

BLAKE VICTOR KENT

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EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. SOCIOLOGY, Baylor University
2015 M.A. SOCIOLOGY, Baylor University
2010 M.A. THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, Regent College (Canada)
2002 B.A. SOCIOLOGY, Wheaton College, *Magna Cum Laude*, Alpha Kappa Delta

EMPLOYMENT

2020- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology; Westmont College
2020- Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research, Westmont College
2019-2020 Research Associate, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital
2018-2019 Post-doctoral Fellow, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2020- Non-Resident Scholar, Institute for Studies of Religion; Baylor University
2020- Research Associate, Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities; Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital
2018-2020 Research Affiliate, The Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University

AREAS OF INTEREST

Religion/Spirituality, Population Health, Minority Populations, Attachment Theory, Quantitative Methods

COURSES TAUGHT

Introduction to Sociology, Quantitative Research Methods, Environmental Sociology

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

* Indicates undergraduate student co-author

** Indicates graduate student co-author

† Indicates co-first authors

In Press Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, Erica Warner, Donna Spiegelman, Ying Zhang, Julie Palmer, Alka Kanaya, Shelley Cole, Shelley Tworoger, Lester Orville Shields, Yue Gu, **Blake Victor Kent**, Immaculata De Vivo, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Depression, Religiosity, and Telomere Length in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.

Kent, Blake Victor, W. Matthew Henderson, Matt Bradshaw, Christopher G. Ellison, and Bradley R.E. Wright. "Do Spiritual Experiences Moderate the Effect of Daily Stressors on Psychological Well-Being?: An Experience Sampling Study of Depressive Symptoms and Flourishing." *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*.

- Kent, Blake Victor** and Matt Bradshaw. "Adolescent Context and Depressive Symptom Trajectories in a National Sample: Ages 13 to 34." *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.
- Ngo, Long, M. Austin Argentieri**, Simon Dillon, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka M. Kanaya, Towia Libermann, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Plasma Protein Expression Profiles, Cardiovascular Disease, and Religious Struggles among South Asians in the MASALA Study." *Scientific Reports*.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Ying Zhang, Donna Spiegelman, Alka M. Kanaya, Namratha Kandula, Anna B. Schachter, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Mental Health and Self-Rated Health among U.S. South Asians: The Role of Religious Group Involvement." *Ethnicity & Health*.
- 2021 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, James C. Davidson**, and Stacy de Leon*. "Parents, Peers, and Trajectories of Cigarette Smoking: A Group-Based Approach." *Youth & Society* 53(4):676-694.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, James C. Davidson**, Ying Zhang, Ken Pargament, Tyler J. VanderWeele, Harold Koenig, Lynn Underwood, Neal Krause, Alka M. Kanaya, Shelley Tworoger, Anna B. Schachter, Shelley Cole, Marcia O'Leary, Yvette Cozier, Martha L. Daviglus, Tracey Zacher, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Religion and Spirituality among American Indian, South Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latina, and White Women in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 60(1):198-215.
- Warner, Erica T. †, **Blake Victor Kent** †, Ying Zhang, M. Austin Argentieri**, Wade Rowatt, Kenneth Pargament, Harold Koenig, Lynn Underwood, Shelley Cole, Martha Daviglus, Alka Kanaya, Julie Palmer, Tianyi Huang, Mark Blais, Alexandra E. Shields. "The Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health (SSSH): Psychometric Evaluation and Initial Validation of the SSSH Baseline Spirituality Survey." *Religions* 12(3):150.
- 2020 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Religion/Spirituality and Gender-Differentiated Trajectories of Depressive Symptoms Age 13 to 34." *Journal of Religion and Health* 59(4):2064-2081.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Samuel Stroope, Alka M Kanaya, Ying Zhang, Namratha Kandula, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Private Religion/Spirituality, Self-rated Health, and Mental Health among U.S. South Asians." *Quality of Life Research* 29(2):495-504.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Ying Zhang, Alka M. Kanaya, Namratha Kandula, and Alexandra E. Shields. "Self-Rated Religiosity/Spirituality and Four Health Outcomes Among U.S. South Asians." *Journal of Nervous & Mental Disease* 208(2):165-168.
- 2019 Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar*. "Attachment to God and Social Trust." *Sociological Perspectives* 62(6):1001-1021.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and Christopher M. Pieper. "To Know and Be Known: An Intimacy-Based Explanation for the Gender Gap in Biblical Literalism." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 58(1):231-250.
- 2018 Bradshaw, Matt and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Prayer, Attachment to God, and Psychological Well-being in Later Life." *Journal of Aging and Health* 30(5):667-691.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Jeremy E. Uecker. "Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults: A Longitudinal Study." *Research on Aging* 40(5):456-479.
- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor** and W. Matthew Henderson. "Attachment to God, Tenure, Race, and Participation in Congregational Life." *Review of Religious Research* 59(3):319-340.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar*. "Subjective Social Status, Life Course SES, and BMI in Young Adulthood." *Health Psychology* 36(7):682-694.
- Kent, Blake Victor**. "Attachment to God, Religious Tradition, and Firm Attributes in Workplace Commitment." *The Journal of Social Psychology* 157(4):485-501.

- 2016 **Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Kevin D. Dougherty. "Attachment to God, Vocational Calling, and Worker Contentment." *Review of Religious Research* 58(3):343-364.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Patricia Snell Herzog and Heather E. Price: American Generosity: Who Gives and Why." *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology* 54(1):63-65.
- 2014 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "Todd M. Brenneman: Homespun Gospel: The Triumph of Sentimentality in Contemporary American Evangelicalism." *Review of Religious Research* 56(3):491-92.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 **Kent, Blake Victor**. "What Have We Learned about Religion, Spirituality, and Health in the MASALA Study of U.S. South Asians?" *Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Bulletin* 1(3):18-20.
- Abubakar, Auwal, Angela Monahan, and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Jeff Levin Interview." *Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Bulletin*, 1(2):3-9.
- 2016 Melton, J. Gordon, ed. *Melton's Encyclopedia of American Religions, Vol 1: United States and Vol 2: Canada*. 9th Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale. Contributor, researcher, editorial assistant.

MANUSCRIPTS IN REVISE & RESUBMIT

- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar*. "Subjective Social Status and Sleep Problems in a National Sample of Young Adults." (R&R at *Social Science and Medicine – Population Health*)
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Margarita Mooney, and Cheryl Roberts. "Financial Hardship, Religious Resources, and Psychological Well-Being in Late Life." (R&R at *Religions*)
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, Charlotte vanOyen-Witvliet, Byron Johnson, Sung Joon Jang, and Joseph Leman. "Perceptions of Accountability to God and Psychological Well-Being Among U.S. Adults." (R&R at *Journal of Religion & Health*)
- Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, Erica Warner, Donna Spiegelman, Shelley Tworoger, **Blake Victor Kent**, Nicholas Spence, and Alexandra Shields. "The Association between Religion, Spirituality, and Salivary Rhythms of Cortisol and DHEA in Postmenopausal Women." (R&R at *Psychoneuroendocrinology*)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, and W. Matthew Henderson. "Childhood SES and Depression in Young Adulthood."
- Bradshaw, Matt, Byron Johnson, Sung Joon Jang, Joseph Leman, and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Religious Accountability and Psychological Well-Being in Later Life."
- Bradshaw, Matt, Christopher G. Ellison, Kevin J. Flannelly, and **Blake Victor Kent**. "Do Gratitude and Meaning in Life Moderate the Effects of Stressful Life Events on Psychological Distress? Findings from a National Sample of Presbyterians"

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, and W. Matthew Henderson. "Early-Life Religious Involvement and Trajectories of Alcohol Abuse across Adolescence and Young Adulthood."
- Cowden, Richard, Victor Counted, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Ward Davis. "Resource Loss and Suffering During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Moderating Effects of Positive Religious Coping in a Prospective Sample of U.S. Adults with Chronic Illness."

Davidson, James C.**, **Blake Victor Kent**, David Williams, Alka Kanaya, Shelley Tworoger, Julie Palmer, and Alexandra Shields. “Everyday Discrimination, Religion and Spirituality, and Obesity.”

Henderson, W. Matthew, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Matt Bradshaw. “Non-linear Effects of Secure Attachment to God on Psychological Distress.”

Ishino, Francisco A. Montiel, Katia M. Canenguez, Jeffrey H. Cohen, **Blake Victor Kent**, Belinda Needham, Namratha Kandula, Faustine Williams, Alexandra E. Shields, Alka M. Kanaya. “Dynamic Acculturation Profiles and Cardiometabolic Risk among South Asians Living in the U.S.: Latent Class Analysis of the MASALA Study.”

Kent, Blake Victor, Richard Cowden, Victor Counted, Ward Davis. “Do Religious/Spiritual Factors Moderate the Effect of Suffering on Religious/Spiritual Struggles?: A Prospective Longitudinal Study.”

Kent, Blake Victor and Matt Bradshaw. “Demographic and Socioeconomic Differences in Trajectories of Smoking across Adolescence and Young Adulthood.”

Kent, Blake Victor †, Laura Upenieks †, Alka Kanaya, Julie Palmer, Martha Daviglus, Shelley Tworoger, and Alexandra E. Shields. “Religion/Spirituality and Prevalent Hypertension in Five Racially and Ethnically Diverse U.S. Cohort Studies.”

Nagaswami, Megha**, **Blake Victor Kent**, Yue Gu, Laura Upenieks, Alexandra Shields. “Do Religion and Spirituality Buffer the Effect of Childhood Trauma on Depressive Symptoms? Examination of a South Asian Cohort.”

Wright, Bradley R.E., **Blake Victor Kent**, and Christopher G. Ellison. “Lingering Effects of Religious Service Attendance on Emotional Well-being.”

RESEARCH SUPPORT, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2021-2024 Co-investigator, “Investigating the Impact of Multiple Dimensions of Religion and Spirituality on Risk of CVD Across Diverse Racial/Ethnic Communities.” Principle investigator Alexandra E. Shields. Templeton Foundation - \$3,000,000
- 2021 Principal investigator, “Christian Nationalism and the Kingdom of God.” Westmont College Faculty Development Grant - \$3,500
- 2018-2021 Co-investigator, “National Spirituality and Health Consortium.” Principal investigator Alexandra E. Shields. Templeton Foundation - \$4,745,682
- 2017-2020 Co-investigator, “Promoting the Use of Field Experiments to Study Religion and Spirituality.” Principal investigator Bradley R.E. Wright. Templeton Foundation - \$214,399
- 2017 Integral Humanism Seminar, Oxford & Princeton Universities - \$3,500
- 2016 Social Science & Religion Seminar, Harvard University - \$1,000
- 2015 Virtue Ethics Seminar, Yale University - \$1,000
- 2014 Co-investigator, “National Study of Entrepreneurial Behavior, Regulatory Focus, and Religion.” Principal investigators Mitchell J. Neubert, Jerry Z. Park, and Kevin D. Dougherty. National Science Foundation. \$348,654.
- 2013-2018 Graduate School Fellowship, Baylor University - \$25,000
- 2013-2019 Travel Awards, Baylor University (15 awards) - \$12,200
- 2008-2009 Chan Memorial Fellowship, Regent College - \$3,000

SUBCONTRACTS

- 2021-2024 “Investigating the Impact of Multiple Dimensions of Religion and Spirituality on Risk of CVD across Diverse Racial/Ethnic Communities.” Principle investigator Alexandra E. Shields. Templeton Foundation - \$37,000
- 2016-2017 “Self-control, Spirituality, and Well-being: An Online Experience Sampling Method Study.” Principal investigator Bradley R.E. Wright. Templeton Foundation - \$14,000
- 2014-2016 *Melton’s Encyclopedia of American Religions, Vol 1: United States and Vol 2: Canada.* 9th Edition. Detroit, MI: Gale - \$13,000

HONORS

- 2018 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Baylor University
- 2015 Outstanding Instructor Award, Kappa Alpha Theta, Baylor University
- 2014 Visual Sociology Competition 3rd Prize, Southwestern Social Science Association
- 2002 Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Ishino, Francisco Alejandro Montiel, Katia Canenguez, Jeffrey Cohen, **Blake Victor Kent**, Belinda Needham, Namratha Kandula, Faustine Williams, Alexandra Shields, and Alka Kanaya. “Assessing Profiles of Cardiometabolic Risk among South Asians Living in the United States Using a Syndemic Framework and Acculturation.” American Heart Association EPI|Lifestyle Scientific Sessions: online. April 2021.
- Blake Victor Kent.** “Emerging Findings from the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health.” Panel presentation. “True to Tradition? Religious Roots of Modern Public Health and Emerging Paradigms of Practice.” Conference on Medicine and Religion: online. March 2021.
- 2020 Davidson, James C. and **Blake Victor Kent.** “Does Religious Service Attendance Buffer the Association Between Everyday Discrimination and Obesity? Findings from Samples of Black, White, and South Asian Women.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Pittsburgh, PA. October 2020 (cancelled).
- Kent, Blake Victor.** “Emerging Findings on Religious Tradition in the Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health.” Panel presentation, “True to Tradition? Religious Roots of Modern Public Health and Emerging Paradigms of Practice.” Conference on Medicine and Religion: Columbus, OH. March 2020 (cancelled).
- 2019 Isehunwa, Oluwaseyi, **Blake Victor Kent**, and Alexandra E. Shields. “Do Religiosity and Spirituality Contribute to Better Psychological Well-being across Different Racial/Ethnic Groups?” Annual meeting of the American Public Health Association: Philadelphia, PA. November 2019.
- Stroope, Samuel, **Blake Victor Kent**, Alka Kanaya, and Alexandra E. Shields. “Mental Health and Self-Rated Health among South Asians in the United States: The Role of Religious Involvement in the MASALA Study.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: St. Louis, MO. October 2019.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and Matt Bradshaw. “Adolescent Context and Depressive Symptom Trajectories in a National Sample: Ages 13 to 34.” Aging and the Life Course section refereed round table. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: New York, NY. August 2019.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Erica Warner, Tyler J. VanderWeele, and Alexandra E. Shields. Panel Presentation. “Prevalence of Religious and Spiritual Practices and Beliefs in Diverse Racial/Ethnic Groups: The Study on Stress, Spirituality, and Health.” Conference on Medicine and Religion: Durham, NC. March 2019.

- 2017 **Kent, Blake Victor** and Matt Bradshaw. “Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults: A Longitudinal Study.” Open refereed roundtable. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: Montreal, Quebec. August 2017.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Brad Wright, Christopher G. Ellison, and Richard Blackmon. “The Effect of Attending a Weekend Religious Service on Emotional Well-Being: Evidence from a Smartphone-Based Daily Diary Study.” Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Montreal, Quebec. August 2017.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, Christopher G. Ellison, W. Matthew Henderson, and Bradley R.E. Wright. “Daily Stressors, Depression, Flourishing, and the Moderating Effect of Daily Spiritual Experiences: An Experience Sampling Study.” Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association: Austin, TX. April 2017.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, and W. Matthew Henderson. “Early-Life Religious Involvement and Trajectories of Alcohol Abuse across Adolescence and Young Adulthood.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society: Greenville, SC. March 2017.
- 2016 **Kent, Blake Victor**, Jeremy E. Uecker, and Matt Bradshaw. “Forgiveness, Attachment to God, and Mental Health Outcomes in Older U.S. Adults.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Atlanta, GA. October 2016.
- Kent, Blake Victor** and W. Matthew Henderson. “On the Edge: Insecure and Anxious Attachments to God, Tenure, Race, and Participation in Congregational Life.” Religion section refereed roundtable. Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association: Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Bradshaw, Matt, **Blake Victor Kent**, W. Matthew Henderson, and Anna C. Setar. “Attachment to God and General Trust in the United States Population.” Annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion: Seattle, WA. August 2016.
- Kent, Blake Victor**, Matt Bradshaw, and Kevin D. Dougherty. “Attachment to God, Vocational Calling, and Worker Contentment.” Annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society: Atlanta, GA. April 2016.
- 2015 Henderson, Matt and **Blake Victor Kent**. “Non-linear Attachment to God and Psychological Distress.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Newport Beach, CA. October 2015.
- Kent, Blake Victor**. “To Know and Be Known: Divine Attachments, Intimacy and Biblical Literalism.” Discussant. Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Newport Beach, CA. October 2015.
- Kent, Blake Victor**. “Prayer, Attachment to God, and Psychological Well-being in Later Life.” Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association: Long Beach, CA. April 2015.
- 2014 **Kent, Blake Victor**. “Doubly Attached: God and Work.” Panel presentation, “New Assessments of Religion and the Workplace.” Annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion: Indianapolis, IN. November 2014
- Kent, Blake Victor**. “Ethnic Minorities in Southwest China: Resistance and Accommodation.” Annual meeting of the Southwest Social Science Association: San Antonio, TX. April 2014.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “The Strong Heart Study, Religion and Spirituality, and Indigenous Health.” School of Medicine & Health Sciences, University of North Dakota.
- 2018 “The Meaning of Education.” Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society, Baylor University

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 Faith-learning Seminar, Westmont College
- 2019 Lilly Evidence-Based Teaching Conference, Austin, TX
- 2017 Seminar in Integral Humanism, Scala Foundation, Princeton Seminary, & Oxford University
- 2016 Seminar in Social Science & Religion, Program on Integrative Knowledge, Harvard University
- 2015 Seminar in Sociology, Virtue Ethics, & Human Flourishing, Yale University
- 2014-2015 Conyers Scholar, Baylor University Institute for Faith & Learning

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer *Journal of Aging & Health; Applied Research in Quality of Life; Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion; Preventive Medicine; Preventive Medicine Reports; Review of Religious Research; Sociology of Religion; Archive for the Psychology of Religion; Social Currents; Journal of Religion & Health; International Journal for the Psychology of Religion; Mental Health, Religion & Culture; Youth & Society; Journal of Psychology & Theology, Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, Sociological Focus, Research on Aging*
- 2020- Editorial Board, *Review of Religious Research*
- 2019- Board Member, Public Health, Religion, and Spirituality Network
- 2019 Selection committee, Field Experiments in Religion Research Network small grants program
- 2017 Reviewer, "Reading Old Books and the Search for Relevance," in *Stewards in the Academy: Christian Thought and the Academic Life*, Palgrave.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- 2020-2021 Assessment Committee, Diversity Institutional Learning Outcomes, Westmont College
Faculty Subgroup, Baccalaureate Nursing Program Curriculum Planning, Westmont College
Assessment Committee, Off-Campus Programs Global Learning Outcomes, Westmont College
Search Committee, Residence Director, Westmont College
- 2018 Selection Committee, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Baylor University Graduate School
- 2016-2018 Accreditation Committee, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Department of Sociology, Baylor University

RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

- 2021-2022 Daniel Jang, Westmont College
- 2020-2021 Megha Nagaswami, Harvard Medical School/University of California Los Angeles
- 2019 James C. Davidson, Harvard Medical School/Baylor University

MEDIA COVERAGE

Forbes, Huffington Post, USA Today, Inc., Medical News Today, Success Magazine, Yahoo! News, The Baptist Standard, Christianity Today, The Economic Times, Crux, USA Radio Network, Baptist News Global (partial list)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (CURRENT)

American Sociological Association – Section on Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Religious Research Association

SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

SAS • Stata • SPSS • NVivo • Photoshop • Lightroom