

MATTHEW COETZEE

1222 Academy Place, South Bend, IN 46616 • (606) 303-2074 • mcoetze2@nd.edu

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, IN

Ph.D., Sociology, ABD

Dissertation: *Rupture and Repair: Community Responses to State Failure and Racial Violence in Post-Apartheid South Africa* || Advisors: Ann Mische & Terry McDonnell

Honors & Awards: *Wilsey Distinguished Graduate Fellowship*, 2025 – 2026; *Best Graduate Research Paper*, Department of Sociology, 2024; *Applied Guggenheim Emerging Scholars Award* – Awaiting Decision

University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame, IN

M.A., Sociology

2023

Thesis: *Disruptive Events, Adhocracies, and Symbolic Boundaries in Post-Apartheid South Africa: Democratic Resilience on the Fly in July 2021* || Advisors: Ann Mische & Lyn Spillman

SOAS University of London

London, UK

M.S., Public Policy and Management

2021

Yale University

New Haven, CT

B.A., Double Major in Sociology and African Studies (with Distinction)

2018

GPA: 3.81 || Honors & Awards: *R.F. Thompson Award for Outstanding Research in African Studies*; *Rhodes Scholarship Finalist – Southern Africa* || Advisors: Philip Smith & Grace Kao

PUBLICATIONS

2025. Coetzee, Matthew C. "Recurating Robben Island: Cultural Objects, Digital Memory, and the Entropic Afterlives of National Heritage." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.

Under Review. Coetzee, Matthew C. "Contingent Memory Activation: Collective Memory, Crisis Response, and the Dynamics of Social Action." *American Journal of Sociology*

Under Review. Summers-Effler, Erika, Matthew Coetzee, Hyunjin Kwak, and Justin Van Ness. "Mapping Social Change Efforts: A Dynamic and Integrative Four-Quadrant Framework." *American Journal of Sociology* (2nd Author)

Book Manuscript in Preparation. Smith, Christian, Matthew Coetzee, and Bridget Ritz. *The Re-enchantment of American Culture*. Follow-up to Smith, Christian. 2025. *Why Religion Went Obsolete: The Demise of Traditional Faith in America*. Oxford University Press

Working Papers. Summers-Effler, Erika, Matthew Coetzee et. al. "Nuance, Transposability, and Creativity: How Perception Produces the Potential for Social Change." Manuscript in preparation (Advanced; AJS)

Working Papers. Coetzee, Matthew C. "The Conditions of Meaning: Towards a Critical Realist Cultural Sociology." Manuscript in preparation (Advanced; Sociological Theory; Paper Advisor Lyn Spillman)

Working Papers. Coetzee, Matthew C. "Perceptual Aperture Dynamics: Cognition and Cultural Responses to Disruption and Stability." Manuscript in preparation (In Progress; Sociological Theory; Paper Adviser: Erika Summers-Effler)

Working Papers. Coetzee, Matthew C. "Structural Integration at Elite Universities: Symbolic Boundary Making of Pan-African Identity" Manuscript in preparation (In Progress; AJCS; Paper Advisers: Network Group)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Notre Dame, Graduate Research Assistant 2021 - Present
• Assisted Prof. Lyn Spillman on founding moments, civil repair, and moral communities (1619 Project & America 250 Projects).
• Supported Prof. Andrew Junker (Chinese University of Hong Kong) in analyzing Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Bill Protests ("Antielab"), dramaturgy, and social movements.

Project Manager 2022-2024
Professor Christian Smith, University of Notre Dame
Why Religion Went Obsolete: The Demise of Traditional Faith in America, Oxford University Press
• Managed a team of six undergraduate researchers conducting and coding 220+ in-depth interviews
• Led data coding and thematic analysis of interviewees' religious life histories.
• Compiled appendices and selected quotations for the published book.

PRESENTATIONS

Civil Sphere Theory Working Group, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria (Oct 2025)
"Eventful Sociology and Civil Sphere Theory: Resisting Unrest in Post-Apartheid South Africa"

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Discussion, Chicago, USA (Aug 2025)
"Rupture, Repair, and the Civil Sphere: Moral Solidarity and Dynamics of Perception in Post-Apartheid South Africa."

Collective Behavior & Social Movements: On the Many Impacts of Social Movements, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA (Aug 2025)
"Contingent Memory Activation and Civil Repair: Collective Memory and Crisis Response in Post-Apartheid South Africa"

Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Culture Network, Chicago, USA (Nov 2025)
"Rupture, Repair, and the Civil Sphere: Moral Solidarity and Dynamics of Perception in Post-Apartheid South Africa."

Democracy, Autocracy, and Protest: Social Movements in Times of Crisis, San Diego, USA (June 2025)
"Contingent Memory Activation and Civil Repair: Collective Memory and Crisis Response in Post-Apartheid South Africa."

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Panel Discussion, Montréal, Canada (Aug 2024)
"Adhocracies, Collective Memory, and Cohesion Amidst Civil Unrest in Post-Apartheid South Africa."

University of Notre Dame, Rome Global Gateway, Rome, Italy (Apr 2023)
"Has Western Christianity Become Obsolete? Shifts in Deep Culture and Young Adult Indifference."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame, IN
<i>Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology</i>	2022 - Present
• Marriage and the Family	• American Cultural Change and Secularization
• Kinship on the Margins: Encountering Poverty and the Catholic Social Tradition	• Foundations of Sociological Theory
	• International Summer Service-Learning Project

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Wilsey Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, \$44,000 (2025 — 2026)
Kellogg Institute Fellow, \$6,000 annually (2021 – Present)
Institute of Arts and Letters: Technology and the Common Good Research Grant, \$4,300 (2024)
Kellogg Institute Graduate Research Grant, \$3,750 (2022)
Sorin Fellow, de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture (2021 – Present)
Yale-China Fellowship, \$15,000 (2018 – 2020)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NTK Academic Group

Hong Kong, HK

Instructor, English and Humanities Department (2020 – 2021)

- Taught English and Humanities at Hong Kong's leading academic group for international curricula.
- Developed and published academic course materials, including *Writing for Academic Achievement*, *Literary Analysis and Commentary*, and *Standardized Test Preparation*.

Yale-China Association

Changsha, China

Yale-China Fellow (2018 – 2020)

- Continued a 120+ year tradition of cross-cultural engagement through education and healthcare initiatives in mainland China; Yali High School English Teacher
- Established new Yale-China education initiatives in Western Hunan in partnership with local NGOs

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Social Science History Association

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ethnography Workshop Coordinator, University of Notre Dame (2024 – Present)*Volunteer Coordinator*, St. Augustine's Church Soup Kitchen, South Bend, IN (2023 – Present).*Founding Member*, Friends at Midnight, Catholic LGBTQ+ Faith Group, Notre Dame (2024)*Graduate Student Volunteer*, Open Search Committee, University of Notre Dame (2024)