

# Dr. Victor Counted — Curriculum Vitae

Victor Counted, Ph.D.

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## Contact Information

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## Education

- **Ph.D. in Health Psychology**  
Western Sydney University, Australia  
*2016–2019*
  - **Ph.D. in Psychology of Religion**  
University of Groningen, Netherlands  
*2015–2019*
  - **M.Phil. in Religion, Culture & Mental Health**  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
*2013–2015*
  - **B.A. in Theology/Religion**  
University of Nigeria Nsukka / West Africa Theological Seminary, Nigeria  
*2008–2012*
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## Professional Work Experience

- **2023–Present**  
Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Academic Affairs, Regent University, VA, USA  
Faculty Advisor, Abundant Life Flourishing Program, Regent University, VA, USA
- **2022–Present**  
Associate Professor, School of Psychology and Counseling, Regent University, VA, USA
- **2021–2022**  
Psychological Scientist and Director, COSORI Australia, Sydney, Australia
- **2019–2021**  
Lecturer & Research Fellow (equivalent to Assistant Professor), School of Psychology, Western Sydney University, Australia
- **2016–2019**  
Unit Coordinator, School of Social Sciences & Psychology, Western Sydney University, Australia

- **2017**  
Research Project Assistant, Department of Education, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
  - **2016–2018**  
Teaching & Research Assistant, School of Social Sciences, Western Sydney University, Australia
  - **2015–2019**  
Ph.D. Research Fellow, Faculty of Religion, Culture, and Society, University of Groningen, Netherlands
  - **2015–2018**  
Research Associate, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
  - **2012–2015**  
Project Leader / Director, Third Millennium Africa Project, South Africa & USA
  - **2008–2011**  
Executive Secretary, Spiritual Formation Department, West Africa Theological Seminary, Nigeria
  - **2006–2008**  
Global South Correspondent & Writer, *In My Street*, Berlin, Germany
  - **2005–2006**  
Litigation Clerk, Rodney Aman Chambers, Nigeria
  - **2004–2005**  
Assistant Sales Manager, Golden Gloves Limited, Nigeria
  - **2003–2004**  
High School Science Teacher, City Group of Schools, Nigeria
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## Current External Affiliations

- **2025–Present**  
Chair, Early Career Psychologist Committee, Division 36, American Psychological Association
- **2024–Present**  
Associate Editor, *The Journal of Positive Psychology*  
Book Series Editor, *Religion, Spirituality, and Health: A Social Scientific Approach* (Springer)  
Co-founder, Africa Flourishing Initiative (AFI)
- **2023–Present**  
Associate Editor for Global Psychology in Research and Practice, *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*  
Executive Board Member, International Association for the Psychology of Religion

- **2022–Present**

Faculty Affiliate, Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University

Founding Member, Society for the Psychology of Religion in Australia and New Zealand (SPRANZ)

- **2021–Present**

Editorial Board Member, *Mental Health, Religion and Culture*

Editorial Board Member, *Studia Psychologica: Theoria et praxis*

- **2020–Present**

Fellow, International Society for Science and Religion

- **2019–Present**

Co-Director & Principal Consultant, Counted Solutions (Australia and USA)

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## Publications

### Forthcoming Books (n = 2)

- Respass, S. & Counted, V. (*forthcoming*). *Flourishing in the Age of Disconnection: Situating Ecological Disruptions and Despair*. Springer Nature. (Release date: TBD)
  - Cowden, R. G. & Counted, V. (*forthcoming*). *Human Flourishing in Africa: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities*. Oxford University Press. (Release date: TBD)
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### Published Books (n = 6)

- Counted, V. (2025). *Bonding With God: Attachment Theory and the Psychology of Faith*. Baker Academic.
  - Counted, V., Ramkissoon, H., Captari, L., & Cowden, R. G. (Eds.). (2023). *Place, Spirituality, and Wellbeing: A Global and Multidisciplinary Approach*. Springer Nature.
  - Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). *Place and Post-Pandemic Flourishing: Disruption, Adjustment, and Healthy Behaviors*. Springer.
  - Counted, V. (2021). *The Roots of Radicalization: Disrupted Attachment Systems and Displacement*. Lexington Books / Rowman & Littlefield.
  - Counted, V. & Watts, F. (Eds.). (2019). *The Psychology of Religion and Place: Emerging Perspectives*. Palgrave Macmillan.
  - Counted, V. (2019). *Experiencing God in a Foreign Land: Theoretical and Empirical Explorations on the Psychological Links Between Religion and Place Among Dispersed People*. University of Groningen.
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## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters (n = 81)

2025

- Counted, V., Weziak-Bialowolska, D., Cowden, R. G., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Childhood antecedents of adult place satisfaction in 22 countries. *Scientific Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-00731-x>
- Counted, V., Lomas, T., Cowden, R., Lee, M. T., Allen, K.-A., Basu, J., Laidler, D., Routledge, C., Seaman, D., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Love of place: Conceptual framework and template for measuring the contributory and unitive affection towards a place. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 107, 102203. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2025.102203>
- Bradshaw, M., Counted, V., Lomas, T., Woodberry, R. D., VanderWeele, T. J., & Johnson, B. R. (2025). Childhood experiences and adult prayer or meditation in 22 countries. *Scientific Reports*, 15, 15083. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-99796-x>
- Counted, V. (2025). An introduction to the science of Christian flourishing: A domain-based approach. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 44(1), 4–14.
- Counted, V., Long, K., Johnson, B., Lee, M. T., Worthington Jr., E., Fogleman, A., Johnson, E., Garzon, F., Hathaway, W. L., & VanderWeele, T. (2025). The individual domain of Christian flourishing: Conceptual foundations and measurement template. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 44(1), 15–38.
- Long, K. N. G., Nakamura, J. S., Long, P. M., Gregg, R. J., Abraham, F., Counted, V., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Flourishing communities: The role of faith communities in the promotion of flourishing and the common good. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 44(1), 84–107.
- Bradshaw, M., Counted, V., Lomas, T., Woodberry, R. D., VanderWeele, T. J., & Johnson, B. R. (2025, April 21). Cross-national and demographic variations in daily prayer or meditation. *Scientific Reports*. Advance online publication. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/2x5jm\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/2x5jm_v1)
- Meagher, B. R., Cowden, R. G., Goldammer, L., Piazza, M., Aten, J., & Counted, V. (2025). The varieties of spiritual ties to place: A latent class analysis. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000560>
- Counted, V., Allen, K., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). The roots of belonging: Childhood predictors of belonging in 22 countries. *Preprint*. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/g4wcp\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/g4wcp_v1)
- Counted, V., Long, K., Cowden, R., Witvliet, C. V., Cortright, A., Gibson, C., Walsh, J., Hathaway, W., Fernando, G., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Where hope thrives: Demographic variation in hope across 22 countries. *Preprint*. [https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/3wn97\\_v1](https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/3wn97_v1)
- Counted, V., Long, K., Cowden, R., Witvliet, C. V., Cortright, A., Gibson, C., Walsh, J., Hathaway, W., Fernando, G., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2025). Seeds of hope: A cross-national analysis of childhood predictors of hope in 22 countries. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-025-10450-0>

- VanderWeele, T. J., Johnson, B. R., Bialowolski, P. T., Bonhag, R., Bradshaw, M., Breedlove, T., ... Counted, V., ... & Yancey, G. (2025). The Global Flourishing Study: Study profile and initial results on flourishing. *Nature Mental Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44220-025-00423-5>

## 2024

- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Lomas, T. (2024). Multidimensional flourishing in Africa: An intracontinental descriptive analysis of 38 well-being indicators in 40 countries. *Journal of Happiness Studies*, 25(51). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10902-024-00764-5>
- Counted, V., Baum, L., Smith, R., Kane, A., Williams, S., Joynt, S., & Garzon, F. (2024). Do daily spiritual experiences moderate relations between subjective suffering and psychological distress among Christians? *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 43(2), 152–170.
- Counted, V., Garzon, F., Hathaway, W. L., McKinzie, G., Stephens, R., & Francis, L. J. (2024). Missional psychotherapy: A hermeneutic of mental health care in Christian counseling. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 43(2), 190–204.
- Long, K., Counted, V., Fogleman, A., Lee, M. T., Johnson, B. R., & VanderWeele, T. J. (2024). *Flourishing and the Church: Studying and Promoting the Flourishing of the Church in the 21st Century*. ISR Special Report, Human Flourishing Program.
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Lomas, T. (2024). Global diversity in spatial (rural-urban) well-being in over 100 countries. *Cities*, 149, 104987.
- Allen, K. A., Slaten, C., Hong, S., Lan, M., Craig, H., May, F., & Counted, V. (2024). Belonging in higher education: A twenty-year systematic review. *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*, 21(5), 1–55.
- Counted, V., Meagher, B., & Cowden, R. (2024). The nature of spiritual ties to place: A conceptual overview and research agenda. *Ecopsychology*, 16(1), 60–70. <https://doi.org/10.1089/eco.2022.0078>

## 2023

- Case, B., Counted, V., Ritchie-Dunham, J., Cowden, R., Gibson, C., Koga, H., Lomas, T., & Padgett, N. (2023). Beyond a single story: The heterogeneity of human flourishing in 22 countries. *International Journal of Wellbeing*, 13(4), 3555, 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.5502/ijw.v13i4.3555>
- Counted, V., & Newheiser, D. (2023). How place shapes the aspirations of hope: The allegory of the privileged and the underprivileged. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2023.2257654>
- Counted, V., Ramkissoon, H., Captari, L. E., & Cowden, R. G. (Eds.). (2023). *Place, spirituality, and well-being: A global and multidisciplinary approach* (Vol. 7). Springer Nature. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6>

- Counted, V., Ramkissoon, H., Captari, L. E., & Cowden, R. G. (2023). Toward a global and multidisciplinary understanding of place, religion/spirituality, and well-being. In V. Counted, H. Ramkissoon, L. E. Captari, & R. G. Cowden (Eds.), *Place, spirituality, and well-being: A global and multidisciplinary approach* (pp. 1–18). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6_1)
- Counted, V., Ramkissoon, H., Captari, L. E., & Cowden, R. G. (2023). Healing systems of well-being and people-place interactions: Complexity, context, and connections. In V. Counted, H. Ramkissoon, L. E. Captari, & R. G. Cowden (Eds.), *Place, spirituality, and well-being: A global and multidisciplinary approach* (pp. 273–286). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6_16)
- Neff, M. A., Page, C. D., Cowden, R. G., Waters, D. J., & Counted, V. (2023). Racial justice protests create spaces of hope and healing: The racialization of space and trauma in contexts of racial tensions. In V. Counted, H. Ramkissoon, L. E. Captari, & R. G. Cowden (Eds.), *Place, spirituality, and well-being: A global and multidisciplinary approach* (pp. 69–85). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-39582-6_5)
- Rżóska, P., Żemojtel-Piotrowska, M., Piotrowski, J., Nowak, B., Jonason, P., Sedikides, C., Adamovic, M., ... Counted, V., ... & Yahiaiev, I. (2023). Testing the underlying structure of unfounded beliefs about COVID-19 around the world. *Thinking and Reasoning*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13546783.2023.2259539>
- Nwokolo, O., & Counted, V. (2023). The first indigenous Anglican diocese of Western Africa: Contested legacy of the Diocese on the Niger and CMS mission in Igboland. *Journal of Anglican Studies*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1740355323000219>
- Wilson Fadiji, A., de la Rosa, P. A., Counted, V., De Kock, J. H., Bronkhorst, W. L. R., Joynt, S., Tesfai, A., Nyamaruze, P., Govender, K., & Cowden, R. G. (2023). Flourishing during the COVID-19 pandemic: A longitudinal study in South Africa. *Psychological Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00332941231161753>

## 2022

- Kent, B. V., Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., Davis, E. B., Rueger, S. Y., & Worthington Jr, E. L. (2022). Do religious/spiritual resources moderate the association between suffering and religious/spiritual struggles? A three-wave longitudinal study of US adults with chronic illness. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 61(3–4), 642–662. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12808>
- Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., & Ho, M. Y. (2022). Positive psychology and religion/spirituality across cultures in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. In E. B. Davis, E. L. Worthington Jr., & S. A. Schnitker (Eds.), *Handbook of positive psychology, religion, and spirituality* (Chapter 16). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10274-5\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-10274-5_16)
- Shiba, K., Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., VanderWeele, T. J., & Fancourt, D. (2022). Associations of home confinement during COVID-19 lockdown with subsequent health and well-being among UK adults. *Current Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-022-03001-5>

- Captari, L. E., Cowden, R. G., Sandage, S. J., Davis, E. B., Bechara, A. O., Joynt, S., & Counted, V. (2022). Religious/spiritual struggles and depression during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns in the Global South: Evidence of moderation by positive religious coping and hope. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rel0000474>
- Neff, M. A., Masilela, L., Cowden, R. G., & Counted, V. (2022). Religion, migration, and the new African diaspora: A psychological perspective. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 34(3), 267–288. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.21032>
- Counted, V., & Abraham, I. (2022). Introduction to the special issue on religion, spirituality, and the new African diaspora. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 34(3), 239–241. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.21071>
- Possamai, A., Battin, J., Counted, V., & Jinks, T. (2020). Reassessing the bounded affinity theory of religion and the paranormal: Formative and ongoing religious rituals. *Culture and Religion*, 21(3), 298–312. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14755610.2020.1801725>

## 2021

- Cowden, R. G., Davis, E. B., Counted, V., Chen, Y., Rueger, S. Y., VanderWeele, T. J., Lemke, A. W., Glowiak, K. J., & Worthington Jr., E. L. (2021). Suffering, mental health, and psychological well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic: A longitudinal study of U.S. adults with chronic health conditions. *Wellbeing, Space, and Society*, 2, 100048. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wss.2021.100048>
- Cowden, R. G., Rueger, S. Y., Davis, E. B., Counted, V., Kent, B. V., Chen, Y., VanderWeele, T. J., Rim, M., Lemke, A. W., & Worthington Jr., E. L. (2021). Resource loss, positive religious coping, and suffering during the COVID-19 pandemic: A prospective cohort study of U.S. adults with chronic illness. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2021.1948000>
- Counted, V., Neff, M., Captari, L., & Cowden, R. (2021). Transcending place attachment disruptions during a public health crisis: Spiritual struggles, resilience, and transformation. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 39(4), 276–286.
- Possamai, A., Long, G., & Counted, V. (2021). An analysis of Australian Research Council's grants in religion. *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*, 34(1), 74–95. <https://doi.org/10.1558/jasr.20133>
- Renzaho, A., Counted, V., Mansouri, F., & Polonsky, M. (2021). The influence of region of origin, area of residence prior to migration, religion, and perceived discrimination on acculturation strategies among sub-Saharan African migrants in Australia. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 23(1), 141–160. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12134-021-00829-x>
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Protest, despair, and detachment: Reparative responses to place attachment disruptions during a pandemic. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 55–67). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_5)



- Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Transcending place attachment disruption: Strengthening character during a pandemic. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 81–92). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_7)
- Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Adapting to place attachment disruption during a pandemic: From resource loss to resilience. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 71–80). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_6)
- Cowden, R. G., Counted, V., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Place attachment and suffering during a pandemic. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 45–54). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_4](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_4)
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Place attachment and resource loss during a pandemic: An ecological systems perspective. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 33–44). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_3)
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Place attachment during the COVID-19 pandemic: A scoping review. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 15–32). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_2)
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Place attachment during a pandemic: An introduction. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 1–11). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_1)
- Counted, V., Cowden, R. G., & Ramkissoon, H. (2021). Pro-environmental behavior, place attachment, and human flourishing: Implications for post-pandemic research, theory, practice, and policy. In *Place and post-pandemic flourishing* (pp. 93–108). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82580-5_8)
- El-Essawy, M. H. I., Soliman, A. M. A., Morris, A., Counted, V., Eissa, A. M., Valikhani, A., & Moustafa, A. A. (2021). Religious delusions in psychotic patients: Prevalence, possible origin, and effects. In Moustafa, A. A. (Ed.), *Cognitive and behavioral dysfunction in schizophrenia* (pp. 87–113). Academic Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-820005-6.00001-3>

## 2020

- Counted, V., Pargament, K., Bechara, A.O., Joynt, S., & Cowden, R.G. (2020). *Hope and well-being in vulnerable contexts during COVID-19 pandemic: Does religious coping matter?* The Journal of Positive Psychology, 17(1), 70–81. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2020.1832247>
- Possamai, A., Jinks, T., & Counted, V. (2020). *Conventional and unconventional forms of religiosity: Identifying predictive factors and wellbeing outcomes.* Journal for the Study of Spirituality, 10(2), 155–170. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20440243.2020.1817249>
- Counted, V., Possamai, A., McAuliffe, C., & Meade, T. (2020). *Attachment to Australia, Attachment to God, and Quality of Life Outcomes in African Christian Diaspora.* Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health, 22(1), 65–95. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19349637.2018.1499165>

- Counted, V. & Possamai, A. (2020). *Confidence in the Australian Society, Belief in Demons, and Practice of Exorcism: The mediating and moderating role of spirituality*. In A. Possamai & G. Giordan (Eds.), *The Social Scientific Study of Exorcism in Christianity* (pp. 217–236). Springer. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-43173-0\\_12](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-43173-0_12)
- Counted, V. (2020). *Attachment Theory and the Study of Religion*. In A. Possamai & J. Blasi (Eds.), *SAGE Encyclopedia for the Sociology of Religion*. SAGE. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529714401>

## 2019

- Counted, V. (2019). *The Role of Spirituality in Promoting Sense of Place among Foreigners of African Background in the Netherlands*. *Ecopsychology*, 11(2), 101–109. <https://doi.org/10.1089/eco.2018.0070>
- Counted, V. (2019). *Domains of Religious Coping Behaviour among African Christians in New South Wales, Australia: An exploratory qualitative study*. *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*, 21(3), 215–236. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19349637.2018.1476948>
- Counted, V. & Zock, H.T. (2019). *Place Spirituality: An attachment perspective*. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, 41(1), 12–25. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0084672419833448>
- Counted, V. & Watts, F. (2019). *A Space of Transition and Transaction: A rejoinder to selected commentaries on place spirituality*. *Archive for the Psychology of Religion*, 41(1), 43–52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0084672419832673>
- Counted, V. (2019). *Sense of Place Attitudes and Quality of Life Outcomes among African Residents in a Multicultural Australian Society*. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 47(2), 338–355. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22124>
- Counted, V., Moustafa, A.A., & Renzaho, A. (2019). *Migration and socio-demographic factors associated with the sense of place attitudes of sub-Saharan Africans in northern and western Netherlands*. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 47(2), 238–253. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22118>
- Counted, V. (2019). *African Christian Diaspora Religion and/or spirituality: A concept analysis and re-interpretation*. *Critical Research in Religion*, 7(1), 58–79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2050303218823258>
- Counted, V. & Watts, F. (2019). *Defining the psychology of religion and place: A concept analysis*. In: Counted, V. & Watts, F. (Eds.), *The Psychology of Religion and Place: Emerging Perspectives*. Springer/Palgrave MacMillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8_16)
- Counted, V. (2019). *The Psychology of Place Spirituality: A Cascade of Parallel Processes*. In: Counted, V. & Watts, F. (Eds.), *The Psychology of Religion and Place: Emerging Perspectives*. Springer/Palgrave MacMillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8_9)
- Counted, V. & Watts, F. (2019). *An Introduction to the Psychology of Religion and Place*. In: Counted, V. & Watts, F. (Eds.), *The Psychology of Religion and Place: Emerging Perspectives*. Springer/Palgrave MacMillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-28848-8_1)

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## 2018

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## 2017

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- Counted, V. & Watts, F. (2017). *Place Attachment in the Bible: The role of attachment to sacred places in religious life*. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 45(3), 218–232. <https://doi.org/10.1177/009164711704500305>
- Counted, V. & Moustafa, A.A. (2017). *Between God and Self: Exploring the attachment to God and authenticity/inauthenticity tendencies of South African Christian youths*. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 20(2), 109–127. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2017.1326476>

## 2016

- Counted, V. (2016). *Making Sense of Place Attachment: Towards a Holistic Understanding of People-place Relationships and Experiences*. *Environment, Space, & Place*, 8(1), 7–32. <https://doi.org/10.5840/esplace2016811>

- Counted, V. (2016). *Being Authentic is the New Image: A study of authenticity and selfhood among South African Christian millennials*. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 19(3), 268–294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2016.1168388>
  - Counted, V. (2016). *The Psychology of Youth Faith Formation: A Care-giving Faith?* *Journal of Youth and Theology*, 15(2), 146–172. <https://doi.org/10.1163/24055093-01502004>
  - Counted, V. (2016). *Missionizing Youth Identity Crisis: Towards a missional hermeneutic of care in youth ministry practice*. *Missionalia: Southern African Journal of Missiology*, 41(1), 82–102. <https://doi.org/10.7832/44-1-141>
  - Counted, V. & Arawole, J. (2016). ‘We Are Connected, But Constrained’: *Internet Inequality and the Challenges of Millennials in Africa as Actors in Innovation*. *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, 5(3), 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13731-015-0029-1>
  - Counted, V. (2016). *God as an Attachment Figure: A Case Study of the God Attachment Language and God Concepts of Anxiously Attached Christian Youths in South Africa*. *Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health*, 18(4), 316–346. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19349637.2016.1176757>
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## Media Interviews & Articles

- *The Conversation*: Which African countries are flourishing? Scientists have a new way of measuring well-being.
- *Scientific American*: Global Flourishing Study Reflects Youth Struggles and Ripple Effects of Childhood Challenges
- *The Conversation*: What makes people flourish? A new survey of more than 200,000 people across 22 countries looks for global patterns and local differences
- *Christianity Today*: Consider the Least of These: Sternberg’s Three Principles of Love and COVID-19
- *ABC Religion & Ethics*: Remembering our lost ties to place
- *ABC National Radio*: How to form new habits — and break old ones
- *The Conversation*: Can radicalisation be defeated? Yes, if we understand that it happens when people’s bonds are broken
- *Psychology Today*: Sustaining Well-being in the Absence of Hope
- *The Conversation*: Migrants and the bond with God: attachment and survival are linked

- *The Conversation*: Hope and religion in a time of crisis: evidence from Colombia and South Africa
  - *Psychology Today*: Can religious coping help bushfire survivors?
  - *Psychology Today*: The Security of Place and Resilience
  - *Nieuw Wij!*: Kracht van religie mogelijk onderschat in Nederlands integratiebeleid voor Afrikanen
  - *Nederlands Dagblad*: Band met God versterkt geestelijke veerkracht migrant
  - *Reformatorisch Dagblad*: Voor Afrikaan in Nederland is Psalm 137 erg herkenbaar
  - *University of Groningen News*: Experiencing God in a Foreign Land
  - *Big Think*: The Thin Line Between Abnormality and Normality
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## Invited Lectures & Conference Presentations

### 2024

- **Counted, V.** (June 22–24). *Human Flourishing and AI*. Human Flourishing Forum, Vatican City.
- **Counted, V.** (April 19–21). *Habitats of Flourishing: Spiritual Ties to Place & Spatial Systems of Wellbeing*. APA Division 36 Conference, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ.
- **Counted, V.** (March 21–23). *Christian Flourishing in a Secular Age (Abundant Life: Individual-Domain of Christian Flourishing)*. Post-conference workshop, CAPS Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- **Counted, V.,** Netz, D., Smith, R., Waldheim, Williams, S., & Garzon, F. (March 21–23). *Holy Spirit Attachment: Theory, Research, and Applications*. CAPS Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- **Counted, V.** (January 6). *Habitats of Flourishing*. Guest lecture, IRSP Working Group Meeting, Biola University, CA.

### 2023

- **Counted, V.** (Nov 31–Dec 2). *Spiritual Ties to Place*. Virtual presentation, SPRANZ, University of Otago, NZ.
- **Counted, V.** (Sept 15). *Christian Flourishing*. Church Mental Health Summit.
- **Counted, V.** (Sept 11). *Habitats of Flourishing: What Makes a Good Place?* Common Read Lecture, Regent University, VA.

- **Counted, V.** (Aug 21–24). *The Nature of Spiritual Ties to Place: Conceptual Clarification and Empirical Evidence*. IAPR Conference, University of Groningen, Netherlands.
- **Counted, V.** (June). *Towards a Global Flourishing Framework*. Humanity 2.0 Workshop, Angelicum, Rome, Italy.

## 2022

- (*COVID-19 disruption*)

## 2021

- **Counted, V.** (August). *Transcending Place Attachment Disruptions During a Public Health Crisis*. APA Annual Convention.
- Rueger, S. Y., Cowden, R. G., Davis, E. B., Rim, M., Lemke, A. W., Elson, M. C., Park, A., Worthington, E. L., Jr., **Counted, V.**, et al. (May). *Positive Religious Coping and Depression*. Poster, APS Virtual Convention.

## 2020

- **Counted, V.** (Dec 13). *The Role of the Environment in the Relations Between Religion and Health*. AASR Conference.
- **Counted, V.** (Feb 19). *The Psychology of Religion and Place*. Invited lecture, Australian Catholic University.

## 2019

- **Counted, V.** (Aug 31–Sept 4). *Psychology of Religion and Place in a Migration Context*. IAPR Conference, Gdansk, Poland.
- **Counted, V.** (June 27). *Experiencing God in a Foreign Land*. PhD Defense, University of Groningen, Netherlands.

## 2018

- **Counted, V.** (Dec 11). *Attachment and Quality of Life in African Migrants*. Research Colloquium, Western Sydney University.
- **Counted, V.** (May 17–19). *Representation of God and Quality of Life*. European Conference on Religion, Coventry, UK.
- **Counted, V.** (July 8–13). *Place Attachment, Spirituality, and Diaspora Mobility*. IAPS Conference, Roma Tre University, Italy.

## 2017

- **Counted, V.** (Nov 23–24). *African Diaspora, Attachment, and Quality of Life*. ASAPA Conference, University of South Australia.

- **Counted, V.** (Aug 21–25). *Place Spirituality and Quality of Life in Australia*. IAPR Conference, Hamar, Norway.
- **Counted, V.** (Aug 16–19). *Religious Violence and Psychopathology*. Summer School, University of Groningen.

## 2016

- **Counted, V.** (Dec 4–5). *Youth Identity Crisis and Divine Conflict*. Youth, Health & Justice Conference, UNSW, Sydney.
- **Counted, V.** (Nov 26). *Circle of Place Spirituality in the Netherlands*. AASR Conference, ACU, Melbourne.
- **Counted, V.** (Oct 4–5). *Spirituality and Well-being in South African Youths*. SCW Conference, Excelsia College, Sydney.
- **Counted, V.** (Mar 30–Apr 2). *God-image Functioning among Youths*. IASYM Conference, PThU, Amsterdam.

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## Community Service & Consulting Work

### Editorial Roles

- Associate Editor, *The Journal of Positive Psychology* (2024)
- Book Series Editor, *Religion, Spirituality and Health* (2024)
- Book Reviewer, *Oxford University Press* (2022, 2024)
- Book Reviewer, *Springer Nature* (2022)

### Academic Reviewing & Examining

- PhD Thesis Examiner, Avondale University (2024)
- PhD Thesis Examiner, National Institute of Psychology, Pakistan (2022)
- Thesis Examiner, Charles Sturt University (2020–2021)
- Reviewer, National Research Foundation of South Africa (2021)

### Conference & Workshop Engagements

- Conference Organizer, IAPS Conference, Barcelona (2023–2024)
- Abstract Jury Member, Global Flourishing Conference (2022)
- Workshop Contributor, Religion and Flourishing Workshop (2022)

### Leadership & Advisory Roles

- Executive Board Member, IAPR (2023)
- Founding Member, SPRANZ (2022)

- Consultant, Religious Competency Project (2022– )
- Member, Cross-Cultural Working Group, GFS (2022)
- Author/Contributor, *Cambridge Int'l Handbook of Psychology of Religion* (2021– )

## Research Teams

- Core Research Analysis Team, Global Flourishing Study (2021– )

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## Research Funding

### 2023

- PI: *The Nature of Spiritual Ties to Place*, CCCU – **\$24,000**

### 2022–Present

- Consultant: *Spiritual and Religious Competencies in Clinical Training*, John Templeton Foundation
- Contributor: *Cambridge Handbook of Psychology of Religion*, John Templeton Foundation – **\$234,517**

### 2021–Present

- Research Team: *Global Flourishing Study*, Multi-institutional – **\$46,000,000**

### 2019

- Internship Research Fund, Western Sydney University – **\$10,000 AUD**
- Wessel Ganzevoort Prize for Best PhD Thesis – **€750**

### 2016–2019

- Int'l Postgrad Scholarship, Western Sydney University – **\$81,050 AUD**
- Travel & Research Award – **\$7,000 AUD**

### 2015–2018

- Research Fellowship, PRACTMAUS – **\$6,000 USD**

### 2015–2016

- Research Travel Fund, University of Groningen – **€7,370**

## Professional Affiliations

- **2022–Present:** Founding Member, *Society for the Psychology of Religion in Australia and New Zealand*
- **2022–Present:** Honorary Fellow, *Western Sydney University, School of Psychology*
- **2021–Present:** Faculty Affiliate, *Harvard University's Human Flourishing Program*
- **2021–Present:** Fellow, *International Society for Science and Religion*
- **2021–Present:** Research Team, *Global Flourishing Study*
- **2020–Present:** Member, *American Psychological Association*
- **2019–Present:** Member, *Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*



- **2018–Present:** Member, *International Association for People-Environment Studies*
- **2018–Present:** Member, *Place Attachment Network*
- **2018–Present:** Member, *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*
- **2017–Present:** Research Associate, *Cambridge Institute for Applied Psychology and Religion*
- **2016–Present:** Member, *International Association for the Psychology of Religion*
- **2016–Present:** Member, *Australian Association for the Study of Religion*
- **2016–2019:** Adjunct Faculty, *Comparative Study of Religion, University of Groningen*
- **2015–2018:** Adjunct Faculty & Research Associate, *Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University*

## Editorial Experience

### Editor Roles

- **2024–Present:** Associate Editor, *The Journal of Positive Psychology*
- **2023–Present:** Guest Editor, *Journal of Psychology and Christianity* (Christian Flourishing Issue)
- **2020–Present:** Lead Book Editor, *Religion, Spirituality, and Health: A Social Scientific Approach* (Springer)
- **2021–Present:** Guest Editor, *Sustainability (MDPI)* (Migrant Health & Quality of Life)
- **2021–2022:** Guest Editor, *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* (New African Diaspora Issue)
- **2017–2019:** Lead Editor, *The Psychology of Religion and Place: Emerging Perspectives* (Palgrave Macmillan)

### Editorial Board Membership

- **2024–Present:** *The Journal of Positive Psychology*
- **2024–Present:** *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*
- **2023–Present:** *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*
- **2021–Present:** *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*

### Journal Reviewer (Ongoing)

*IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics*  
*Journal of Happiness Studies*  
*Journal of Intercultural Studies*  
*Cognitive Behaviour Therapy*  
*Journal of Clinical Psychology*  
*Journal of Positive Psychology*  
*Psychological Reports*  
*Journal of Psychology and Christianity*  
*Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*  
*Journal of Environmental Psychology*  
*Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*  
*Social and Cultural Geography*

*Mental Health, Religion & Culture*  
*Social Indicators Research*  
*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*  
*Journal for the Academic Study of Religion*  
*Journal of Pastoral Care and Counselling*  
*Review of Religious Research*  
*Heliyon*  
*Cogent Psychology*  
*Archive for the Psychology of Religion*  
*Journal of Psychology and Theology*  
*Missionalia*  
*HTS Theological Studies*  
*Ecopsychology*  
*British Journal of Psychology (Open)*