

Sharan Kaur Mehta

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Positions

2023-Present **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of Sociology & Criminology, Institute for the Study of
“Race” and Social Justice, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Education

- 2023 **PhD in Sociology**, Rice University
Dissertation: “From South Asia to the Southern US: Exploring South Asian Racial Identity,
Religion, and Collective Action in Texas.”
Committee: Jenifer Bratter (Chair), Elaine Howard Ecklund, Anna Rhodes, Max Besbris,
and Kamala Visweswaran
**Nominated: John W. Gardner Best Dissertation Award in Social Sciences, Rice University*
- 2019 **MA in Sociology**, Rice University
Thesis: “Negotiating Race in a Climate of Islamophobia: How Muslim and Sikh Americans
Perceive Discrimination and Construct Racialized Religious Identities.”
Committee: Elaine Howard Ecklund (Chair), Jenifer Bratter, and Anna Rhodes
**Winner: 2019 Seth Balkishan Das Singhal Student Paper Award, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and
Sexuality (CSWGS), Rice University*
- 2012 **BA in Chemistry**, Sociology Minor, Bryn Mawr College
Magna cum Laude

Research Interests

Race and Ethnicity, Racism, Racialization, Religion, Gender, Intersectionality, Asians and Asian
Americans, Identity, and Collective Action

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2022 Bratter, Jenifer, Allan Farrell, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Raul S. Casarez, Xiaorui Zhang, and
Michael Carroll. 2022. “There’s something very wrong with the system in this country’:
Multiracial Organizations and Their Responses to Racial Marginalization.” *Social Sciences*
11(5):226. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11050226>
- Mehta, Sharan Kaur**, Rachel C. Schneider, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2022. “‘God
Sees No Color’ So Why Should I? How White Christians Produce Divinized
Colorblindness.” *Sociological Inquiry* 92(2):623-646
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/soin.12476>

Bratter, Jenifer, Raul Casarez, Allan Farrell, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Xiaorui Zhang, and Michael Carroll. 2022. "Counting Families, Counting Race: Assessing 'Visible' Family Structural Change among Multiracial Families, 1980 – 2018." *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 31:609-622. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-022-02244-x>

Farrell, Allan, Raul S. Casarez, Xiaorui Zhang, and **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. 2022. "Message Received: Asian Americans' Racial, Ethnic, and National Identity Centrality Before and After the 2016 Election." *Sociological Spectrum* 42(2):135-155. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02732173.2022.2081894>

Casarez, Raul S., Allan Farrell, Jenifer L. Bratter, Xiaorui Zhang, and **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. 2022. "Becoming (Asian) American? Inter-Ethnic Differences in Racial, Ethnic, and American Identities for Asian American Adults." *Ethnicities* 22(3):347-373. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14687968221092769>

Chan, Esther, and **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. 2022. "Fertilizing Morality: How Religiosity and Orientations Towards Science Shape the Morality, Immorality, and Amorality of Reproductive Technologies." *Public Understanding of Science* 31(4):376-393. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14687968221092769>

2021 **Mehta, Sharan Kaur**, Robert A. Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2021. "Polarized Scientists? Exploring Political Differences about Religion and Science among US Biologists and Physicists." *Sociological Forum* 36(1):5-28. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12661>

2020 Thomson Jr., Robert A., **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2020. "‘Doing Gender’ and ‘Doing Religion’ in Science: A Cross-National Examination." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(2):269-288. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jssr.12654>

2019 **Mehta, Sharan Kaur**, Christopher P. Scheitle, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. 2019. "Can Religiosity Be Explained By ‘Brain Wiring’? An Analysis of US Adults’ Opinions?" *Religions* 10(586):1-12. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel10100586>

Ecklund, Elaine Howard, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Daniel Bolger. 2019. "A Way Forward for Sociological Research on Science and Religion: A Review and A Riff." *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 54(3):634-647. <https://doi.org/10.1111/zygo.12542>

Book Reviews and Other Publications

2019 Ferguson, Jauhara, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Review of *Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam* by Sylvia Chan-Malik," for *Gender & Society* 33(4):656–658.

2017 Ecklund, Elaine Howard, and **Sharan Mehta**. "Review of *Seeking Good Debate: Religion, Science, and Conflict in American Public Life* by Michael S. Evans," for *Sociology of Religion* 78(2):235-236.

- 2015 Burke, Sarah J., William P. Malachowski, **Sharan K. Mehta**, and Roslyn Appenteng. “The Enantioselective Construction of Tetracyclic Diterpene Skeletons with Friedel-Crafts Alkylation and Palladium-catalyzed Cycloalkenylation Reactions.” *Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry* 13(9): 2726-2744.

Manuscripts In Progress

- **Mehta, Sharan Kaur**. “The Boundaries of Asian-ness and Their Impacts on the Movement to #StopAsianHate: Exploring South Asian Identities and Collective Action in Texas.”
- **Mehta, Sharan Kaur**. “Blending in vs. Standing out: How Muslims and Sikhs in Houston Perceive and Experience Discrimination in their Everyday Lives.”
- Zhang, Xiaorui, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Jenifer Bratter, and Shahill Parsons. “Layers of Panethnic Boundaries: Disaggregating Asian American Intermarriage.”
- Salazar, Esmeralda Sánchez, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Esther Chan. “Comparing Confidence in Institutions: Exploring Differences Among Latino and White Catholics and Evangelicals.”
- Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Robert A. Thomson Jr., **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Daniel Bolger, and Di Di. “Global Science, Global Discrimination? Perceptions of Discrimination among Scientists in Different National Contexts.”

Research Experience

- 2023-Present Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology & Criminology, University of New Mexico
Dr. Nancy López
- 2020-2023 Research Assistant, Bratter Research Team, Department of Sociology, Rice University
Dr. Jenifer Bratter
- 2016-2023 Graduate Student Fellow, Religion and Public Life Program, Rice University
Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund and Dr. Rachel C. Schneider
- 2015-2016 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Melissa Wilde
- 2014 Intern, Research for Action, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2012-2013 Research Associate, Department of Chemistry, Drexel University
Dr. Lynn Penn
- 2009-2012 Research Assistant, Department of Chemistry, Bryn Mawr College
Dr. William Malachowski

Teaching Experience

- 2023 Instructor of Record, Department of Sociology, Rice University
- Sociology of Asians and Asian Americans (SOC 311)
**New course: proposed, designed, and taught new course offering in Spring 2023*
- 2017-2022 Guest Lecturer, Depts. of Sociology and Transnational Asian Studies, Rice University
- 2022: Religion, Gender, and Inequality (SOC 410)
 - 2021: Mixed Methods, Research Methods (SOC 381)
 - 2020: Religion and Immigration, Sociology of Immigration (SOC 430)
 - 2020: Ethnographic Research in/of Houston Asia (ASIA 305)
 - 2018: Gender, Religion, and Immigration, Soci. of Immigration (SOC 451)
 - 2018: Race and Racism, Social Theory (SOC 380)
 - 2018: Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Social Theory (SOC 380)

- 2018: Foundations of Modern Social Theory, Social Theory (SOC 380)
 - 2017: Race and Racism, Social Theory (SOC 380)
- 2020 Certificate in Teaching and Learning, Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University
- 2017-2018 Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Rice University
 - 2018: Social Theory (SOC 380)
 - 2017: Social Theory (SOC 380)
- 2014-2016 Organic Chemistry Lab Coordinator (CHEM 245)
Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013-2014 Special Education Paraprofessional
Valley Day School, Morrisville, PA
- 2010-2012 Teaching Assistant, General Chemistry (CHEM 101, 103, and 104)
Department of Chemistry, Bryn Mawr College

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2023: Nominated for the John W. Gardner Best Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences by the Department of Sociology, Rice University
- 2022-2023: Teaching Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Rice University (\$29,500)
- 2021-2022: Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance Fellowship (\$25,000), Rice Sociology (\$4,500)
- 2021: Min Zhou Research Grant, Department of Sociology, Rice University (\$1,500)
- 2020: Religious Research Association (RRA), Constant H. Jacquet Research Award (\$4,000)
- 2020: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR), Student Research Grant (\$3,000)
- 2020: Social Sciences Research Institute (SSRI), Rice University, Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$4,963)
- 2020: Ida B. Wells Award in Public Sociology (Inaugural), Rice University (\$300)
- 2020: Nominated for Graduate Teaching Award for Course Support, Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), Rice University
- 2019: Seth Balkishan Das Singhal Student Paper Award, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS), Rice University (\$1,000)
- 2019: American Sociological Association (ASA), Student Forum Travel Award (\$250)
- 2019: American Sociological Association (ASA) Religion Section, Student Travel Grant (\$250)
- 2019: Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Lee Student Support Fund (\$150)
- 2018: Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance, Rice University, Research Grant (\$5,600)
- 2017: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR), Student Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2017: Social Sciences Research Institute (SSRI), Rice University, Conference Travel Grant (\$400)
- 2016-2021: 5-year Graduate Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Rice University (\$27,500/year)

Advanced Training

- 2021 Intersectional Qualitative Research Methods Institute for Advanced Doctoral Students (IQRMI-ADS), UT-Austin, Latino Studies, June 21-June 25.

Conference Presentations

- 2023 *Paper Accepted.* Xiaorui Zhang, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Jenifer Bratter, and Shahill Parsons. “Layers of Panethnic Boundaries: Disaggregating Asian American Inter-marriage.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA, August 17-21.
- 2022 *Paper Accepted.* **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. “Building Solidarity to #StopAsianHate: How South Asians Negotiate the Boundaries of the Asian Category.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. *Did not attend due to Covid-19
- 2021 **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Rachel C. Schneider, Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “From Church to the Workplace: How White Christians Produce Racial Ignorance and Inequality.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Virtual, August 6-10.
- Sharan Kaur Mehta**. “Boundaries of Asian-ness? Exploring South Asian Racial Identity and Activism in Texas.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Virtual, August 6-10.
- Sharan Kaur Mehta**. “What ‘Counts’ as Anti-Asian Racism? Exploring South Asian Collective Action Across Religious Traditions in Texas.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting*. Virtual, October 16.
- 2020 Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Esther Chan. “Comparing Confidence in Institutions: Exploring Differences Among Latino and White Catholics and Evangelicals.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Virtual, August 8-11.
- Paper Accepted.* Esther Chan, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Fertilizing Morality: Abortion, Confidence in Science, and the Shaping of Moral Attitudes Towards Reproductive Technologies.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. *Did not attend due to Covid-19
- Abstract Accepted.* **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, Rachel C. Schneider, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “Beyond Toolkits: How White Christians Produce Racial Ignorance and Inequality in the Workplace through Religious Frames.” *Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting*. *Canceled due to Covid-19
- 2019 **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. “Building Coalitions among Muslims and Sikhs in the US: Opportunities and Barriers.” *Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS) Annual Symposium*. Rice University. April 5.
- Sharan Kaur Mehta** and Elaine Howard Ecklund. “International and Intersectional Perspectives of the Global Study of Religion and Science.” *Contextuality and Universality in Science and Religion Consultation*. Oxford University. Oxford, England. April 29-May 1.
- Sharan Kaur Mehta**. “How Muslim and Sikh Americans Perceive Discrimination and Negotiate Race in a Climate of Islamophobia.” *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. New York, NY. August 10-13.

Jauhara Ferguson, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Muslim Scientists' Perceptions of Inclusion in the Scientific Workplace: A Cross-National Pilot Assessment." *Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting*. New York, NY. August 9-11.

Sharan Kaur Mehta. "Fertilizing Morality: The Effect of State Context on Moral Attitudes Around In-Vitro Fertilization." *Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Meeting*. New York, NY. August 11-13.

Elaine Howard Ecklund, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar. "'God Sees No Color' So Why Should I? Producing White Ignorance Through Religious Frames." *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting*. St. Louis, MO. October 25-27.

Sharan Kaur Mehta and Jauhara Ferguson. "#Blessed? The Double-Edged Sword of Social Media for Muslims and Jews in the US." *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting*. St. Louis, MO. October 25-27.

Rachel Afi Quinn, Eesha Pandit, Gayatri Joshi, and **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. "South to South – Transnational feminist collectivity from South Asia to the Southern US." *National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA. November 14-17.

2018

Sharan Kaur Mehta and Robert A. Thomson Jr. "Gender and Religion Among Scientists: A Cross National Study." *Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS) Annual Symposium*. Houston, Texas. Rice University. April 13.

Sharan Kaur Mehta and Robert A. Thomson Jr. "Scientific *versus* Religious Tools? The Construction of Political Identities among American Scientists." *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA. August 10-14.

Sharan Kaur Mehta. "Being American in a Climate of Islamophobia: How Muslim and Sikh Americans Negotiate Their National Identities." *Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA. August 12-13.

Esmeralda Sánchez Salazar, **Sharan Kaur Mehta**, and Esther Chan. "Race, Religion and Confidence in Institutions: Exploring Differences Among Latino and White Catholics and Protestants." *Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Meeting*. Philadelphia, PA. August 12-13.

Sharan Kaur Mehta, Esther Chan, and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Fertilizing Morality: The Role of Religion in Shaping Moral Attitudes Around In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF)." *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting*. Las Vegas, Nevada. October 26-28.

2017

Ecklund, Elaine Howard, Robert A. Thomson Jr., Daniel Bolger, and **Sharan Kaur Mehta**. Regular Session. "Perceptions of Discrimination in Global Science." *American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting*. Montreal, Quebec. August 12-15.

Sharan Kaur Mehta, Robert A. Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "How Religious and Political Identities Intersect for US Scientists." *Association for the Sociology of Religion (ASR) Annual Meeting*. Montreal, Quebec. August 13-14.

Sharan Kaur Mehta, Robert A. Thomson Jr., and Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Gender and Religion Among Scientists: A Cross National Study." *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting*. Washington, D.C. October 13-15.

Invited Talks, Presentations, and Media

2022 *Invited speaker*, Asian American Studies Now! Speaker Series at Texas A&M University, co-sponsored by the South Asia Studies Working Group. "The Boundaries of Asian-ness and Their Impacts on the Movement to #StopAsianHate: Exploring South Asian Identities and Collective Action in Texas." November 30.

Invited speaker, interfaith panel at Post Oak Middle School in Houston, Texas. March 21.

2019-2021 *Invited speaker and training facilitator*, Houston Independent School District (HISD) Educator Training on Religious Literacy organized by the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance, Rice University.

- 2021: "Lived Experiences of South Asian and Arab Muslims and Sikhs in Houston"
- 2020: "Sikhism in America" *Cancelled due to Covid-19
- 2019: "What is Sikhism?"

2019-2020 *Invited speaker*, panels and events organized by Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston.

- 2020: Guest Speaker, "Faith in Our City: The Sikh Tradition"
- 2019: Panelist, "We've Got How Many Religions in Houston? Some of the Lesser Known Religions in the Bayou City and Their Contributions"

2019 *Invited panelist* with Elaine Howard Ecklund and Robert A. Thomson Jr. "Islamophobia Teach-In." Rice University. Hosted by the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance and Religion and Public Life Program. March 27.

Invited panelist with Elaine Howard Ecklund and Robert A. Thomson Jr. "Religion and the University." Rice University. Hosted by the Boniuk Council. January 29.

Interview for Houston Matters with Elaine Howard Ecklund. "Religion and the University," Houston Public Media NPR. January 29.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/houston-matters/2019/01/29/319424/what-role-does-religion-play-on-college-campuses/>

Academic Service and Community Engagement

2022-Present Community Advisory Board Member, Institute for Diversity & Civic Life (IDCL), Austin, Texas

2021-2023 Community Member, Rice Asian Diasporic and Asian American Research (RADAAR) Collective, Rice University

2020-2022 Representative Member, South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), Houston Coalition Against Hate, Houston, Texas

- 2017-2022 Community Member, South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU)
- 2019-2021 Sociology Graduate Student Liaison, Center for Teaching Excellence, Rice University
- 2019-2020 Shand International Travel Committee, Committee Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)
- 2017-2020 Social Science Representative, Graduate Honor Council, Rice University
- 2019 Annual Meeting Graduate Student Ambassador, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
- 2006-2016 Event Coordinator, Intern, and Volunteer, Interfaith Philadelphia
- 2011-2012 Senior Major Representative, Department of Chemistry, Bryn Mawr College
- 2011-2012 Curriculum Committee Student Representative, Self-Governance Association (SGA) Assembly Member, Bryn Mawr College
- 2010-2011 Community Diversity Assistant, Office of Intercultural Affairs, Bryn Mawr College
- 2009-2011 Member, Student Curriculum Committee, Bryn Mawr College

Service at Academic Conferences

- 2021 Moderator, Roundtable, “Gender, Identity and Relationships.” Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Winter Meeting.
- 2019 Convener, Author Meets Critics Session, “Secularity and Science: What Scientists Around the World Really Think About Religion.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) Annual Meeting.
- 2018 Table Presider, Student Forum Referred Roundtable Session, “Race, Gender, and Sexuality: Across Institutions and Movements.” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting.

Ad Hoc Reviewer: Ethnicities, Religions

Professional Memberships

- 2017-Present American Sociological Association (ASA)
 - Racial and Ethnic Minorities*
 - Race, Class, and Gender*
 - International Migration*
 - Religion*
 - Asia and Asian America*
 - Global and Transnational Sociology*
 - Collective Behavior and Social Movements*
 - Sociological Practice and Public Scholarship*

2019-Present	Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) <i>Racial and Ethnic Minorities</i> <i>Conflict, Social Action, and Change</i>
2021-Present	Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)
2022-Present	Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)

References

References available upon request.