

Fr. Patrick Gilger, S.J., Ph.D.

Loyola University Chicago
Department of Sociology
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Academic Appointments:

- 2021 – present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago
- 2023 – present Director, McNamara Center for the Social Study of Religion, Loyola University Chicago

Affiliations:

- 2021 – present Affiliate Faculty, Catholic Studies, Loyola University Chicago
- 2023 – present Affiliate Scholar, Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California
- 2023 – present Affiliate Faculty, Center for Research on International Affairs, Loyola University Chicago

Education:

- 2021 Ph.D., Sociology
New School for Social Research
- 2021 M.Phil., Sociology
New School for Social Research
- 2017 M.A., Sociology
New School for Social Research
- 2013 M.Div., Theology
Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University
- 2007 M.A., Philosophy
Loyola University Chicago
- 2002 B.A., Philosophy
Creighton University

Areas of Expertise:

- Public Religion
- Sociology of Religion
- Social Theory
- Secularity/Secularization/Secularism
- Democratization and De-democratization

Publications:

1. Gilger, S.J., Patrick. Forthcoming. “Whose Enchantment? Which Disenchantment?” Book chapter completed and accepted for *Disenchantment and Misenchantment in the Contemporary World*. Studies in World Catholicism, Vol. 16. William T. Cavanaugh (ed.). Cascade, OR: Cascade Books
2. Gilger, S.J., Patrick. Forthcoming. “Powers of Publicity: Religious Innovation & Democratic Renovation.” Book chapter completed and accepted for *A Quarter Century of Public Religions: The Sociology of Jose Casanova*. David Buckley (ed.). Washington DC: Georgetown University Press
3. Gilger, S.J., Patrick, & Kattago, Siobhan. 2024. “Small things, deep resonance.” Introduction to special section of *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, 11 (3), 345–355. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23254823.2024.2348619>
4. Gilger, S.J., Patrick. 2024. “Sociology beyond suspicion: Goldfarb as post-critical critic.” *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, 11 (3), 379–390. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23254823.2024.2358342>
5. Gilger, Patrick. 2022. “Habits of Belonging: The Church in a Secular Age,” pp43-65 in *Roots: Catholic Youth Evangelization in a Postmodern World*. John C. Cavadini and Donald Wallenfang, eds. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications
6. Gilger, Patrick. 2018. “Performing Secularity: Toward the Construction of a Concept.” *Journal of Religion & Society*, Supplement 17: 54-69
7. Gilger, Patrick. July 2016. “Disabilities in Parishes Across the United States: How Parishes in the United States Accommodate and Serve People with Disabilities” with Thomas P. Gaunt and Jonathan Holland. Washington, DC: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

Publications Under Contract:

1. Gilger, S.J., Patrick and Matthew Dunch, S.J. (eds.). *Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press

Work in Progress:

1. Gilger, S.J., Patrick. *The Subject of Public Religion*
2. Gilger, S.J., Patrick. “Religions, Public and Civil: A Critical Analysis of Two Concepts”
3. Njoku, Okechukwu C., Patrick Gilger, S.J., and Cristian L. Paredes. “Importance of Religion in Personal Life and Emigration Intentions in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras”

Teaching and Research:

2021 – present	Loyola University Chicago <i>SOCL 101: Society in a Global Age</i> <i>SOCL 145: Religion and Society</i> <i>SOCL 205: Sociological Thought</i> <i>SOCL 370: Spiritualities in a Secular Age</i> <i>SOCL 405: History of Sociological Thought</i> <i>SOCL 441: Sociology of Religion</i> <i>SOCL 520: Public Religion; Secular Democracy</i>
2018 – 2021	New School for Social Research Research Assistant for Jeffrey Goldfarb, Ph.D., Michael Gellert Professor of Sociology
Spring 2018	New School for Social Research Teaching Assistant – <i>ULEC 2022: Women and Men Dark Times.</i>
Summer 2016	Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University, Research Internship
Spring 2015	Creighton University, Dept. of Cultural and Social Studies Lecturer – <i>SOC 310: Religion and Contemporary American Society</i>
Fall 2012	Santa Clara University, Dept. of Religious Studies Teaching Assistant – <i>SCTR 130/GPPM 213: Sacred Politics; Christian Texts in the Public Sphere</i>

Honors:

1. Research Fellow, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, Spring 2025
2. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Fellow, Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage, Loyola University Chicago, Fall 2023
3. Alfred Schultz Memorial Award in Philosophy and Sociology for the dissertation “Fashioning Religious Selves in a Secular Age,” New School for Social Research, 2022
4. Award for Journalism (Travel Writing) for the essay “Litany for a Pandemic,” New York Press Club, 2021
5. Public Seminar Fellow, New School for Social Research, 2017-21
6. Outstanding Master of Arts Graduate Award: Sociology, New School for Social Research, 2017
7. Social Science Research Council “Anxieties of Democracy” Seminar with SSRC Fellow Charles Taylor, October 2016

Invited Lectures and Presentations:

1. “Disambiguating Disenchantment, or Secularity and the Social Sciences.” Invited paper for *Is Idolatry Dead? Disenchantment and Misenchantment in the Contemporary World*, DePaul University, March 2024
2. “The Subject of Public Religion.” Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. Lecture, Loyola University Chicago, November 2023
3. “Sacred Blood: The Sociology of Religious Tattoos.” Invited lecture with Dr. Kevin D. Dougherty, Boston College, April 2023
4. “Relearning Belonging.” Jesuit Lecture, St. Paul’s College at the University of Manitoba, March 2023
5. “Public Religions in a Secular Age: The Role of the Focolare.” Keynote lecture for *Hearth for the Human Family: Re-Imagining Dialogue*, March 2023
6. “The Power of the Unfinished: Political Sociology for a Post-Secular Age.” Invited paper for *Small Things, Deep Resonance: The Sociology of Jeffrey C. Goldfarb*, The New School for Social Research, April 2022
7. “Global Public Religions in an Age of Crisis.” Invited paper for *On De-democratization and Democratic Innovation*, a conference sponsored by the *Democracy Seminar*, April 2022
8. “The Powers of Publicity: Religious Innovation and Democratic Renovation in a Secular Age.” Invited paper for *A Quarter Century of Public Religions: The Sociology of Jose Casanova*, Georgetown University, April 2022
9. “Unity, Friendship, Desire: Constructing Religious Selves in a Secular Age.” Invited lecture, Gonzaga University, February 2020

Conference Presentations:

1. Critic for Author-Meets-Critics session on Maureen Day et. al.’s *Catholicism at a Crossroads: The Present and Future of America’s Largest Church*, SSSR/RRA, forthcoming October 2025
2. “The Future of Catholicism as a Public Religion.” Paper accepted for presentation at the *Presidential Forum on the Future of Catholicism*, ASA/ASR, forthcoming August 2025
3. Critic for Author-Meets-Critics session on Tia Noelle Pratt’s *Black and Catholic: Racism, Identity, and Religion*, ASR, forthcoming August 2025
4. “Importance of Religion in Personal Life and Emigration Intentions in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.” Poster presentation with Okechukwu C. Njoku and Cristian L. Paredes at *Population Association of America*, April 2025
5. Respondent for Faculty Colloquium on William T. Cavanaugh’s *The Uses of Idolatry*, Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago, April 2025
6. Panelist on “Human Flourishing and AI” with Fr. Matthew Dunch, S.J. at the *14th Annual International Symposium on Digital Ethics*, Loyola University Chicago, March 2025
7. “Intenciones de emigración y la importancia personal de la religión: evidencia de Guatemala y Honduras.” Presentation with Okechukwu C. Njoku and Cristian L. Paredes at the *Migration and Indigenous Peoples Colloquium*, University of Illinois Chicago, September 2024
8. Critic for Author-Meets-Critics session on Jose Casanova’s *Asian Pacific Catholicism and Globalization*, ASR, August 2024
9. “Toward a Post-Secular Sociology of Catholicism.” Paper presented at the *SSSR/RRA*, November 2023

10. Conference Co-coordinator, *Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age*, Loyola University Chicago, September 2023
11. “Thinking About Democracy: Tocqueville on Religion and Democracy,” in conversation with Jeffrey C. Goldfarb. Part of the Core Curriculum Series for the American University of Afghanistan, Fall 2023
12. “Lived and Practiced: Two Paradigms for the Future of the Sociology of Religion.” Paper presented at the *SSSR/RRA*, October 2022
13. “Practiced Religion: Toward a Post-Secular Methodology,” Paper presented at the *ASR*, August 2019
14. “Cultivating Memory and Narrativity” with Brett T. Robinson, Ph.D. Invited lecture for *Cultures of Formation Conference*, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, March 2018
15. “Performing Secularity.” Paper presented at the *Religion and Secularism Symposium* at Creighton University, October 2017
16. “A Justice That Does Faith.” Presentation with Daniel P. Justin at the *Justice in Jesuit Higher Education Conference*, August 2017
17. “Fragile Publics and Positive Liberty.” Paper presented at the *Crowds, Mobs, Masses, Publics Conference*, New School for Social Research, Spring 2017
18. Conference Co-coordinator, *Crowds, Mobs, Masses, Publics*, New School for Social Research, Spring 2017
19. “Gaps in Formal Organizations: Locating Sites of Culture Production in the Roman Catholic Mass.” Paper presented at the *ASR*, August 2016

Select Interventions in the Popular Press:

Edited volume:

1. *The Jesuit Post*, Orbis Press, Maryknoll, NY: 2014
 - Awarded 1st place by the Catholic Press Association

Select essays and book reviews:

1. “How to Remember Pope Francis,” *The Dispatch*, April 2025
2. “Review: Tearing down idols, William Cavanaugh’s theology is a must-read for the modern West,” *America Magazine*, July 2024
3. “The Political Theology of Recognition,” *Church Life Journal*, June 2024
 - An updated version of this essay is forthcoming in *La Civiltà Cattolica*
4. “What’s Religious about Being Woke?” with Fr. Sam Sawyer, S.J., *America Magazine*, April 2022
5. “Global Public Religions in an Age of Crisis,” *Democracy Seminar*, March 2022
 - Adapted and reprinted in *Public Seminar*, April 2022
6. “Review: We Created Our Present-day Crises,” *America Magazine*, October 2020
7. “Review: Why Americans should brush up on their Catholic history,” *America Magazine*, June 2020
8. “Litany for a Pandemic,” *America Magazine*, April 2, 2020
 - Winner of a *New York Press Club’s* 2021 Award for Journalism
 - Translated into Italian and published as “Pandemia Blues” in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, May 2020, Volume 4077: 256-68
9. “Review: 13 ‘misfits’ who spoke truth to power,” *America Magazine*, July 2019

10. "Review: Remaining faithful to fragile gifts," *America Magazine*, February 2019
11. "James K. A. Smith's Theological Journey," *America Magazine*, October 2018
12. "I'm a Catholic priest. I'm ashamed at this abuse crisis," *Vox*, August 2018
13. Review – "James Martin: Essential Writings, written by James T. Keane," *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, 2018, Volume 5 (1): 183-85
14. "Building Bridges in a Secular Age," *Living City Magazine*, February 2018 issue
15. "Is the Benedict Option based on Christian principles – or white middle-class ones?" *America Magazine*, January 2018
16. "Review: Seeking the Spirit in a secular age," *America Magazine*, October 2017
17. "An Interview with Khary Lazarre-White," *Public Seminar*, October 2017
18. "Navigating the Benedict Option," *America Magazine*, April 2017
19. "The Politics of Small Things and Positive Liberty," *Public Seminar*, December 2016
20. "So, what's the Benedict Option really about, retreat or re-engagement?" *America Magazine*, December 2016
21. "A Deweyan Response to Hyperdemocracy," *Public Seminar*, October 2016
22. "Re-enchanting the World," *America Magazine*, August 2016
23. "Pope Francis Sends His Regrets," *Zocalo Public Square*, June 2014
24. "What Martyrdom Means," *America Magazine*, May 2014
 - Awarded honorable mention by the Catholic Press Association
25. "*Eloquentia Perfecta* in a Digital Age," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, Fall 2013, Volume 44
26. "The Sinner Pope," *On Faith – The Washington Post*, September 2013
27. "The Long Black Line," *America Magazine*, January 2012
 - Awarded 3rd place by the Catholic Press Association
28. "A Response to the 2009 CARA study on Religious Vocations," *Horizon*, Volume 35.5, Fall 2010: 11-15

Media appearances:

1. Interviewed by *The Spiritual Life* with Fr. James Martin, SJ. Forthcoming.
2. Interviewed by CNN, *CNN News Central*, April 2025
3. Interviewed by *Australian Broadcasting Corporation*, April 2025
4. Interviewed by Fox 32 *Good Day Chicago*, April 2025
5. Interviewed by *Outside the Walls* podcast. Published as "Public Religion: Living Faith in the World", January 2024
6. Interviewed by *Jesuitical* podcast. Published as "A Jesuit Guide to Major Life Choices", January 2024
7. Interviewed by NPR member station *KJZZ Phoenix*. Published as "What does gratitude mean in our busy, polarized, technology-seeped world?" November 22, 2023
8. Interviewed by *Living City Magazine*. Published as "Drawn to Unity Like a Magnet", September-October 2023
9. Co-host of "Think Like a Jesuit", produced by *America Media*, Fall 2022
10. Interviewed on the *AMDG* podcast. Published as "Special Edition: Fr. Paddy Gilger, Locked Down in Milan, Reflects on Fear and Compassion", March 2022
11. Interviewed by *L'Osservatore Romano*. Published as "Parlare della verità con amore: conversazione con il filosofo e giornalista gesuita Patrick Gilger," May 8, 2020

12. Interviewed by *Cracks in Postmodernity*. Published as “When Quarantined, Give Your Heart Generously: A Conversation with Paddy Gilger, S.J.,” April 4, 2020
13. Interviewed by *Center for Religion and Culture*, Fordham University, March 24, 2020
14. Interviewed on the *AMDG* podcast. Published as “Doing Lent After Two Straight Years of Lenten Vibes”, March 2020
15. Co-host of “Jesuit Autocomplete,” produced by *America Media*, May 2019 – July 2020
16. Co-host of “America This Week,” an *America Media* radio show, Spring 2018 – Fall 2019

Public Presentations:

1. “Loneliness and Belonging.” Presentation for *Ignatian Volunteer Corps*, St. Ignatius High School, July 2024
2. “Sexuality and Intimacy.” Presentation for the Wellness Center at Loyola University Chicago, April 2024
3. “Can the Soul Remain Open When Life Settles in?” Presentation with Tara Isabella Burton at the *New York Encounter*, February 2024
4. “Ignatian Education in a Secular Age.” Presentation with Fr. Eric Sundrup, S.J. for the faculty and staff of Loyola High School, Montreal, January 2024
5. “The Academic Heart of Jesuit Higher Education.” Presentation for Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Trustee Forum, October 2023
6. “Drawn to Unity Like a Magnet.” Presentation for *Living City Magazine*, October 2023
7. “Introduction and Conference Objectives.” Lecture with Fr. Matthew Dunch, S.J. for *Jesuit Scholarship in a Secular Age* Conference, August 2023.
8. Invited presentation for “Recovering Truth: Religion, Journalism, and Democracy in a Post-Truth Era,” a Luce Seminar sponsored by Arizona State University’s Center for Religion and Conflict, February 2022
9. “Public Religions and Global Solidarity: A Conversation Between Jose Casanova and Fr. Patrick Gilger.” Hosted by the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies at the New School for Social Research, November 2021
10. “Incarnation in a Secular Age.” Invited presentation for LUC Catholic Studies Program *Ideas that Change Lives* series, October 2021
11. Moderator for “Fragile Democracy: Technocratic Takeover and Popular Renewal” with Charles Taylor, Patrizia Nanz, and Jason Blakely, hosted by the Lumen Christi Institute and USC’s Nova Forum, March 2021
12. “COVID-19, Religion, & Humanity: Dispatches from the Frontlines” with Anand Gopal, Ph.D. Invited lecturer and discussant, Arizona State University’s Center for Religion and Conflict, April 2020
13. Host and interviewer for launch of *On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless Hearts* by James K. A. Smith, New York, NY, October 1, 2019
14. “Falling in Love and Staying in Love (or, What Sophomore Year is Really About).” Keynote lecture for Creighton University, Omaha, NE, September 2018
15. “Building Bridges in a Secular Age.” Invited lecture for the *Building Bridges Colloquium* in honor of *Living City Magazine*’s 50th anniversary, Fordham University, New York, NY, October 2017
16. “Reclaiming Belonging: A Catholic Response to Social Fragmentation.” Invited lecture for the *Jesuit Speaker Series*, Boise State University, Boise, ID, March 2017

17. “Calligraphers of the Ineffable.” Invited lecture, *Ignite Lecture Series*, Creighton University, Omaha, NE, August 2015
18. “What is Sacred about Sacred Texts?” Invited panelist for *The Word and Words III: Sacred Texts and Jesuit Mission*, Bannan Institute of Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA, March 2012

Select Service to the Profession

1. Reviewer: *Review for Religious, Social Currents*
2. Graduate Program Committee, Loyola University Chicago Sociology Dept., 2022 – present
3. Undergraduate Program Committee, Loyola University Chicago Sociology Dept., 2021-22
4. Session Presider, ASA, 2016
5. Session Presider, ASR, 2016, 2019, 2024
6. Session Presider, SSSR/RRA, 2022, 2023

Select Service Beyond the Profession:

1. Reviewer: *Modern Theology*
2. Board Member, Development Committee, Mission and Identity Committee, Christ the King Jesuit College Prep, 2022 – present
3. Contributing Editor for Arts and Culture, *America Media*, 2016 – present
4. Superior, Arrupe House Jesuit Community, Loyola University Chicago, 2022-23
 - a. In this role, assigned to me by my religious superiors during AY '22-'23, I was responsible for the practical, pastoral, and fiscal care of a house of ~20 Jesuit priests and scholastics.
5. Editor, *Public Seminar*, 2016-20
6. Interim and Associate Pastor, St. John’s Parish at Creighton University, 2013-15
7. Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief, *The Jesuit Post*, 2012-14
8. Coordinator, Red Cloud Volunteer Program, Red Cloud Indian School, 2008-10
9. Teacher of English and Philosophy, Red Cloud High School, 2007-10

Memberships and Professional Affiliations:

- American Sociological Association
- Association for the Sociology of Religion
- Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- The Democracy Seminar
- National Steering Committee on Justice in Jesuit Higher Education, 2013-19
- *Alpha Sigma Nu* – National Jesuit Honors Society
- *Phi Sigma Tau* – National Honor Society for Philosophy
- *Theta Alpha Kappa* – National Honor Society for Theology

Languages:

- English (native)
- Italian (speak/read, intermediate)

- Latin (read, basic)

References:

- José Casanova, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow – Berkeley Center
Georgetown University
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- Jeffrey Goldfarb, Ph.D.
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- Jerome P. Baggett, Ph.D.
Professor of Religion and Society
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- Benoit Challand, Ph.D.
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