

# Section Culture

*ASA Sociology of Culture Section Newsletter and Web Site*

*Summer 2015 (Vol. 27, Issue 1)*

[www.asaculturesection.wordpress.com](http://www.asaculturesection.wordpress.com)

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## Incoming Chair's Message

Geneviève Zubrzycki, University of Michigan



Fellow Cultural Sociologists,

The ASA is upon us, and we have a fabulous program spread over two full days on Monday August 24 and Tuesday August 25. With four regular panels, 20 roundtables and two invited sessions, the Sociology of Culture Section is sure to keep you busy in Chicago! Don't miss our annual reception on Saturday, August 22 (6:30-8:30), nor our business meeting on Tuesday at 1:30, which will honor this year's award winners.

The program this year was conceived with some classical themes in mind ("Art, Money, and Meaning," "Normalcy"), cutting edge approaches ("The Materiality of Culture?") and pressing political issues ("Culture and (In)security in the 21st Century"). Speakers on our two invited panels will reflect on recent advances and trends in cultural sociology. The first panel, "Culture and its Intersections" on Tuesday morning (8:30) will showcase Karin Knorr, Fernando Dominguez Rubio and Robin Wagner-Pacifici. They will discuss the next frontier(s) in the field and explore how sociology can benefit from borrowing from other disciplines. The second invited panel, featuring Virag Molnar, Andreas Glaeser, Phil Gorski and Omar Lizardo, will focus on "Sources of Cultural Power."

This year the section is also organizing a special workshop on writing and publishing for the section's junior scholars. Led by Eviatar Zerubavel, the workshop will discuss writing strategies as well as the publishing process for articles and books. The workshop is scheduled immediately after the roundtables, just before our business meeting. Although

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### *Editor's Note*

This year, we took over as Newsletter editors from Jonathan Wynn, Claudio Benzecry, and Andrew Deener's editorial team. We thank them warmly for showing us the ropes as we were getting acquainted with job and tools. We're doing our best to build upon the great newsletter and popular features they have left to the Section.

We've also meant to improve communication and tighten bonds within the Culture Section beyond the newsletter, through **more effective online presence and interaction**. We would like to take the opportunity of this Summer issue to call members' attention on a set of tools that have become operational. These include a new web site (<https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com>) as well as a Facebook page (ASA Culture Section) and Twitter account (@ASAculture). Please visit the web site and "follow" or "like" us for announcements, links, and information.

**The newsletter will be shared, as before, in PDF format** through the mailing list, and the newsletter archive is still accessible through the site. Some of the newsletter content will be published and advertised through online media as well. **Other content will be available exclusively online**, such as the virtual exhibitions and photo essays we plan to develop in the "Gallery" section of the web site. (Take a look for example at Peter Stamatov's illustrations in the following pages and stay tuned for the upcoming *Madrid Observed* virtual exhibition at <https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com/gallery/>) The book and article **review section** will also be partly web-based. Finally note that we have several Announcements sections for the news you share through our Section Chair ([genez@umich.edu](mailto:genez@umich.edu)) or send directly our way.

We hope especially that you will enjoy reading **Ann Mische's** inspiring answers to the "Four Questions" in this issue (p.4), Yale CCS' news (p. 7), about 2014 and 2015 and Section awards (p. 11-13), and that you will find useful information in our pages about the 2015 annual meeting. We'll keep national and international culture news coming in future issues as well.

And of course we welcome proposals for informative contributions to the newsletter. Feel free to contact us with ideas. We wish you a good reading, and a pleasant visual (and cultural!) experience.

*('Incoming Chair's message' continued from p. 1)*

intended especially for graduate students, post-docs and assistant professors, all section members are welcome to attend for a productive session. Spread the word!

To close this brief note, I'd like to thank our panel organizers and especially Lauren Rivera and Michael Stambolis for their hard work and their impressive line-up of roundtables. Thanks also to all those who answered the calls for papers! And congratulations to the newly elected section officers: Jennifer C. Lena (chair-elect), Francisco Duina and Terry McDonnell.

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Geneviève Zubrzycki

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## New Section Officers 2015

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*Chair (One year term, beginning 2015)*  
Geneviève Zubrzycki (Michigan University)

*Chair Elect (One year term beginning 2016)*  
Jennifer C. Lena (Columbia University, each College)

*Council Members (Three-year terms, beginning 2015):*  
Terence McDonnell (University of Notre Dame)  
Francesco Duina (University of British Columbia)

*Student Representative (Two-year term, beginning 2015):*  
Hannah Wohl (Northwestern)

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Forthcoming on the Culture Section's web site

### From Madrid

Photographs by Peter Stamatov  
(NYUAD & Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)  
<https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com/gallery/>

### Special issue

#### Global Food History on Culinary Infrastructure

We seek additional manuscripts that will expand the theoretical, geographical, and chronological understanding of culinary infrastructure.

Deadline for completed articles: December 15, 2015. Anticipated publication: Fall 2016. Send an abstract of about 250 words by August 31, 2015, to [jeffrey.pilcher@utoronto.ca](mailto:jeffrey.pilcher@utoronto.ca). <https://networks.h-net.org/node/20292/discussions/75197/special-issue-global-food-history-culinary-infrastructure>

## Call for submissions

**Culture and Economic Life**  
**(Stanford U. Press)**

**New series editors  
Frederick Wherry,  
Jennifer C. Lena,  
Greta Hsu, invite  
section members to  
submit proposals and  
manuscripts.**

[http://www.sup.org/books/series/  
?series=CULTURE%20AND%20ECONOMIC%20LIFE](http://www.sup.org/books/series/?series=CULTURE%20AND%20ECONOMIC%20LIFE)

**Contact:**  
**[jcl42@columbia.edu](mailto:jcl42@columbia.edu)**



## Four Questions For... *Ann Mische*



### *How did you become interested in the study of culture?*

It's always hard to track the beginnings of something (as beginnings themselves are cultural constructions), but perhaps I can date it to my undergraduate studies at Yale. I was a philosophy major with a particular interest in phenomenology and hermeneutics. I read a lot of Heidegger, Husserl, Merleau-Ponty, Gadamer and Ricoeur. I also did a senior project on "The Learner as Phenomenologist," in which I looked at how

young people construct their worlds and reflect on their own experiences while they are learning. This was connected with a teaching project I was involved in at Yale that worked with low-income children and youth from the New Haven area. So the paper was very sociological – perhaps a bit too sociological for Yale's very analytic philosophy department at the time. I was fascinated by questions about subjectivity, interpretation, and reflection about self and world, particularly in situations of exclusion and disadvantage.

After graduating from Yale, I spent the next three years in Brazil, on a journalistic fellowship to study youth, education, and social movements. This was a period of strong popular contestation around issues of democracy, labor rights, and social and economic injustice. During this period I found myself thinking and writing about the reconfiguration of subjectivities – and imagined futures – as a component of social protest and projects of transformation.

When I started my doctoral studies at the New School in 1990, I began working as an intern at an organization called the "Center for a Science of Hope," for which I reviewed writings from various disciplines on how people construct hopes for the future. I got involved with a project run by Terry Williams called the Harlem Writer's Project, in which I interviewed young people from the East Harlem housing projects about their hopes and their changing sense of possibility. I took a Sociology course on theories of cultural change (in which we read Elias, Sahlins, De Certeau and the Annales school), and an Anthropology course on the politics of cultural struggle (in which we read Bourdieu and Gramsci), and I was hooked.

As a grad student in the mid-90s, I found the ASA culture section a very welcoming and exciting place. I attended a culture mini-conference at George Mason (organized by Michele Lamont and Ann Swidler) that was really formative for me – I met so many culture scholars (including fellow grad students and young junior faculty) who have become close friends and inspirational colleagues over the years. I'm sure that this was important for my self-identification as a cultural (and not just political) sociologist.

### *What kind of work does culture do in your thinking, past and current?*

There are two main ways in which I think about culture in my work. First, I think about culture as a means of mapping – and often steering -- action. I was highly influenced by Ricoeur's book *From Text to Action*, especially his discussion of ideology and utopia as contending kinds of narrative mappings involving interpretations of the past and possibilities for the future. My work on projectivity and future-oriented discourse – developed in my 1998 *AJS* article with Mustafa Emirbayer, "What is Agency?" as well as in several articles since then – explicitly looks at the discursive construction of the future. In a 2009 *Sociological Forum* essay I propose nine dimensions of projectivity that are amenable to cultural analysis, including what I

call reach, breadth, clarity, contingency, expandability, volition, sociality, connectivity, and genre. I'm now addressing this empirically in my study of future-oriented grammars in the Rio+20 debates about environmental sustainability. In the future I would like to apply this approach to the study of how contending actors debate and map possible futures as they engage in post-conflict reconstruction efforts after armed violence and civil war.

Second, I think about culture in as means by which people construct not only futures, but also relations. In some of my work I have developed a conception of networks themselves as cultural constructions, building on work by Harrison White, Charles Tilly, Paul McLean and others. Through talk – and via our continually updated reporting efforts, story-telling and self-presentations – we construct a sense of “identity in relation,” which in turn becomes the building blocks of social networks. Social ties themselves should be understood as narrative and performative constructions. This links with my work on future projections – for example, when various NGOs, social movements, policy think tanks, business groups and state actors mapped out desired and feared futures for the Rio+20 conference, they were also building relationships (i.e., alignments and oppositions) in a contentious political field. These relational mappings can translate into future actions and relation-building efforts – e.g., who you collaborate with (or oppose) in future actions or events, and as a result, what kinds of policies, protests, or projects of social change are advanced in the public arena.



Photo: Peter Stamatov

See more pictures by Peter on the Section's web site

### ***What are some of the benefits and limitations of using culture in this way?***

I would say that one of the principal benefits of my approach is that it puts culture in motion. When I say that culture “steers” action, I don’t mean that people necessarily always follow their maps of the future, or that their predictions come true. But the fact that they have imagined the future in a particular way helps to steer the choices they make and the relations that they build moving forward, even if they find their pathways blocked by unjust social conditions, or if the complexity of the world takes them in unexpected directions. This is a dynamic and pragmatist understanding of culture, which takes into account the structuring effects of narrative, power relations and social context, along with the transformative potential we have to challenge predominant framings of possibility and redirect or recompose pathways of action.

One of the difficulties of studying culture in this way is that it’s often hard to see “culture looking forward.” Many of our sources of cultural narratives depend on retrospective accounts of events that have happened in the past, rather than prospective accounts of what *might* happen (or *should* happen, or *would* happen *if...*). I’m looking for a way of understanding narrative that preserves this subjunctive sense of multi-strandedness and potentiality, or what Schutz calls the “polythetic” structure of future reflections, as opposed to the “monothetic” mode of reflection on actions as unified wholes, which is what we do in retrospective accounting

practices. My goal is to find a way of capturing the polythetic structure of future projections in situations in which people are reflecting on things that have not happened yet.

### *How does culture shape your choice of research topics and settings?*

To study culture in this way, my current strategy is to look for what I call “sites of hyperprojectivity,” that is, sites of heightened reflection and debate on possible future directions, pathways or outcomes. I’m particularly interested in sites of *collective* debate about the future – such as community forums about proposed changes in local policies or relations, internal social movement deliberations over visions and strategies, or discussions in the policy world about institutional planning and reform. Other potential sites – which I suspect adhere to quite distinct grammars and genres of future projection – might be the ways in which military or corporate actors engage in what they call “strategic planning” or technologically supported simulations of future contingencies. I am incorporating several of these sites into my current book project (for which the analysis of the Rio+20 debates is the pilot, as described in my 2014 *Theory and Society* article). I’m looking forward to seeing how this work connects with other recent work on cognition, deliberation, political talk, areas that compose a vibrant sub-area of cultural sociology.

#### American Journal of Cultural Sociology Call for Papers – Inequality

Inequality has come roaring back onto the public agenda, punctuated by Barack Obama's December 2013 claim that income inequality is 'a defining challenge of our time'. But if the new object of civil concern is economic, the nature of that concern remains centrally cultural. the call invites answers to a number of questions, including: What is the new culture structure that informs contemporary discussions about inequality? Can the new focus on inequality be conceived as a discourse? **Deadline for submissions is September 1, 2015.** Full call at [http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ajcs/ajcs\\_cfp\\_inequality.pdf](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ajcs/ajcs_cfp_inequality.pdf)

#### CFP: Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Popular Culture

The Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association annual conference will be held March 21-25, 2016 in Seattle, Washington. The Libraries, Archives, Museums, and Popular Culture area is soliciting papers dealing with any aspect of Popular Culture as it pertains to libraries, archives, museums, or research. Papers from graduate students are welcome.

**Deadline for submitting a proposal is October 1, 2015.**  
Proposals may be submitted at <http://ncp.pcaaca.org>.



## *The Sociology of Culture and its Homes*

# *Advancing Cultural Sociology at CCS Yale: Some Reflections and Updates*

Last year, **Fred Wherry** joined **Jeffrey Alexander**, **Ron Eyerman**, and **Phil Smith** at the helm of the Yale Center for Cultural Sociology. We asked him if he could put his presence at Yale and at the CCS in the context of the Center's recent and less recent history for us. We received the collective answer that follows. Thanks to Jeffrey, Ron, Phil and Fred for the update on an always "strong" program of thinking and events.

*Advancing Cultural Sociology* conference, April 2014. Left to right: F. Wherry, R. Eyerman, J. Alexander, L. Spilman & A. Voyer, R. Almeling & P. Smith. (Photos Varvara Kobysheva)  
[NB: mistakenly labelled 2015 Cultural Sociology Writ Small Conference in previous edition]



*Jeffrey Alexander, Ron Eyerman, Phil Smith, Fred Wherry, Yale Center for Cultural Sociology*

In May last year some 150 sociologists, young and older, from inside and outside the U.S., gathered at Yale to take stock of cultural sociology. This gathering to celebrate the Yale Center for Cultural Sociology's thriving – we have been around for a dozen years now – created the chance to talk about how the discipline should advance in the coming years. It also provided a chance to informally reflect on the CCS itself. Here we echo that earlier reflection by documenting a range of activity.

### *Advancing Intellectually*

Although not just about the Strong Program, the Yale CCS has become intimately connected to its evolution. The first generation of Strong Program practitioners emerged from CCS's pre-history at UCLA in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Alongside Jeffrey Alexander such graduate students as Phil Smith, Anne Kane, Laura Desfor Edles, and Ron Jacobs were busy connecting macro-sociology to media discourse, using ritual theory to make sense of social movements, and showing (contra the early post-Parsonian turn) that culture really could deal with 'conflict' in arenas such as international and civil war, race relations, punishment, and civil sphere. The Strong Program became more firmly institutionalized at the Yale CCS with new 'paradigms' emerging one after another on performance, iconicity and cultural trauma. At the same time the arrival of Ron Eyerman added

theoretical diversity and a twist of critical theory. A second generation of students flourished in the 2000s – to name but a few, Isaac Reed, Jason Mast, Lisa McCormick, Elizabeth Breese and Matthew Norton. Historical and field methods became more central, as did the newer paradigms that sought to diversify output beyond the traditional Strong Program themes of binary code and narrative. Although some of this work continued the Strong Program push that emphasized the power of culture as an 'independent variable', much of it sought to build bridges to more orthodox sociologies, cultural and otherwise. This direction of travel was to become yet more significant when Fred Wherry joined the Directorial team. Trained in Princeton (PhD) and Penn (post-doc) Wherry routed through Michigan on his way to Yale. He arrived with a new set of methodological skills and a fresh intellectual approach.

### *Advancing Organizationally*

If the CCS is anything it is a global meeting place. A remarkable number of people attending the conference were from outside the USA. Hence it is no surprise that at the meeting's conclusion, the Center's Directors began to explore where cultural sociology needs to go in the literal, geographical sense. We have helped establish like-minded centers at leading universities in Sweden, Germany, and the Czech Republic, and also in Russia and Australia, which we intend to deepen. We are now connecting

*Continued on P 10*

## Outsiders

# On Being an Independent Sociologist of Culture

## Sarah Thornton answers Ann Mullen's Questions

*In the "Outsiders" section of the newsletter sociologists of culture talk about doing sociology outside the institution, about publishing in trade or other non-academic presses, and/or about their unconventional research and writing practices. Sarah Thornton is a writer and sociologist of art. After earning her Ph.D. in sociology, Sarah went on to work as the chief correspondent on contemporary art for The Economist, as well as writing for many other publications, including Artforum, the Guardian, and The New Yorker. She published Seven Days in the Art World in 2008, a book about the inner workings of the institutions that make up the art world. The book was named one of the best art books of the year by the New York Times and is now available in seventeen languages. She has just released a new book, 33 Artists in 3 Acts, which investigates the questions: What is an artist? How do artists command belief in their work? And what artistic myths do they enliven or reject? Ann Mullen (University of Toronto) interviewed her in her San Francisco home about her new book and about working outside of academia. (This interview was originally produced as a companion to [Ann's review of Sarah's book](#) on our web site.)*

**AM:** After your Ph.D., you had a faculty position at Sussex University. I'm curious how you decided to leave academia for a career as a writer.



Sarah Thornton  
(Photo Argo Moritz)

**ST:** My fantasy as a child was that I would be a writer-academic but the writer aspiration was primary. I come from a pragmatic, practical family so I had to have a job. When I actually became an academic, British university life did not live up to my fantasies of scholarly life – lounging in one's study reading books, having an occasional tutorial, not buried under a mountain of unmarked exams [laughs]. As in many countries, the cut backs in British academe were pretty stringent, and it made researching and writing very difficult. I love teaching but I loathe academic politics. I actually like to study other people's games, in a Bourdieuan sense. I like studying other people's systems of distinction and professional endorsement, but I get stressed when I have to be involved in them myself. The academic game just wasn't very fun for me. It could have been that my experience at Sussex University was particularly bad, but I have loads of academic friends, and it seems like there is something about the institution, which engenders particularly unpleasant forms of competition. What I learned when I was a full-time academic was that I didn't like that game.

I love writing, and I think the parameters of writing can be a little bit more open when you don't have to have footnotes, cite theorists and make a case for your relevance to the field. I just present the fieldwork, and I hope it's evident that it's relevant.

**AM:** You probably also don't have to apply for human subjects approval of your interview questions.

**ST:** No, exactly. All the ethics guidelines are really important for grad students because God knows where they could go. I feel like I have my own grounded ethical principles about the way I treat my subjects, but it's not identical to any university's policies. For example, I want to name names so my sociological explorations can interact with art history. Sometimes I want to play hardball with my subjects because they're public figures, and they can take it. Many artists today have a lot of power and I don't want to be steamrolled by them.



AM: *I'm curious about your decision to frame your new book as a 3-act play, suggesting that you position yourself as the playwright, and perhaps allowing yourself to take a wider range of creative liberties than an academic might typically take. Was this positioning intentional? Or simply a creative and interesting way to present your findings?*

This is a great question. I'm not certain I position myself as a playwright. *Seven Days in the Art World* and *33 Artists in 3 Acts* are works of "creative non-fiction" and of course the rules of the genre are different. I use narrative rather than expository structures. I show rather than tell. I am keen on finding engaging ways to present my findings. Generally speaking, an academic ethnographic work would keep everyone anonymous. Being an artist is not just a job but a hard-won identity. It's a highly customizable role in which the most successful players are revered for being ultimate individuals. It would be a great loss to study them and not refer to them by name. The other thing is I'm very much interested in a dialogue with art history. The history of post-Renaissance art is a history of names. I see myself as betwixt and between art history and sociology, because my undergraduate degree was in art history. I describe a lot of real artworks in *33 Artists in 3 Acts*, which are relevant to the questions – what is an artist? and how do they command credibility? You need to see the relationship between the visual work and its maker. I want my writing to be educational but also entertaining. I aspire to researching like a well-funded academic but writing like a reporter. I also want my material to sink in. I think that people tend to remember narratives better than expositions. If you ask someone in the street to tell you oh, that story they heard yesterday or that argument they heard yesterday, they'll remember the story better than the argument.

AM: *Which sociologists most influenced or inspired your work?*

ST: Pierre Bourdieu and Howard Becker are the two figures that loom, my guiding lights. Also, all those "thick description" anthropologists - Clifford Geertz - and Chicago School old-timers - Irving Goffman. *33 Artists in 3 Acts* is inspired by *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. I'm a big Becker fan but not of *Art Worlds*. My favorite book by Becker is *Outsiders*. I love those essays about jazz musicians, straights and squares and how to become a marijuana user; they were really important to my PhD. *Art Worlds* is a frustrating, bland, unilluminating book, partly because he doesn't believe in hierarchy. If there is any social world that's vertiginously

hierarchical, it's the art world. The art world is constantly judging artists along many lines - competent, good, great, local, regional, international, dubious, convincing, "real," etc



Ann Mullen

AM: *In the book, you present very rich descriptions but leave out any explicit analysis. How did you arrive at this approach?*

ST: Lots of reasons. A rule of good writing is "show, don't tell," and it took me a long time, writing for a lot of different editors, to have the overt telling beaten out of my writing. Showing is often a much more thought provoking way to present information to the reader, so the reader works to make sense of all the material, rather than being told what to think. That's one reason. I also love the ambiguity that is created. There are a lot of rich tendrils that the reader can pull together to make explicit arguments and I offer up some basic theses in the introduction.

Also because the arguments for sociologists, art historians and general culture vultures are going to be quite different, it would narrow the readership to target only one constituency. I could write at least two different academic articles based on the fieldwork. *33 Artists in 3 Acts* has been endorsed by an art historian, a sociologist and the head of an art school. If I had kind of belabored certain types of analysis, it might not cross over between those disciplines.

**For more questions and answers about the art world read the full interview on the Section's web site:**

**<https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com/2015/06/05/ten-questions-for-sarah-thornton/>**

**See also the review of Sarah's book at**

**<https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com/2015/06/05/33-artists-in-3-acts-by-sarah-thornton/>**

## Yale CCS From Page 7

with Asia and are looking for opportunities in Latin America and Africa. Two initiatives can be mentioned here as this year's exemplars of this effort. In July, 2015, three of the Center's Directors led workshops at the Nordic Summer Workshops in Cultural Sociology, hosted by our Faculty Fellows from Linnaeus University, which drew advanced students from Europe. Our expansion into China will begin officially with Shanghai. The Yale-Fudan CCS will be directed by Jeff Alexander and Yi Zhou (Fudan). Phil Smith and Fred Wherry from Yale and Anning Hu from Fudan will serve as co-directors. Smith and Wherry will visit the new center in October to discuss with Chinese scholars Smith's recent work on the environment and Wherry's work

on cultivating the cultural wealth of nations.

### ***Bonding and Bridging: Recent Publication Initiatives***

The Center's publication initiatives engage in bonding and bridging the field of cultural sociology with an eye to the inter-relationship of the symbolic and material means of production. In doing so these build on the series Alexander and Seidman launched over 20 years ago with Cambridge University Press, which not only featured innovative strong program studies but featured a wide swath of cultural practitioners from Roger Friedland, Krishan Kumar, Bernhard Giesen, Michele Lamont, Luc Boltanski, and Laurent Thevenot to Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Chandra Mukerji, Nina Eliasoph, Lyn Spillman, and Paul



Lichterman. As the Cambridge series comes to an end this year, with Lisa McCormick's study of classical music competitions "The Sounds of Civility" it is succeeded by a more tightly focused Cultural Sociology book series with Palgrave-MacMillan (edited by Alexander, Eyerman, Inglis (Exeter UK) and Smith), which already has a dozen monographs published and in press.

The *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* publishes scholars working in the tradition of cultural sociology broadly conceived. Now about to enter its fourth year it provides a much-needed forum for original empirical research that takes meaning seriously. A notable feature has been a willingness to host controversial, well argued debates such as *Allison Pugh v. Steve Vaisey* on capturing culture through interviews and *Monica Lee/John Levi Martin v. Richard Biernacki* on coding, interpretation, and cultural analysis. A new section dedicated to critical review essays (not largely descriptive book reviews as conventionally understood) is in the planning stage.

Another bridging effort is the book series Fred Wherry is launching (with Jenn Lena and Greta Hsu) at Stanford University Press, *Culture and Economic Life*, which will represent the range of scholars engaged in conversations about how

culture shapes meanings shape money, transactions, and markets. Book proposals have already arrived on such topics as valuation and art, the culture of money, advertising, shopping, and consumption, and the editors welcome proposals.

### ***Into the Field, into the World***

For those who think of the CCS in terms of its so-called radical approaches that stress the power and autonomy of culture, the work of current students might come as something of a surprise. Two trends stand out. In many cases our students now seek accommodations between the 'blue sky' cultural sociology that has a home here and the buttoned down methodological and theoretical 'mainstream' of the discipline. This often means tempering claims about the force of 'iconicity' or 'binary codes' and showing in great detail how power, networks, institutions, inequality and so forth interact with culture structures. While the older generations in the Strong Program emphasized generalizing theoretical innovation and employed discourse analysis (typically of historical texts or the mass media), among our students today there

*Continued on P.15*

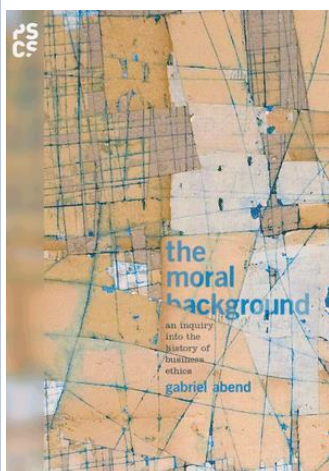
# 2015 CULTURE SECTION AWARDS

## The Sociology of Culture Section's Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book was awarded to:

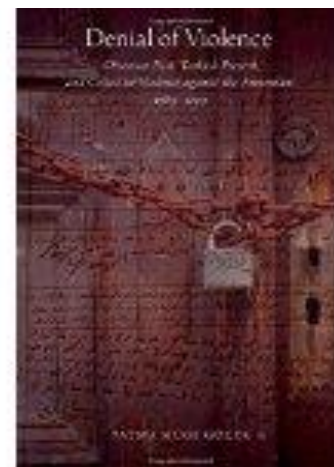
Fatma Müge Göçek. 2014. *Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present, and Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009*. Oxford University Press.

### Honorable Mention:

Gabriel Abend. 2014. *The Moral Background: An Inquiry into the History of Business Ethics*. Princeton University Press.



**Committee:** Jason Rodriguez (Committee Chair), Karyn Lacy and Richard Ocejo



## The Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article was awarded to:

Matthew Norton. 2014. "Classification and Coercion: The Destruction of Piracy in the English Maritime System." *American Journal of Sociology* Vol. 119 (6): 1537-1575.

### Honorable Mentions:

Elena Obukhova, Ezra W. Zuckerman, and Jiayin Zhang. 2014. "When Politics Froze Fashion: The Effect of the Cultural Revolution on Naming in Beijing." *American Journal of Sociology* 120 (2): 555-583.

Isaac Ariail Reed. 2015. "Deep Culture in Action: Resignification, Synecdoche, and Metanarrative in the Moral Panic of the Salem Witch Trials." *Theory and Society* 44: 65-94.

**Committee:** Kathy Giuffre (Committee Chair), Jordanna Matlon and Stephen Vaisey

## The Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Student Paper was awarded to:

Monica C. Bell. "Situational Trust: How Disadvantaged Mothers Reconceive Legal Cynicism."

**Committee:** Vaughn Schmutz (Committee Chair), Fiona Rose-Greenland and Caroline Lee

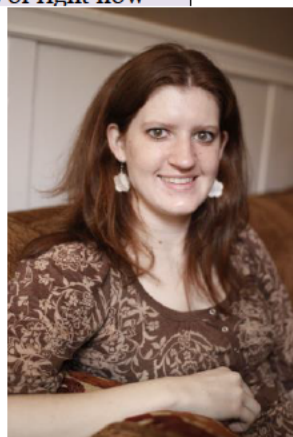


**Laura K. Nelson's** personal brand of sociology puts newly developing techniques in natural language processing and automated text analysis in the service of comparative cultural analysis. We all remember "topic modeling", the technique which John Mohr and others introduced [in a recent issue of Poetics](#). Laura Nelson masters and applies this technique, as well as a range of other cutting edge approaches such as language modeling, supervised machine learning, or word counts. Not content to just "process", she has also engaged in vivid public debates about the merits and limits of these approaches for the sociology of culture. She believes these resources are bound to replace old-fashioned, hand-coded content analysis, and strongly asserts the value and achievements of computer vs human analytical power. "You can indeed abstract words from grammatical context to better understand text, in fact as of right now it's the best way to do so," she once stated. Nonetheless, she also stresses the labor involved in planning and constructing research especially when it comes to the fit between question and type of technique or approach.

Originally trained in quantitative methods, Laura turned to questions of culture and history during her MA year at Berkeley, when she started looking at women's movements, their discourses, practices and history. She went on to pursue a doctoral degree there on the same subject, under Kim Voss' supervision, and received her PhD last year after defending her thesis entitled *The Power of Place: Structure, Culture and Continuities in U.S. Women's movements*, comparing women's collective political action in New York City and Chicago between 1900 and 1975. The article that was prized last year ("**Enduring Cultural/Cognitive Structures: Political Logics as Cultural Memory**") drew from this research.

Laura's work is remarkable for investigating how culture unifies political and social movements, making them enduring in time and style over the long term. Her paper (and thesis) mobilizes the notion of "logics" to refer to the enduring part of the cultural structure of discourse and practice explaining such continuities. Notably, her work demonstrates the existence of strong regional specificities in American feminism, with related differences in political outcomes.

Laura is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Management and Organizations at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, and a research affiliate at the Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems. In collaboration with Brayden King she studies environmental NGOs' tactics and their changes over time. Earlier this year she helped organize the [Computational Social Science Summit](#) at Northwestern. It brought together people from multiple disciplines to share best practices around using computational methods to advance social science research. She asks culture sociologists to stay tuned for the upcoming Call for Papers for next year's meeting.



## **Junior Sociologists Spotlight:**

### **2014 Peterson Prize Winners**

"**The Great Reversal: How Nations in the Muslim World Went from Tolerating Same-Sex Practices to Repressing LGB People, 1750-2010**" received not just one, but four Best Student Paper awards last year. Alongside the Peterson prize from the Culture section, he was awarded one from each of the ASA sections on Political Sociology; Crime, Law and Deviance; and Human Rights. This work has received another round of awards from two ASA sections, from the Law and Society Association, and from the Eastern Sociological Society.

Upon reading this work, it is easy to understand the attention it receives as one is

faced with the theoretical ambition and substantive intensity of a study that deals with the state of sexual rights in forty-nine Muslim countries over a period of more than two hundred years and the only recent repression of LGB sexuality in Islamic law. The paper speaks more generally to issues of cultural and political change in a part of the global periphery that has been central to the concerns of political and other social movement sociologists since the "Arab springs". Surprising in its findings, and ambitious in its scope, the research on which the paper is based is doctoral dissertation research, which draws from thousands of sources of laws and state actions including books, legal texts, and commentaries.

The author originally trained as a legal scholar with, among other degrees, including a JD. The author turned to sociology for answers about legal systems, especially Islamic ones, which a legal background was not giving him: "I was interested in the legal tools that protect disadvantaged groups in these countries. But I found myself recurrently

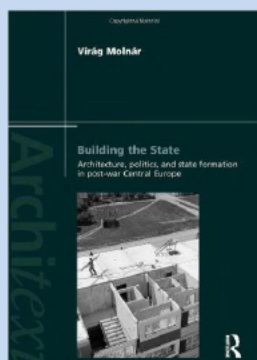
hitting a wall. Political actors and institutions just happened to often dismiss the law, or interpreted the law in self-serving ways that only furthered their political power. I realized the law and its implementation were deeply intertwined with broader social, cultural, and economic forces."

## Praise for the Books Distinguished in 2014

Unless indicated otherwise quotes on this page are from the laudation pronounced by Geneviève Zubrzycki as the chair of the Book Award Committee at the Section's Business meeting

### Mary Douglas Prize

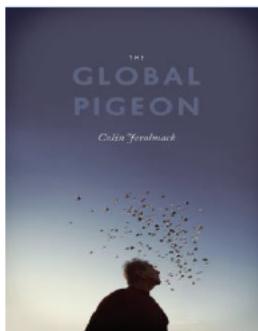
"Based on rich archival work and interviews, Molnar compares Hungary and East Germany to show in intricate details the complex ways in which the built environment is related to state formation, soviet and post-soviet politics, and global cultural environments. **Virag Molnár's** *Building the State: Architecture, Politics and State Formation in Post-War Central Europe* is a superbly researched and theoretically incisive book. (...) We were impressed by Molnar's fluency in multiple fields, and how she managed not only to write about architecture, design and landscape for a sociological audience, but also to articulate a cultural sociological argument about architecture—one that is significant for sociologists as well as for architects and urban planners. In *Building the State* Molnar realizes the full potential of cultural analysis."



"*Studies of material culture too often dissolve into either constructionist truisms or ant-like descriptions. While most sociologists would ultimately agree that materiality is crucial, how to go about studying it—and how such a study would push forward sociological work and theorizing—remains a challenge. Virag Molnar's book, Building the State, is thus a rare accomplishment: a book that is both careful and fascinating on an empirical level, while pushing the disciplinary boundaries of the study of culture. (...) The book is original on both narrative and methodological grounds. By moving among cases and countries, Molnar manages to tread the line between intimacy and estrangement. Each of the cases is thickly described, with its actors, multiple historical contexts and architectural histories. At the same time, by zig-zagging between cases, Molnar foregrounds the theoretical narrative, not allowing her readers to completely lose themselves in the specifics of each case.*"

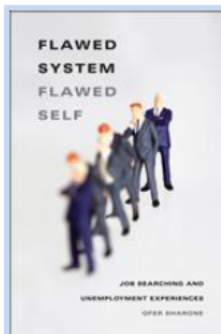
Iddo Tavory, "Multiple Constructions. Virag Molnar, *Building the State*" in *European Journal of Sociology*, 55:3, 447-450. (Dec. 2014)

### Honorable Mentions



"By following one odd sociological object—the pigeon—throughout the world, **Colin Jerolmack** has crafted one of the most original multi-site ethnographies in recent years. *The Global Pigeon* (U. of Chicago Press, 2013) pays close attention

To people's varied relations to pigeons in different places, teaching us about urban networks and class, race and ethnicity, space and politics, and ultimately about patterns of social life in the broadest sense. The book is beautifully crafted with a wonderful progression toward increasingly focused analysis of interactions (the pedestrian pigeon/the totemic pigeon/deep play). We all noted how Jerolmack demonstrated theoretical erudition without ever being overbearing, producing an ethnography that is likely to become a classic."



*Flawed System, Flawed Self* (U of Chicago Press, 2013) by **Ofer Sharone**, compares how the unemployed in the US and Israel approach the job searching process and understand their failure to secure employment. Sharone offers a nuanced analysis of

the culturally grounded ways in which the social structural and the lived experience of joblessness are related. Solidly designed with a cross-country comparison doubled with a cross-class comparison, *Flawed System, Flawed Self* is also beautifully written with poignant vignettes and amazingly evocative quotes from interviewees, seamlessly weaving theory into the empirically narrative. As one jury member commented, Sharone is "a master of clarity" and deserved to be recognized for this achievement.



# Writing Strategies Workshop in its Third Year At the ASA Annual Meeting

## 2015 Edition Announcement: On the Mechanics and Organization of the Writing Session

*Michael Stambolis-Ruhstorfer, Graduate Student Representative to the Culture Section Council and workshop organizer*

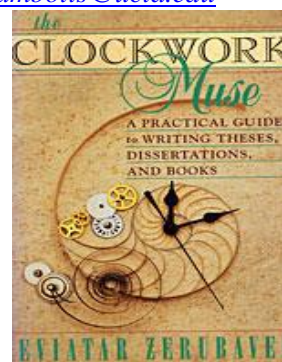
We are delighted to announce that a third edition of the Culture Section's annual writing workshop with Eviatar Zerubavel, author of *The Clockwork Muse*, will be held again this year. The 2015 workshop will focus specifically on the mechanics and organization of writing sessions. It is open to all ASA meeting attendees, and all types and lengths of writing projects, including articles, books, dissertations, grants, and blogs, will be covered.

Although the event is more particularly geared towards graduate students and early career faculty, the workshop is really for anyone interested in new techniques of productive and sustainable writing sessions.

It is not necessary to have attended previous workshops to attend this one.

**When/Where: Tuesday, August 25, 12:30-1:30pm, Palmer House Hilton, Sixth Floor, Adams Ballroom**

Contact: [mstambolis@ucla.edu](mailto:mstambolis@ucla.edu)



## 2014 Edition Report: First-Time Book Authors Writing Workshop

*Ruth Braunstein and Fiona Rose-Greenland, 2014 Graduate Student Representatives to the Council and workshop organizers*

Following up on the Graduate Student Publishing Workshop held at the 2013 ASA Annual Meeting, the Graduate Student Representatives to the Culture Section Council organized a First-Time Book Authors Writing Workshop in San Francisco in 2014. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Culture Section and voluntary donations from participants, the workshop could be held within close proximity to the main conference hotels.

The workshop of approximately 65 people was led by Eviatar Zerubavel (Rutgers University), author of *The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books*, who offered graduate students and junior faculty members working on their first books practical advice about how to approach this complicated (and sometimes overwhelming) process.

During the candid and funny two-hour session, Zerubavel drew on his own experiences to help participants think through several aspects of their own writing process, including the

challenges of scheduling time to write each day, the challenges of writing and revising a large manuscript, and the challenges of managing feedback from advisors, colleagues and editors. A lengthy question and answer session provided an opportunity to drill down into more specific issues that the first-time authors in the room were struggling with.

Overall, the event was a great success, and a number of participants sent comments to this effect:

*Thank you so much for organizing the wonderful workshop with Eviatar Zerubavel. As a graduate student working on her dissertation, what was most revelatory was that productivity is not just about early mornings and fixed schedules, S.M.A.R.T. goals and Pomodoros, it's about the psychology of the thing – setting your expectations low so you can exceed them and enjoy that smug (in my case) moment of self-congratulation, generating the drive to wake up and do it all over again –*



*this had never occurred to me. I'm looking forward to applying these lessons in my own career! – Haj Yazdiha, Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill*

*The opportunity to hear such a prolific scholar's candid remarks about writing was invaluable. Beyond discussing the nuts and bolts of the process, his attention to how writing fits into your day-to-day life, not only as a scholar but also as a person with a host of other commitments and interests was refreshing. It was encouraging and advice many of us, including myself, needed to hear. – Kathleen C. Oberlin, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Grinnell College*

*I thought the session was excellent. Nice mix of practical tips and demystifying humor about the writing process. – Diana Graizbord, Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology, Brown University*

Responding to the continuing interest in this type of event among Culture Section members, our current graduate student representatives (Michael Stambolis and Sean McCarron) worked with the Section Chair and the Chair-Elect to organize a similar session this year.

*[This workshop was organized by the Graduate Student Representatives to the Council, Fiona Rose-Greenland and Ruth Braunstein, in collaboration with Roundtable Co-Organizer Claudio Benzecry and Chair-Elect Timothy Dowd.]*

## ***Cultural Sociology at CCS Yale***

*From Page 10*

seems to be move towards ethnography, interview methods, and personal as well as public meanings. These trends are illustrated in recent publications by currently enrolled students. To select just four examples: In a recent paper in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Elisabeth Becker's ethnography shows how Albanian food workers in New York's Little Italy both strategically and existentially adopt an Italian ethnic identity. Isabel Jijon's multiply published work on the meanings of soccer in the remote Chota Valley in Ecuador used interview methods. It shows that for professional athletes, fans and even those who do not follow soccer at all, race and place are the filters through which global economic and cultural forces are translated into local meanings. Although his PhD thesis on the Red Cross is a comparative and historical case study, Shai Dromi's first single-authored publication in *Sociological Forum* investigated how middle class individuals respond to panhandlers. This was again an interview-based study that sought to tease out ambiguity and sensitivities. Likewise, Till Hilmar's analysis in *Memory Studies* explored the sense-making capacities of ordinary individuals as they photographed Auschwitz on their tourist visits.

These are just some of the current crop of hard working and motivated students. What of those from past cohorts? As with all programs there is a succession of arrivals and departures. And our former CCS graduate students continue to make their mark. For example Isaac Reed recently moved from Boulder to join the University of Virginia, and his widely discussed book *Interpretation and Social Knowledge* is currently the topic of two journal symposia. In May, 2014, Matt Norton, at the University of Oregon, published in the *American Journal of Sociology*, "Classification and Coercion," and the next month "Mechanisms and Meaning Structures" in *Sociological Theory*, alongside CCS graduate Joseph Klett's "Sound on Sound: Situating Interaction in Sonic Object Settings." Klett is now at UC Santa Cruz. Lisa McCormick is moving from her tenured position at Haverford to a Lectureship at Edinburgh. Other recent graduates spread the influence of the CCS throughout the United States and globally with faculty positions. Our recent crop of postdocs (eg, University of Virginia, Uppsala University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Maryland) are well positioned to land strong tenure track positions in the near future.

As the CCS enters the middle years of its second decade the signs are looking good. Energy and structure, motivation and output seem to be aligned and the curve is resolutely upwards.

# Culture Panels & Roundtables @ ASA 2015

Chicago, August 21-26 (All locations TBA)

## MONDAY, August 24

### 8:30 to 10:10am

#### *The Materiality of Culture?*

This session is composed of papers that critically reflect on recent advances that challenge purely discursive or ideational conceptions of culture.

**Organizer:** Gianpaolo Baiocchi, NYU

**Presider:** Hillary Angelo, New York University

#### **Presenters:**

Keerati Chenpitayaton, New School University

“Man-on-the-Spotism, Territoriality, and the Materiality of the 19th-Century Thai State: The Case of Thai Forestry.”

Chandra Mukerji, University of CA-San Diego  
“Modernism and the Plague.”

Jason L. Mast, University of Warwick  
“The Materiality of Disgusting Things.”

Monika Christine Krause, University of London-Goldsmiths  
“What is Zeitgeist? Moving beyond Idealism in Specifying the Temporal Dimension of Culture.”

**Discussant:** Diana Graizbord, Brown University

### 10:30am to 12:10pm

#### *Normalcy*

Papers in that session investigate different aspects of what is considered “normal”—ways of feeling, thinking, and acting—and/or ponder how this elusive yet central concept in sociology is approached in different sociological traditions (e.g. in studies of social deviance, taken-for-grantedness, and unmarkedness).

**Organizer:** Eviatar Zerubavel, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers

**Presider:** Thomas DeGloma, City University of New York-Hunter College

Allan V. Horwitz, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers “Herodotus, Darwin, and Normalcy.”

Lynette Shaw, University of Washington

“Revelation as Revolution: Cognitive Accessibility and the Stability (and Instability) of Social Orders.”

David R. Gibson, University of Notre Dame

“The Habits of Normal, Innocent People (NIPs), as Construed by the North American Juror.”

Amanda May Jungels, United States Army

“I’m Normal Just Like Everybody Else Here: Constructing and Reinforcing Heteronormativity at Sex Toy Parties.”

**Discussant:** Wayne H. Brekhus, University of Missouri

### 2:30 to 4:10pm

#### *Art, Money, and Meaning (Co-sponsored with Section on Consumption)*

Why do some artworks fetch millions while others languish in obscurity? What gets classified as “art” for purposes of (e)valuation, and how? Cultural and economic sociologists have addressed these questions with a variety of methods and data, yet rarely in conversation with each other. How does an artwork’s price relate to its broader (symbolic/political/historical) meaning? Can the differing tools of formal analysis (art historical vs. econometric) speak to each other?

**Organizer:** Fiona Rose-Greenland, University of Chicago

**Presider:** Alexandra Marie Kowalski, Central European University

Art in the Shadows: Producer as Gatekeeper.

Hannah Linda Wohl, Northwestern University

Picking the Next Art Stars: Curators and their Social Ties in the Whitney Biennial. Fabio Rojas, Indiana University; Peter Lista, Indiana University

Prices for Art by Female and Male Artists of African Descent in the Auction Market. Patricia A. Banks, Mount Holyoke College

Value Measurement Systems, Professional

Narratives and the (Un)Making of Market Regimes

in Twentieth- Century American Advertising. Stefan Schwarzkopf, Copenhagen Business School

**Discussant:** Erica H. Coslor, University of Melbourne

### 4:30 to 6:10pm

#### *Culture and (In)security in the 21st Century*

Terrorism, extended military engagements, torture, “natural” disasters, school shootings, police brutality, financial bubbles and epidemics have turned security into an issue of constant reflection. How is this affected by 24/7 access to mass/social media? Is it generating changes in discourses of community and otherness? How is it confronted in cultural practices such as “open carry,” racial, religious and ethnic profiling, organic gardening, yoga or vampire movies?

**Organizer and Presider:** David Smilde, Tulane University

Cultures of Counterterrorism: The Anti-Knowledge of

Terrorism in Spaces of Intelligence Fusion. Brendan Innis McQuade, DePaul University

Event and Security: How Public Events are Protected from Disruption. Vida Bajc, Methodist University Overwintering. Lindsey A. Freeman, State University of New York-Buffalo

Criminals and Gun Nuts: Narratives of Danger and Threat, Power and Protection. Eulalie Jean Laschever, University of California-Irvine

Discussant: Philip Lewin, Florida Atlantic University

## TUESDAY, August 25

### 8:30 to 10:10am

#### **Invited Panel I: *Culture and its Intersections***

Cultural sociology has matured to the point where debates are no longer about whether culture matters, but about how to best conceptualize and measure the

ways in which culture does matter. Part of what explains cultural sociology’s richness is its borrowings from other disciplines, such as anthropology, religious studies, neuroscience or economics. This panel explores the next frontier in the field, scrutinizing the most promising intersections.

**Organizer and Presider:** Geneviève Zubrzycki, University of Michigan

#### **Presenters:**

Karin Knorr, University of Chicago  
“What has Cultural Sociology (not) Learned from the Sciences?”

Fernando Dominguez Rubio, UCSD  
“Materials for cultural sociology”

Mustafa Emirbayer, University of Wisconsin  
“Self-Negation.”

Robin Wagner-Pacifici, New School of Social Research  
“Cultural Sociological Intersections and Informings: Art, Literature, Philosophy”

**Discussant:** Claudio Benzecry, UConn

### 10:30am to 12:10pm

#### ***Round Table Sessions***

Session Organizers: *Lauren Rivera*, Northwestern University  
*Michael Štambolis-Ruhstorfer*, University of California-Los Angeles

#### **Table 1. Consumer Studies Network**

Table Presider: *Kate Cairns*, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers

Social class, scarcity, and nutrition transitions: Pressures shaping eating behaviors in urban Mexico. *Susan Bridle-Fitzpatrick*, Tulane University

All Consuming: Using Consumer Culture to Teach Sociological Thinking. *Kate Cairns*, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers; *Josee Johnston*, University of Toronto

"Vette-ing" the American Dream: Nostalgia, Social Capital and Corvette Communities. *Virginia Katherine D'Antonio*, Northern Virginia Community College



Household Consumption of Financial Instruments and Wealth Inequality. *Angelina Grigoryeva*, Princeton University

New Urbanism, Consumer-citizenship and the Emerging 'Eco-habitus'. *Sergio Antonio Cabrera*, University of Texas-Austin

### **Table 2. Material Culture Network**

Table President: *Terence Emmett McDonnell*, University of Notre Dame

Tracing Patterns in Meaning Instability over an Object's Life Course. *Terence Emmett McDonnell*, University of Notre Dame

Things That Don't Talk: Cleopatra's Needle in Central Park and Brute Meanings of Cultural Objects. *Fiona Rose-Greenland*, University of Chicago

Materiality and Inarticulacy. *Chandra Mukerji*, University of California-San Diego

To Show or To Use? Examining the Means and Ends of Museum Collection Objects. *Gemma Mangione*, Northwestern University

### **Table 3. Levels of Culture**

Culture comes in different forms – structured symbolic patterns and implicit, routine practices, fluid or more institutionalized, enduring meanings. This roundtable will consider: •How do actors work at different levels of culture simultaneously in everyday life? •How do we as scholars choose and combine different culture concepts to grasp different cultural forms operating in our research site. The table has a workshop-type, participatory format. We will discuss materials submitted by participants (research document 2p max., note of 1p max., analyzing how our theme speaks to your materials).

Limited slots still open.

For additional information contact: [lichterm@usc.edu](mailto:lichterm@usc.edu).

Table President: *Paul R. Lichterman*, University of Southern California

New metaphors for investigating culture in everyday life. *Edson Cruz Rodriguez*, University of

Southern California; *Kushan Dasgupta*, University of Southern California; *Paul R. Lichterman*, University of Southern California

Uncovering Embedded Stealth Subcultures Within Formal Institutions: The Case of Mainstream Meditation. *Jaime Kucinkas*, Hamilton College

Talk About Good Engineering. *Joseph Klett*, Yale University

### **Table 4. Art and Politics**

Table President: *Frederick Schiff*, University of Houston

Censoring for the (Ab)Normal: Shaping Civic Identity through Cinema Censorship. *Elif Alp*, Columbia University

Enjoy or Resist? Audience Reception of Revolutionary Model Operas in Communist China. *Hexuan Zhang*, University of Virginia

Explicit and Symbolic Violence in Rap Music, 1992-2014. *Nick Bloom*, Duke University; *Brian Aronson*, State University of New York-Stony Brook

Martin Scorsese's Sojourn as the Iconic American White-Ethnic. *Paul D. Lopes*, Colgate University

### **Table 5. Collective Memory**

Table President: *Vera L. Zolberg*, New School for Social Research

Collective Memories and Cultural Identities in Transitional China. *Wenjie Liao*, University of Minnesota

Four Little Girls - Birmingham's Trauma Narrative. *Sandra K. Gill*, Gettysburg College

Social Class: A Forgotten Factor in Collective Memory Studies. *Bin Xu*, Florida International University

Whitewashing the Nation - The Controversial Collective Memory of the "House of Terror" in Budapest. *Helge Johannes Marahrens*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

### **Table 6. Cultural Capital I**

Table President: *Michelle F. Weinberger*, Northwestern University

A Life Course Perspective on Cultural Capital Acquisition. *Lok See Loretta Ho*, University of Toronto; *Blair Wheaton*, University of Toronto; *Shyon S. Baumann*, University of Toronto

Bridging Spaces, Cultural Capital and Gender in Two Grassroots Music Scenes. *Diana Lee Miller*, University of Toronto

Structural gender inequalities and gender differences in highbrow cultural consumption. *Susan Lagaert*, Ghent University; *Henk Roose*, Ghent University

### **Table 7. Symbolic Boundaries**

Table President: *Bruno Cousin*, University of Lille 1

Sailing Ships in Murky Waters: Boundary Making through Contentious Fan Practices on Tumblr. *Victoria Marie Gonzalez*, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers

The Cultural Logic of Whiteness: Symbolic Boundaries, White Racial Framing, and White Supremacist Discourse. *Marshall Allen Taylor*, University of Notre Dame

The Role of Symbolic Boundaries in the Social Stratification of Intellectuals. *Will Keats-Osborn*, University of British Columbia

### **Table 8. Culture and Politics**

For Good and Country: Nationalism and the Diffusion of Humanitarianism in the Late Nineteenth Century. *Shai M. Dromi*, Yale University

Politics of Incivility in post-colonial Hong Kong. *Siu Han Chan*, United International College, Hong Kong

Sequencing Whistle Blowers: An Exploration of Julian Assange, Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden from 2010-2014. *Naniette Helene Coleman*, University of California-Berkeley

Varieties of Opinion Polarization: Analysis of Public Opinion Structure of South Korea. *Myung Ji Yang*, University of Hawaii-Manoa; *Dong-Kyun Im*, University of Seoul

Narratives of a Case of (Quasi) Euthanasia: Contested Meaning and Polarized Ambiguity. *Simone Rambotti*, University of Arizona; *Andrew P. Davis*, University of Arizona

### **Table 9. Cultural Capital II**

Table President: *Joseph G. A. Trumino*, St. John's University

Familiarity and Moderation as Taste Markers - Tracing the Blasé Attitude in Musical Taste. *Friedolin Merhout*, Duke University

Prestige and Homophily: The Interactional Advantages of Cultural Tastes. *Matthew Stimpson*, University of California-Berkeley; *Sandra Kai Nakagawa*, Stanford University

What Does Friendship Mean? How Cultural Capital Conditions the Meanings of Social Relationships. *Kyle Puetz*, University of Arizona

### **Table 10. Identity and the Life Course**

Table President: *Chelsea Rae Kelly*, University of Georgia

Emerging Adulthood and Reinventing Community: Productive Instability in Contemporary Institutions. *Matty Lichtenstein*, University of California-Berkeley

Planning the Means and Ends of Post-Service Life. *Meredith A. Kleykamp*, University of Maryland; *Sidra J. Montgomery*, University of Maryland; *Alexis Pang*, New York University; *Kristin Schrader*, GBX Consultants, Inc.

College Republicans and the Moral Order. *Jeffrey L. Kidder*, Northern Illinois University

Crafting Identities in an age of Individualism: An Ethnographic Study of Life Coaching. *Michal Pagis*, Bar-Ilan University

Imagination and Metaphor: Explaining Social Generational Change in Support for Same-Sex Marriage in the U.S. *Peter Hart-Brinson*, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

### **Table 11. Cultural Producers and Professionals**

Who's to Say? Doubt, Disagreement, and Professional Uncertainty in Evaluation Work. *Phillipa K Chong*, Harvard University

It Gets Tricky. Activism and Journalism in Conservation Photography. *Elizabeth Anne Gervais Schwarz*, University of California- Riverside

### **Table 12. Space and Place**

Table President: *Ruben A. Gaztambide-Fernandez*, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

A Return to Strauss: Imagining the City. *Carolyn Chernoff*, Skidmore College

Place and Position Taking in a Decentering Global Field. *Samuel Shaw*, Vanderbilt University

Toward a Social Topography: Status as a Spatial Practice. *Zach Richer*, University of Maryland

Arts in the City: Key Currents in the Urban Sociology of Art. *Nicholas P. Dempsey*, Eckerd College

False Consciousness in a Spryancan: Discussing Street Art and its Social Control in Austin, Texas. *Rachel Romero*, Texas State University

### **Table 13. Theory I**

Table President: *Fernando Dominguez-Rubio*, University of California-San Diego

Durkheim's Two Semiotics. *Andrea Cossu*, University of Trento

Is another social science possible? The Decolonial Option. *Alexander I. Stingl*, Drexel University

Semiotization and Strategization: From Intelligibility to Efficacy. *Marc Garcelon*, University of Missouri- Kansas City

### **Table 14. Theory II**

Table President: *Iva Petkova*, Davidson College

Materiality and Meaning in Cultural Sociology. *Emma Pendzich Greeson*, University of California-San Diego

Carnivalization, Dionic Action, and the Transformation of Normal. *Diane M. Grams*, Loyola University- Chicago; *Lauren*

*Langman*, Loyola University-Chicago  
 Comedians Doing Bits: Reconsidering the Autotelic Quality of Play. *Nathan James Dern*, Columbia University  
 Lost in Hyper-Reality: The End of American Generations in Actuality. *Anna Brinkman*, Sogang University; *Seil Oh*, Sogang University

**Table 15. Gender and Sexuality**

Representing ‘Middle East Women’: A Critical Analysis of The Fertile Crescent Project. *Nil Uzun*, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers  
 Painless and Bloodless Circumcision: Medicalization of Male Circumcision in Turkey. *Oyman Basaran*, University of Massachusetts

**Table 16. Migration and Identity**

Table President: *Karen Hooge Michalka*, University of Notre Dame  
 Perceived Value Compatibility in a Muslim American Community. *Melissa J. K. Howe*, NORC-University of Chicago  
 The Episodic and the Semantic: Future Scenario Building in a Migratory Context. *Maria Islas Lopez*, University of Denver  
 Waiting for Gadeaux: A Case Study of the Tempography of Hyper-Marginalization in New Orleans. *Daina Cheyenne Harvey*, College of the Holy Cross  
 The moral economies of self-interest: The case of proposition 202 (2008) “Arizona Stop Illegal Hiring”. *Luis Antonio Vila-Henninger*, University of Arizona

**Table 17. Cultural Genres**

Table President: *Nathaniel Porter*, Pennsylvania State University  
 Feeling Heavy, Feeling Doomed: Narratives, Embodiment, and Authentic Cultural Engagement. *Benjamin Lee Hutcherson*, University of Colorado  
 Sociology of Karaoke. *Joanna Rullo*, University of California-Davis  
 I’ll Never Break Your Heart: Exploring the Practices of Grown-Up Backstreet Boys Fans. *Simone Driessen*, Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Table 18. Status and Hierarchies**

Table President: *Charles Spurlock*, Langston University  
 Developing the Theory of Popularity: An Empirical Assessment of Stability and Social Position. *Tristan L. Botelho*,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology;  
*Phech Colatat*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Gatekeeping, Homophily, and Status Orders among Live-Music Venues in Atlanta. *Yun Tai*, University of Virginia

**12:30 to 1:30pm**

*Sociology of Culture Graduate Student Professionalization Workshop: Writing Strategies with Eviatar Zerubavel*

*See Feature on this Event p. 14*

**Session Organizer:** *Genevieve Zubrzycki*, University of Michigan

**Leader:** *Eviatar Zerubavel*, State University of New Jersey-Rutgers

**President:** *Fiona Rose-Greenland*, University of Chicago

**1:30 to 2:10pm**

*Section Business meeting*

**2:30 to 4:10pm**

**Invited Panel II: Sources of Cultural Power**

The dominant paradigm for understanding cultural power is the “cultural arbitrary,” the idea that a sign receives its meaning from its relationship to other signs in a symbolic structure. Pragmatism, critical realism, embodied realism and materiality studies argue instead that symbols and objects have a substantive meaning. Do these approaches represent a new understanding of cultural power, or do they point to processes that are themselves constructed by arbitrary symbols?

**Organizer:** *Geneviève Zubrzycki*, University of Michigan

**President:** *David Smilde*, Tulane University



**Presenters:**

Virag Molnar, New School of Social Research  
 “The Power of Things: Material Culture as Political Resource”

Andreas Glaeser, University of Chicago,  
 “A Hermeneutic of Power”

Philip Gorski, Yale University  
 “The Matter of Emergence”

Omar Lizardo, University of Notre Dame  
 “Definitely not Arbitrary: Grounding and Motivation in Cultural Symbols and Meaning Construction.”

## Announcements

*Please send your publication, award, or thesis defense announcements to [ak15@princeton.edu](mailto:ak15@princeton.edu) for inclusion in the next newsletter (Sept. 30, 2015)*

*An updated list of publications is also available as a permanent page on our web site at*

*<https://asaculturesection.wordpress.com/news/>*

## Books

### 2015

Peggy Levitt, *Artifacts and Allegiances. How Museums put the Nation and the World on Display*. University of California Press, July 2015.

Vanina Leschziner, *At the Chef's Table: Culinary Creativity in Elite Restaurants*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, June 2015.

Corey M. Abramson, *The End Game: How Inequality Shapes our Final Years* Harvard University Press, June 2015.

Ellen Berrey, *The Enigma of Diversity: The Language of Race and the Limits of Racial Justice*, University of Chicago Press, May 2015.

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Social Structure of Irrelevance*, Oxford University Press, April 2015.

Jessi Streib, *The Power of the Past: Understanding Cross-Class Marriages*, Oxford University Press, February 2015.

Michael Kennedy, *Globalizing Knowledge: Intellectuals, Universities, and Publics in Transformation*, Stanford University Press, January 2015.

Lidia K.C. Manzo ed., *Culture and Visual Forms of Power: Experiencing Contemporary Spaces of Resistance*, Common Ground Publishing, January 2015.

### Summer and Fall 2014

Paromita Sanyal, *Credit to Capabilities: A Sociological Study of Microcredit Groups in India*, Cambridge University Press, Dec. 2014.

Marie Sarita Gaytán, *¡Tequila!: Distilling the Spirit of Mexico*, Stanford University Press, Dec. 2014.

- Richard E. Ocejo, *Upscaling Downtown: From Bowery Saloons to Cocktail Bars in New York City* Princeton University Press, Dec. 2014.
- Karen Cerulo ed., What Should a Sociology of Culture and Cognition Look Like, December issue of *Sociological Forum*, with essays by Karen Cerulo, Karen Danna, Gabe Ignatow, Omar Lizardo, Victoria Pitts Taylor, and Hana Shepherd.
- Amin Ghaziani, *There goes the Gayborhood?* Princeton University Press, November 2014.
- Thomas DeGloma, *Seeing the Light: The Social Logic of Personal Discovery*, University of Chicago Press, Nov. 2014.
- Fatma Gocek, *Denial of Violence: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present and Collective Violence against Armenians, 1789-2009* Oxford University Press, November 2014.
- Stephen Kalberg, *Searching for the Spirit of American Democracy: Max Weber's Analysis of a Unique Political Culture, Past, Present and Future*, Paradigm Publishers, Sept 2014.
- Geoff Harkness, *Chicago Hustle and Flow: Gangs, Gangsta Rap, and Social Class*, U. of Minnesota Press, Sept 2014.
- James Joseph Dean, *Straights: Heterosexuality in Post-Closeted Culture*, NYU Press, Aug 2014.
- Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson, *Word of Mouth: What we talk about when we talk about food*, University of California Press, July 2014.
- Anna Korteweg and Gökçe Yurdaku, *The Headscarf Debates: Conflicts of National Belonging*, July 2014.
- Aaron Panofsky, *Misbehaving Science: Controversy and the Development of Behavior Genetics*, University of Chicago Press, July 2014.
- Eugene Halton. *From the Axial Age to the Moral Revolution: John Stuart-Glennie, Karl Jaspers, and a New Understanding of the Idea*. Palgrave Macmillan, July 2014.
- Dustin Kidd, *Pop Culture Freaks: Identity, Mass Media, and Society*, Westview, July 2014. (See also <http://www.dustinkidd.net/>)
- Betsy Leondar-Wright, *Missing Class: How Seeing Class Cultures Can Strengthen Social Movement Groups*, Cornell University Press, 2014.
- C. Lee Harrington, Denise D. Bielby, and Anthony R. Bardo eds., *Aging, Media, and Culture*, Rowman & Littlefield, June 2014.
- William G. Holt ed., *From Sustainable to Resilient Cities: Global Concerns/Urban Efforts*, Bingley, UK: Emerald, 2014.
- Anne Line Dalsgaard, Martin Demant Frederiksen, Susanne Hojlund, and Lotte Meinert (eds.), *Ethnographies of Youth and Temporality: Time Objectified*. Temple University Press, 2014.

## Articles and Chapters

### 2015

- Jean Beaman, "Boundaries of Frenchness: Cultural Citizenship and France's Middle-Class North African Second-Generation." *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 22(1): 36-52.

### 2014

- Kevin B. Anderson, "The Althusserian Cul-de-Sac." *Logos: A Journal of Modern Society & Culture* 13:1-2 (4 pp.)

## 2014 (Cont'd)

Elizabeth Chiarello, "Medical Versus Fiscal Gatekeeping: Navigating Professional Contingencies at the Pharmacy Counter." *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 42(4).

Héctor Carrillo and Jorge Fontdevila, "Border crossings and shifting sexualities among Mexican gay immigrant men: Beyond monolithic conceptions." *Sexualities* 17(8): 919–938.

William G. Holt, "Do you know what it means to rebuild New Orleans? : cultural sustainability after disaster") in William G. Holt ed., *From Sustainable to Resilient Cities: Global Concerns/Urban Efforts*, Bingley, UK: Emerald, 2014.

## Forthcoming

Steven Vallas and Emily Cummins, "Personal Branding and Identity Norms in the Popular Business Press: Enterprise Culture in an Age of Precarity." Forthcoming in *Organization Studies*.

Elizabeth Chiarello, "The War on Drugs Comes to the Pharmacy Counter: Frontline Work in the Shadow of Discrepant Institutional Logics. Forthcoming in *Law & Social Inquiry*.

## Prizes

Daniel A. McFarland, Dan Jurafsky, and Craig Rawlings received the American Journal of Sociology 2015 Gould Prize for the article "[Making the Connection: Social Bonding in Courtship Situations](#)" (AJS 118, 6 (May 2013): 1596-1649)

### WSQ, Call for Papers

#### Special Issue on QUEER METHODS

Guest Editors: Amin Ghaziani, University of British Columbia;  
Matt Brim, College of Staten Island, CUNY

Queer Studies is experiencing a methodological renaissance. In both the humanities and the social sciences, scholars have begun to identify research protocols and practices that have been largely overshadowed by advances in queer theory. We solicit paper proposals that are theoretical, conceptual and/or empirical on a wide range of topics relating to queer methods.

Articles and inquiries should be sent to guest issue editors Amin Ghaziani and Matt Brim at [WSQqueermethodsissue@gmail.com](mailto:WSQqueermethodsissue@gmail.com) by **September 15, 2015**. More information at <http://www.feministpress.org/wsqa/current-call-papers>

### Symposium on Innovations in Ethnographic Methodology March 4, 2016

University of California, Berkeley

Abstracts for the conference are due by September 10, 2015, and notification of acceptance will be provided by October 10, 2015. Please send abstract and cv to [cer2015conf@gmail.com](mailto:cer2015conf@gmail.com).

### Social Psychology Quarterly Special Issue CFP: "Methodological Advances and Applications in Social Psychology"

Papers may be submitted at

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/spq>. Deadline: December 15, 2015. Please indicate in a cover letter that you would like your submission to be considered for the special issue. For further information contact : [rserpe@kent.edu](mailto:rserpe@kent.edu) or [jan.stets@ucr.edu](mailto:jan.stets@ucr.edu).