

LUTHER YOUNG, JR.
745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02115
lyoungjr@bu.edu

CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025-Present Assistant Professor of Religion and Society, Boston University School of Theology

EDUCATION

2024 Ph.D. in Sociology, The Ohio State University
2020 M.A. in Sociology, The Ohio State University
2018 M.Div., Vanderbilt University
Certificate in Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture
2012 B.S. in Audio Engineering Technology, Belmont University
Minor in Organizational and Corporate Communications

PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion and Society, Qualitative Methods, Sexualities, Black Church Studies, Organizational Culture, Social Stratification

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Journals

Young, Luther. 2023. "'Ye Double-Minded': Black Parishioners' Attitudes toward Nonaffirming Church Climates." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(1):108-125. doi: [10.1111/jssr.12824](https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12824).

Young, Luther. 2022. "To Condemn or Not to Condemn: Perceived Climates Concerning Sexual Orientation in Black Churches." *Sociology of Religion* 83(2):169-93. doi: [10.1093/socrel/srab031](https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srab031).

***Received the Association for the Sociology of Religion McNamara Paper Award*

Book Reviews

Young, Luther. 2023. Review of *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America* by Anthea Butler. *Journal of American Ethnic History* 42(4):127-29. doi: [10.5406/19364695.42.4.11](https://doi.org/10.5406/19364695.42.4.11).

Book Chapters

Young, Luther. 2018. "People Jesus Met." Pp. 240-48 in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, edited by E. Caldwell and C. A. Wehrheim. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Curricula

Young, Luther. 2021. "Hospitality." *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Young, Luther. 2020. "People Jesus Met." *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum*. First Edition. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Awards and Grants

2023 Ray Travel Award for Service and Scholarship, The Ohio State University (\$1,000).

2022 House Scholar, Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago.

2022 Opportunity Grant Scholar, Point Foundation (\$1,000).

2022 Student Travel Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (\$862.50).

2022 William E. Nelson Research & Travel Grant, The Ohio State University Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus (\$600).

2022 Silverman Research Support Award, The Ohio State University Department of Sociology (\$2,000).

2021 The Korie Little Edwards Research Grant, American Sociological Association (\$250).

2021 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, honorable mention.

2022 Student Travel Grant, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion conference cancelled due to COVID-19.

2020 Excellence in Ministry Grant, the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (\$10,000).

2020 William E. Nelson Research & Travel Grant, The Ohio State University Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus (\$750).

2020 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, honorable mention.

2019 Silverman Research Support Award, The Ohio State University Department of Sociology (\$1,141).

2018 Dean's Distinguished Graduate Enrichment Fellowship, The Ohio State University (three years, including tuition and stipend).

2018 The Robert Lewis Butler Award, Vanderbilt University Divinity School (\$500).

Other Contributions to Funded Projects

2019-22 Advisory Council Member, Work and Family Life Study (WAFLS). Co-PIs: Claire Kamp Dush and Miles Taylor. Research Project Grant (R01) funded by the National Institute on Aging.

2019-22 Research Team Member, National Couples' Health and Time Study (NCHAT). Co-PIs: Claire Kamp Dush, Wendy Manning, JaNelle Ricks, Corinne Reczek, and Hui Zheng. Research Project Grant (R01) funded by National Institutes of Health.

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Conferences

2025 Young, Luther. "We Shall Overcome...What?: The Plurality of Black Church Activism." Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

2024 Young, Luther and Mo Woods. "Race, Sexuality, and Church Choice Among Black LGBTQ Church Attendees." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON Canada.

2023 Young, Luther. "You Can't Break My Spirit: How Black LGBTQ People Navigate the Church." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT.

2022 Young, Luther. "'Who Said So?': Perceived Rationales for Non-Affirming Black Churches." Presented at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

2022 Dunston, Chloe and Luther Young. "The Role of Family, Race/Ethnicity and Class in Coming Out Experiences." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

2021 Young, Luther. "Ye Double-Minded: Black Parishioners' Attitudes Toward Non-Affirming Church Climates." Presented virtually at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.

2020 Young, Luther. "To Condemn or Not to Condemn: An Examination of Sexual Orientation Discourse in Black Churches." Accepted at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

2020 Pettis, Philip J., Luther Young. "The Impact of Racial/Ethnic Community Homophobia and the Importance of Racial Identity on Self-Rated Health." Accepted at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

2019 Young, Luther. "Race, Homophobia, and the Incidence of HIV/AIDS in the United States." Presented at Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

2019 Young, Luther. "Gay Men, the Black Church, and Liberation Theology." Presented at Hawaii Sociological Association Conference, Honolulu, HI.

2018 Young, Luther. "Faith and Sexuality for QTPOC." Presented at OUT In Front Conference 2018, Nashville, TN.

2018 Young, Luther, and Byron T. Coles. "Reconciling Faith and Sexuality for QTPOC." Presented at Creating Change Conference 2018, Washington, DC, January 2018.

Invited Talks and Other Lectures

2025 Young, Luther. "Shifting Legal Landscape: Navigating Changes for Nonprofit Leaders." Keynote Address and Panel for the National Benevolent Association *SENT Seminar Series* (Virtual Event).

2025 Young, Luther. "Queering Theology to Save Our Souls." Workshop and Panel for the Reconciling Ministries Network National Convocation, Madison, WI.

2025 Young, Luther and Katie Simbala. "Queering Worship." Keynote Address for the Q Christian Fellowship Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2024 Young, Luther. "The Burden of Proof." Keynote Address for the *We Belong: Art and Advocacy* LGBTQ+ History Month Event, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK.

2023 Young, Luther. "Onward: Lessons from the Black Church and LGBTQ People." Keynote Address for the Reconciling Ministries Network Convocation, Charlotte, NC.

2021 Young, Luther. "White Supremacy: America's Roots." TEDxOhioStateUniversity, Columbus, OH.

2017 Young, Luther. "All of Me: Discussing Intersectionality." Presented at First Christian Church in Chattanooga, March 3, March 12, April 4, and April 9, Chattanooga, TN.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses at Boston University

STH TR800 Ethnographic Research (Fall 2025)
 STH TR820 Introduction to Black Church Studies (Fall 2025)
 STH TR 814 Advanced Qualitative Research (Spring 2025)

Courses at The Ohio State University (* denotes Teaching Assistantship)

SOCIOL 3463 Social Stratification (Autumn 2021, Summer 2021, Spring 2021*)
 SOCIOL 1101 Introduction to Sociology (Autumn 2020*)

Other Courses

Queer Theology, Reconciling Ministries Network (6-week course, Spring 2025)

Guest Lectures

Autumn 2023	Design and Analysis of Qualitative Sociological Research, Ohio State
Autumn 2022	Religion in the U.S.: Power and Politics, Pitzer College
Spring 2022	SOCIOL 3488 Introduction to Sociological Theory
Autumn 2019	SOCIOL 1101H Introduction to Sociology (Honors)

ADVISING AND MENTORSHIP

Doctor of Ministry Oral Review Member

Herman Griffin IV [completed 2025]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Professional and Academic Service

2025-27	Professional Development Committee, The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
2023	Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Section.
2021-22	Member, Communications Committee, The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.
2020-22	Member At-Large, Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus, The Ohio State University.
2020-21	VP of Student Affairs, Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University.
2018-21	Member, Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the Sociology Graduate Student Association, The Ohio State University.
2016-18	Collaborator, Black Faith and Human Sexuality Project, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
2018	Graduate Coordinator, Vanderbilt Trip to the 2018 Creating Change Conference (sponsored by the Office of LGBTQI Life), Washington, DC.
2017	Graduate Coordinator, Vanderbilt ENGAGE Alternative Spring Break Trip (sponsored by the Office of LGBTQI Life), Atlanta, GA.
2017-18	Community Chair, Vanderbilt Black Seminarians, Vanderbilt University.
2015-17	Program Assistant, Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture Program, Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Volunteer and Community Service

2020-25 Chair, Executive Council, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

2020-24 Member, Board of Directors, Q Christian Fellowship.

2017-19 Member, Christian Church in Tennessee Pro-Reconciling Anti-Racism Commission.

2016-18 Member, Belmont University Young Alumni Association, Belmont University.

2016-17 Vice President of the Board of Directors, Youth For A Peaceful Community [501(c)3], Nashville, TN.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Sociological Association

Race, Class and Gender

Sociology of Religion

Sociology of Sexualities

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion