

Andrew Chalfoun

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Education

- Expected 2026 **PhD in Sociology**, University of California, Los Angeles.
Dissertation: “Acting Outward While Looking Inward: Southern Baptist Missionaries Since the Conservative Resurgence.”
Committee: Stefan Timmermans (chair), Omar Lizardo, Melani McAlister, Edward T. Walker
- 2020 **MA in Sociology**, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2018 **BA in Sociology**, Haverford College

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Andrew Chalfoun**. Forthcoming. “Differentiating Regulative and Constitutive Normativity: Talcott Parsons, Harold Garfinkel, and the Sticky Problem of Meaning.” Accepted at *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*.
- Giovanni Rossi, Tanya Stivers, and **Andrew Chalfoun**. Forthcoming. “When Requests Are Unarticulated: Accountability and Social Action Ascription.” Accepted at *Research on Language and Social Interaction*.
- Andrew Chalfoun**, Giovanni Rossi, and Tanya Stivers. 2026. “Incurable Optimism about Getting What We Want: Anticipating Success in Everyday Requests.” *The Sociological Quarterly* 67(1):1-26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2025.2568214>
- Andrew Chalfoun**. 2025. “Picking Winners? Candidate Selection and Representatives’ Performance in the Southern Baptist Conservative Movement.” *Social Currents* 12(3):251-268. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23294965251322870>
- Andrew Chalfoun**, Giovanni Rossi, and Tanya Stivers. 2025. “The Magic Word? Face-Work and the Functions of ‘Please’ in Everyday Requests.” *Social Psychology Quarterly*. 88(1):66-88. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725241245141>.

Andrew Chalfoun. 2025. “Shifting Responsibility onto Coparticipants: Disaffiliative Accounts in Request Sequences.” *Discourse Studies* 27(1):64-81.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14614456241252950>

Tanya Stivers, **Andrew Chalfoun**, and Giovanni Rossi. 2024. “To Err is Human but to Persist is Diabolical: Toward a Theory of Interactional Policing.” *Frontiers in Sociology* 9.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2024.1369776>.

Andrew Chalfoun. 2023. “When God Calls: Temporality in Southern Baptist Calls to Missions.” *Review of Religious Research* 65(2):213-235.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0034673X231186329>.

Andrew Chalfoun. 2023. “Biblical Authority in Interaction: How Do Evangelicals Use the Bible?” *Journal of Pragmatics* 208:19-32.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2023.02.010>.

- 2024 Graduate Student Paper Award, *ASA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section*.
- 2023 Student Paper Award—Published, *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Tanya Stivers, Giovanni Rossi, and **Andrew Chalfoun.** 2023. “Ambiguities in Action Ascription.” *Social Forces* 101(3):1552-1579. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soac021>.

Manuscripts Under Review

Andrew Chalfoun. “The Limits of Cooperation inside the Christian Right: James Robison, James T. Draper, Jr., and the Southern Baptist Convention.” Provisionally Accepted at *Church History*.

Giovanni Rossi, Tanya Stivers, **Andrew Chalfoun.** “Turning the Tide in Request Negotiations: The Role of Accounts and Reasonableness.” Revise and Resubmit at *Social Problems*.

Andrew Chalfoun. “Learning to Count Souls: The Decision to Bring David Barrett to the Foreign Mission Board, 1981-1985.” Under Review.

Working Papers

Andrew Chalfoun. “Resisting the Innovator but Embracing the Innovation: Organizational Battles for Control over Novel Institutions.”

Andrew Chalfoun. “Centralization without a Centralizer: The Unintended Consolidation of Authority at the International Mission Board, 1979-2010.”

Andrew Chalfoun. “How Many Things Can We Do with Language? Toward a Taxonomy of Speech Acts.”

Books

Preaching in the Shadows: International Missionaries in the Age of Covert Evangelism (In progress)

Book Reviews and Other Short Writing

Andrew Chalfoun. 2026. Review of *Christianity and Politics in Tribal India: Baptist Missionaries and Naga Nationalism* by G. Kanato Chophy. *Reading Religion*. [\[Link\]](#)

Gordon Chang, J.R. Osborn, **Andrew Chalfoun**, Tad Skotnicki, and Aminda M. Smith. 2025. “Review Symposium: Interactionism Meets Historical Analysis: An Author-Critic Dialogue on ‘Revolution and Witchcraft: The Code of Ideology in Unsettled Times.’” *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung/Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 26(3). <https://doi.org/10.17169/fqs-26.3.4480>

Andrew Chalfoun and SLNC Government and Heritage Library. 2025. Revision of “Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary” (original by Glenn Jonas, 2006). *NCpedia*. [\[Link\]](#)

Andrew Chalfoun. 2025. Review of *Mission Manifest: American Evangelicals and Iran in the Twentieth Century* by Matthew K. Shannon. *Reading Religion*. [\[Link\]](#)

Andrew Chalfoun. 2024. Review of *Heathen: Religion and Race in American History* by Kathryn Gin Lum. *Reading Religion*. [\[Link\]](#)

Andrew Chalfoun. 2024. Review of *Baptizing Burma: Religious Change in the Last Buddhist Kingdom* by Alexandra Kaloyanides. *Reading Religion*. [\[Link\]](#)

Andrew Chalfoun. 2024. “Jerry Rankin.” *The Mississippi Encyclopedia Online*. [\[Link\]](#)

Fellowships and Grants

2025-26	Dissertation Year Award. <i>UCLA</i> (\$51,000).
2024	Student Research Grant. <i>Society for the Scientific Study of Religion</i> (\$1200)
2022	Lynn E. May Study Grant. <i>Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives</i> (\$500)
2021	Graduate Student Research Mentorship. <i>UCLA</i> (\$6000)
2020	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship. <i>UCLA</i> (\$6000)
2016	Hurford Center Summer Research Fellow, <i>Haverford College</i> (\$4000)

Honors and Awards

- 2024 Graduate Student Paper Award, *ASA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section*
- 2023 Student Paper Award—Published, *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*.
- 2022 Department of Sociology Service Award, *UCLA*
- 2020 Department of Sociology Excellence in Teaching Award, *UCLA*
- 2018 Inducted Phi Beta Kappa, *Haverford College*
- 2018 Graduated Magna Cum Laude, *Haverford College*
- 2017 Hurford Center Undergraduate Fellow, *Haverford College*

Presentations

Invited Talks

- Mar 2025 “How Many Things Can We Do with Language: Thinking with (and against) Searle’s Taxonomy of Speech Acts.” *Communication Department Colloquium Series, University of New Hampshire*.
- Mar 2024 “Shifting Responsibility onto Coparticipants: Disaffiliative Accounts as an Interactional Practice.” *Language, Interaction, and Social Organization, University of California, Santa Barbara*
- Sep 2019 “(Meta)Physicians: The Religious Foundations of Alternative Medicine” (with Benjamin Kaplow). *Comparative Research Working Group, Yale University*

Conference Presentations

- Aug 2025 “Centralization without a Centralizer: The Unintended Consolidation of Authority at the International Mission Board (1979-2010).” *American Sociological Association. Chicago*.
- Aug 2025 “Learning to Lie: Southern Baptists Working with and against the Chinese State, 1979-1992.” *Association for the Sociology of Religion. Chicago*
- Aug 2025 “Typical Expectations and the Moral Order: Talcott Parsons, Harold Garfinkel, and the Sticky Problem of Meaning.” *Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. Chicago*
- Nov 2024 “Incurable Optimism about Getting What We Want: Anticipating Success in Everyday Requests” (with Giovanni Rossi and Tanya Stivers). *National Communication Association. New Orleans*
- Nov 2024 Critic for *Revolution and Witchcraft: The Code of Ideology in Unsettled Times* by Gordon C. Chang. *Social Science History Association. Toronto*.
[\[Link to Published Remarks\]](#)
- Nov 2024 “Don’t Over-Spiritualize It: Identifying the Relevance of Religion within

- Institutional Change Processes.” *Social Science History Association. Toronto*
- Oct 2024 “What Do Missionaries Do All Day? Precarious Work in the Age of Covert Evangelism.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Pittsburgh*
- Aug 2024 “Resisting the Innovator but Embracing the Innovation: Organizational Battles for Control over Novel Institutions.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Roundtable. Montreal*
- Aug 2024 “Is the Mission Field a Liberalizing Work Environment?” *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting. Montreal*
- Nov 2023 “Blinded by the Light: How Movement Success Leaves Targeted Organizations Vulnerable to Unexpected Failures.” *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC*
- Aug 2023 “Who Will Represent Us? Disentangling the Sources of Disloyalty among Southern Baptist Conservatives, 1979–1993.” *Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting. Philadelphia*
- Aug 2023 “The Magic Word? Oh Please: The Interactional Functions of Please in Requests” (with Giovanni Rossi and Tanya Stivers). *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia*
- July 2023 “Shifting Responsibility onto Coparticipants: Disaffiliative Accounts as an Interactional Practice.” *International Conference on Conversation Analysis. Brisbane, Australia*
- Nov 2022 “Biblical Authority in Interaction: The Case of an Evangelical Call-In Radio Show.” *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. Baltimore*
- Aug 2022 “God’s Time: Temporality in the Organization of Calls to Missions in the Southern Baptist Convention.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Roundtable. Los Angeles, California*
- Aug 2021 “Ambiguities in Action Ascription” (with Tanya Stivers and Giovanni Rossi). *American Sociological Association. Online*
- Nov 2019 “(Meta)Physicians: The Religious Foundations of Alternative Medicine” (with Benjamin Kaplow). *Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago*
- Feb 2019 “The Birth of the Clone: The Development of Gay Masculinity in the United States, 1900-1980.” *Hawaii Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Honolulu*

Teaching

Instructor

2026 **Understanding Violence** (undergraduate seminar)
Ripon College

Teaching Assistant

2021 **Talk and Social Institutions** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Steven Clayman. *UCLA*

2021 **Sociology of Violence** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Aliza Luft. *UCLA*

2021 **Social Change** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Rebecca Emigh. *UCLA*

2020 **Economy and Society** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Gabriel Rossman. *UCLA*

2020 **Medical Sociology** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Stefan Timmermans. *UCLA*

2020 **Collective Behavior** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Michael Calderón-Zaks. *UCLA*

2019 **Sociology of Gender** (3 discussion sections)
Instructor: Abigail Saguy. *UCLA*

2017 **Foundations in Social Theory** (1 discussion section)
Instructor: Mark Gould. *Haverford College*

Reader

2025 **Contemporary Sociological Theory**
Instructor: Michelle Marinello. *UCLA*

2021 **Sociology of Family**
Instructor: MJ Hill. *UCLA*

2020 **Sociology of Family**
Instructor: MJ Hill. *UCLA*

Research Experience

2021-2024 Graduate Student Researcher, Sociology Department, *UCLA*
Research Supervisors: Tanya Stivers and Giovanni Rossi.

- 2024 Graduate Student Researcher, Sociology Department, *UCLA*
Research Supervisor: Stefan Timmermans.
- 2019 Graduate Student Researcher, Sociology Department, *UCLA*
Research Supervisor: Stefan Timmermans.
- 2017 Student Research Assistant, Sociology Department, *Haverford College*
Research Supervisor: Mark Gould.

Service

- 2025-2026 Volunteer—Policy Team. *Francesca Hong for Governor*
- 2025-2026 Distinguished Article Award Committee, *ASA Religion Section*
- 2022-2024 Information Officer, *ASA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section*
- 2022-2023 Editorial Board Member. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*
- 2021-2022 Student Coordinator, Conversation Analysis Working Group, Sociology Department, *UCLA*
- 2020-2021 Sociology Representative, Social Sciences Council, *UCLA*
- 2020-2021 Treasurer, Sociology Graduate Student Association, *UCLA*
- 2016 Student Representative, Sociology Faculty Search Committee, *Haverford College*
- 2015 Co-head, Sexuality and Gender Alliance, *Haverford College*

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology; Humanities and Social Sciences Communications; Journal of Communication; Research on Language and Social Interaction; Review of Religious Research; Symbolic Interaction*

Media Appearances

Commentary or coverage of my research has appeared in Reader’s Digest; The Times of India; Yahoo Life; New York Post; Daily Mail; La Dépêche du Midi; RTBF; CJOB; “A Little More Conversation with Ben O’Hara-Byrne” (Corus Radio); “Connect with Sarah Crosbie” (QR Calgary); Focus (Φοκyc); Midi Libre; Index.hr; Phys.org; PerthNow; Malay Mail; and Deutschlandfunk Nova.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion

American Sociological Association (*Sections: Collective Behavior and Social Movements; Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis; Organizations Occupations, and Work; Political Sociology; Social Psychology; Sociology of Religion*)

Association for the Sociology of Religion

International Society for Conversation Analysis

National Communication Association (*Divisions*: Language and Social Interaction; Interpersonal Communication; Group Communication; Philosophy of Communication, Theory and Critique; Organizational Communication).

Social Science History Association

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Institutional Affiliations

Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture (CLIC), *UCLA*