

[4/2/09]

ISAAC ARIAIL REED

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CURRENT POSITION

2007- Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado-Boulder

EDUCATION

- 2007 Ph.D., Sociology, Yale University, passed with distinction.
Dissertation: *Outline of an Interpretive Sociology: Meaning, Theory, and History in Social Analysis.*
- 2003 M. Phil., Sociology, Yale University
Comprehensive Examinations: Cultural Sociology, Social Theory, passed with distinction.
- 2000 Swarthmore College, B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology and Mathematics, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociological Theory; Culture; Gender and Sexuality; Historical Sociology; Qualitative Methods

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2009 Dean's Fund for Excellence Award
- 2008 Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize, Yale University
Awarded to best dissertation filed in the Yale Sociology department the previous year.
- 2007- Faculty Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.
- 2007 Honorable Mention, Best Student Paper, Theory Section of the American Sociological Association for "Three Approaches to Sociological Knowledge: Realism, Normativism, Interpretivism."
- 2006-7 Robert M. Leylan Dissertation Award, Yale University.
Awarded to the 5 best dissertations-in-progress from across the social sciences at Yale.

- 2005 John F. Enders Fellowship, Yale University
- 2004 Graduate Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science
- 2003-7 Junior Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University
- 2000 Bramson Prize, Best Senior Thesis in Sociology & Anthropology, Swarthmore College

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books:

- 2009 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, eds. *Meaning and Method: The Cultural Approach to Sociology*. Paradigm Publishers.
- 2007 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, eds. *Culture, Society, and Democracy: The Interpretive Approach*. Paradigm Publishers.

Articles in Peer-reviewed Journals:

- In Press “Epistemology Contextualized: Social Scientific Knowledge in a Post-Positivist Era.” *Sociological Theory*.
- 2009 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, “Social Science as Reading and Performance: A Cultural-Sociological Understanding of Epistemology.” *European Journal of Social Theory*. 12(1): 21-41.
- 2008 “Maximal Interpretation in Clifford Geertz and the Strong Program in Cultural Sociology: Towards a New Epistemology” *Cultural Sociology*. 2(2): 187-200.
- 2008 “Justifying Sociological Knowledge: From Realism to Interpretation,” *Sociological Theory*. 26 (2): 101-129.
- 2007 “Why Salem Made Sense: Culture, Gender, and the Puritan Persecution of Witchcraft.” *Cultural Sociology* 1 (2), July: 209-234.
Nominated for a Sage Excellence and Innovation Award in February 2009.

Book Chapters and Other Articles

- 2009 “Culture as Object and Approach in Sociology,” in *Meaning and Method: The Cultural Approach to Sociology*, ed. Reed and Alexander. Paradigm Publishers.
- 2008 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, “Cultural Sociology,” in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*, ed. Bryan Turner.

- 2008 “Language as a Metaphor for Culture and the Uses of Theory in Cultural Sociology.” *Perspectives* (Newsletter for the Section for Sociological Theory, ASA). Vol. 30, no. 2.
- 2007 “Cultural Sociology and the Democratic Imperative,” pp. 1-18 in *Culture, Society, and Democracy*, ed. Reed and Alexander. Paradigm Publishers.
- 2006 “Social Dramas, Shipwrecks, and Cockfights: Conflict and Complicity in Social Performance,” in *Social Performance: Symbolic Action, Cultural Pragmatics, and Ritual*, edited by Jeffrey Alexander, Bernhard Giesen, and Jason Mast. Cambridge University Press.
- 2006 “Theory, Culture, and Understanding: Clifford Geertz, 1926-2006,” *Theory* (Newsletter for the Research Committee on Sociological Theory, ISA) Fall/Winter
- Reprinted, with minor additions, in *Nexus*, The Newsletter of the Australian Sociological Association, September 2007, 19 (3).
- 2006 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, “Culture,” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology*, ed. Bryan S. Turner.
- 2004 Jeffrey Alexander and Isaac Reed, “Positivism,” in *The Social Science Encyclopedia*, edited by Adam Kuper and Jessica Kuper. Routledge.
- 2004 “Love and Theory: Other Ways Culture Could Matter” *Culture* (Newsletter for the Section for the Sociology of Culture, ASA), Vol. 18, no. 2, Winter.
- 2004 “The Beginning of an Era: Sociological Theory a Generation after the Cultural Turn (A Response to Seidman),” *Perspectives* (Newsletter for the Section for Sociological Theory, ASA), January.
- 2003 “Structural Hermeneutics and the Possibility of a Cultural Science,” *Yale Journal of Sociology* 3 (Fall): 105-111.
- 2003 “Introduction” and “Comment on the Yale-Konstanz Debates” in *Theory* (Newsletter for the Research Committee on Sociological Theory, ISA). Spring: Issue on performance theory in sociology.
- 2002 “The Turn from Scientific to Normative Hermeneutics” in *Theory* (Newsletter for the Research Committee on Sociological Theory, ISA).
- 2001 Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander, “Report on Cultural Turn III: Profane and Sacred” in *Culture* (Newsletter for the Section for the Sociology of Culture, ASA), Spring.

Reviews and Review Essays:

- 2009 "Book Review: John Frauly and Frank Pearce, Editors, *Critical Realism and the Social Sciences: Heterodox Elaborations.*" *Contemporary Sociology*. 38 (2): 194-196.
- 2008 "Review Essay: Social Theory, Post-post-positivism, and the Question of Interpretation," *International Sociology*. 23 (5): 665-675.
- 2002 "Book Review: Ann Swidler, *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters.*" *Theory and Society*, 31 (6): 785-94.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Isaac Reed and Julia Adams, "Cultural Theories of Transition to Modernity." Manuscript in Progress.

"Interpretation and Social Knowledge: On the Conceptual Structure of the Human Sciences." Manuscript in Progress.

"Signs of Modernity: The Social and Cultural Transformation of Early America." Current Research.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Chair, Nominations Committee, Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2008-2009.

Membership Committee, Theory Section, American Sociological Association, 2008-

Conference Co-Organizer, Junior Theorists Symposium, Harvard University, July 31, 2008

Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado-Boulder, 2007-

Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*, 2008-

Manuscript reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Body and Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *British Journal of Sociology*.

Session Organizer, World Congress of the International Sociological Association (2006).

Graduate Student Representative, Council of the Sociology of Culture Section, American Sociological Association (2005-2006)

Managing Editor, *Theory*, Newsletter for Research Committee 16: Sociological Theory, International Sociological Association (2002-2006)

Research Assistant, Center for Cultural Sociology (2003-7)

Conference Organizer, "Culture in the World." Inaugural Conference of the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University. May 6-9, 2005.

Student Coordinator, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University (2002-2003)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Interpretation and Social Knowledge," Sussman Award Lecture, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 3, 2008.

"On Minimal and Maximal Interpretation," invited lecture at "Clifford Geertz and the Human Sciences," Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 19-21, 2007.

Julia Adams and Isaac Reed, "Cultural Theories of the Transition to Modernity," Section on Sociology of Culture Invited Session. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 11-14, 2007.

"Why Salem Made Sense," Transitions to Modernity Colloquium, Yale University, April 16, 2007

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

"Ontology and Anti-Ontology in Social Explanation," Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable, Emory University, Atlanta, March 20-22, 2009.

"How to stop a witch hunt and change a culture," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA, August 1-4, 2008.

"Meaning and Sociological Explanation, or, How to Explain Witch Hunts," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 11-14, 2007.

"The Spirit of Witchhunting and Its Discontents," Yale Center for Cultural Sociology Conference 2007: Meaning, Identity and Interaction, April 27 & 28, 2007.

"The problem of sociological knowledge reframed." Introduction to session, "Beyond the Crisis of Interpretation." World Congress of the International Sociological Association, Durban, South Africa, July 28, 2006.

"Witchcraft, Rationality, and Other Bad Things Women Do." Reality, Representation, Solidarity, Conference at Yale University, New Haven, CT, April 22, 2006.

“Social Dramas, Shipwrecks, and Cockfights: Three Types of Social Performance.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 13-16, 2005

“Three Approaches to Knowledge in the Social Sciences: Realist, Normative, Interpretive,” American Sociological Association Junior Theorists Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, August 12, 2005.

“The Context of Investigation and the Context of Explanation.” Culture in the World: Inaugural Conference for the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 6-9, 2005.

“Three Ideal Types of Social Performance.” Paper presented at Meisterklasse with S.N.Eisenstadt, Mary Douglas, Jan Assmann, and Ralf Dahrendorf, University of Konstanz, Germany. September 1-10, 2003.

“Civil Society, Cultural Sociology, and Contemporary Political Theory.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA, August 16-19, 2003.

“Structural Hermeneutics and the Possibility of a Cultural Science.” 4th International Social Theory Colloquium, Tampa, FL, May 18-20, 2003

“Love and Theory: Other Ways Culture Could Matter,” Author-Meets-Critics session on Ann Swidler’s *Talk of Love*, Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Pasadena, CA, April 3-6, 2003.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Classical, Modern, and Contemporary Social Theory; Cultural Sociology; Gender and Sexuality; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Revolutions, Transitions, and Social Transformations;

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2008 Classical Theory (Undergraduate), Cultural Sociology (Graduate), Sociology of Culture (Undergraduate), Critical Thinking: American Modernity (Undergraduate), University of Colorado-Boulder

2007 Sociological Theory (Graduate), Sociology of Culture (Undergraduate), University of Colorado-Boulder.

2006 Teaching Fellow, Spring Semester, Yale University, “Crime and Deviance” Led weekly discussion of contemporary academic literature in criminology.

2005 Teaching Fellow, Fall Semester, Yale University, “Foundations of Social Modern Social Thought”
Delivered class lecture on Durkheim, led weekly discussions, including extended

5-week engagement with Weber's *Economy and Society*.

Teaching Fellow, Spring Semester, Yale University, "Human Societies"
Introduction to sociology course; led weekly discussions.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American Sociological Association.

Section memberships: Theory; Sociology of Culture; Comparative and Historical Sociology; Sociology of Sex and Gender; Political Sociology; Science, Knowledge and Technology, Political Economy of the World System

Member, International Sociological Association.

Committee Membership: Research Committee 16: Sociological Theory.

Member, Social Science History Association.

REFERENCES

Professor Jeffrey Alexander
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