



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

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)¹ 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.

¹ 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](#).

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 5th 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*

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

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.

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:

Richard L. Wood
Professor of Sociology
MSC 05 3080, 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
rlwood@unm.edu
505-277-2501
ORCID #0000-0002-9652-2481