

Brian J. Miller

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Wheaton College
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Sociology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, July 2021-present
Associate Professor, Sociology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, July 2015-June 2021
Assistant Professor, Sociology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, July 2009-June 2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, August 2009, University of Notre Dame
Comprehensive Exams: Sociology of Culture (with distinction), Statistics/Methods
M.A., Sociology, 2006, University of Notre Dame
B.A., Sociology, Anthropology, 2004, Wheaton College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Suburbs	Religion and Place	Social Media	Housing
Urban Sociology	Sociology of Culture	Emerging Adults	

COURSES TAUGHT (counts including Fall 2022 semester)

Soc 115 Introduction to Sociology (x16)	Soc 359 American Suburbanization (x2)
Soc 220 The Suburban Church (x1)	Soc 364 Urban Sociology (x7)
Soc 238 Contemporary Social Concerns (x1)	Soc 383 Statistics (x14)
Soc 251 Culture, Media, & Society (x5)	Soc 482 Social Research (x16)
Core 101 First Year Seminar: The Suburban Good Life (x5)	

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Brenneman, Robert and Brian J. Miller. 2020. *Building Faith: A Sociology of Religious Structures*. New York: Oxford University Press.
*Reviewed in: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft*, *Sociology of Religion*

Peer-reviewed articles

Miller, Brian J. 2022. "More than 300 Teardowns Later: Patterns in Architecture and Location among Teardowns in Naperville, Illinois, 2008-2017." *Journal of Urban Design* 27(3):310-327.

Miller, Brian J. 2022. "From 'Jungles of Terror' to 'God Will Begin a Healing in This City': Billy Graham and Evangelicals on Cities and Suburbs." *Journal of Urban History* 48(2):302-318.

Miller, Brian J. and Benjamin E. Norquist. 2021. "Christian Colleges in the Locational Wilderness: The Locations of CCCU Institutions." *Christian Higher Education* 20(4):223-239.

- Miller, Brian J. 2020. "Religious Freedom and Local Conflict: Religious Buildings and Zoning Issues in the New York City Region, 1992-2017." *Sociology of Religion* 81(4):462-484.
- Miller, Brian J. and Peter Munday. 2020. "Emerging SNS Use: The Importance of Social Network Sites for Older American Emerging Adults." *Journal of Youth Studies* 23(5):613-630.
- Miller, Brian J. and David B. Malone. 2019. "Race, Town, and Gown: A White Christian College and a White Suburb Address Race." *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 112(3): 293-316.
- Miller, Brian J. 2019. "'Would Prefer a Trailer Park to a Large [Religious] Structure': Suburban Responses to Proposals for Religious Buildings." *The Sociological Quarterly* 60(2):265-286.
- Miller, Brian J. 2018. "Still Standing After All These Years: The Presence and Internet Presentation of Religious Buildings in the Chicago Area, 1936-2016." *Visual Studies* 33(4):326-342.
- Miller, Brian J. 2018. "A McMansion for the Suburban Mob Family: The Unfulfilling Single-Family Home of *The Sopranos*." *Journal of Popular Film and Television* 46(4):207-218.
- Miller, Brian J. 2017. "Growing Suburbs, Relocating Churches: The Suburbanization of Protestant Churches in the Chicago Region, 1925-1990." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(2):342-364.
- Miller, Brian J. 2017. "From I Love Lucy in Connecticut to Desperate Housewives' Wisteria Lane: Suburban TV Shows, 1950-2007." *Sociological Focus* 50(3):277-290.
- Miller, Brian J. 2016. "A Small Suburb Becomes a Boomburb: Explaining Suburban Growth in Naperville, Illinois." *Journal of Urban History* 42(6):1135-1152.
- Brenneman, Robert and Brian J. Miller. 2016. "When Bricks Matter: Four Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings." *Sociology of Religion* 77(1):82-101.
- Miller, Brian J. 2016. "Measuring Religion in Different Spatial Contexts: How Surveys Involving Religion Inconsistently Determine Locations." *Review of Religious Research* 58(2):285-304.
- Miller, Brian J. and Peter Munday. 2015. "Follow the Rules and No One Will Get Hurt: Performing Boundary Work to Avoid Negative Interactions When Using Social Network Sites." *Information, Communication, and Society* 18(2):187-201.
- Miller, Brian J. 2013. "Not All Suburbs are the Same: The Role of Character in Shaping Growth and Development in Three Chicago Suburbs." *Urban Affairs Review* 49(5): 652-677.

Miller, Brian J., Peter Munday, and Jonathan P. Hill. 2013. "Faith in the Age of Facebook: Exploring the Links Between Religion and Social Network Site Membership and Use." *Sociology of Religion* 74(2):227-253.

*In *Sociology of Religion: A Reader* (3rd Edition), Mirola, Emerson, Monahan (editors.)

Miller, Brian J. 2012. "Competing Visions of the American Single Family Home: Defining McMansions in the New York Times and Dallas Morning News, 2000-2009." *Journal of Urban History* 38(6):1094-1113.

Miller, Brian J. 2008. "The Struggle Over Redevelopment at Cabrini-Green, 1989-2004." *Journal of Urban History* 34(6):944-960.

Chapter in an edited volume

Miller, Brian J. 2021. "Faith in the Suburbs: Evangelical Christian Books about Suburban Life." Pp. 119-135 in *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities*, edited by Katie Day and Elise M. Edwards. New York: Routledge.

Other publications

Miller, Brian J. 2022. Review of Pitts, Richard N. 2022. *Church Planters: Inside the World of Religion Entrepreneurs*. *Social Forces*. ([link](#))

Miller, Brian J. 2021. "Planning and Religious Pluralism, Community by Community." *Planning Theory & Practice* 22(2):297-300.

Miller, Brian J. 2021. Review of Mulder, Mark T. and Gerardo Martí. 2020. *The Glass Church: Robert H. Schuller, the Crystal Cathedral, and the Strain of Megachurch Ministry*. *Review of Religious Research* 62(4):631-632.

Miller, Brian J. 2018. "Suburbanism." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*. Ed. Lynette Spillman. New York: Oxford University Press. ([link](#))

Miller, Brian J. 2014. "Suburban America." Pp. 844-849 in *American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social, and Cultural Change, Second Edition*, edited by James Ciment and John Radzilowski. Armonk, NY: Sharpe Reference.

Miller, Brian J. 2014. Review of Krattenmaker, Tom. 2013. *The Evangelicals You Don't Know: Introducing the Next Generation of Christians*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. *Sociology of Religion* 75(2):339-340.

Miller, Brian J. 2006. Review of Crowley, Gregory J. 2005. *The Politics of Place: Contentious Urban Redevelopment In Pittsburgh*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. *Mobilization* 11(2).

Works in progress

Miller, Brian J. Book under contract with Oxford University Press for study of how American evangelicals embraced the suburbs.

Miller, Brian J. "Branding Suburbs." Under review.

Kisiel, Caroline and Brian J. Miller. "Racial Patterns in Illinois over Two-Plus Centuries."

Miller, Brian J. "Urban Settings of Television Shows."

PRESENTATIONS

Miller, Brian J. August 2022. "Go and Make Disciples in Cities, Suburbs, and Rural Areas: Religious Traditions and Communities, 1972-2016." American Sociological Association meetings, Los Angeles.

Miller, Brian J. October 2021. "Religion, Place, and *The Glass Church*." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, Portland.

Kisiel, Caroline and Brian J. Miller. October 2021. "Race in Illinois: Stories from Southern Counties and Northern Suburbs." Conference on Illinois History, Springfield.

Miller, Brian J. August 2021. "Insert Your [Suburban] Logo Here: Using Logos to Brand Municipalities in the Chicago Region." American Sociological Association meetings, remote.

Miller, Brian J. and Caroline Kisiel. November 2020. "Race in Illinois: From Southern Counties to Northern Suburbs." Wheaton Public Library.

Miller, Brian J. September 2020. "Naperville: A Small Suburb Becomes a Boomburb." North Central College Transfer Seminar (CARD 200) class session.

Miller, Brian J. August 2020 [accepted but not given due to COVID-19]. "Different Shows, Consistent Locations: Popular American Television and Depictions of Big Cities, 1950-2007." American Sociological Association meetings.

Miller, Brian J. October 2019. "'From Jungles of Terror' to 'God Will Begin a Healing in this City': Billy Graham, Evangelical Religious Leaders, and Suburbanization." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, St. Louis.

Brenneman, Robert and Brian J. Miller. October 2019. "Space-bending for Religious Purposes: Repurposing Buildings for Religious Worship." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, St. Louis.

Miller, Brian J. August 2019. "Metropolitan Pluralism and Conflict: Religious Buildings and Zoning Issues in the New York City Region, 1992-2017." American Sociological Association meetings, New York City.

Miller, Brian J. April 2019. "Screens, Social Media, and Spirituality: Technology and Religiosity Among Emerging Adults." The Wheaton Mission & Ministry Conference, Wheaton.

- Miller, Brian J. August 2018. “Holy Cities and Suburbs: Resources, Local Inertia, and the Clustering of Evangelical Protestant Organizations.” Association for the Sociology of Religion meetings, Philadelphia.
- Munday, Peter and Brian J. Miller. August 2018. “Spirituality, Shopping, Buying, and Owning: The Relationship Between Faith and Consumerism in Older Emerging Adults.” American Sociological Association meetings, Philadelphia.
- Miller, Brian J. and Peter Munday. August 2017. “Emerging and Diverging SNS Use: The Importance of Social Network Sites for Older Emerging Adults.” American Sociological Association meetings, Montreal.
- Miller, Brian J. October 2016. Author Meets Critics panel for *Shades of White Flight: Evangelical Congregations and Urban Departure*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, Atlanta.
- Miller, Brian J. October 2016. “All on Board for Suburban Railroads? Examining the Role of Railroads in Three Chicago Suburbs.” Urban History Association meetings, Chicago.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2016. “The Effects of Local Regulations and Public Responses on Proposed Religious Buildings in the Suburbs.” American Sociological Association meetings, Seattle.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2015. “Measuring Religion in the American Suburbs: How Surveys Involving Religion Inconsistently Determine Locations.” American Sociological Association meetings, Chicago.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2015. “Passing Decades, Changing Structures: Continuity and Change in the Church Buildings of Three Denominations in the Chicago Region.” Association for the Sociology of Religion meetings, Chicago.
- Miller, Brian J. June 2015. “Interactions Between the Self and Community in the Holy Suburb of Wheaton, Illinois.” Association of Christians Teaching Sociology, St. David’s, PA.
- Miller, Brian J. November 2014. “The Suburbanization of Protestant Churches in the Chicago Region, 1925-1969.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, Indianapolis.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2014. “From Father Knows Best to Desperate Housewives: Suburban Television Shows, 1950-2007.” American Sociological Association meetings, San Francisco.
- Miller, Brian J. and Peter Munday. August 2013. “Follow the Informal rules to Limit Harm: Avoiding Negative Interactions When Using Social Network Sites.” American Sociological Association meetings, New York City.

- Miller, Brian J. August 2012. "The Holy Suburbs: The Suburban Spatial Logic of American Evangelicals." American Sociological Association meetings, Denver.
- Miller, Brian J., Peter Munday, Jonathan P. Hill. October 2011. "Reading the Writing on the Wall: How Bible Reading Affects SNS Use Among Emerging Adults." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, Milwaukee.
- Miller, Brian J., Peter Munday, Jonathan P. Hill. August 2011. "The Nexus between Sitting in the Pews and Using Facebook: How Religion Affects SNS Use." American Sociological Association meetings, Las Vegas.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2010. "Not All Suburbs Are the Same: Examining Suburban Character." American Sociological Association meetings, Atlanta.
- Miller, Brian J. August 2009. "A Two-Edged Sword: The Dynamic and Occasionally Surprising Religious Character of a Chicago Suburb. American Sociological Association meetings, San Francisco.
- Miller, Brian J. 2008. "Suburban Growth, Adaptation, and Interaction: A New Approach for Studying Suburbs." American Sociological Association meetings, Boston.
- Miller, Brian J. 2008. "New Avenues of Research for Urban Ethnographies." Society for the Study of Social Problems meetings, Boston.
- Miller, Brian J. 2007. "Tastes in Buying the Single-Family American Home." American Sociological Association meetings, New York City.
- Miller, Brian J. 2007. "One Man's Dream House is Another Man's McMansion." Midwest Sociological Society/North Central Sociological Association meetings, Chicago.
- Miller, Brian J. 2006. "Cognition and the City." American Sociological Association meetings, Montreal.
- Miller, Brian J. and Daniel J. Myers. 2006. "Neighborhoods Escaping and Sliding Into Poverty: Tract Characteristics and Poverty Outcomes, 1990 to 2000." North Central Sociological Association Meetings, Indianapolis.
- Miller, Brian J. 2005. "Communicative Action Theory and Modern War: Jurgen Habermas on the War in Iraq." Midwest Sociological Society conference, Minneapolis.
- Miller, Brian J. 2005. "Public Housing Reform In Chicago: The Struggle Over Change at the Cabrini-Green Housing Project, 1989-2004." Midwest Sociological Society conference, Minneapolis

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Faculty Travel Grant, Wheaton College, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013,

2012, 2011, 2010, 2009.

Opus Vocation Scholar. Wheaton College. August 2018-April 2019, \$1,200.

Opus Faculty Fellow. Wheaton College. August 2017-April 2018, \$4,500.

Junior Faculty Development Grant. Wheaton College. July 2011-June 2012, \$3,800.

Junior Faculty Development Grant. Wheaton College. July 2010-June 2011, \$3,800.

University of Notre Dame Department of Sociology Fifth-Year Dissertation Fellowship.
Fall 2008-Spring 2009, \$15,000.

Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Research Opportunity Program,
University of Notre Dame, \$1,750, Fall 2008-Spring 2009.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

More Than This podcast. 2020. "Building Faith (with guests Robert Brenneman & Brian Miller)." Posted online 11/5/20 at [link](#).

Stetzer, Ed. 2019. "One-on-One with Brian Miller on Emerging Adults, Social Media and Faith." *The Exchange with Ed Stetzer*, posted online 4/9/19 at [link](#).

Cohen, Lindsey. 2017. "Upsizing on the Upswing: The Big Decision More Homeowners Are Making." *Zillow Porchlight*, posted online 8/4/17 at [link](#).

Jonsson, Patrik. 2017. "Blue surge in Georgia: What election shows about shifts in suburban values." *Christian Science Monitor*, posted online 4/19/17 at [link](#).

Hurley, Amanda Kolson. 2017. "Why we love to hate McMansions, but still buy them." *Washington Post*, posted online 1/19/17 at [link](#).

Umberger, Mary. 2012. "McMansions: What's the big deal?" *Chicago Tribune*, posted online 5/11/12 at [link](#).

Tomaso, Bruce. 2012. "Is that house down the street a 'McMansion'? Depends on whom you ask." *Dallas Morning News*, posted online 4/24/12 at [link](#).

Berg, Nate. 2012. "The Widely Variable Definition of 'McMansion.'" *The Atlantic Cities*, posted online 4/20/12 at [link](#).

Sanserino, Michael. 2012. "Tim Tebow's gridiron faith sparks praise, comedic bits and criticism." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, posted online 1/8/12 at [link](#).

Loza, Cyndi. 2010. "Local woman goes on national tour to promote book about race." *Glen Ellyn News*, posted online 5/9/10 at [link](#).

WHEATON COLLEGE SERVICE

Co-chair, Christ at the Core Review Task Force (Aug 2022-present)
Faculty Mentoring Program (Spring 2021, Fall 2022-present)
New Faculty Orientation session on classroom and syllabus practices (Aug 2021, Aug 2022)
Quoted in Wheaton alumni magazine in Bratcher, Emily. 2022 “Kids These Days: Insights on College Freshman, Emerging Adulthood, and Gen-Z.” posted online 6/27/22 at [link](#).
Curricular Policies Working Group (May 2021-Aug 2021)
Curriculum Committee Internal Task Force to Study Cohorts (Feb 2021-May 2021)
Peer Teaching Evaluation for faculty in other departments (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)
Wheaton College Faculty Council (Jul 2016-Jun 2017, Jul 2020-Jun 2022)
Research and Evaluation of Student Learning Committee member (Jul 2019-June 2022), co-chair of committee (Jul 2020-Jun 2022), chair of Christ at the Core Subcommittee (Aug 2019-Jun 2022)
Christian Formation and Ministry Department chair review (Dec 2019)
Wheaton Center for Faith & Innovation internal board member (Aug 2019-present)
Search committee for Academic Advisors (May 2019, Oct 2019-Jan 2020)
Search committee for the Registrar (Dec 2018-Mar 2019, Jul 2020-Aug 2020)
Department Chair Sociology and Anthropology (Jul 2018-Jun 2022)
Sociology program chair (Aug 2011-May 2012, Aug 2017-May 2018, Jul 2022-present))
Faculty adviser to the student newspaper *The Wheaton Record* (Jul 2017-Jun 2018)
Sexual Violence Prevention Council (Jan 2016-Apr 2016)
Freshman Advisor (Jan 2014-May 2016, Jan 2018-Jun 2018)
Curriculum Committee member (Jul 2015-Jun 2017) and committee chair (Jul 2016-Jun 2017)
Center for Urban Engagement Supporting Faculty (Sep 2014-present)
Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee member (Aug 2014-Jun 2015)
EPCC/Curriculum Committee liaison to RESL (Research and Evaluation of Student Learning) Committee (Aug 2014-May 2016)
General Education Summit Committee (Apr 2014-May 2015)
Wheaton College BRIDGE program instructor (Jun 2014)
General Education Revision Committee (Sep 2012-Feb 2014)
Urban Studies Advisory Committee (Aug 2011-May 2013)
Department representative for Alpha Kappa Delta - national honor society for sociology students (Aug 2011-present)
Conducted 5 independent studies with students and supervised 13 internships

WHEATON COLLEGE PARTICIPATION

Christ at the Core and Post-Pandemic Realities May 9-10, 2022
Soul Care Faculty Seminar May 11, 2021
Guest speaker in BITH 674 Theology and the Liberal Arts Mar 2021, Mar 2020, Mar 2019
Center for Vocation and Career Faculty Fellows Spring 2021
Department Chair Training Aug 10-11, 2020
Case study research with the Wheaton Center for Faith & Innovation, Apr 14-17, 2020
Department Chair Training Aug 13-14, 2019
Christ at the Core Training May 13-14, 2019
CVC Declaration Dinner Jan 2020, Jan 2019, Jan 2016
Opus Vocation Scholar Aug 2018-May 2019

Conflict Resolution Training May 2019; May 2018
CACE Seminar May 15-17, 2019; May 9-11, 2018; May 10-12, 2017; May 14-16, 2014
Faith and Learning in the Classroom Faculty Seminar May 7-9, 2018
Opus Faculty Fellow Aug 2017-May 2018
Colloquium on Christian Social Thought Aug 2-4, 2017
First Year Seminar Faculty Training May 9-11, 2016
Wheaton College Radio (WETN): sports play-by-play – Fall 2009, production and music manager - Feb 2013-Feb 2017

WHEATON COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS

“Preparing for the Wheaton College Classroom.” New Faculty Orientation, Aug 15, 2022, Aug 16, 2021.
“Syllabus and Course Design for Post-Pandemic Students.” Christ at the Core and Post-Pandemic Realities Session, May 9, 2022.
“Constructing *Building Faith: A Sociology of Religious Structures*.” Buswell Scholars Series, Jan 19, 2022.
“Teaching Efficiencies for Effective Pedagogy and Work/Life Balance.” Panel facilitator and participant, New Faculty Development Seminar, Nov 18, 2021.
“Responding to Student Feedback Surveys.” Panel for Faculty Development Day, Aug 20, 2021.
“Disciplines, Divisions, and the Liberal Arts.” Recorded presentation for First Year Seminars. Jul 8, 2020.
“Two Wheatons: Race at Wheaton College and in Wheaton, Illinois” Solidarity Cabinet event, Mar 19, 2020 [canceled due to COVID-19].
“Metropolitan Pluralism & Conflict: Religious Buildings and Zoning Issues in the New York City Region, 1992-2017.” Wheaton Center for Faith, Politics & Economics, Nov 14, 2019.
“A Christian Vocation of Suburban Living: What Evangelical Books Get Right and Wrong about the Suburban Good Life.” Opus Lunch and Learn Sep 29, 2019.
“Creating a Sustainable Work/Life Balance.” Department Chair Training, Aug 14, 2019.
“Conducting Research with Students in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.” Faculty Development Day, Feb 5, 2019.
“Scaffolding Assignments.” New Faculty Development Seminar, Nov 27, 2018.
“Introducing the Liberal Arts.” First Year Seminar training, Aug 15, 2018.
“Narrating the FYS and the Shared Texts.” First Year Seminar training, May 9, 2017.
“Two Wheatons? Historical Background of Race at Wheaton College and the Surrounding Suburbs.” Solidarity Cabinet event, Nov 4, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional Roles

Alpha Kappa Delta mentor, February 2022-May 2022
Organizer of Author-Meets-Critics Session for *The Glass Church*, October 2021, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meetings, Portland.
Professional Development Committee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2021-2022
Book Review Editor, *Review of Religious Research*, January 2016-December 2019

Journals reviewed for: *American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Sociology of Religion, Sociological Forum, City & Community, The Sociological Quarterly, Sociological Focus, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Urban Affairs Review, Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies, American Sociological Review, Journalism, Housing Policy Debate, Visual Studies, Review of Religious Research, Sociology Compass*

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association

Sections: Community and Urban Sociology, Culture, Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Religious Research Association

Alpha Kappa Delta (chapter representative)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Member of Wheaton Public Library Diversity, Equity, Inclusion group, September 2020-present

Worship leader, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, IL, August 2017-December 2019

Musician, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, IL, October 2009-August 2017

Worship leader, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Bend, IN, August 2007-May 2009

Youth group leader, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Bend, IN, June 2007-June 2009