutantes and Quinceañeras: Coming of Age in American Ethnic Communities* – by Evelyn I. Rodriguez. *Social Forces*.

Johnston, Erin F. 2013. Book review of *Mapping Religion and Spirituality in a Postsecular World* – edited by Giuseppe Giordan and Enzo Pace. *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*.

Research Reports and Professional Publications

Dawes, Elliot, **Erin F. Johnston**, Luke Parrot, and Kurt Youngberg.* 2019. "2019 State of the Field Survey: Executive Report." Gap Year Association.

Johnston, Erin F. 2017. "Artists in Motion: A Survey of Recent Funding for Artistic Exchange, 2009-2015." NYU Brademas Center.

Lena, Jennifer C. and **Erin F. Johnston**.* 2015. "US Cultural Engagement with Global Muslim Communities: Contours and Connections in an Emerging Field." *Grantmakers in the Arts Reader*.

Lena, Jennifer C. and **Erin F. Johnston**.* 2015. "U.S. Cultural Engagement with Global Muslim Communities: Contours and Connections in an Emerging Field." NYU Brademas Center.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

2019 Jack Shand Research Grant Recipient, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: “Religion and the Gap Year Experience” (\$4,332)

2018 Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion, Selected Participant (with Travel Funding), University of Notre Dame

2015-2017 Co-Principal Investigator (with Thomas DeGloma). “Travel as Transformative Experience.” University of Norte Dame: *The Experience Project* (\$30,000)

2015 Marvin Bressler Graduate Student Teaching Award, Princeton University

2010-2014 Graduate Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University

2012 Association for the Sociology of Religion, Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention)

2012 Dissertation Support Grant, Sociology Department, Princeton University (\$1,000)

2011 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention)

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

2019 “Religion and the (International) Gap Year: Challenges, Opportunities, and Best Practices.” Gap Year Association Annual Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill.

2019 “Yoga as a Way of Life: Authenticity Through Identity Management.” Culture and Identity Regular Panel Session. ASA, New York

2019 “Our Songs of Our Selves: The Social Performance of Self-Reflexivity” [with Thomas DeGloma]. Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Conference.

2018 “Turning Off Cruise Control: How Spiritual Communities Facilitate Personal Change.” Interpretive Sociology Pre-Conference (Philadelphia).

2018 “Failure in Religious Contexts.” Unintended Consequences Workshop, “The Power of Failure: New Perspectives in Social Theory and Practice.” (Warsaw, Poland)

2018 “The Holy Spirit Speaks through our Affects: Models of Emotion at a Catholic Spiritual Center.” Younger Scholars in the Sociology of Religion Conference (Notre Dame).

2017 “The Holy Spirit Speaks through our Affects: Models of Emotion at a Catholic Spiritual Center.” Sociology of Emotion Section Regular Panel, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Montreal).

2017 “American Gap Year Providers and the Social Construction of Place.” Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting (Montreal).

2015 “It’s about the Journey: Spirituality as an Aspirational Identity.” Narrative, Biography, and Culture Regular Panel, American Sociological Association (Chicago).

2015 "Betwixt and Between: Constructing the Spiritual in Two Communities of Practice." Culture and Cognition Mini-Conference. Eastern Sociological Society (NYC).

2014 "Keeping Practitioners Engaged: Dealing with Failure in Spiritual Disciplines." Social Psychology Section Regular Panel. American Sociological Association (San Francisco).

2014 "Roots and Wings: Discipline and Agency in the Cultivation of Spiritual Selves." Ways of Knowing: Graduate Conference on Religion, Harvard Divinity School, 2014.

INVITED AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2019 "Minding the Gap: The Theory and Practice of Transformative Learning on American Gap Year Programs." Rutgers Graduate School of Education, Brown Bag Lecture Series.

2017 "Artists in Motion: Trends in Private Sector Giving for Artistic Exchange, 2009-2015." ACC Forum: Making the Case for Cultural Exchange (NYU).

2017 "Cultural Mobility: A Bird's Eye View." Alliance of Artists Communities Annual Conference (Denver).

PANELS ORGANIZED

2019 "Spiritual Practices," Learning Religion Conference, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University.

2018 "Interpreting Religion." The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology (ASA Pre-Conference), Philadelphia. [Co-organized with Dan Winchester]

2018 "Identity Formation and Transformation." The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology (ASA Pre-Conference), Philadelphia. [Co-organized with Dan Winchester]

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Consultant, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, 2016-2019

Project: Trends in Private Sector Giving by, for, and about Muslim Communities in the USA

Research Consultant, John Brademas Center (NYU), 2017

Project: Artists in Motion: A Survey of Recent Funding for Artistic Exchange [full report [here](#)]

Research Consultant, AKA|Strategy (NYC), 2014-2016

I compiled reports to help inform new funding programs at major philanthropic foundations.

Research Assistant to Jennifer C. Lena (Columbia University), 2014

Project: Annual Report – Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (Summer 2014)

Project: US Cultural Engagement with Global Muslim Communities (Spring 2014)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Director, Verto Education, Portland State University

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Spring 2020)

Introduction to Sociology: Sociology of Identity (Spring 2020)

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Stanford University

The Sociology of Emotion (Winter 2019)

Lecturer, Thinking Matters Program, Stanford Introductory Studies, Stanford University

Empathy (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

Belief (Winter 2017)

Reading the Body: How Culture and Medicine Define the Self (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)

Lecturer, Division of Social Sciences, Bennington College

Self and Society (Fall 2014)

Transformations of the Self (Fall 2014)

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Kean University

Self and Society (Spring 2012)

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

Travelers, Tourists, and Pilgrims (Spring 2016)

Self and Society (Fall 2015)

Introduction to Sociology, with Professor Paul Starr (Fall 2015)

As Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

Sociology of the E-Street: Bruce Springsteen's America (Spring 2015, Fall 2009)

Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2013, Fall 2011)

Attitudes, Identities and Social Interaction (Spring 2013)

Sociological Theory (Spring 2011)

Other Teaching-Related Activities

July 2019 Organizer/Facilitator, "Visualizing Knowledge: Using Mapping Activities to Enhance Student Learning," Postdoc Pedagogy Club Meeting, Stanford University.

2017-2019 Pre-Major Advisor, Undergraduate Advising and Research, Stanford University

Fall 2017 Organizer/Facilitator, "Mind Maps: Visualizing and Integrating Learning." All Fellows Pedagogy Training, Thinking Matters Program, Stanford University.

2015-2016 Student Advising: Junior Theses, Department of Sociology, Princeton University
I was the primary advisor for 16 students completing independent research projects.

2012-2013 Invited Participant, Teagle Foundation Seminar on Teaching in the Research University, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University

2009-2013 Participant, Teaching Transcript Program, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University, Requirements Completed: Spring 2013

Fall 2009 Coordinator, Community-Based Learning Initiative (CBLI) Course Project in *Bruce Springsteen's America: Sociology of the E-Street*, Princeton University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

2018-Present Member, Research Committee, Gap Year Association

2019 Chair, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Religion Section, 2019 Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association (NYC)

2019 Member, Organizing Committee, “Learning Religion: Institutions, Texts, Practices, and Imaginaries.” One-day Conference, Stanford University, April 2019.

2018 Organizer, Round Table Sessions, Religion Section, 2018 Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association (Philadelphia)

2018 Member, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Emotion Section, 2018 Annual Meeting, American Sociological Association (Philadelphia)

2018 Member, Program Committee, “The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology: Cultural, Pragmatist, and Psychosocial Approaches,” Conference (Philadelphia)

2015 Member, Program Scheduling Committee, Annual Meeting (NYC), Eastern Sociological Society (NYC)

2014-2015 Member, Organizing Committee, Interdisciplinary Ethnography Workshop (*Blurring the Boundaries of Practice*), Princeton University

2013 Member, Selection Committee, Graduate Mentoring Award Committee, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University

2012-2013 Cohort Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC), Department of Sociology, Princeton University

Ad hoc Reviewer Journals: *Social Forces*; *Sociological Forum*; *Qualitative Sociology*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; *Ethnography*; *Symbolic Interaction*; *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*; *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*

Member American Sociological Association
Sections: Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Culture, Social Psychology, Emotions, Theory, Teaching and Learning

Eastern Sociological Association

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

REFERENCES: RESEARCH

Robert Wuthnow

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Thomas DeGloma

Department of Sociology
Hunter College – CUNY
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Ari Kelman

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Stanford University
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REFERENCES: TEACHING

Ellen Woods

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Stanford University
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Paul Starr

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Ronald Cohen

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