PROJECT TITLE

SCIENCE AND RELIGION: IDENTITY AND BELIEF FORMATION

THE RESEARCHERS

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THE GOAL

To gain knowledge about the complex, sometimes collaborative, sometimes conflictual, and connected relationship of science and religion in contemporary groups.

SOME OF THE QUESTIONS BEING EXPLORED

Is **Native Americans' opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline** project spiritually based, scientifically based, or both?

How do professionals in for-profit **tech companies in China perceive religion and ethics in their workplaces**, and how do these views compare to those of their counterparts in Silicon Valley?

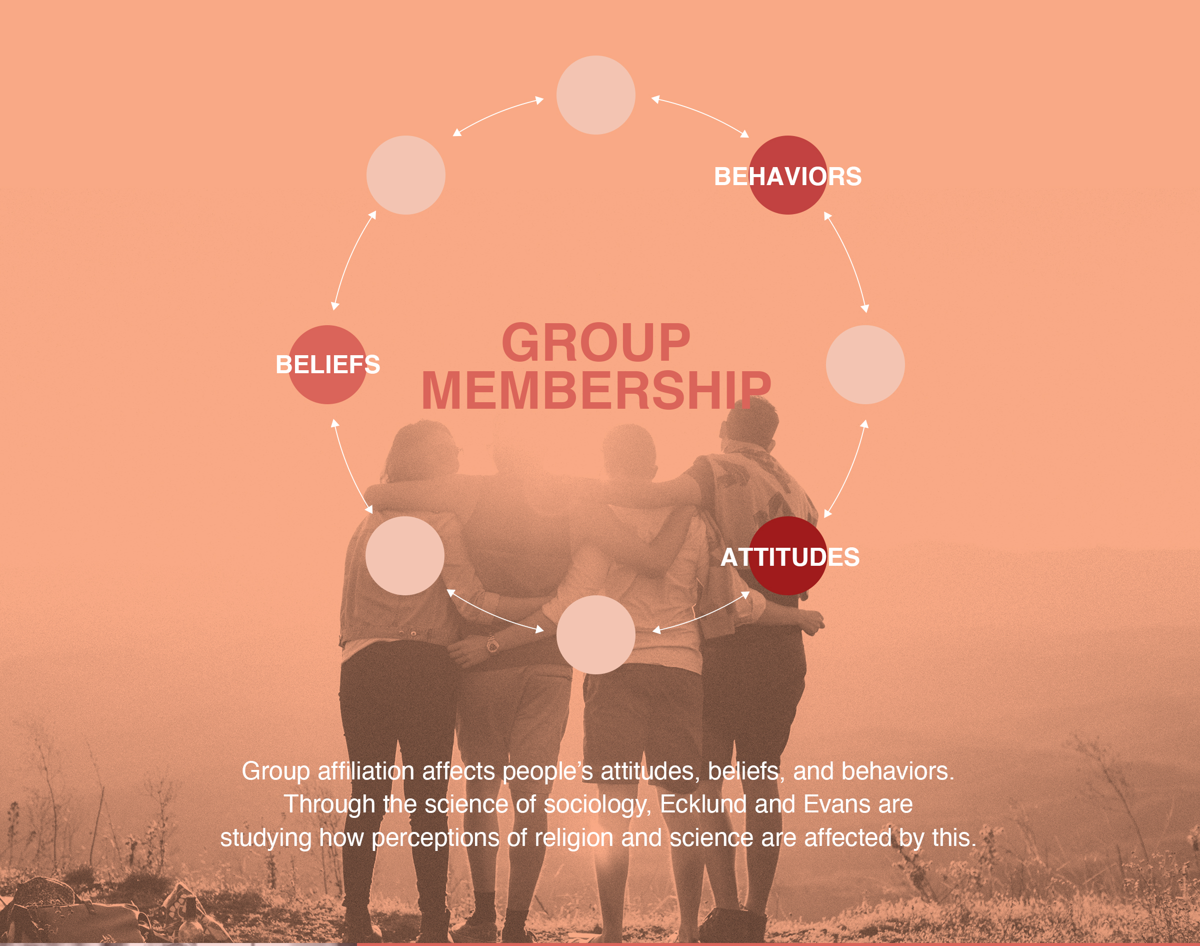
Does the legacy of the **Tuskegee syphilis study** continue to influence African Americans' views toward science and medicine? Do religious beliefs partly determine these views?

Are the attitudes of **Muslim women** toward religion and science the same in the U.S. and Turkey? If not, what accounts for that difference?

Do **evangelicals** use their reaction to science to anchor their identities more than mainline Protestants?

What shapes the views **legislators** have toward debates about science and religion?

> “One of my greatest hopes is that we will discover pure knowledge we don't currently have, and that we may bring help to some of the most pressing social problems facing our modern world. Common ground has never been more needed.
>
> – Elaine Howard Ecklund, Ph.D.,
> professor of sociology at Rice University



GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Group affiliation affects people's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Through the science of sociology, Ecklund and Evans are studying how perceptions of religion and science are affected by this.

> “There are groups that disagree with each other, and that's part of living in a pluralistic society. But we need to be well aware of what everyone actually thinks instead of what we think that they think.
>
> **John H. Evans, Ph.D.,**
> **professor of sociology at the University of California, San Diego**

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is a science that studies people in groups. Sociologists use quantitative and qualitative methods to understand how we construct certain beliefs and attitudes in groups; and via lived experience.

Sociologists' techniques and tools to provide evidence-based understandings of people and societies.

SURVEYS

INTERVIEWS

EXPERIMENTS

OBSERVATION

STATISTICAL MODELING

Group identities that may affect opinions on religion and science.

RACE
CLASS
GENDER
SEXUALITY
LOCATION
COMMUNITY
FAMILY
FRIENDS
PROFESSION

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