

Claire Chipman Gilliland, Ph.D.
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 - present **Assistant Professor**
Department of Sociology, Furman University, Greenville, SC
- 2021 - 2023 **Visiting Assistant Professor**
Department of Sociology, Furman University, Greenville, SC

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. **Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (May 2021)**
Dissertation: "Clergy Voices: How Conflicts over Racism and Sexuality in America are Framed from the Pulpit"
- M.A. **Department of Sociology, UNC-Chapel Hill (December 2017)**
Master's Thesis: "Religious Roots and Consequences of Women's Work-Family Configurations in Adulthood"
- B.A. **Sociology and History, Furman University (May 2014)**
Magna cum laude

PUBLICATIONS

Research Interests: Religion, Stratification, Family, Congregations/Clergy

Books

Pearce, Lisa and **Claire C. Gilliland**. 2020. *Religion in America*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Gilliland, Claire C., Haley Shadburn*, and Sabrina Strickland-Harris*. 2025. "Politics, Protest, and Police: Assessing Religious Leaders' Responses to Racism and the June 2020 Black Lives Matter Protests." *Sociological Focus* 58(3):371-387.

*undergraduate co-authors

Hayward, George M., **Claire C. Gilliland**, and Melinda Denton. 2024. "Competing Priorities? Testing Multiple Mechanisms That Connect Adolescent Religiosity to Marriage in Young Adulthood." *Social Forces* 102(3):1026-47.

Gilliland, Claire C. 2023. "'Too Much to Hope': Analyzing Clergy Rhetoric on White Supremacy." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(S1):68-87.

Djupe, Paul A., **Claire C. Gilliland**, and Shayla F. Olson. 2023. "Are Online Congregations Representative? Exploring Resource and Political Differences." *Review of Religious Research* 65(1):121-38.

Krull, Laura M., and **Claire C. Gilliland** [equal co-authors]. 2023. "You Know, the Church Has Never Agreed on Everything": Analyzing the Prophetic and Pragmatic Voice in Clergy Sermons." *Sociology of Religion* 84(3):324–48.

Gilliland, Claire C., and Laura M. Krull. 2022. "Getting Permission to Break the Rules: Clergy Respond to LGBTQ Exclusion in the United Methodist Church." *Sociology of Religion* 83(4):480–504.

*Winner of the 2021 Student Paper Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Gilliland, Claire C. 2020. "Investigating Religion and Inequality through Women's Work-Family Pathways." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(3):417–38.

Book Reviews

Gilliland, Claire C. 2026. "Review of 'Original Sin?: The Reproduction of Racism in a Multiracial Church.'" *Social Forces* [online].

Gilliland, Claire C. 2022. "R. Khari Brown, Ronald E. Brown, and James S. Jackson: *Race and the Power of Sermons on American Politics*." *Review of Religious Research* 64(2):421-422.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Furman University, Department of Sociology

SOC 101, Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2019 | Spring 2020 | Fall 2020 | Fall 2021 | Spring 2022 | Fall 2022 | Spring 2023 |
Fall 2023 | Spring 2024 | Fall 2025 | Spring 2026

SOC 302/303, Methods of Social Research & Quantitative Research

Fall 2022/Spring 2023 | Fall 2023/Spring 2024 | Fall 2025/Spring 2026

SOC 233, Sociology of Religion

Fall 2021 | Spring 2025

PVS 101, Introduction to Poverty Studies

Fall 2022 | Fall 2023

UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Sociology

SOCI 101, Introduction to Sociology (online section)

Spring 2020

SOCI 412, Social Stratification

Summer Session 2018 | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

August 2026- December 2027 Joseph H. Fichter Research Grant from the Association for the Sociology of Religion (\$1700)

Summer 2026	Furman University, Summer Undergraduate Research Mentorship
Summer 2025	Furman University, Summer Undergraduate Research Mentorship
Summer 2023	Furman University, Summer Undergraduate Research Mentorship
Summer 2022	Furman University, Summer Undergraduate Research Mentorship
Spring 2022	Research and Professional Growth Grant, Furman University (\$650)
July 2021 – June 2022	Constant H. Jacquet Award from the Religious Research Association (\$2250)
August 2020 – May 2021	Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
Summer 2020	Furman University, Summer Undergraduate Research Mentorship (\$1,500)
June 2019	Constant H. Jacquet Award from the Religious Research Association, with Laura M. Krull (\$2,000)
April 2019	UNC Department of Sociology Pilot Grant, with Laura M. Krull (\$1,000)
Summer 2018	UNC-CH Institute for African American Research – Graduate Student Summer Research Grant (\$1,700)

PRESENTATIONS (undergraduate co-authors designated with *)

October 2025	Claire C. Gilliland. “Assessing Gendered Messages about Motherhood and Fatherhood in Protestant Gigachurch Services.” Paper presentation, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Minneapolis, MN.
February 2024	Claire C. Gilliland , Haley Shadburn*, and Sabrina Strickland-Harris*. “Religion, Race, and Activism: Assessing the Support of Protests in Religious Responses to Racism.” Paper presentation, South Carolina Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC.
October 2023	Claire C. Gilliland , Anna Holleman, and Laura M. Krull. “Speaking up or Opting out: Analyzing Clergy Engagement with Social Issues.” Paper presentation, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.
November 2022	Claire C. Gilliland , Sabrina Strickland-Harris*, and Virginia Wayt*. “Structural Problems, Interpersonal Solutions: How Clergy Respond to Racial Protests.” Paper presentation, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
April 2022	One of three invited speakers for the Religious Research Association Coffee Hour on Race, Racism, and Congregational Studies, virtual.
April 2022	Claire C. Gilliland. “White Supremacists are Sinful, but do Black Lives Matter? Comparing Clergy Responses across Racial Protests.” Paper presentation, Southern Sociological Society, Birmingham, AL.

- August 2021 Krull, Laura M. and **Claire C. Gilliland**. “Debating Sacred Worth?: How United Methodist Church Clergy Respond to the Denominational Vote on Homosexuality.” Paper presentation, American Sociological Association Annual Conference, virtual.
- April 2021 Darby, Sloane E.* and **Claire C. Gilliland**. “Dissonance between Religion and Media in America: Varying Responses to Conflict in the United Methodist Church.” Paper presentation, Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, virtual.
- October 2020 **Gilliland, Claire C.** “In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty:’ How UMC Clergy Frame the 2019 General Conference Decision on LGBTQ Inclusion.” Paper presentation, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. (accepted; conference canceled)
- October 2019 **Gilliland, Claire C.** “Sermon Discussions of Racism, Activism and Violence: A Case Study of Charlottesville.” Paper presentation, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- August 2019 **Gilliland, Claire C.** “Religion and Women’s Diverging Work-Family Pathways.” Roundtable, American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York City, NY.
- April 2018 **Gilliland, Claire C.** “Religious Roots and Consequences of Women's Work-Family Configurations in Adulthood.” Poster, Population Association of America, Denver, CO.
- March 2016 Pearce, Lisa D. and **Claire C. Gilliland**. “Have Men and Women Experienced Different Patterns of Religious Change in the U.S.?” Advancing the Demography of Religion, Pew Research Center, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND SERVICE

- August 2025-present Curriculum Committee member
- August 2024-present Poverty Studies Minor, Oversight Committee
- Spring 2025 Academic Discipline Committee member
- 2022-2024 Faculty Advisor, Furman University Poverty Awareness Committee
- 2018-2019 Associate Editor, *Social Forces*
- 2016-2018 Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, UNC-CH Sociology Dept.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS

Striving toward Anti-Racist Teaching in the South (spring 2022)

Brief Description: Five session workshop sponsored by the Southern Sociological Society. Sessions focused on using inclusive language, analyzing our positionality, and making diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice part of our academic careers.

Course Reimagine and Redesign Institute (June 2021)

Brief Description: Two-session program centered on backwards course design to refine course goals, structure, and activities.

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (June 2019)

Brief Description: Two-week program for intensive study and research using computational social science methods in an interdisciplinary environment.