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**Robert E. Brenneman**  
*Curriculum Vitae* – September 2020

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2020-present | Professor of Criminal Justice and Sociology / Dir. of Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice, Goshen College, Goshen, IN. |
| 2017-2020    | Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.   |
| 2015-2020    | Associate Professor of Sociology, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.  |
| 2010-2015    | Assistant Professor of Sociology, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT.  |
| 2009-2010    | Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame.                               |

## EDUCATION

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|------|-------|---|
| 2009 | Ph.D. | University of Notre Dame, Sociology. Dissertation: "From Homie to <i>Hermano</i> : Conversion and Gang Exit in Central America." Supervisor: Christian Smith.       |
| 2005 | M.A.  | University of Notre Dame, Sociology. Thesis: "Faith and the Foreigner: Exploring the Impact of Religion on Attitudes toward Immigrants." Supervisor: David Sikkink. |
| 1997 | B.A.  | Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia  |

## PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Religion  
Central America  
Urban Gangs

Private Security  
Microsociology  
Sociology of Architecture

## BOOKS

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2012 | Brenneman, Robert. <i>Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.                  |
| 2020 | Brenneman, Robert and Brian Miller. <i>Building Faith: A Sociology of Religious Architecture</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. |

## REFEREED ARTICLES

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| 2018 | Brenneman, Robert. "La desigualdad asegurada: una etnografía de la seguridad privada en Guatemala." <i>Estudios Centroamericanos</i> 73:25-44. |
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- 2016 Brenneman, Robert and Brian Miller. "When Bricks Matter: Four Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings." *Sociology of Religion* 77:82-101.
- 2015 Brenneman, Robert. "¡Solo pajas! Volver a un Sitio de Campo Desordenado." In *SENDAS*. 2:39-54. Instituto de Investigaciones del Hecho Religioso, Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert. "Wrestling the Devil: Conversion and Exit from the Central American Gangs." *Latin American Research Review*. Vol. 49, Special Issue.
- 2009 Brenneman, Robert. "Embodied Forgiveness: John H. Yoder and the (Body) Politics of Footwashing," *The Mennonite Quarterly Review*. 83:7-28.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming Brenneman, Robert. "Gifts, Weapons, and Values: The Language of Spirituality in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Central America." In *The Social Dimensions of Spirituality*. Ed. By Brian Steensland, Jaime Kucinkas, and Anna Sun. Accepted for publication by Oxford University Press.
- 2018 Brenneman, Robert. "Victimas y victimarios: Los retos de estudiar la pandilla en Centroamérica." Pp. 293-315 in *Rostrros de la violencia en Centroamerica: abordajes y experiencias desde la investigación social*. ed. by Daniel Nuñez. Guatemala: FLACSO – Mercy Corps.
- 2016 Brenneman, Robert. "Violence, Religion, and Institutional Legitimacy in Northern Central America." Pp. 371-394 in *Religious Responses to Violence in Latin America: Human Rights in Latin America Past and Present*. Ed. Alexander Wilde. Notre Dame, IN: Notre Dame Press.
- 2015 Brenneman, Robert. "Violencia, Religión y Legitimidad Institucional al Norte de Centroamérica." Pp. 381-404 in *Las Iglesias ante La Violencia en América Latina: Los derechos humanos en el pasado y el presente*. Ed. Alexander Wilde. Mexico City, MX: FLACSO-Mexico.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert and Adriana García. "Latin American Youth Gangs." In *Oxford Handbook of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. (Oxford Handbooks Online) Ed. Michael Tonry. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2011 Brenneman, Robert. "Evangelical Movements" in *Encyclopedia of Global Religion*. eds. Wade Clark Roof and Mark Juergensmeyer. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

### RESEARCH/WRITING PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- In Progress Book Project: *Safety at a Price: Private Security in Post-war Guatemala*. An empirical study of the changing nature of security in Guatemala since the signing of the Peace Accords in 1996. Data-gathering completed in July of 2017.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 Review of *The Neighborhood Has Its Own Rules: Latinos and African Americans in South Los Angeles*, by Cid Gregory Martinez for *Journal for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 57(1): 185-186.
- 2017 Review of *New Centers of Global Evangelicalism in Latin America and Africa*, by Stephen Offut for *Review of Religious Research*. 59:4 pp. 577-578.
- 2015 Review of *God's Gangs: Barrio Ministry, Masculinity, and Gang Recovery* by Edward Orozco Flores for *Contemporary Sociology*. 44(4): 506-507.
- 2014 Review of *Cleansing Honor with Blood: Masculinity, Violence, and Power in the Highlands of Brazil, 1845-1889* by Martha Santos for the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 33:4 pp. 502-504.
- 2013 Review of *The Rational Believer: Choices and Decisions in the Madrasas of Pakistan* by Masooda Bano for *Sociology of Religion*. 74:2 pp. 289-290.
- 2011 Review of *An Amish Paradox: Diversity and Change in the World's Largest Amish Community* by Charles E. Hurst and David L. McConnell for *American Journal of Sociology*. 116:4 pp. 1388-90.
- 2009 Review of *Working Hard, Drinking Hard: On Violence and Survival in Honduras* by Adrienne Pine, in *Contemporary Sociology*. 39:1 p. 78-79.
- 2009 Review of *Land, Protest and Politics* by Gabriel Ondetti, in *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*. 14:2 pp. 264-265.
- 2009 Review of *Plain Diversity: Amish Cultures and Identities* by Nolt and Myers for *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review*. 70:4 pp. 455-457.

## GRANTS AWARDED

- 2016 Fulbright Teaching/Research Award for nine-month teaching and research fellowship in Guatemala City (2016-2017).
- 2015 (\$5000) Jack Shand Research Grant from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for research on the sociology of religious buildings in Guatemala.
- 2015 (\$1000) Politi Travel Grant (Saint Michael's College) for travel and guest presentation at Rafael Landivar University, Guatemala City.
- 2014 (\$2500) Expense Defrayment Grant (Saint Michael's College) for Spanish translation of Chapters 1-3 of *Homies and Hermanos*.
- 2013 (\$4500) Travel grant (American University, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies) for follow-up research and videotaping of short documentary films about Guatemalan ex-gang members.
- 2013 (\$4000) Junior Faculty Summer Research Stipend (Saint Michael's College) for follow-up research among ex-gang members in Honduras.

- 2013 (\$2000) Expense Defrayment Grant (Saint Michael's College) for follow-up research among ex-gang members in Honduras.
- 2012 (\$550) Faculty Development Grant (Saint Michael's College) to off-set costs for proof-reading and indexing *Homies and Hermanos*.
- 2008-2009 (\$15,000) University of Notre Dame Writing Center – Pre-doctoral Teaching and Writing Fellowship.
- 2009 (\$5,000) Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts – For funding student travel during cross-cultural component of SOC-25354.
- 2008 (\$5,000) Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Studies Intramural Grant for funding student travel during cross-cultural component of SOC-25354.
- 2008 (\$1,500) Jack Shand Graduate Student Writing Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
- 2007 (\$5,000) Notre Dame Kellogg Institute for International Studies Dissertation Seed Money Grant for travel funds related to dissertation research.
- 2007 (\$1,000) Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Research for travel and research related to the dissertation.
- 2008 (\$1,000) Notre Dame Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts for qualitative analysis software and transcription of interviews.
- 2008 (\$250) Mennonite Central Committee, Dwight Moody Wiebe Endowment Fund Scholarship for former international volunteers conducting dissertation research on a topic of social concern in an international context.
- 2006 (\$2,000) Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns Course Development Grant for course proposal “Coffee, Globalization, and the Fair Trade Movement.”

#### **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**

- 2012-2013 Member, Advisory Team: “Religion and Violence” Luce Foundation-Funded Research Grant, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, American University, Washington, D.C.
- 2010-2012 Advisor for Guatemala Team: “The Impact of Pentecostal and Charismatic Catholic Movements on Local Community Organization and Civic Participation in Central America.” Joint research grant (\$400K) of University of New Mexico and Jesuit University of Central America (UCA).
- 2007-2008 Chicago Study of Congregations – Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies: Conducted ethnographic research on a large Latino immigrant congregation on Chicago's West Side.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Closing Lecture for the 2019 Cycle on “Religion and Violence” at the Permanent Research Seminar on Religious Phenomena at the National University of Mexico, UNAM. Mexico City, November 8.
- 2019 First-year Seminar Faculty Panel reviewing *The Line Becomes a Border*. Saint Michael’s College, August 24, 2019.
- 2019 “Gifts, Weapons, and Values: The Language of Spirituality in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Central America,” panel presentation at “Social Dimensions of Spirituality” conference, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, IN, April 6.
- 2019 “Social Factors in the Emergence of Central American Gangs,” panel presentation delivered at “Romero Days” conference, University of Notre Dame, March 19.
- 2018 “Drugs and Society” presentation delivered at Saint Michael’s College Honors Faculty Panel. April 12.
- 2017 Panelist at “The Border Wall: What It Means for Greater New York,” hosted by Stonybrook University’s Center for the Study of Inequality and Social Justice. November 17.
- 2017 Presented new paper on researching gangs at workshop on "Methodology and Social Theory of Research on Violence in Central America" hosted by the Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO). May 3-4, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2017 Presented on “Religion in Central America” at workshop on Country Conditions in Central America and Asylum Decision-Making hosted by American University’s Washington College of Law, with support from the National Science Foundation. January 12-13, Washington, DC.
- 2016 Featured speaker on “Religion and Gang Violence in Guatemala” at FLACSO CONVIVIMOS seminar. September 27<sup>th</sup>, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2016 Panelist at VIII Annual Colloquium of Sociology and Anthropology at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. October 5, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2016 Seminar presenter on “The Sociology of Religion” for Universidad Rafael Landívar’s Diploma in Political and Civic Formation. October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2015 Faculty Panelist for First Year Seminar Campus Read, *Station Eleven*. August 29.
- 2015 Featured Guest Speaker at “Sociedad, poder, cultura y religión: el gobierno de lo social y la formación d sujetos.” Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala City, November 8-10.
- 2014 Panelist at “Restorative Justice! Encounter Mercy: A Conference on Restorative Justice.” Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, November 21.

- 2014           Featured speaker at “Encuentro de construcción de paz urbana.” International workshop on urban peacemaking hosted by Mennonite Central Committee in Guatemala City, Guatemala, October 16-18.
- 2014           Fall Speaker at Boston College Sociology Department Lunch Seminar Series, October 1.
- 2014           Panelist for “Urban Violence and Crossborder Criminal Activity: New Challenges for Peacebuilding” at Alliance for Peacebuilding Annual Conference – United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC, May 21.
- 2014           “Maras para Cristo: What the Gang Conversions Have to Teach us about Pentecostalism in Central America.” Regent University, March 1.
- 2013           Featured speaker at “Entendiendo las raices de la violencia urbana.” Conference on urban violence sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee’s Bogotá office, September 30-October 1, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 2013           Panelist at State Department Briefing “An Assessment of Gang Dynamics in the Northern Triangle of Central America.” Foreign Service Institute, Arlington, VA, May 23.
- 2013           “Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape.” Presentation for workshop on “Religious Responses to Violence in Latin America,” at American University, January 14.
- 2012           “Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape.” Presentation for workshop on Religion and Violence in Latin America, at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2012           “Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America.” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Bishop Sullivan Center for Catholic Studies Lecture Series, October 5.
- 2012           Panelist at “Global Youth, Civilian Security, and National Security.” Foreign Service Training Center, Washington, D.C.
- 2012           Panelist for “Religion and Violence in Central America” at the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, American University. Washington, D.C., July 21.
- 2012           “Homies and Hermanos: God, Gangs, and the Drug War in Central America” Kloeck-Jenson Endowment for Peace Studies Program, St. Olaf College, March 29.
- 2011           Panelist for ASA Presidential Plenary Session on Comparative Mafias: “Homies and Hermanos: Gang, Church, and the Rules of Engagement in the Central American Barrio,” Las Vegas, NV, August 21.

- 2011 “*La Mara de Cristo: Homies and Hermanos in the Central American Barrio*” Conference on Religion, Social Movements, and Progressive Reform in Latin America, Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, Boston University, May 8.
- 2010 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Global and Regional Studies Program, University of Vermont, November 3.
- 2010 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Presentation at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 7.
- 2010 “Peaceful Pentecostals? Pietistic Interpersonal Pacifism in the Central American Barrio.” Kroc Institute for Peace Studies, Notre Dame, February 9.
- 2009 “Homies and *Hermanos*: God and Gangs in Central America.” Presentation at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 11.

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES**

- 2018 “On the Sanctification of Space: Rebaptizing Everyday Buildings in Guatemala and Vermont.” Regular Session at the Annual Meeting for the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, PA, August, 12.
- 2017 “Policing Inequality: An Ethnography of Private Security in Postwar Guatemala.” Regular Session Panel for Peace and Justice Section, Annual Meeting for the American Sociological Association, Montreal, CA, August 14.
- 2017 “A Mighty Fortress: Security and Aesthetics in Guatemalan Religious Architecture.” Annual Meeting for the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, CA, August 12-14.
- 2017 “Entertaining Strangers: The Joys and Risks of Research among Violent Entrepreneurs.” “Beyond Positivism” Conference. Montreal, CA, August 8-9.
- 2016 “Framing the Faith: What a Camera and a Bicycle Can Tell Us about Religion in Central America.” Annual Meeting for the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 28-31.
- 2016 “Central American Evangelicals and the ‘New Violence.’” Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, New York City, May 27-30.
- 2015 “Light, Sound, and Barriers in the Production of Emotional Energy: Case Studies in Religious Architecture.” Annual Meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Chicago, IL, August 21.
- 2014 “Building Up the Temple: Five Arguments for the Sociological Study of Religious Buildings.” Soc. for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31.
- 2014 “‘Pure Bull\*\*\*t!’ On Returning to a Messy Field Site.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, October 31.

- 2014 Introductory Remarks for Special Plenary: World Debut of Dr. Andrew Johnson's Documentary, "If I Give My Soul: Pentecostalism in Rio's Prison's." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, November 1.
- 2013 "Pentecostalism, Security, and the 'Crisis of Values' in Central America." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Boston, MA, November 9.
- 2012 "Religious Responses to Gang Violence in Latin America: An Update." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Phoenix, AZ, November 13.
- 2012 "Religion and Violence in Latin America: Assessing a Shifting Landscape." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Pheonix, AZ, November 13.
- 2011 "¿Hijos del Rey? Religious Responses to Relative Deprivation in Central America." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI, October 28.
- 2010 "Peaceful Pentecostals? Pietistic Interpersonal Pacifism in the Central American Barrio." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 29.
- 2010 Panelist in panel discussion, "Defining Religion from the Ground Up." Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD, October 31.
- 2010 "Pentecostal Human Rights Activists?" Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA, August 14.
- 2009 "Don't Mess with Curly: Leaving the Central American Gang via the 'Evangelical Escape Clause.'" Association Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, CA, August 11.
- 2008 "Measure of America" Departmental Colloquium. Panelist at Notre Dame Sociology panel discussing the UN Human Development Report, October 28.
- 2008 "Crusaders and Samaritans: Catholic and Evangelical Gang Initiatives in Northern Central America." Society of the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, KY, October 18.
- 2008 "Transgressing the Code of the Barrio: Emotion and Conversion among Former Gang Members." Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, MA, July 31.
- 2008 Panelist for Author Meets Critics session exploring David Smilde's *Reason to Believe: Cultural Agency in Latin American Evangelicalism*. Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, MA, August 1.
- 2006 "Flipping the Tortilla: The Emergence of 'Color-Blind' Ideology in Guatemala." North Central Sociological Society, Indianapolis, IN, March 24.
- 2005 "Faith and the Foreigner: Exploring the Impact of Religion on Immigration Attitudes." American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 15.

#### **PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY (SELECTIONS)**

- 2010-present Prepared expert affidavits and/or country conditions reports in ten separate cases involving defendants seeking asylum from Central American gangs. Provided oral testimony in one case.



- 2019 “The Impact of Technology on Social Isolation” presentation at St. Susanna’s Parish Peace and Justice Lecture Series. Dedham, MA, March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 2018 Featured expert consulted and cited at length in Ukrainian national magazine *Novoye Vremya* feature story on MS-13 gangs activity.
- 2018 “Violence and Human Flourishing in Central America” presentation at St. Susanna’s Parish Peace and Justice Lecture Series. Dedham, MA, February 5.
- 2017-2018 Country Expert Contributor (Guatemala) for “Varieties of Democracy” (V-Dem), global database for assessing the quality of democracy across time and space.
- 2017 Featured speaker at Central American Peace and Justice Network (REDPAZ) at its annual gathering on April 20, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
- 2017 Expert guest on *Con Criterio* call-in talk show discussing "Police and Gang Violence" on 100.1 Radio Infinita, Guatemala City.
- 2015 Brenneman, Robert. “Civics Lessons from Guatemala.” Web blog post on *AULA Blog*, American University, Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. May 26, 2015.
- 2014 “Five Myths about the ‘Surge’ of Central American Immigrant Minors.” Web blog post. *OUPblog*, Oxford University Press. August 3, 2014. Republished in entirety at *HNNblog* and *USAPP* (London School of Economics) and partially republished in Andrew Sullivan’s *The Dish*.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert. “Struggling with the Legacy of Ríos Montt.” Guest scholar on *Interfaith Voices* National Public Radio syndicated show aired March 26.
- 2014 Brenneman, Robert. “La Mara de Cristo: Iglesias y pandillas en Centroamérica.” In [El Faro Académico](#), January 21, 2014.
- 2013 “Vom Töten zum Beten.” In *Welt-sichten*, German magazine for global development and ecumenical cooperation. November 11, 2013, pp. 19-21.
- 2013 Guest speaker on “Temas y debates” morning talk show program of *Radio Infinita*, Guatemala, July 15.
- 2013 Press conference in Guatemala City resulting in four articles on national daily newspapers in Guatemala, July 16.
- 2013 Television interview on *Este o Este* weekly television talk show broadcast on *Canal Antigua* (Guatemala), July 24.
- 2013 Book Launch with guest panel at Sophos bookstore, Guatemala City, July 20.
- 2013 Interviewed for feature spread “O con Dios o con la Mara” in *Contra Poder*, Guatemalan semi-weekly magazine of politics and culture, July 12, 2013.

- 2012 “Talking about Gun Rights, Laws and Culture after a Tragedy.” Invited Guest on *Vermont Edition*, Vermont Public Radio daily talk show, July 30.
- 2012 “Gun Violence and Its Sources.” Special Guest on *The Mark Johnson Show*, WDEV call-in radio show, Waterbury, VT, July 31.
- 2012 Cited as expert in violence in “Has society become accustomed to violent acts?” by Eric Adler and Ian Cummings. Op-ed for the *Kansas City Star*, July 20, 2012.
- 2012 Presented “The Promises and Perils of Techno-media” as panelist for Saint Michael’s College “Disconnect to Reconnect” Event, April 19.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

- 2015 SO-310 Special Topics: Sociology of Religion
- 2012/2014 SO-310 Special Topics: God, Gangs, and Globalization: month-long international course taught in Guatemala City (Saint Michael’s College).
- 2012-present SO-218 Deviance, Norms, and Social Control (Saint Michael’s College).
- 2010-present SO-301 Foundations of Social Theory (Saint Michael’s College).
- 2010-present SO-101 Introduction to Sociology (Saint Michael’s College).
- 2010 SOC-10002 Understanding Societies (University of Notre Dame).
- 2009 SOC-10033 Social Problems (University of Notre Dame).
- 2009 SOC-23534 Coffee, Globalization, and the Fair Trade Movement taught with 9-day study-abroad component in Guatemala (University of Notre Dame).
- 2008 FY-13100 First-year Composition: Arguing about Globalization (University of Notre Dame).

## **PEER REVIEWER**

- 2015-2019 *American Sociological Review*: Six articles reviewed
- 2015-2019 *Sociology of Religion*: Six articles reviewed
- 2012-2019 Occasional reviewer (1-2 articles total) in *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Anthropology Quarterly*, *Peninsula*,

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- 2006 – Present Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2006 – Present Association for the Sociology of Religion
- 2005 – Present American Sociological Association
- 2011 – 2017 Latin American Studies Association