

May 2023

Stephen Cranney

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<https://stephencranney.github.io>

POSITIONS:

2019-Present

Principal, Cranney Data Science. (Client references available upon request).

- Provided a wide variety of data products and services to various institutions. Cleaned and operationalized unstructured data, produced data visualizations and analytics using geospatial data, conducted network analysis using scraped online data, and produced predictive analytics using conventional and machine learning methods on big data (~2 petabytes). Helped design message testing and formulate data-informed strategy.
- Collected and communicated Open Source Intelligence (OSINT).
- Provided data science services to a startup hedge fund. Calculated Sharpe and Sortino ratios for various investment parameters; tested the efficacy of a variety of strategies.
- Consulted on the methodology for detecting racial bias in artificial intelligence algorithms used in the insurance and other industries.
- Served as an expert consultant for various court cases.
- Designed, executed, weighted, and analyzed the largest and most representative national survey of US Catholic priests in the past ten years for a fraction of the cost of comparable surveys.
- Designed, executed, analyzed, and helped produce data visualizations for a large-N, nationally representative survey about attitudes towards the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Designed, executed, and analyzed other large-N, nationally representative surveys.

2018-Present
2022

Non-Resident Fellow, Institute for the Studies of Religion, Baylor University
Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Catholic University of America

- Taught course on sexuality and gender.

2019-2021

Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Bowie State University

- Taught courses in statistics.

2018-2019

Statistician, Education and Social Stratification Branch, Census Bureau

- Produced official, public-facing data products as well as original research. Also performed quality checks on data and tested usability of data instruments.

2017-2019

Freelance Data Scientist

- Provided a variety of data science services such as seasonality analyses for sales, sales projections, client duration calculation and prediction, and location-fixed

- effects for comparative purposes for a variety of industries including a gym chain and housing/construction firms.
- 2015-2018 Postdoctoral Scholar, Institute for the Studies of Religion, Baylor University
- Conducted both independent and coauthored research. Collaborated with criminologists, psychologists, demographers, medical researchers, sexologists, and sociologists.
- 2017 Adjunct Lecturer, Church History and Doctrine Department, BYU-Provo
- Taught course on the Eternal Family.
- 2015-2017 Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Baylor University
- Taught courses in social demography and introductory sociology.
- 2010-11 Chief Operating Officer, WomanStats Project
- Managed a team of approximately two dozen thematic coders for the most comprehensive compilation of information on the status of women in the world. Also directed fundraising and grant-writing efforts.

EDUCATION:

- 2015 Dual Ph.D., Sociology and Demography
University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 M.A. Demography
University of Pennsylvania
- 2011 B.A. Political Science, Sociology Minor
Brigham Young University

PUBLICATIONS:

- Forthcoming Vermurlen, Brad, Mark Regnerus, and Stephen Cranney. "Is the Catholic Church in America Experiencing Internal Secularization? Priests' Assessments of Pope Francis and the Condition of the Church" *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.
- Forthcoming Cranney, Stephen, and Creighton Meland. "Measuring and Evaluating Public Responses to Religious Rights Rulings." *Federalist Society Review*.
- 2021 Cranney, Stephen. "Are Christians More Likely to Invoke RFRA – and Win – than other Religions since Hobby Lobby?" *Mercer Law Review*. 72(2):4.
- 2021 Bullivant, Stephen, Giovanni Sadewo, and Stephen Cranney. "McCarrick as Kingmaker? A Network Analysis of Episcopal Promotion in the Roman Catholic Church." *Catholic Social Science Review* 26:247-261
- 2020 Bauman, Kurt and Stephen Cranney. "School Enrollment in the United States: 2020" Census Bureau Paper. P20-584.
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/P20-584.html>

- 2020 Cranney, Stephen. "The Influence of Religiosity/Spirituality on Sex Life Satisfaction and Sexual Frequency: Insights from the Baylor Religion Survey." *Review of Religious Research*. 62(4): 1-26
- 2019 Cranney, Stephen. Review of *The Next Mormons: How Millennials are Changing the Mormon Church* by Jana Riess. *BYU Studies*. 58(2): 177-183.
- 2019 Cranney, Stephen. "Which American Languages are Dying? Quantifying the Demographic Vulnerability of Indigenous Languages in the United States." Census Bureau Paper SESHD-WP2019-08.
<https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2019/demo/SEHSD-WP2019-08.html>
- 2019 Cranney, Stephen. "What Kind of People Leave the Church? Social and Demographic Predictors of ex-Latter-day-Saint Status in the Pew Religious Landscape Survey." *BYU Studies*. 58(1): 99-108.
- 2018 Cranney, Stephen, Aleksandar Stulhofer, and Goran Koletić. "Varieties of Religious and Pornographic Experience: Latent Growth in Adolescents' Religiosity and Pornography Use." *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. 28(3): 174-186.
- 2018 Cranney, Stephen, Joseph Leman, Wade Rowatt, and Thomas Fergus. "Hell Anxiety as Non-Pathological Fear." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*. Online first.
- 2017 Joseph, Lauren and Stephen Cranney (equal authorship). "Self-Esteem among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Same-Sex Attracted Mormons and Ex-Mormons." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 20(10): 1028-1041.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen. "Why Did God Make Me This Way? Religious Coping and Framing in the Virtuous Pedophile Community." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(4): 853-868.
- 2017 Harknett, Kristen and Stephen Cranney. "Majority Rules: Sex Ratios and Sexual Norms and Behavior in High Schools." *Population Research and Policy Review* 36(4): 469-500.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen. "Sex Life Satisfaction in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Descriptive and Exploratory Analysis." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 46(7): 1961-1972.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen. "Does Asexuality Meet the Stability Criterion for a Sexual Orientation? Commentary on Brotto and Yule (2017)." Invited commentary. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 46(3): 637.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen. "The LGB Mormon Paradox: Mental, Physical and Self-Rated Health among Mormon and Non-Mormon LGB Individuals in the Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System." *Journal of Homosexuality*. 64(6): 731-744.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen. "Is There a Stronger Association Between Children and Happiness among the Religious? Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Happiness and Fertility." *Journal of Happiness Studies*. 18(6): 1713-1727.

- 2017 Cranney, Stephen and Andrew Miles. "Desperate Housewives? Difference in Work Satisfaction Between Stay-at-Home and Employed Mothers, 1972-2012." *Journal of Family Issues*. 38(11): 1604-1625.
- 2017 Cranney, Stephen and Aleksandar Stulhofer. "Whosoever Looketh on a Person to Lust After Them?: Religiosity, the Use of Mainstream and Nonmainstream Sexually Explicit Material, and Sexual Satisfaction in Heterosexual Men and Women." *Journal of Sex Research*. 54(6): 694-705.
- 2016 Cranney, Stephen. "The Theoretical Potential for Selection on Determinants of Fertility to Cause Aggregate Fertility Increases in Human Populations." *Journal of Biodemography and Social Biology* 62(3): 275-280.
- 2016 Cranney, Stephen. "The Temporal Stability of Lack of Sexual Attraction Across Young Adulthood." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 45(3): 743-749.
- 2015 Cranney, Stephen. "The Association Between Belief in God and Fertility Desires in Slovenia and the Czech Republic." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 47(2): 83-89.
- 2015 Cranney, Stephen. "Internet Pornography Use and Sexual Body Image in a Dutch Sample." *International Journal of Sexual Health* 27(3): 316-323.
- 2015 Cranney, Stephen. "The Relationship Between Sexual Victimization and Year in School in US Colleges: Investigating the Parameters of the 'Red Zone.'" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 30(17):3133-3145.
- 2013 Cranney, Stephen. "Do People Who Believe in God Report More Meaning in Their Lives? The Existential Effects of Belief." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52(3): 638-646.
- 2010 Cranney, Stephen. "Father Paneloux, Alyosha Karamazov, and Deference to a God Who Allows the Suffering of Children." *Journal of Camus Studies*: 61-71.
- 2006 Cranney, Stephen and Trevor Salter. "Geologic Hazard Disclosure Laws: Why They Make Sense." *Utah Bar Journal*: 30-37.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH:

Brown, Matthew. "Higher purpose: Study finds belief in God linked to having sense of purpose in life." *Deseret News*. October 22, 2013.
<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865588795/Higher-purpose-Study-finds-belief-in-God-linked-to-having-sense-of-purpose-in-life.html>

Briggs, David. "Who Worries About Hell the Most?" *Christianity Today*. February 4, 2019.
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/february/hell-belief-anxiety-arda-baylor-university.html>

Census Bureau. "Number of People with Master's and Doctoral Degrees Doubles Since 2000." *America Counts*. February 21, 2019.

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/02/number-of-people-with-masters-and-phd-degrees-double-since-2000.html>

Chabria, Anita. “‘Yes means yes’ standard for sexual assault moves to California high schools.” *The Guardian*. September 10, 2015.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/sep/10/yes-means-yes-sexual-assault-california-high-schools>

Julian, Kate. “Why are Young People Having So Little Sex?” *The Atlantic*. December 2018.

https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/12/the-sex-recession/573949/?fbclid=IwAR2xk0uec6jF5-XtWXVuksgb_xjSQE3zFcctPakTKiaM7OXD0dkD2Li5aKo

Reichert, Tim. “Numbers don’t lie, decriminalization kills.” *Denver Gazette*. May 9, 2022.

https://gazette.com/opinion/perspective-numbers-don-t-lie-decriminalization-kills/article_2ace6932-bc1b-11ec-be63-cb97f327bd4e.html

Rocca, Francis X. “U.S. Catholic Priests Are Increasingly Conservative as Faithful Grow More Liberal.” *The Wall Street Journal*. December 18, 2022.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-catholic-priests-are-increasingly-conservative-as-faithful-grow-more-liberal-11671343608>

Walch, Tad, “Survey: Latter-day Saints are everywhere in media, but Americans still know little about them.” *Deseret News*. Nov 5, 2022.

<https://www.deseret.com/2022/11/5/23433846/survey-latter-day-saints-are-everywhere-in-media-but-americans-still-know-little-about-them>

LANGUAGES:

English (native speaker)

Spanish (conversational proficiency)

CODING SKILLS:

Proficient: R (ggplot2 [data visualization], igraph [network analysis]), Python (Numpy, Scipy, Pandas, scikit-learn, GeoPandas, BeautifulSoup [web scraping]), SAS, SQL, Stata, NVivo (qualitative analysis), NetLogo (agent-based modeling)

Some exposure: MATLAB, ArcGIS, LaTeX, AWS, Hadoop, SPSS, Tableau, QGIS (geospatial analytics), PySpark (big data), TensorFlow (machine learning)

For a repository of my coding projects, see my GitHub page: <https://github.com/StephenCranney>.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:

“Dangerous Colleges: Associations Between School-Level Factors and the Risk of Sexual Victimization of Female Students.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (November, 2015)

“Self-Esteem among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Same-Sex-Attracted Mormons and Ex-Mormons.”
Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
(August, 2015)

“Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Children and Happiness.” Invited presentation. Max Planck Institute; Rostock, Germany (11 March, 2015).

“Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Children and Happiness.” Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston (May, 2014)

“The Influence of Belief in God on Pronatalist Attitudes in Slovenia and the Czech Republic.”
Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston
(May, 2014)

“The Relationship Between Risk of Rape and Year in School in US Colleges.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (November, 2013)

Hawkins, Kirk A., Mayavel Amado, and Stephen Cranney. “Beyond Populism: A Typology of Elite Political Discourse with Some Examples.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (September, 2010)

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

2016	Institute for the Studies of Religion (ISR) Research Travel Grant (\$1,000)
2014	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$28,888)
2013	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$24,290)
2012	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$22,032)
2011	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$21,600)

WORKSHOPS, COURSES & SEMINARS:

Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Surveys Course. Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 5-6, 2019
Business Writing Course. US Census Bureau, October 25, 2018
Customer Service Course. US Census Bureau, September 6, 2018
Neal A. Maxwell Institute Seminar: History of the Mormon Family. BYU, June 15-July 26, 2014.
Stanford Workshop in Formal Biodemography. Stanford University, May 21-23, 2012.
Professional Grant Development Workshop. University of Utah, October 6-8, 2010.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

2021-2022	High School Seminary Teacher, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2020	Analyst, Silver Spring Maryland Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Analyzed geospatial Census Bureau data about languages spoken in the DC area to inform decision-making about congregational boundaries.
2015-Present	Academic Reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ad Hoc reviewer for <i>American Sociological Review</i>, <i>Social Forces</i>, <i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i>, <i>Journal of Happiness Studies</i>, <i>Journal of Family Psychology</i>, <i>Archives of Sexual Behavior</i>, <i>Journal of Sex Research</i>, <i>GLBT Family Studies</i>.
2010-2011	Court Appointed Special Advocate <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Assisted with a vulnerable child case and reported to a social worker and guardian ad-litem.