

Dr. Richard Petts has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Sociology, effective at the beginning of the fall semester of 2019.

Dr. Petts's career at Ball State began in 2008 when he was hired as an Assistant Professor after completing his PhD at The Ohio State University. On the basis of his strong record in teaching, scholarship, and service, he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2013. Since that time, he has earned an international reputation for his scholarship in religion, family, and policy, and has continued to develop stellar records in teaching and in service.

He has published works in a variety of top-tier journals, including *American Sociological Review* (the flagship journal of the American Sociological Association), *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Religion*, and the highly influential interdisciplinary journal, *Journal of Marriage and Family*. His research answers questions about how religion impacts family inequalities, how religion encourages men to be more engaged in family life, and how gender norms, public policies, and workplace practices influence gender and socioeconomic inequalities within families. He was awarded a major grant by the National Institute of Health to study paternity leave; through this research, he found that increasing access to paid paternity leave “will be beneficial to families—and society more generally—by reducing unequal access to leave, encouraging greater father involvement, and ultimately contributing to greater gender equality.”

Dr. Petts's teaching record is outstanding, and he teaches classes at all levels. Students in his methodology courses commonly remark that Dr. Petts's guidance gave them the tools and skills that they needed to design and carry out social scientific research successfully—even in those cases when they did not think they could do it.

In addition to serving as the Undergraduate Director for the Department of Sociology, he also serves on the university's Institutional Review Board. He is one of only two members from the United States to be invited to serve in the International Network on Leave Policies and Research, which includes experts from more than 40 countries. As a public sociologist, his work has been covered extensively in the press, including articles in ABC News, Forbes, Romper, Fatherly, Namely, and others.

Congratulations, Dr. Petts!