

Stephen Cranney

PROFILE

Quantitative statistician/data scientist with fourteen years of analytical experience with an emphasis on object-oriented, high-level languages. Due to my interdisciplinary background, I have developed a multifaceted, keen sense of data's relationship to human behavior that allow me to effectively translate raw data into actionable insights. Methodologically, I am a Swiss Army knife, and am proficient in a uniquely wide variety of methods and approaches.

POSITIONS

- 2019-Present* Data Scientist, Beyond Spreadsheets. (Client references available upon request.)
- Provide a wide variety of data products and services to various institutions.
 - Provided data science services for a startup hedge fund. Calculated Sharpe and Sortino ratios for various investment parameters; tested the efficacy of a variety of strategies.
 - Designed, managed, weighted, and analyzed the largest public-facing, representative survey of Latter-day Saints (N=3,865) to date using cutting-edge sampling methodologies.
 - Designed, managed, weighted, and analyzed the largest survey of Catholic priests in several decades (N=1,036).
 - Designed, executed, and analyzed several other large-N, nationally representative surveys, in each case for a fraction of the cost of comparable surveys.
 - Produced predictive analytics using conventional and machine learning methods on big data (~2 petabytes).
 - Produced data visualizations and analytics using geospatial data.
 - Scraped and operationalized online data and conducted advanced network analysis.
 - Consulted on the methodology for detecting racial bias in artificial intelligence algorithms used in the insurance and other industries.
 - Helped design message testing and formulate data-informed strategy.
 - Collected and communicated Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT).
 - Served as an expert statistics consultant for various court cases.
- 2023-Present* Op-Ed Columnist, *Deseret News*
- Write and publish data-driven articles.
- 2023-Present* Affiliate, Institutional Flourishing Lab, Catholic University of America
- 2022-Present* Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Catholic University of America
- Taught course on sexuality and gender.
- 2018-Present* Non-Resident Fellow, Institute for the Studies of Religion, Baylor University
- 2019-2021* Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Bowie State University
- Taught courses in statistics.
- 2018-2019* Statistician, Education and Social Stratification Branch, Census Bureau
- Produced official, public-facing data products as well as original research. Also performed quality checks on data and tested usability of data instruments.
- 2017-2019* Freelance Data Scientist

- Provided a variety of data science services such as seasonality analyses for sales, sales projections, client duration calculation and prediction, and location-fixed effects for comparative purposes for a variety of industries including a gym chain and housing/construction firms.
- 2015-2018 Postdoctoral Scholar, Institute for the Studies of Religion, Baylor University
- Conducted both independent and coauthored research. Collaborated with criminologists, psychologists, demographers, medical researchers, sexologists, and sociologists.
- 2017 Adjunct Lecturer, Church History and Doctrine Department, BYU-Provo
- Taught course on the Eternal Family.
- 2015-2017 Adjunct Lecturer, Sociology Department, Baylor University
- Taught courses in social demography and introductory sociology.
- 2010-11 Chief Operating Officer, WomanStats Project
- Managed a team of approximately two dozen thematic coders for the most comprehensive compilation of information on the status of women in the world. Also directed fundraising and grant-writing efforts.

EDUCATION

- 2015 Dual Ph.D., Demography and Sociology (Statistical/Quantitative Coursework Emphasis)
University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 M.A. Demography
University of Pennsylvania
- 2011 B.A. Political Science, Sociology Minor
Brigham Young University

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

FORTHCOMING

Cranney, Stephen. "Sexual Minorities, Religion, and Self-Rated Health in the US." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

2023

Brandon Vaidyanathan, Di Di, Stephen Cranney, and Caitlin Fitzgerald. "Religion, Spirituality, and Mental Health Among Scientists During the Pandemic: A Four-Country Study" *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*. 58(4): 815-837.

Brad Vermurlen, Mark Regnerus, and Stephen Cranney. "Is the Catholic Church in America Experiencing Internal Secularization? Priests' Assessments of Pope Francis and the Condition of the Church." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 62(2): 397-418.

Brad Vermurlen, Mark Regnerus, and Stephen Cranney. "The Ongoing Conservative Turn in the American Catholic Priesthood." *Sociological Spectrum* 43(2-3): 72-88.

2022

Cranney, Stephen, and Creighton Meland. "Measuring and Evaluating Public Responses to Religious Rights Rulings." *Federalist Society Review* 23.

2021

Cranney, Stephen. "Are Christians More Likely to Invoke RFRA - and Win - than other Religions since Hobby Lobby?" *Mercer Law Review* 72(2): 585-596.

Bullivant, Stephen, Giovanni Sadewo, and Stephen Cranney. "McCarrick as Kingmaker? A Network Analysis of Episcopal Promotion in the Roman Catholic Church." *Catholic Social Science Review* 26: 247-261.

2020

Bauman, Kurt and Stephen Cranney. "School Enrollment in the United States: 2020" Census Bureau Paper. P20-584. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/P20-584.html>

Cranney, Stephen. "The Influence of Religiosity/Spirituality on Sex Life Satisfaction and Sexual Frequency: Insights from the Baylor Religion Survey." *Review of Religious Research*. 62(4): 1-26.

2019

Cranney, Stephen. Review of *The Next Mormons: How Millennials are Changing the Mormon Church* by Jana Riess. *BYU Studies*. 58(2): 177-183.

Cranney, Stephen. "Which American Languages are Dying? Quantifying the Demographic Vulnerability of Indigenous Languages in the United States." Census Bureau Paper SESHD-WP2019-08. <https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2019/demo/SEHSD-WP2019-08.html>.

Cranney, Stephen. "What Kind of People Leave the Church? Social and Demographic Predictors of ex-Latter-day-Saint Status in the Pew Religious Landscape Survey." *BYU Studies*. 58(1): 99-108.

2018

Cranney, Stephen, Aleksandar Stulhofer, and Goran Koletić. "Varieties of Religious and Pornographic Experience: Latent Growth in Adolescents' Religiosity and Pornography Use." *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. 28(3): 174-186.

Cranney, Stephen, Joseph Leman, Wade Rowatt, and Thomas Fergus. "Hell Anxiety as Non-Pathological Fear." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 21(9-10): 867-883.

2017

Joseph, Lauren and Stephen Cranney (equal authorship). "Self-Esteem among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Same-Sex Attracted Mormons and Ex-Mormons." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 20(10): 1028-1041.

Cranney, Stephen. "Why Did God Make Me This Way? Religious Coping and Framing in the Virtuous Pedophile Community." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 56(4): 853-868.

Harknett, Kristen and Stephen Cranney. "Majority Rules: Sex Ratios and Sexual Norms and Behavior in High Schools." *Population Research and Policy Review* 36(4): 469-500.

Cranney, Stephen. "Sex Life Satisfaction in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Descriptive and Exploratory Analysis." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 46(7): 1961-1972.

Cranney, Stephen. "Does Asexuality Meet the Stability Criterion for a Sexual Orientation? Commentary on Brotto and Yule (2017)." Invited commentary. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 46(3): 637.

Cranney, Stephen. "The LGB Mormon Paradox: Mental, Physical and Self-Rated Health among Mormon and Non-Mormon LGB Individuals in the Utah Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System." *Journal of Homosexuality*. 64(6): 731-744.

Cranney, Stephen. "Is There a Stronger Association Between Children and Happiness among the Religious? Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Happiness and Fertility." *Journal of Happiness Studies*. 18(6): 1713-1727.

Cranney, Stephen and Andrew Miles. "Desperate Housewives? Difference in Work Satisfaction Between Stay-at-Home and Employed Mothers, 1972-2012." *Journal of Family Issues*. 38(11): 1604-1625.

Cranney, Stephen and Aleksandar Stulhofer. "Whosoever Looketh on a Person to Lust After Them?: Religiosity, the Use of Mainstream and Nonmainstream Sexually Explicit Material, and Sexual Satisfaction in Heterosexual Men and Women." *Journal of Sex Research*. 54(6): 694-705.

2016

Cranney, Stephen. "The Theoretical Potential for Selection on Determinants of Fertility to Cause Aggregate Fertility Increases in Human Populations." *Journal of Biodemography and Social Biology* 62(3): 275-280.

Cranney, Stephen. "The Temporal Stability of Lack of Sexual Attraction Across Young Adulthood." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 45(3): 743-749.

2015

Cranney, Stephen. "The Association Between Belief in God and Fertility Desires in Slovenia and the Czech Republic." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 47(2): 83-89.

Cranney, Stephen. "Internet Pornography Use and Sexual Body Image in a Dutch Sample." *International Journal of Sexual Health* 27(3): 316-323.

Cranney, Stephen. "The Relationship Between Sexual Victimization and Year in School in US Colleges: Investigating the Parameters of the 'Red Zone.'" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 30(17):3133-3145.

2014

Cranney, Stephen. "Do People Who Believe in God Report More Meaning in Their Lives? The Existential Effects of Belief." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52(3): 638-646.

2010

Cranney, Stephen. "Father Paneloux, Alyosha Karamazov, and Deference to a God Who Allows the Suffering of Children." *Journal of Camus Studies*: 61-71.

2006

Cranney, Stephen and Trevor Salter. "Geologic Hazard Disclosure Laws: Why They Make Sense." *Utah Bar Journal*: 19(3): 30-37.

SELECTED POPULAR PRESS ARTICLES

Stephen Cranney. "Are Religious People Happier? The Science is Pretty Clear" *Deseret News*. March 23, 2024. <https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2024/03/23/religion-effect-on-happiness/>. Featured on *Drudge Report*.

Coates, Joshua and Stephen Cranney. "We Sent Out 80,000 Postcards to Latter-Day Saints in the U.S. Here's What We Learned." *Deseret News*. January 31, 2024. <https://www.deseret.com/2024/1/31/24055869/we-sent-out-80000-postcards-to-latter-day-saints-in-the-u-s-heres-what-we-learned>

Cranney, Stephen T and Jacob Hess. "Report Alleging Striking Increase in Utah Gender Dysphoria Diagnoses is Retracted." *Deseret News*. January 29, 2024. <https://www.deseret.com/2024/1/29/24054849/report-alleging-striking-increase-in-utah-gender-dysphoria-diagnoses-is-retracted>

Cranney, Stephen T: "Latter-day Saints Have Significantly Fewer Student Loans, According to National Survey." *Deseret News*. January 4, 2024.
<https://www.deseret.com/2024/1/4/24019201/latter-day-saints-have-significantly-fewer-student-loans-according-to-national-survey>

Cranney, Stephen T: "Opinion: Less Church, Less Prayer: Data Challenges 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Mantra." *Deseret News*. December 27, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/faith/2023/12/27/23998312/data-challenges-spiritual-but-not-religious-concept>

Cranney, Stephen T: "Perspective: Religion Isn't Sexually Repressive, Just Read the Data." *Deseret News*. November 25, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/11/25/23973024/religion-isnt-sexually-repressive-data>

Cranney, Stephen T: "Perspective: Are Latter-day Saints Still Having Large Families?." *Deseret News*. November 23, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/11/23/23972931/latter-day-saints-have-larger-families-thanksgiving>

Henricks, Jayd, and Stephen Cranney (as statistical analyst). "Have American Catholics Rejected Vatican II?" *What We Need Now*. September 26, 2023.
<https://whatweneednow.substack.com/p/have-american-catholics-rejected>

Cranney, Stephen T. "Opinion: Do Latter-day Saint Communities Have Lower Income Inequality?" *Deseret News*. August 25, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/8/25/23819348/utah-latter-day-saints-lowest-income-inequality>

Cranney, Stephen T and Jacob Hess. "Opinion: Are Utah Drivers Really as Bad as People Say?" *Deseret News*. August 12, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2023/8/12/23819340/utah-drivers-national-ranking-crash-statistics>

Roach, Jennifer and Stephen Cranney (as statistical analyst). "Latter-day Saint Enigma: Their Unexpected Troop Abuse Rates." *FAIR*. June 30, 2023.
<https://www.fairlatterdaysaints.org/blog/2023/06/30/latter-day-saint-enigma-their-unexpected-troop-abuse-rates>. Presented at Annual Conference August 2-3, 2023.

Henricks, Jayd, and Stephen Cranney (as statistical analyst). "Is the Church in Decline Because It Won't Get with the Times?" *What We Need Now*. May 16, 2023.
<https://whatweneednow.substack.com/p/is-the-church-in-decline-because>

Henricks, Jayd, and Stephen Cranney (as statistical analyst). "The Great Departure" *What We Need Now*. April 4, 2023. <https://whatweneednow.substack.com/p/the-great-departure>.

Cranney, Stephen T and Jacob Hess. "Perspective: BYU—The Most Politically Balanced University in America?" *Deseret News*. March 12, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/2023/3/12/23629668/university-political-donations-comparison-brigham-young-university-utah>

Cranney, Stephen T. "Perspective: What Happens When the Religiously Illiterate are Asked About Latter-day Saints." *Deseret News*. February 12, 2023.
<https://www.deseret.com/2023/2/12/23590047/latter-day-saints-mormons-religious-literacy-joe-rogan>

Cranney, Stephen T. "Is Latter-day Saint Theology Responsible for LGBTQ+ Suicides?" *Public Square Magazine*. May 7, 2020.
<https://publicsquaremag.org/sexuality-family/is-latter-day-saint-theology-responsible-for-lgbt-suicides/>

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

Rocca, Francis X. "U.S. Catholic Priests Are Increasingly Conservative as Faithful Grow More Liberal." *The Wall Street Journal*. December 18, 2022.
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-catholic-priests-are-increasingly-conservative-as-faithful-grow-more-liberal-11671343608>

Walch, Tad, "Survey: Latter-day Saints are everywhere in media, but Americans still know little about them." *Deseret News*. Nov 5, 2022.
<https://www.deseret.com/2022/11/5/23433846/survey-latter-day-saints-are-everywhere-in-media-but-americans-still-know-little-about-them>

Reichert, Tim. "Numbers don't lie, decriminalization kills." *Denver Gazette*. May 9, 2022.
https://gazette.com/opinion/perspective-numbers-don-t-lie-decriminalization-kills/article_2ace6932-bc1b-11ec-be63-cb97f327bd4e.html

Noyce, David. "Singles' claim elicits a double take." *The Salt Lake Tribune*. June 3, 2021.
<https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2021/06/03/latest-mormon-land/>

Noyce, David. "Activity rising." *The Salt Lake Tribune*. June 18, 2020.
<https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2020/06/18/this-week-mormon-land/>

Census Bureau. "Number of People with Master's and Doctoral Degrees Doubles Since 2000." *America Counts*. February 21, 2019.
<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2019/02/number-of-people-with-masters-and-phd-degrees-double-since-2000.html>

Briggs, David. "Who Worries About Hell the Most?" *Christianity Today*. February 4, 2019.
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/february/hell-belief-anxiety-arda-baylor-university.html>

Julian, Kate. "Why are Young People Having So Little Sex?" *The Atlantic*. December 2018.
https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/12/the-sex-recession/573949/?fbclid=IwAR2xk0uec6jF5-XtWXVuksgb_xjSQE3zFcctPakTKiaM7OXD0dkD2Li5aKo

Chabria, Anita. "'Yes means yes' standard for sexual assault moves to California high schools." *The Guardian*. September 10, 2015.
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/sep/10/yes-means-yes-sexual-assault-california-high-schools>

Brown, Matthew. "Higher purpose: Study finds belief in God linked to having sense of purpose in life." *Deseret News*. October 22, 2013.
<https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865588795/Higher-purpose-Study-finds-belief-in-God-linked-to-having-sense-of-purpose-in-life.html>

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)
Spanish (conversational proficiency)

CODING SKILLS

Proficient: R (ggplot2 [data visualization], igraph [network analysis]), Python (Numpy, Scipy, Pandas, scikit-learn, GeoPandas, BeautifulSoup [web scraping]), SAS, SQL, Stata, NVivo (qualitative analysis), NetLogo (agent-based modeling)

Some exposure: MATLAB, ArcGIS, LaTeX, AWS, Hadoop, SPSS, Tableau, QGIS (geospatial analytics), PySpark (big data), TensorFlow (machine learning), Snowflake

For a repository of my coding projects, see my GitHub page: <https://github.com/StephenCranney>.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Dangerous Colleges: Associations Between School-Level Factors and the Risk of Sexual Victimization of Female Students.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (November, 2015)

“Self-Esteem among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Same-Sex-Attracted Mormons and Ex-Mormons.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago (August, 2015)

“Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Children and Happiness.” Invited presentation. Max Planck Institute; Rostock, Germany (11 March 2015).

“Religion as a Moderator in the Relationship Between Children and Happiness.” Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston (May 2014)

“The Influence of Belief in God on Pronatalist Attitudes in Slovenia and the Czech Republic.” Paper presented at the Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston (May 2014)

“The Relationship Between Risk of Rape and Year in School in US Colleges.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (November 2013)

Hawkins, Kirk A., Mayavel Amado, and Stephen Cranney. “Beyond Populism: A Typology of Elite Political Discourse with Some Examples.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C. (September 2010)

GRANTS & AWARDS

2024 Aileen H. and Hal M. Clyde Research Fellowship in Mormon Studies and Gender (\$2,500)

2016 Institute for the Studies of Religion (ISR) Research Travel Grant (\$1,000)

2014 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$28,888)

2013 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$24,290)

2012 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$22,032)

2011 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Training Grant (\$21,600)

TEACHING

Introduction to Sociology, Catholic University of America, Spring 2024

Social Statistics, Catholic University of America, Fall 2023

Sexuality: A Data-Driven Perspective, Catholic University of America, Spring 2022

High School Seminary, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2021-2022

Introductory Statistics, Bowie State University, Spring 2020
Introductory Statistics, Bowie State University, Spring 2019
Social Demography, Baylor University, Winter 2017
Eternal Family, Brigham Young University (School of Religion), Fall 2017
Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, Fall 2016
Introduction to Sociology, Baylor University, Spring 2016

WORKSHOPS, COURSES, & SEMINARS

Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Surveys Course. Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 5-6, 2019
Business Writing Course. US Census Bureau, October 25, 2018
Customer Service Course. US Census Bureau, September 6, 2018
Neal A. Maxwell Institute Seminar: History of the Mormon Family. BYU, June 15-July 26, 2014
Stanford Workshop in Formal Biodemography. Stanford University, May 21-23, 2012
Professional Grant Development Workshop. University of Utah, October 6-8, 2010

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

2020-2024 Data Scientist, March for Life
● Developed and executed crowd counting methodology for annual march.

2021-2022 High School Seminary Teacher, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2020 Analyst, Silver Spring Maryland Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
● Analyzed geospatial Census Bureau data about languages spoken in the DC area to inform decision-making about congregational boundaries.

2015-Present Academic Reviewer
● Ad Hoc reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Religions*, *Social Forces*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Journal of Happiness Studies*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, *Journal of Sex Research*, and *GLBT Family Studies*.

2010-2011 Court Appointed Special Advocate
● Assisted with a vulnerable child case and reported to a social worker and guardian ad-litem.