

MATTHEW S. VOS, PH. D.

Phone: (706) 419-1419 (Office);
(423)314-8790 (Cell)
matt.vos@covenant.edu

Covenant College
Department of Sociology
Brock Hall #107
14049 Scenic Highway
Lookout Mountain, GA
30750

EDUCATION

2003 The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Sociology, Ph.D.

- Specializations in Social Psychology and Sociology of Religion

1996 The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Education Administration, M.Ed.

- Concentration in Secondary Education Administration

1990 Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA

Music, B.A.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2000— Professor of Sociology (Department Chair), Covenant College

2016-2020 Institutional Review Board, Richmond Graduate School, Chattanooga, Tennessee

2009-2021 Adjunct Professor, Omega Graduate School, Dayton, Tennessee

1996-2010 Adjunct Instructor, Covenant College Quest Program

- Taught Interpersonal Communication, Applied Research

1993-2000 Academic Advisor/Recruiter, Covenant College Quest Program

1997 Adjunct Instructor, Covenant College Traditional Program

- Taught Principles of Sociology

COLLEGE COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE

- Social Committee
- Core Oversight Committee (secretary)
- Parking Committee
- Admissions Committee (chair)

MEMBERSHIPS AND POSITIONS

- 2012— Managing Editor, Journal of Sociology and Christianity (sociologyandchristianity.org)
- 2023— President, Christian Sociological Association
- 2016-2023 Vice President, Christian Sociological Association (formerly ACTS)
- 2014-2016 President, Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS)
- 2011-2013 Vice President, Association of Christians Teaching Sociology ACTS
- 2000— Southern Sociological Society

COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

- Principles of Sociology
- Interpersonal Communication
- Methods of Social Research
- Social Psychology
- Contemporary Social Thought (Sociological Theory)
- Applied Research Methods
- Interpersonal Communication
- Sociology of Religion
- Leadership in Context
- Sociology of Sport
- Men, Women, & Society
- Christ & Culture (Lead Professor, Multi-Professor Course)
- Senior Seminar in Sociology (Capstone)

GRADUATE RESEARCH

- “The Secularization Thesis: Perspectives on the Religious Restructuring of America”
- “Secularization Theory, Public Religions, and Modernity: A Review of Current Perspectives”
- “Mother Teresa as a Charismatic Leader: Americans, Avarice, and Altruism”
- “A Matter of Perspective: Psychologists, Symbolic Interactionists, and Explaining Human Behavior”
- “The Scholastic Aptitude Test and African Americans: Intelligence Testing and the Ideology of Meritocracy”
- “Robert K. Merton: Paradox, Latency, and the Sociology of Science”
- “Identities and Thought Communities: Cognitive Dimensions of Adult College Students”

PUBLICATIONS

- Vos, M. S. (May, 19 & May 22, 2023). “Much Ado About Theories: Teaching Marx and Other Suspicious Types in Christian Higher Education.” (Part 1 and Part 2) *Christian Scholars Review Blog*. (adapted and reprinted from the *Journal of Sociology and Christianity* Vol 13, No. 1, 80-86.)
- Vos, M. (April 2023). “Much Ado About Theories: Teaching Marx and Other Suspicious Types in Christian Higher Education.” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 13, No. 1, 80-86.
- Vos, M. S. (February 10, 2023). “One Square Inch We Won’t Concede: Super Bowl Christians and the God Outside the Stadium.” *Comment: Public Theology for the Common Good*.
- Vos, M. (Fall 2022). “It’s All in the Faculty Lounge.” *Covenant College View*.
- Vos, M. S. (October 11, 2022). “Author’s Response to Jenell Paris’ Review of Strangers and Scapegoats: Extending God’s Welcome to Those on the Margins.” *Christian Scholars Review Blog*. <https://christianscholars.com/authors-response-to-jenell-paris-review-of-strangers-and-scapegoats-extending-gods-welcome-to-those-on-the-margins-grand-rapids-mi-baker-academic-2022-288-pages/>
- Vos, M. (Oct. 2022). Review of Henry Hyunsuk Kim’s, “A Brief Introduction to Sociology from a Christian Perspective,” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 12, No. 2.
- Vos, M. S. (2022). “From Strangers and Scapegoats to Neighbors and Friends.” *By Faith*, 76, 56-60. <https://byfaithonline.com/from-strangers-and-scapegoats-to-neighbors-and-friends/>
- Vos, M. (2022). *Strangers and Scapegoats: Extending God’s Welcome to Those on the Margins*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Vos, M. (April 2022). “One Square Inch We Won’t Concede: Super Bowl Christians and the God outside the Stadium.” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 12, No. 1, 85-94.
- Vos, M. S., and Chiareli, A. (August 2021). Race and Ethnic Stratification (Ch. 8), in *Sociology: A Christian Approach for Changing the World*, 3^d edition.
- Vos, M. (April 2021). “‘Thugs’ in Context: Why Dividing People into ‘Good’ and ‘Bad’ is a Bad Idea.” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 11, No. 1, 70-75.
- Vos, M. (February 5, 2021). “Amanda Gorman: Prophet on a Precipice,” *The Chattanooga*. <https://www.chattanooga.com/2021/2/5/422828/Amanda-Gorman-Prophet-On-A-Precipice.aspx>
- Vos, M. (April 2020). “The Way That You See.” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 10, No. 1, 34-40.
- Vos, M. (October 2019). “Competing in Cedar: Nike, Superstar Athletes, and the Unseen Strangers who Make our Shoes.” *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 9, No. 2, 7-28.

- Vos, Matt (2019) "Who Is My Neighbor?," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 47: No. 4, 27 -35.
https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol47/iss4/7
- Vos, M. (October 2017). "Asking Questions in a World of Answers," *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 7, No. 2.
- Vos, M. (April 2017). Review of Earl Babbie's "Observing Ourselves: Essays in Social Research," 2nd ed. *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 7, No. 1.
- Vos, M. (October 2016). Review of Marcia Mount Shoop's, "Touchdowns for Jesus and Other Signs of Apocalypse: Lifting the Veil on Big-Time Sports," in *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 6, No. 2.
- Vos, M. (October 2016). "There's No Such Thing as Alone: From Bounded-being Accounts to the Confluence of the Saints." *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 6, No. 2.
- Vos, M. (June 29, 2016). "Rihanna, the *Anti* Role Model," *The Chattanooga*.
<https://www.chattanooga.com/2016/6/29/327052/Matthew-Vos-Rihanna-The-Anti-Role-Model.aspx>
- Vos, M. (October 2015). Review of James W. Brownson's "Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-sex Relationships," *Journal of Sociology and Christianity*, 5, No. 2.
- Kopic, K. M., Morris, T., & Vos, M. S. (Sept/Oct 2015). "Where Does Authority Come From?: A Conversation with a Theologian, a Biologist, and a Sociologist." *Modern Reformation*, 24 (5), 34-49.
- Vos, M. (May 2015). "A World of Our Own Making?: Examining America's Changing Religious Landscape." (Guest Blog) *WhiteHorseInn.org* (affiliated with Modern Reformation magazine). <https://www.whitehorseinn.org/2015/05/a-world-of-our-own-making-examining-americas-changing-religious-landscape-by-matthew-s-vos/>
- Vos, M. (April, 2015). "Editorial." *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*, Vol. 5, No. 1.
- Vos, M. (March, 2015). Carolyn Custis James' Half the Church: Recapturing God's Global Vision for Women: A Review Essay, *Pro Rege*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 3, 19-23.
- Vos, M. (2014), *Faithful Learning Series: "Sociology,"* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.
- Kopic, K. & Vos, M. (Fall, 2014), "Those Who Mourn." *Cultural Encounters: A Journal for the Theology of Culture*. 10 (1).
- Vos, M. (Spring, 2014). "Grow Up Will You?!" *Covenant College View*.
- Vos, M. (Jan/Feb 2014). "Boasting: It is Included." *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, 6-10.

- Vos, M. (October, 2013). Editorial, *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*, Vol. 3, No. 2.
- Vos, M. (February 1, 2013), “Prizes and Consumables: The Super Bowl as a Theology of Women.” *Comment: Public Theology for the Common Good*.
- Vos, M. (April, 2011). Review of Walter Brueggemann’s, “Journey to the Common Good,” in *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*, 2(1).
- Vos, M. (2011). “The Digital Embrace: College Students and Technology in a *Howzitgoing* World.” *Sociological Imagination*, 47, 1, 55-70.
- Vos, M. (April, 2011). Review of Shirl J. Hoffman’s, “Good Game: Christianity and the Culture of Sports,” in *Journal for the Sociological Integration of Religion and Society*, 1(1).
- Vos, M., and Vos, J. (2011). “Enchanting the Disenchanted Student: From Self to Service in the College Community.” *SACRAO Journal*, 24.
- Vos, M. S., and Chiareli, A. (2010). Race and Ethnic Stratification (Ch. 8), in *Sociology: A Christian Approach for Changing the World*, 2nd edition, Marion, IN: Triangle Publishing.
- Vos, M. (Fall, 2010). “Kids These Days” in a World of Change, *Christian School Education*, ACSI, 14, 1, 2010/2011
- Vos, M. (2010). *Instructor’s Resource Manual to accompany Beebe, Beebe, and Redmond’s Interpersonal Communication: Relating to Others*, 6th ed., Allyn & Bacon.
- Heddendorf, R., and Vos, M. S. (2010). *Hidden Threads: A Christian Critique of Sociological Theory*, 2nd ed. Boston, MA: University Press of America.
- Vos, M. S. (2008). *Exploring McDonaldization*, in Ritzer, G. *The McDonaldization of Society* 5, Instructor’s Resources. Los Angeles, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Vos, M. S. (June, 2008). “Excellence: The Emperor’s New Clothes,” *Phi Delta Kappan*, 89, 10.
- Vos, M. S. (Summer, 2008). “To Dance with a Child.” (adapted and reprinted), *LifeLines*, 15, 2.
- Vos, M. S. (Feb, 2008). “To Dance with a Child.” *Chattanooga Christian Family*.
- Vos, M. S. (Winter, 2008). Seeing the Unseen, *The Christian Sociologist*.
- Vos, M. (Spring, 2006). “What Makes Us Us?: A Sociologist’s Perspective.” *Covenant College Bagpipe*, Spring, 2006.
- Vos, M. S. (2005). “Stepping Outside Society’s Caves: In the World at a Christian College.” *By Faith*, 4, 16-17.

- Vos, M. S. (2003). "Bridging Thought Communities: Implications of Membership in Degree-Completion Program Groups for the Self-Concepts of Adult Students." (Doctoral Dissertation, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses A&I. (305297258).

PODCASTS

- The Other Side of the Church with Lathan Craft. "Strangers and Scapegoats," Episode 59, Dec. 28, 2022.
- Competing for Christ with Ken Burke. "Sociology of Sport," Feb. 1, 2023.
- The Hopper Podcast. "Sociology of the Stranger," Episode 107, April 10, 2023.
- The Hopper Podcast. "Scapegoats and Immigrants," Episode 108, April 17, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Faculty Panelist, *Conversations about Culture and Race*, Covenant College, September 6, 2023.
- "One Square Inch We Won't Concede: Super Bowl Christians and the God Outside the Stadium." Presentation at the annual conference of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2, 2023, Eastern University, St. David's, PA.
- "Where the Gates are Always Open and the Streets of Gold Have No Name," *Geneva College, J.G. Vos Memorial Lecture*, April 13, 2023. (Also, gave "Those Who Mourn" lecture to three different classes during my stay.)
- Interview with the Chattanooga Times/Free Press (November 25, 2022). "Q&A: A Covenant College Sociologist on Christianity, Strangers, and Scapegoats." <https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2022/nov/25/covenant-college-sociologist-tfp/>
- *Strangers & Scapegoats: Where the Gates are Always Open, and the Streets of Gold Have No Name*. Presentation (with James Ward as musical guest) at the Camphouse/The Mission, November 17, 2022, Chattanooga, TN.
- Presider/Organizer over Panel Discussion at Covenant College (November 8, 2022) "Social Work/Relational Counseling Career Dessert."
- *Where the Gates are Always Open, and the Streets of Gold Have No Name*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2022, Redeemer University, Ancaster, Ontario.
- Presentation with Dr. Elissa Weichbrodt and Student Panel addressing the Asian Model Minority Myth, *Conversations about Culture and Race*, Covenant College, April 13, 2022.
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL, *Be Like Mike?: Nike, Superstar Athletes, and the Unseen Strangers Who Make Our Shoes*. April 8, 2022.

- *What Would It Take For You to Get the Covid-19 Vaccine?* Interview with Sydney Edwards, WTVC News Channel 9, Chattanooga, TN, December 14, 2020. [What would it take for you to get the COVID-19 vaccine? | WTVC \(newschannel9.com\)](https://www.wtvc.com/news/2020/12/14/what-would-it-take-for-you-to-get-the-covid-19-vaccine/)
- Faculty Panelist, *Conversations about Culture and Race*, Covenant College Chapel, September 9, 2020.
- Consulted on matters of Race and Ethnicity with Covenant Day School, Matthews, North Carolina, June 2020.
- *Prizes and Consumables: The Super Bowl as a Theology of Women*. Presentation at the Second Global Congress on Sport and Christianity, October 2019, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI.
- *Be Like Mike?: Big Sport, Nike, and the Unseen Strangers Who Make Our Shoes*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2019, Eastern University, St. Davids, PA.
- Presider, Session 60: *Gender and Embodiment – Paper Session*. Southern Sociological Society, 82nd Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 2019. Presented *The Mother of All Surgeries: Redemption Language in Cosmetic Surgery’s “Mommy Makeover.”*
- Chapel Talk, Covenant College, April 3, 2019. *Strangers in the Pew: Girls and Symbolic Exclusion*.
- External Program Reviewer for the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department at Northwestern College, Orange City, IA. February 2019.
- *Strangers in the Pew: Girls and Symbolic Exclusion*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Christian Sociological Association, June, 2018, Lee University, Cleveland, TN.
- *The Mother of All Surgeries: Exploring Cosmetic Surgery’s “Mommy Makeover.”* Presentation at the annual conference of the Mid-South Sociological Association, October 2017, Chattanooga, TN.
- *The Mother of All Surgeries: Exploring Cosmetic Surgery’s “Mommy Makeover.”* Presentation at the annual meeting of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2017, Northwestern College, Orange City, IA.
- *Commencement Speaker*, Covenant Day School, June 2017, Matthews, North Carolina.
- *Re-enchanting Mission*. Joint presentation with Dr. Chris Robinson at the annual meeting of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2016, Union University, Jackson, TN.
- *Asking Questions in a World of Answers*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Christian Sociological Association, June 2016, Union University, Jackson, TN.
- *There’s No Such Thing as Alone: From ‘Bounded Being’ Accounts to the Confluence of Doxology*, Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June 2015, Eastern University, Philadelphia, PA.

- Banquet Speaker for Lee University Alpha Kappa Delta, Tennessee Theta Member Induction of New Members, April 1, 2014.
- *Prizes and Consumables: The Super Bowl as a Theology of Women*. Presentation at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, June 2013, Greenville, SC.
- *Boasting: It is Included*, Paper Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June 2013, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL.
- *Prizes and Consumables: The Super Bowl as a Theology of Women*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June, 2012, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA.
- *Stranger Still*, Paper Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June, 2011, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.
- *Those Who Mourn*, Paper Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June, 2010, Eastern University, Philadelphia, PA.
- *Enchanting the Disenchanted Student: Recruitment and Retention in a Changing Culture*, Joint Paper Presentation with Joan Vos at the annual conference of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (SACRAO), Chattanooga, Spring 2010.
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Richmond, VA, *The Role of the Small College in Enchanting a Disenchanted World*. April, 2008.
- *The Digital Embrace: College Students and Community in the High-Tech Era*, Paper Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June, 2007, Campbellsville, KY.
- Presider/Discussant at Southern Sociological Society Conference in Atlanta, GA, April 2007. Section title: "Gastronomical Influences in Society."
- Banquet Speaker for Lee University Alpha Kappa Delta, Tennessee Theta Member Induction of New Members, October 25, 2006.
- Hosted Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS) Annual Conference, June 15-18, 2006. Gave Presentation Titled, "The Idolatry of Excellence: A Sociological Comment." Currently Hold the Office of Graduate Student Liaison (2004—2010).
- Sociology Club Presentation with Student Melanie Bosma, "Chinese Immigration Control Policies," May, 2006.
- Co-Presenter at Covenant College Kaleo Conference on Gender and the Church titled, "Living the Question: Social and Historical Dimensions of Gender and the Church," Spring, 2006.
- "The Idolatry of Excellence: A Sociological Comment" Covenant College Chapel address, October 3, 2005

- Presider/Discussant at Southern Sociological Society Conference in Charlotte, NC, April 2005. Section title: “Social Theory and the History of Social Theory.”
- “Revealing Unseen Idols: The Prophetic Role of the Christian Sociologist” Three-Year Paper Presented to the Covenant College Faculty, Spring 2003
- “Bridging Thought Communities: Implications of Membership in Degree-completion Program Groups for the Self-concepts of Adult Students” Paper presentation at Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference in New Orleans, April 2003
- “Persevering toward the Promise” Covenant College Chapel address, November 2002
- Secretary, Association of Christians Teaching Sociology (ACTS), June 2002 – 2004.
- “From Enlightenment to Postmodernity: Feminist Perspectives on Science” Presentation to Philosophy Club, Covenant College, Spring, 2002.