



**Richard L. Wood**  
**Professor, Department of Sociology**  
**University of New Mexico**

'short' form updated August 2022; full CV available upon request

Wood currently serves as Professor of Sociology at UNM; he holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley, an M.A. degree in theology from the Graduate Theological Union, and a B.A. in chemistry from UC-Davis. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on democracy & political culture, religion, social theory, community organizing, and ethnographic research methods. Wood's scholarly expertise focuses on the cultural and institutional bases of democratic life, especially those linked to faith communities. His early work studied congregation-based community organizing in low-income neighborhoods of the United States, culminating in *Faith in Action* (University of Chicago Press 2002); the book received the 2003 award for the outstanding book in the sociology of religion from the American Sociological Association. His book *A Shared Future: Faith-Based Organizing for Racial Equity and Ethical Democracy* (2015 from the University of Chicago Press, co-authored with Brad R. Fulton) analyzes work for racial justice within a national multiracial organization and how that organization negotiates the tension between multiculturalist and universalist democratic traditions. His ~40 articles and book chapters have won awards, including his 2014 article with Ruth Braunstein and Brad R. Fulton "The Role of Bridging Cultural Practices in Racially and Socioeconomically Diverse Civic Organizations" (*American Sociological Review*), which won the Clifford Geertz Award for best article in the Sociology of Culture from the American Sociological Association. His current projects include finishing *Faith and the Fire of Public Life*, on the impact of civic engagement on faith communities; several articles under review on diversity, racial equity, and secular-religious alliances in political organizations.

Wood previously served as Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (2018-2019)<sup>1</sup> and Senior Vice Provost, President of the Faculty Senate and co-chairperson of the faculty Committee on Governance, chairperson of the Department of Sociology, Director of the Religious Studies Program, and in various other roles at the college and university level at UNM. Wood serves as co-editor of a book series at Cambridge University Press, the *Cambridge Studies of Social Theory, Religion, and Politics*. He has helped lead major nationally funded research projects on religion and democracy in the United States, Central America, and the Middle East. He has served on a variety of community service boards at the local and national levels, including as advisor to the national bishops' committee that oversees the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and as a member of the national governing board of Faith in Action (formerly the PICO National Network).

As Interim Provost, Wood oversaw the academic mission for the university; coordinated the work of main campus and branch deans; served on the senior leadership team for the university president; collaborated with various dimensions of shared governance with faculty, staff, and students; and oversaw the work of the vice president for research, academic affairs fiscal operations, interim senior vice provost, faculty contracts, associate provosts for curriculum & assessment & faculty development, and other academic personnel.

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<sup>1</sup> For accomplishments as senior vice provost and interim provost, see "Service" section below beginning p. 34

## **Educational History**

Ph.D., 1995, University of California at Berkeley, Sociology  
“Religion, Race, and the Future of Democracy,” Chairperson: Robert N. Bellah

M.A., 1989, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, Theology  
“Spirituality and Conversion in North American and Latin American Liberation Theology,”  
Chairperson: Don Gelpi, SJ

B.A., 1982, University of California at Davis, Chemistry

## **Recent Employment History**

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor to Professor, 1996-present, Department of Sociology,  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 87131

2022-2023 consultancy with Fetzer Institute in Michigan, advising them on design of new  
funding program to support an initiative to fund spiritually- and religiously-inspired pro-social  
movements around the world.

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (Jan/Feb 2018 and August  
2018 to July 2019) and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Mission (2017-2018), University of  
New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM; includes broad leadership of academic mission and the Office  
of Academic Affairs during a period of significant challenge & transition, as well as leadership  
of the Task Force on the Future Goals and Structure for the UNM Division of Equity & Inclusion  
(a.k.a. “DEI Task Force”, [report here](#)).<sup>2</sup>

Chairperson, Department of Sociology, 2014-2016, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque,  
NM

Special Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, 2012-2014, Office of the Provost, University of New  
Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, 87131. Major initiatives: Spearheaded redesign process of College  
of Education; oversaw Latin American & Iberian Institute; advised on broad strategic academic  
challenges facing the University.

## **Professional Recognition and Honors**

2021: Editor’s Prize from the editorial board of *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*, Wiley  
Press, and American University’s School of Public Affairs, jointly with co-authors for “Critical  
Standpoint: Leaders of color advancing racial equality in predominantly white organizations,” in  
*Non-Profit Management and Leadership*. DOI: 10.1002/nml.21387. Available [here](#).

2021: Best Article Award from ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity  
(American Sociological Association): Grace Yukich, Brad R. Fulton and Richard L. Wood.  
2019. "Representative Group Styles: How Ally Immigrant Rights Organizations Promote

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<sup>2</sup> For accomplishments as senior vice provost and interim provost, see “Service” section below beginning p. 34

Immigrant Involvement." *Social Problems*:1-19. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spz025. Download [abstract](#) or [free access copy](#).

2019-present: National Research Fellow with the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indiana.

2017-2018 Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching & Learning, University of New Mexico: Co-convenor (with Lecturer Dr. Ryan Goodman) a "Community of Practice" to redesign the Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology around a more engaged pedagogical model.

2016 ARNOVA Book Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, for Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton, *A Shared Future: Faith-based organizing for racial equity and ethical democracy* (University of Chicago Press, 2015). Given for a single book, monograph, or edited book published in the three calendar years preceding the award.

2016 Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article from the Sociology of Culture Section of the American Sociological Association; for Braunstein, Ruth, Brad Fulton, and Richard L. Wood. 2014. "The Role of Bridging Cultural Practices in Racially and Socioeconomically Diverse Civic Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 79 (4): 705-25 [Journal H Index: 126, highest in Sociology & Political Science].

UNM's Office of Graduate Studies' Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award, 2013

### **Scholarly Achievements:**

#### **Books Authored or Co-authored**

Wood, Richard L. Wood and Brad R. Fulton. 2015. *A Shared Future: Faith-based organizing for racial equity and ethical democracy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Winner of 2016 ARNOVA Book Award from the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action. Reviewed in 7 prominent sociology journals.

Wood, Richard L. 2002. *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Winner of Best Book Award from the Religion Section of the American Sociological Association. Reviews: 7 prominent sociology journals and the *Boston Review*

#### **Recent Articles in Refereed Journals**

Wood, Richard L. 2021. "Toward a Shared Future: Reflections on the Common Good" in *Human Development* 41:2 (Winter 2021), pp. 6-15 (a peer-reviewed but 'applied' journal for professionals in addiction counseling, health care, pastoral care, and religious leadership).

Markofski, Wes, Brad R. Fulton, and Richard L. Wood. 2020. "Secular Evangelicals: Faith-Based Organizing and Four Modes of Public Religion," in *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* 81:2 158-184. DOI: 10.1093/socrel/srz045. Download [abstract](#) or [free access copy](#).

Yukich, Grace, Brad R Fulton and Richard L Wood. 2019. "Representative Group Styles: How Ally Immigrant Rights Organizations Promote Immigrant Involvement." *Social Problems*:1-19. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spz025. Download [abstract](#) or [free access copy](#). Winner of best article award from ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity (American Sociological Association).

Fulton, Brad, Michelle Oyakawa, and Richard L. Wood. 2019. "Critical Standpoint: Leaders of color advancing racial equality in predominantly white organizations," in *Non-Profit Management and Leadership*. DOI: 10.1002/nml.21387. Available [here](#).

Wood, Richard L. 2019. "Passion and Virtue in Public Life: Focal Practices and the Political Holiness the World Needs," in *Political Power and Social Theory*, edited by Ruth Braunstein in a special volume titled *Religion and Political Polarization: A Force for Humility or Arrogance?* Brief version published on The Immanent Frame online scholarly forum.

Fulton, Brad R. and Richard L. Wood. 2018. "Civil Society Organizations and the Enduring Role of Religion in Promoting Democratic Engagement." *Voluntas: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations* (5):1068-1080. doi: 10.1007/s11266-018-9965-2.

Wood, Richard L. 2016. "The Catholic Bishops in the U.S. Public Arena: Changing Prospects under Pope Francis." *Religions* 7(14): 1-32.

Wood, Richard L. 2015. "In Defense of Dualism: Competing and complementary frameworks in religious studies and the sociology of religion" in *Critical Research on Religion* 4:3, 292-298 DOI: 10.1177/2050303216676530 (November 2015). <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2050303216676530>

Braunstein, Ruth, Brad Fulton, and Richard L. Wood. 2014. "The Role of Bridging Cultural Practices in Racially and Socioeconomically Diverse Civic Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 79 (4): 705-25. Winner of the "2016 Sociology of Culture Section's Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article," from the American Sociological Association. [Online access](#).

Wood, Richard L. 2014. "Advancing the Grounded Study of Religion & Society in Latin America" in "Lived Citizenship and Lived Religion in Latin America's Zones of Crisis," *Latin American Research Review* #49, a special issue edited by Benjamin Junge, Jeffrey Rubin, and David Smilde, 185-195.

### **Chapters in Edited Volumes**

Brad R. Fulton and Richard L. Wood, translated by Tobias Meier. 2022. "Community Organizing im interreligiösen Kontext Zeitgenössische theologische und organisatorische Herausforderungen," pp. 142-156 in *Community Organizing Eine Einführung*, by Tobias Meier, Leo Penta, and Andreas Richter (editors). Basel, Switzerland: Beltz Juventa, 2022. German translation of "Interfaith Community Organizing Emerging Theological and Organizational Challenges," *International Journal of Public Theology* 6 (2012):398–420.

Wood, Richard L. 2019. "Public Catholicism: Contemporary Presence and Future Promise" in *The Future of Catholicism in America*, edited by Patricia Killen and Mark Silk. Columbia University Press.

Wood, Richard L. 2019. "Passion and Virtue in Public Life: Focal Practices and the Political Holiness the World Needs" in *Religion, Humility, and Democracy*, Ruth Braunstein (ed.) London: Emerald 2019 (re-publication of journal article listed above).

Fulton, Brad R. and Richard L. Wood. 2017. Achieving and Leveraging Diversity through Faith-Based Organizing. In R. Braunstein, T. N. Fuist and R. Williams (eds.), *Religion and Progressive Activism: New Stories about Faith and Politics*. New York University Press, New York, 29-55.

Wood, Richard L. 2017. "Religion and Democratic Action." In Andrea Hunt (ed.), *Sociology in Action*, New York: Sage Publications.

### **Public Sociology**

Organized and co-led a series of national virtual conference of scholars and teachers of community organizing, designed to brainstorm ways of teaching undergraduate courses that link social theory, scholarly research, and the practical skills of organizing in ways that help a rising generation of young leaders address the challenges facing American democracy. 53 participating faculty from community colleges, public universities, religious seminaries, and elite universities focused on how scholarly research and higher education can better lay the intellectual groundwork for reshaping democratic institutions in more anti-racist and egalitarian directions. Co-sponsored by Brown University and UNM's Southwest Institute on Religion, Culture, and Society. (December, 2020; April & Dec 2021; April 2022; Dec 2022).

Online keynote address for the West Coast Faculty Conference, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship: "Beyond Christian Naiveté: Hope & Disappointment in this Moment," on resisting the colonization of Christianity by white nationalism (July 27, 2020).

Online keynote address for New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light: "On *Laudato Si'*: Ecology, economy, and the way ahead". Reflections on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, Encyclical Letter on global climate change by Pope Francis (May, 2020).

Wood, Richard L. 2019. "The religious left: Memory, trajectory, and relevance," introductory essay to an ongoing forum on the history, development, and meaning of movements for progressive political change rooted in religious commitment and spirituality. *The Immanent Frame*.

Braunstein, Ruth, Korie L. Edwards, and Richard L. Wood. 2018. "A Crisis of Political Arrogance," introductory essay in the *American Religion, Humility, and Democracy*

series on The Immanent Frame: <https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/01/11/a-crisis-of-political-arrogance/>

On *Peace Talks Radio* 2016 – nationally syndicated radio show hour-long segment on “Faith Leaders Organizing for Racial Justice”

Short version: <http://www.prx.org/pieces/189991-faith-leaders-organizing-for-racial-justice>

Long version: <http://www.prx.org/pieces/190030-faith-leaders-organizing-for-racial-justice-and-pe>

On *New Mexico in Focus*, August 18, 2017 – weekly television show on local PBS station KNME, on the burden of racial equity in the contemporary United States.

<https://youtu.be/1aj2oezvLMo>

Worked with ~20 UNM undergrad students and local labor scholars to do oral history interviews with labor activists around New Mexico; permanently archived as the UNM Working People's History of New Mexico:

<http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/WPHNM>

Wide variety of public commentary in the online and print media, including New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press, Albuquerque Journal, National Catholic Reporter, Commonwealth, and others. Generally focused on two broad themes: i) religion and democracy in the contemporary United States; and ii) the governance of universities in a period of significant pressure on their finances and mission.

### **Other Scholarly Work**

Faculty Convenor: SSRC Early Career Scholars cohort, Religion & Social Justice track: Feb-July 2021 including week-long seminar hosted in Santa Fe, New Mexico in July 2021 by the Social Science Research Council (New York) for 20 early career scholars of religion and either environment or social justice.

Wood, Richard L. 2018. “Passion and Virtue in Public Life,” core essay in the American Religion, Humility, and Democracy series on The Immanent Frame: <https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/01/17/passion-and-virtue-in-public-life/>

Wood, Richard L. 2016. “Faithful Secularity as the best hope for democracy,” posting on the primary online forum for intellectual discussion of issues of secularism and religion on contemporary world, The Immanent Frame: <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2016/06/02/faithful-secularity-as-the-best-hope-for-democracy/>; full discussion of *Resurrecting Democracy* by Luke Bretherton (Cambridge University Press, 2015) at <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/resurrecting-democracy/>.

### **Engaged scholarship and other writings:**

“Why Are White Evangelicals Anti-Human Rights?” by Howard Lavine, James Ron and Richard Wood: Published on OpenGlobalRights online forum. January 2021.

<https://www.openglobalrights.org/why-are-white-evangelicals-anti-human-rights/>

### **Works in Progress**

Under consideration for publication

Richard Wood, Rebecca Sager, and Brad Fulton: “Strategic Alliances: The Political Efficacy of Religious-Secular Ties”, multi-method article analyzing the conditions under which religious-secular organizational alliances contribute to or undermine organizational efficacy. Submitted August 2022 to *Mobilization: An International Journal of Social Movements*.

In preparation

Wood, Richard L. *Faith and the Fire of Public Life*. Book manuscript to be formally submitted to Oxford University Press and/or University of Chicago Press.

Brad R. Fulton and Richard L. Wood. *Bridging Social Divides*; book manuscript drawing on our joint research and publishing over the last ten years (since he was a doctoral student), a synthetic book arguing for the array of ideas, skills, and orientations (both practical and theoretical) that can undergird work across societal divides.

**Research:**

**Research and Programmatic Funding**

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

Principal Investigator: Richard Wood served as formal PI on the project, which was primarily led by colleagues out of UNM Honors College. This grant supports underrepresented undergraduate students academically and financially who hope to pursue a career in academia.

Andrew Mellon Foundation

January 2015 to August 2020, \$450,000

*START: Supporting Transformative Action in Reciprocity Together in the UNM College of Education*

Principal Investigator: Chaouki Abdallah

Wood coordinated writing by UNM various faculty of major grant to launch redesign of the College of Education’s approach to preparing teachers and school leaders for effective service in New Mexico’s diverse communities.

William K. Kellogg Foundation

August 2014 to July 2015, \$1,050,000

*Redesign of the UNM College of Education*

Principal Investigator: Chaouki Abdallah

Wood served as principal coordinator of faculty planning process for reimagining the College.

William K. Kellogg Foundation

June 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014, \$335,000

*The Impact of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements on Local Community Organization and Civic Participation in Central America*

Principal investigators: Jeannette Aguilar (primary) and Richard L. Wood

Research grant for survey and ethnographic work and to launch a major research network in Central America, centered at the Universidad Centroamericana “Jose Simeón Cañas” (UCA) in El Salvador.

Templeton Foundation and the University of Southern California’s Center on Religion & Civic Culture.

2010-2012, \$395,292

*Web Access for Civil Society Initiatives*

Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood

Funding for coordinating project in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, focused on the internet as a communications tool in civil society. Primary focus on Islam and democracy, human rights, and women’s empowerment. Supported six UNM graduate students, including two in the Department of Sociology (Anwar Ouassini and Mozafar Banihashemi). U.S. Department of State.

October 2006 to September 2009, \$949,200

*Nexus: Religion in the Public University*

Principal investigator; grant funding for public events on religion in American society, supporting a sociology graduate student Stacy Keogh and six major UNM-based public events. The Louisville Institute.

August 2005 to May 2006, \$33,521; funding renewed to December 2007 for total of \$55,989

*Islam and Democracy*

Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood

Support of doctoral candidate Mozafar Banihashemi’s work on the Middle East Middle East Program, Cooperative Monitoring Center, Sandia National Laboratories, U.S. Department of Energy

March 2003 to June 2008, \$156,451

*Congregational Development and Community Organizing*

Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood

Research support for two UNM doctoral students for 12-18 months. Study of impact of civic engagement on U.S. religious congregations Ford Foundation and Interfaith Funders

2002-2004, \$101,365

*Organizational Change in Policing*

Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood

Analysis of reform efforts in one local police department National Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and Albuquerque Police Department October 2000 to July 2001, \$25,000

*Research Partnership for Community Policing*

Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood

Study of reform strategies in American police departments National Institute of Justice (U.S. Department of Justice)



October 1998 to August 2000, \$177,124

*Transitions: Creating a Culture of Community Policing*  
Principal investigator: Richard L. Wood  
Study of the impact of community policing on police culture  
National Institute of Justice (U.S. Department of Justice)  
1997-1998, \$151,396

### **Current Doctoral Advisement**

Jalal Fetрати: advisor and committee member (2021-2023).

Vittoria Totaro: advisor and committee member (2021-2023).

Drew Medaris: chair of dissertation committee (2021-2023); Ph.D. comp exam committee member; Completed comp exams February 2021.

Rob Donnelly (Latin American Studies doctoral student): LAS Ph.D. comp exam committee chair (now dissertation chair). Completed comp exams December 2021.

Valerio Di Fonzo (UNM Anthropology doctoral student): Ph.D. dissertation committee member—reader & feedback on dissertation research design & fieldwork launch.

Alisa Rogers: member of dissertation committee; Wood led a reading course (Spring 2021) on social movements literature as '2nd comps course' in which she participated; comps completed committees Fall 2021.

### **Recent undergraduate Student Mentoring:**

2022-2023: supported and advised John San Nicholas' undergraduate research project in the El Puente/ASSURE/Research Opportunity Program at UNM.

2021-2022: supported and advised Chase Tsinigine (Navajo Nation non-traditional student) through transition to advanced higher education and successful application to graduate school in criminology at ASU.

2020-2021: Significant mentoring/supporting of undergrad students in my courses through pandemic trials, associated mental health struggles, and in one case significant incident of racist behavior by fellow students and an OEO complaint.

### **Classroom Teaching**

Undergrad—as of 2022: Soc422: Sociology of Religion, Soc452: Community Organizing and the Struggle for Justice in America, Soc398: Pluralism & Difference, and (soon) Soc371: Sociological Theory. Previously: Soc313, 399, 499, 412.

Graduate—as of 2022: Soc510: Social Movements, Soc595: Political Culture & Democratic Theory, Soc585: Qualitative Methods. Previously; Soc500: Classical Theory and Soc514: Contemporary Theory.

*Summary of leadership roles:*

In addition to his roles as senior vice provost and interim provost, Wood has leadership and administrative experience in following roles:

- Chairperson of the Department of Sociology 2014-2016;
- President-Elect (2009-2010) and President (2010-2011) of the UNM Faculty Senate;
- Co-Chair of the faculty Committee on Governance at a time of crisis on campus (2008-2009);
- special advisor (to the provost) for strategic initiatives (2013-2014);
- Founding Director of the Southwest Institute on Religion & Civil Society and its associated research and social engagement projects (2005-2012);
- Director of the UNM Religious Studies Program (very large interdisciplinary program within the College of Arts & Sciences; 2004-2009);
- Chairperson of the Graduate Committee for the UNM Department of Sociology (1999-2002);
- Principal Investigator on major federally-funded research projects
  - \$949,200 federally-funded grant on civil society in the Middle East
  - \$328,000 federally-funded grants on community policing and police reform in the U.S.
  - \$100,000 Ford Foundation grant for work on congregational development through civic engagement
  - \$349,000 grant on religion and democracy in Central America, funded by the Templeton Foundation and the University of Southern California (co-PI under leadership of Jeannette Aguilar at Universidad Centroamericana/IUDOP in El Salvador).

**Editorship:**

Co-Editor of the book series “Cambridge Studies in Social Theory, Religion, and Politics” of Cambridge University Press; 2010-2013, 2014-2017; 2017-2020; 2021-present

**Selected recent national service:**

Advisor (pro bono) to the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC for the New Mexico Fellows Program; identify and recruit outstanding candidates for the IPS minority fellows for paid 6-month policy internships in DC then 6-month internships with NM advocacy/organizing/policy organizations.

National governing board of the Faith in Action National Network, largest of the faith-based community organizing efforts nationally; organizes and advocates in immigrant and low-income communities in LatinX, Black, White, Native American, API, and multiracial communities in 26

states. Led major restructuring process of Board to diversify membership; led major re-writing of by-laws to reflect racial justice and economic justice commitments of the organization and more democratic representation. Member in 2020, elected secretary of board in 2021. (*pro bono*, 2013-present).

Phi Beta Kappa @ UNM: Vice President of New Mexico Chapter, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023.

National advisor (*pro-bono*) to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the major anti-poverty agency of the Office for Justice, Peace, and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2008-2011, 2011-2014, 2014-2017).

**Contact information:**

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