

DEAN HALL (HE/HIM)
SOCIOLOGIST | POLITICS & CULTURE
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ESCONDIDO, CA

EDUCATION:

San Diego State University — M.A. Sociology (expected May 2026)

Thesis (working): "Dismantling the Veil: American Sacred Nationalism as America's Embedded Worldview"; GPA 3.95

California State University San Marcos — B.A. Social Sciences (Dec 2023)

Psychology (primary) | Communications & Political Science (secondary)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher, San Diego State University (Aug 2024 – present)

- M.A. thesis, "Christian Nationalism as Embedded Worldview," employing critical-theory critique, historical-comparative analysis of sermons/political rhetoric, and reflexive auto-ethnography.
- Parallel quantitative project (non-thesis): model how Evangelical identity and political alienation predict belief in election conspiracies using OLS regression on 2020 ANES data.
- Analyze perceived discrimination and powerlessness as mediators of electoral trust.
- Software/Tools: MAXQDA & DeDoose (qualitative coding), Stata & SPSS (statistical analysis).

Primary Investigator/ Research Fellow, Project Rebound Research Lab, Long Beach, CA (Aug 2022)

- Investigated food insecurity at Hispanic-Serving Institutions; designed survey and led data collection on CalFresh barriers.
- Presented findings at Pacific Sociological Association conference (2023).

PUBLICATIONS

Hall, D. (2025). "Serving Hungry College Students: An Investigation into Barriers to CalFresh at a Hispanic-Serving University." Project Rebound Journal (Under Review)

Hall, D. (2025). "Belief in Election Conspiracies: The Interplay of Evangelical Identity and Alienation in Democratic Trust." Sociological Perspectives (under review).

TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025 instructor for one lecture section of SOC 101 "Introductory Sociology" (~25 students) and two linked sections of SOC 101/SOC 296 "Community Engagement Lab" (~25 students each).

Academic year 2024-2025, Instructor of Record for three SOC 101 "Introductory Sociology" (=82 students) Student feedback (Fall 2024 & Spring 2025) highlights an inclusive, high-energy discussion environment that makes theory personally relevant; in response to requests for clearer logistics I implemented a weekly "road-map" and unified Canvas layout, further strengthening course organization.

- Provide bilingual (English/Spanish) office hours and scaffolded assignment support; consistently receive strong mid-semester feedback on clarity and inclusivity of instruction.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

- Bilingual content creation (English ↔ Spanish)
- Theorist-driven TikTok & LinkedIn outreach on Marx, Freire, and postmodernism

PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES:

Project Rebound Research Lab Conference, Long Beach, CA (Aug 2025)

"Sacralized Violence: How American Sacred Nationalism Became America's Long Liturgy." Paper Presentation

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA (Mar 2025).

"Belief in Election Conspiracies: The Interplay of Evangelical Identity and Alienation in Democratic Trust." Paper presentation.

The Dignified Learning Projects – 7th Annual Praxis in Education Student Conference, SDSU (Mar 2025).

"Serving Hungry Students: Barriers to CalFresh Enrollment at a Hispanic-Serving Institution." Poster presentation.

Student Research Symposium, San Diego State University (Feb 2025).

"Belief in Election Conspiracies: The Interplay of Evangelical Identity and Alienation in Democratic Trust." Poster presentation.

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (Mar 2024).

"Serving Hungry Students: Barriers to CalFresh Enrollment at a Hispanic-Serving Institution." Undergraduate round-table.

Project Rebound Research Lab Conference, Long Beach, CA (Aug 2023).

"Serving Hungry Students: Barriers to CalFresh Enrollment at a Hispanic-Serving Institution."

Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (Apr 2023).

"Serving Hungry Students: Barriers to CalFresh Enrollment at a Hispanic-Serving Institution." Undergraduate round-table.

Guest Lecturer/Presentations

Sociology 101, Dr. Rachael Horn-Langford-Instructor, SDSU, Guest Lecturer

"The Invisible Curriculum: How Public Schools Reproduce American Sacred Nationalism." (Oct 2025)

"Your Life as Data: Exploring Autoethnography, Standpoint Epistemology and Cearned Knowledge. As examination of personal narrative, knowledge positioning and embodied experience in sociological research" (Sept 2025)

Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, CSUSM , Guest Lecturer (Mar 2024)

"Incarceration and LGBTQIA+ Experiences from a Gay Man's Perspective."

INNOVATION & COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY

Founder & Lead Developer, Alumbra Mobile App (Mar 2025 – present)

Built community-powered alert system that notifies trusted contacts when users are detained by law enforcement or ICE.

Founder & Lead Developer, CogniMap (May 2025 – present)

Developed an AI-driven research synthesis platform that maps relationships among scholarly concepts to reveal new directions for inquiry.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Resident Program Manager / SUD Counselor, MAAC — Nosotros Recovery Home (Mar 2021 – Jan 2024) Supervised residential recovery operations and provided culturally responsive substance-use counseling for system-impacted men.

Owner & Life Coach, Dean the Life Coach, Inc. (Aug 2015 – Jan 2019)

SKILLS & LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Methodological

- Quantitative: OLS, Logistic, Factor & Cluster Analysis (R, Stata)
- Qualitative: Thematic Coding & Grounded Theory (MAXQDA, NVivo)
- Mixed Methods Integration; survey design & cognitive interviewing
- Critical-Theory–Driven Analysis:
ideological critique, historical-comparative tracing, reflexive positionality

Technical & Data

- Programming: R | Python (pandas, matplotlib) | JavaScript (React/Next.js)
- Data Wrangling: SQL; Supabase & Firebase implementation
- UI/UX & Prototyping: Figma, Adalo; version control with Git/GitHub
- Automation: Make.com, Zapier, Notion API

Communication & Public Engagement

- Bilingual content creation (English ↔ Spanish): TikTok scripts, LinkedIn essays
- Public speaking & workshop facilitation (100+ audience size)
- Op-ed writing, infographic design (Canva)

Leadership & Project Management

- Agile workflow in Notion; Kanban boards for multi-stakeholder research
- Grant writing

Languages

- English (native), Spanish (professional fluency)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Sociological Association

Pacific Sociological Association

California Sociological Association

Project Rebound Fellow

