



Richard L. Wood

**Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of New Mexico**

**Founding Director
Southwest Institute on Religion & Civil Society
University of New Mexico**

Bio: Rich Wood serves as Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico (see below). His research focuses on the cultural and institutional underpinnings of democratic life, especially those carried by religious traditions and faith communities. Past research has focused on faith-based community organizing efforts to advance democracy in the contemporary United States, and led to *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2002 – see below). In Spring 2010, Wood will complete a book titled *Faith and the Fire of Public Life*, which analyzes the impact of civic engagement on the spiritual experience and organizational strength of politically-active congregations in thirteen American cities (funded by the Ford Foundation). Wood speaks Spanish fluently, having lived in Mexico and Central America from 1983-1987. Since 2004, he has done annual fieldwork on community organizing in Central America. Wood teaches graduate courses on ethnographic research methods, the sociology of religion, and social theory.

Specializations:

Sociology of religion and political sociology, focusing on the institutional and cultural underpinnings of democratic life.

Educational History:

Ph.D.	1995	University of California Berkeley, California 94720	Sociology
M.A.	1989	Graduate Theological Union Berkeley, California 94710	Theology
B.A.	1982	University of California Davis, California	Chemistry

Ph.D. advisor: Robert N. Bellah, Department of Sociology, University of California

Books:

Wood, Richard L. 2002. *Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) based on ethnographic study of faith-based and race-based civic engagement among Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo residents of low-income neighborhoods in six U.S. urban areas. Received 2003 Best Book award in the sociology of religion by the American Sociological Association; finalist for same award from the Social Movements/Collective Behavior section of ASA. Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology* (109:2, September 2003), *Contexts* (2:2, Spring 2003, 62-63, American Sociological Association journal for public intellectual life), the *American Political Science Review* (Spring 2003), *Contemporary Sociology* (33:1, January 2004), the *Journal for the Social Scientific Study of Religion*, *Perspectives on Politics* (1:3 September 2003, 614-615; *Boston Review* (28:1, March 2003, 34-38).

Selected articles in refereed journals:

Wood, Richard L. 2009. "Taming Prophetic Religion? Faith-Based Activism and Welfare Provision" in the *International Journal of Public Theology*; Francis Davis and Andrew Bradstock (eds); 3:1, 101-119 (February)

2009).

Wood, Richard L. 2007. "Thinking Culturally about Politics: Habits 20 Years Later and 20 Years Hence," *Sociology of Religion* 68:2 (Summer 2007).

Wood, Richard L. and Mark R. Warren. 2002. "A Different Face of Faith-Based Politics: Social Capital and Community Organizing in the Public Arena," *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 22:11/12, 6-54 (Fall 2002).

Wood, Richard L., "Religious Culture and Political Action," *Sociological Theory*, 17:3, 307-332, November 1999.

Selected chapters in edited volumes:

Wood, Richard L. 2007. "Higher Power: Strategic Capacity for State and National Organizing," in *Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenge of Political Change*, Marion Orr (ed.); Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press: 162-192.

Wood, Richard L. 2005. "Fe y Acción Social: Hispanic Churches in Faith-Based Community Organizing," in *Latino Religions and Civic Activism in the United States*, Virgilio Elizondo and Jesse Miranda (eds.), London and New York: Oxford University Press (May 2005).

Wood, Richard L. 2003b. "Religion, Faith-Based Organizing, and the Struggle for Justice," in *The Cambridge Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*, Michele Dillon (ed.). London and New York: Cambridge University Press; 385-399.

Works in progress:

"Resurrecting Catholic Collective Action in Central America: Structure, Leadership, and the New Religious Mobilization," journal article under review on religiously-based community organizing in Central America (with doctoral student Stacy Keogh, under review at *Mobilization*, with R&R recently submitted).

Faith and the Fire of Public Life, a book manuscript on impact of public engagement on Catholic, Pentecostal, liberal Protestant, Jewish, Unitarian, and other religious congregations in the United States (fieldwork funded by the Ford Foundation).

Research Funding:

The Impact of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements on Local Community Organization and Civic Participation in Central America (June 2010 to June 2012 \$395,000)

Principal investigator; funding to establish a regional center for the social scientific study of the role of religion in civil society, with a focus on pentecostal Christianity and a comparative analysis of traditionalist and liberationist Catholicism. Templeton Foundation and the University of Southern California.

Web Access for Civil Society Initiatives (October 2006 to Sept 2009 \$949,200)

Principal investigator; grant funding for coordinating project in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, focused on the internet as a communications tool in civil society. Primary focus on Islam and democracy, human rights, and women's empowerment. U.S. Department of State.

Citizenship: United States of America