

Roman R. Williams, PhD

Founder & CEO, Interfaith Photovoice

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www.interfaithphotovoice.org

EDUCATION

PhD, Boston University, Sociology, 2010

ThM, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2003

MDiv, Columbia International University, 2000

BS, Messiah College, 1993

RECENT PROJECTS & CLIENTS

Dartmouth College, William Jewett Tucker Center, “Seeing and Believing at Dartmouth,” photovoice training and coaching, 2023-2024

Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Grand Valley State University, “Believing and Belonging on Campus,” photovoice project, 2023–2024

Braver Angels, “Braver Lens Initiative,” photovoice training and coaching (Fetzer Institute grant), 2023–2024

Essential Partners, “Community Cornerstones: New Capacities for Healing, Connection, and Action,” photovoice training and coaching (New Pluralists grant), 2023–2025

Grand Rapids Christian High School, “Oman: An Arabian Adventure,” short-term study abroad instructor, 2023–2024

Al Amana Centre, “Cooperation through the Lenses of Muslims and Christians,” 2023

Fetzer Institute, “Study of Spirituality in the US, Wave II,” visual data advisor and analyst, 2022–2023

Colossian Forum, “Sowing the Seeds of Hope,” program design team member, 2022–2023

Whitworth University, “Calling Communities,” program evaluation (Lilly Endowment grant), 2022–2023

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), Weissburg Scholars Retreats, photovoice facilitation (Fetzer Institute grant), 2022–2023

Essential Partners, “Common Visions for the Common Good,” photovoice initiative design, training, and coaching (Fetzer Institute grant), 2022–2023

Al Amana Centre, “Clergy with Cameras,” photovoice project and training (Lutheran World Federation and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs of Oman funding), 2022

Collegeville Institute, “Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose,” program evaluation (Lilly Endowment grant), 2021–2023

Fetzer Institute, “Study of Spirituality in the US, Wave I,” visual data advisor and analyst, 2020–2022

Al Amana Centre, “Seeing and Believing in Oman: Peace, Cooperation, and Harmony” (Ministry of

Endowments and Religious Affairs of Oman funding) and “Seeing and Believing in Pakistan” photovoice projects (Stefanus Alliance grant); and “Double Exposure,” photovoice project and training (Stefanus Alliance grant), 2021

Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, photovoice project, 2021

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2023 “Mobile Phone Photography & Interfaith Engagement,” Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago.
- 2023 “Experiencing Change, Enduring Struggle: A Study of Spirituality in the United States,” with Mohammed Mohammed, Gillian Gonda, and Pamela Ebstyn King, Parliament of the World’s Religions.
- 2023 “Braver Lens: Amateur Photography to Heal American Divides,” Braver Angels National Convention.
- 2023 “Bridges and Barriers to Belief and Belonging,” Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership, Hebrew College.
- 2023 “Gratitude: An Interfaith Photovoice Workshop,” The Rose Castle Foundation
- 2022 “Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose: Initial Insights,” Lilly Endowment Convening.
- 2021 “Building Compassion One Photo at a Time” and “A Snapshot of Interfaith Photovoice,” Parliament of the World’s Religions.
- 2021 “Bridging Divides with Photovoice,” Photovoice Worldwide Community Webinar.
- 2020 “Seeing and Believing: The Art and Social Science of Interfaith Photovoice,” Convergence Webinar.
- 2019 “The Endogenous Effects of Photovoice: Notes on the Impact of Photovoice on Participants,” International Visual Sociology Association annual meeting.
- 2018 “Interfaith Photovoice: Amateur Photography, Critical Conversations, and Public Engagement,” with Catherine Holtmann and Elena van Stee, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting.
- 2018 “Through One Another’s Lenses: Photovoice and Interfaith Dialogue,” International Visual Sociology Association annual meeting.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2024 Roman R. Williams, Catherine Holtmann, and William L. Sachs. *Sacred Snaps: Interfaith Engagement through Smartphone Photography* (working title). Manuscript under review.
- 2015 Editor and contributor. *Seeing Religion: Toward a Visual Sociology of Religion*. London and New York: Routledge.

Articles & Book Chapters

- 2022 “Picturing Spirituality: What Can Drawings Reveal about Spirituality?” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 49(2):157-182.

* Former student as co-author.

- 2022 Catherine Holtmann, Emma V. Robinson, and Roman R. Williams. “Interfaith Photovoice: An Example of Muslim-Christian Engagement in Canada.” *Visual Studies* 37(1-2):96–115.
- 2020 Roman R. Williams and Taylor Hartson.* “From Sanctuary to Skatepark.” *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds* 19(3):52–59.
- 2020 Roman R. Williams and Timothy Shortell. “Eyes Upon the Street: Visual Social Science Approaches to Religion and the City.” Pp. 48–66 in *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities*. Edited by Elise Edwards and Katie Day. London and New York: Routledge.
- 2019 “Engaging and Researching Congregations Visually: Photovoice in a Mid-Sized Church.” *Ecclesial Practices* 6(1):5–27.
- 2019 Roman R. Williams, William Sachs, Catherine Holtmann, Elena van Stee,* Kaitlyn Eekhoff,* Michael Bos, and Ammar Amonette. “Through One Another’s Lenses: Photovoice and Interfaith Dialogue.” Pp. 253–274 in *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion, Volume 10: Interreligious Dialogue: From Religion to Geopolitics*. Edited by Giuseppe Giordan and Andrew P. Lynch. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.
- 2018 “Visual Tools for Visual Times: Innovation and Opportunity in the Visual Sociology of Religion.” *Revista Ciências da Religião—História e Sociedade (Review of Religious Studies—History and Society)* 14(2):98–130.
- 2016 “Religion, Migration, and Change in a European City.” *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds* 15(4):48–57.
- 2015 Roman R. Williams and Kyle Whitehouse.* “Photo Elicitation and the Visual Sociology of Religion.” *Review of Religious Research* 57(2):303–318.
- 2013 “Constructing a Calling: The Case of Evangelical Christian International Students in the United States.” *Sociology of Religion* 74(2):254–280.
- 2012 Nancy T. Ammerman and Roman R. Williams. “Speaking of Methods: Eliciting Religious Narratives through Interviews, Photos, and Oral Diaries.” Pp. 117–134 in *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion, Volume 3: New Methods in the Sociology of Religion*, edited by L. Berzano and O. Riis. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill.
- 2010 “Space for God: Lived Religion at Work, Home, and Play.” *Sociology of Religion* 71(3):257–279.

RECENT EMPLOYMENT & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Current Positions

- 2019–Present Research Fellow, Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2017–Present Founder and CEO, Interfaith Photovoice (interfaithphotovoice.org)

Previous Positions

- 2016–2021 Executive Officer, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2019–2020 Tenured Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Calvin

University, Grand Rapids, Michigan
2016–2018 Visiting Lecturer, Duke University, Divinity School (Doctor of Ministry Program),
Durham, North Carolina
2012–2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Calvin University,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Ammar Amonette, MA

Imam, Islamic Center of Virginia

Catherine Holtmann, PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology and Director of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre
for Family Violence Research, University of New Brunswick

Justin Meyers, MDiv, MA

Executive Director, Al Amana Centre

Or Rose, PhD (ABD)

Rabbi and Founding Director, Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership, Hebrew College