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Ruiqian (Richie) Li, Ph.D.

Appointments

Senior Researcher, Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab, American University, Oct. 2024–Present.

Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Department of Sociology, Purdue University, Sept. 2023–Aug. 2024.

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, Baylor University, 2018-2023.
M.A., Sociology, Baylor University, 2018-2020.
M.A., Political Science, Boston College, 2015–2018.
M.A., Politics, Claremont Graduate University, 2012–2015.
LL.B., China University of Politics and Law, 2008–2012.

Research Interests

Religious Nationalism and Extremism; Hate Crime and Radicalization Prevention; Religion and Politics; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Social Theory; Survey Methodology.

Awards

Research Article Awards

Honorable Mention for the ASA Religion Section Distinguished Article Award, Aug. 2025

Dissertation and Thesis

Outstanding Dissertation Award (Social Sciences), Graduate School of Baylor University. *2023-2024*

First Place, 2020 ICPSR Research Paper Competitions in Master's Category. Jun. 2020.

Publication

Peer-reviewed Articles

Ruiqian Li and Paul Froese, "For the Power or the Glory? The Religiosity of America's Religious Nationalists", in *Socius.* Jul. 2025

Paul Froese, Ruiqian Li, and F. Carson Mencken, "The Sacred Gun: The Religious and Magical Elements of America's Gun Culture." in *Politics and Religion.* Feb. 2025. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755048324000312

Ruiqian Li and Paul Froese, "The Duality of American Christian Nationalism: Religious Traditionalism versus Christian Statism", in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. Aug. 2023. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jssr.12868, (Honorable Mention for the ASA Religion Section Distinguished Article Award for 2025)

Ruiqian Li, "Revisiting Localization of Islam: From the case of Islamic Centers in the United States" (in Chinese), in *Beijing Cultural Review*. Jun. 2018.

Ruiqian Li, "American Islam in the Shadow of the Muslim Ban" (in Chinese), in *Beijing Cultural Review*. Jun. 2017.

Book Chapters

Ruiqian Li. "Chapter Religion in the Age of Artificial Intelligence" in *The Nightmare of Mr. Science* (*in Chinese*). The People's Oriental Press, Beijing, China.

Reports

Ruiqian Li and Paul Froese, "The Un-separation of Church and State" in *Faith, Fear, Magic, and Despair: Findings from the Baylor Religion Survey (Wave 7)*. Nov. 2025.

Peer-reviewed Proceedings (data science related)

Zining Yang and Ruiqian Li, "Exploring Political Factors in Clean Energy Transition Using Machine Learning Technique", in *Advances in Human Factors and Systems Interaction*. Springer International Publishing. Jul. 2025.

Zining Yang and Ruiqian Li, "Quantitative Approach of Policy Drivers in Clean Energy Transition: Unveiling the Interconnected Pathway", in *Advances in Human Factors and Systems Interaction*. Springer International Publishing. Jul. 2024.

Zining Yang and Ruiqian Li, "Feature Selection Modeling on Predicting EV Charging Station Coverage Rate in Southern California", in *Advances in Human Factors and Systems Interaction*. Springer International Publishing. Jul. 2020.

Working Projects

Working Manuscripts

"Who Believes in Magic? The relationship between magical beliefs, traditional religion, andscience", Paul Froese, Ruiqian (Richie) Li, and Isiah King

"Digital Religious Extremism: How Social Media Use Fuels Gen-Z to Support Christian Statism", Ruiqian (Richie) Li and Corey Resweber

"Examining How Dual Christian Nationalism Influence Sexism across Partisan Lines", Ruiqian (Richie) Li, Michael Ryan, and Joyce Chang

"Religiosity in India", Ajay Verghese, Samuel Stroope, Ruiqian (Richie) Li, Nathaniel Porter, and Jeremy Uecker

"Spirituality as Moral Order and Political Participation", Ruiqian (Richie) Li and Corey Resweber

<table>
<tr><td>Invited Lectures</td><td>"The Duality of American Christian Nationalism: Religious Traditionalism versus Christian Statism", Sociological Colloquium by the Department of Sociology, Purdue University, Oct. 2023.</td></tr>
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"The Hidden Story in White Identity Politics: a more Comprehensive Understanding on How White Racial Consciousness Shapes Anti-Muslim Opinion", Lunch Talk by the Department of Politics and Economics, Claremont Graduate University, Nov. 2020.

"American Christian Nationalism", Graduate Seminar on Sociology of Religion, Purdue University, Apr. 2024.

"Social Survey: Why do we love or hate it?", "Introduction to Research" by the Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, Feb. 2024.

"Duality of American Christian Nationalisms: Christian Statism versus Religious Traditionalism" by the Department of Sociology, American University, Jun. 2025.

Conference Presentation (selected)

Aug. 2025. "Examining How Dual Christian Nationalism Influence Sexism across Partisan Lines" with Michael Ryan and Joyce Chang
American Sociological Association. Chicago, IL.

Oct. 2024. "Religiosity in the World's Largest Country: Religious Dimensions in a Diverse India" with Ajay Verghese and Samuel Stroope
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Pittsburgh, PA.

Oct. 2024. "Spirituality as Morality and Civic/Political Engagement in the US since COVID-19" with Corey Resweber
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Pittsburgh, PA.

Oct. 2023. "A Christian Society or Christian State? How civic Christian nationalism is radicalized"
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aug. 2023. "Secularized Culture Framework or Conservative Protestantism? How the ethno-based Christian Nationalism is misunderstood"
American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.

Nov. 2022. "Religiosity in India" with Drs. Samuel Stroope, Ajay Verghese, Nathaniel Porter, and Jeremy Uecker
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD.

Nov. 2022. "What Kind of Victims are Trump supporters?"
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore, MD.

Aug. 2022. "Images of God, Politicized Identities, and American Christian Nationalism: A Religious Nationalist's Struggle Story", on Regular Paper Session: Nationalism and the Boundaries of Inclusion.
American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, CA.

Apr. 2022. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Emotional Well-being: The Role of Socializing Activity Changes and Attitudes in the United States" with Xi Zhu and Tristen E. Clifton
Southwestern Social Science Association. San Antonio, TX.

Mar. 2022. "How Nationalistic are Christian Nationalists?"
Eastern Sociological Society. Boston, MA.

Sep, 2020. "What Kind of Nationalist are You?: A Comprehensive Statistical Modeling for Understanding Public Opinion for Muslims among White Americans.
American Political Science Association. Virtual Conference due to COVID 19

Grants & Fellowships

Graduate School Fellowship (enhanced) for Outstanding Students, $3,000 per year, Graduate School, Baylor University. 2018-2023

Travel Awards

Graduate Student Travel Award for annual meeting, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. 2022, 2023

Graduate Student Travel Award for annual meeting, American Sociological Association Religion Section. 2022, 2023

Travel Award for Academic Conference Presentations, Graduate School, Baylor University. 2021-2022

Travel Award for Academic Conference Presentations, Graduate School, Baylor University. 2019-2020

Teaching

Part-time Lecturer of Sociology, ASC Research Programs, Dec. 2020 - Sept. 2021.

Teacher of Record, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Aug.-Dec. 2020.

Academic Services

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer

American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Socius, Politics and Religion, Sociological Forum, The Sociological Quarterly, Review of Religious Research, Religions

Professional Services

Chair of Membership Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Section. 2025 - present

Committee Member, Korie Little Research Grant Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Section. 2026

Committee Member, Sandra Barnes Anti-Racist Scholarship Award Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Section. 2026

Panel Presider, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Aug. 2025

Panel Presider, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Mar 2022

Survey Designing, Baylor Religion Survey 2025, Jun. 2024

Research Positions

Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, Baylor University, Sept. 2021 - Aug. 2023

Research Associate, The Association of Religious Data Archives, Penn State University, 2018–2023.

Other

Tech team member for senior communities in West Lafayette, Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University, Feb.-Jun. 2024

IRES Graduate Student Workshop at Chapman University (invited with travel expenses covered), Jun. 2023.

Summer program participant, Moral Foundations of the American Constitutional Order, James Madison Program, Princeton University, Jun. 2019.

Professional Training

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Science, University of Michigan, Jul. 2019.

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Certification on Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology, Nov. 2019.

Skills

Statistical Software
R, Stata, Mplus

Survey Software
Qualtrics

Other Tools
LaTeX, Microsoft Office

Language
English (Fluent), Mandarin (Native)