

ISAAC ARIAIL REED

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CURRENT POSITIONS

2014- Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado-Boulder

POSITIONS HELD

2014-2015 Visiting Fellow, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities

2014-2015 Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies

2007-2014 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado-Boulder

EDUCATION

2007 Ph.D., Sociology, Yale University

2003 M. Phil., Sociology, Yale University

2000 B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology and Mathematics, Swarthmore College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociological Theory, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Sociology of Culture

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2011 *Interpretation and Social Knowledge: On the use of theory in the human sciences.*
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book, Section on the Sociology
of Culture, American Sociological Association
Honorable Mention, Theory Prize, Section on Theory, American Sociological
Association
Reviewed in: *American Journal of Sociology, International Sociology,*
Sociologica, Cultural Sociology, Perspectives, Region y Sociedad,
Contemporary Sociology, History and Theory, Thesis Eleven
Symposia: *Ethnography* (2015); *Czech Sociological Review* (2015); *Trajectories*
(2013)

Edited Books

- Under Contract *Social Theory Now*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
(With Claudio Benzecry and Monika Krause)
- 2009 *Meaning and Method: The Cultural Approach to Sociology*. Boulder, CO:
Paradigm Publishers. (With Jeffrey Alexander).
- 2007 *Culture, Society, and Democracy: The Interpretive Approach*. Boulder, CO:
Paradigm Publishers. (With Jeffrey Alexander).

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Forthcoming “Between structural breakdown and crisis action: Interpretation in the Whiskey Rebellion and the Salem Witch Trials.” *Critical Historical Studies*.
- 2015 “Ratio via Machina: Three Standards of Mechanistic Explanation in Sociology.” *Sociological Methods and Research*. (With Natalie B. Aviles). Published online before print, October 23, 2015. DOI: 10.1177/0049124115610350.
- 2015 “Ethnography, Theory, and Sociology as a Human Science.” *Ethnography*. Published online before print, June 25, 2015. DOI: 10.1177/1466138115592417
- 2015 “Deep culture in action: resignification, synecdoche, and metanarrative in the moral panic of the Salem Witch Trials.” *Theory and Society* 44(1): 65-94. [Honorable mention, Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article, Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association.]
- 2014 “Theory and Contrastive Explanation in Ethnography” *Sociological Methods and Research* (with Paul Lichterman). Published online before print, October 27, 2014, DOI: 10.1177/0049124114554458.
- 2014 “Formation Stories and Causality in Sociology” *Sociological Theory*. 32(4): 259-282 (with Daniel Hirschman).
- 2013 “Power: Relational, Discursive, and Performative Dimensions” *Sociological Theory*. 31(3): 193-218. [Winner, Junior Theorist Prize, Theory Section, American Sociological Association.]
- Translated “Poder: dimensões relacional, discursiva e performática.” *Sociedade e Estado* (Brasil) 29(2): 473-510, 2014.
- 2013 “Charismatic Performance: A Study of Bacon’s Rebellion” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*. 1(2): 1-35.
- 2011 “Culture in the Transitions to Modernity: Seven Pillars of a New Research Agenda.” *Theory and Society*. Volume 40: 247-272. (With Julia Adams).

- 2010 “Epistemology Contextualized: Social-Scientific Knowledge in a Postpositivist Era.” *Sociological Theory*. 28 (1): 20-39.
- 2009 “Social Science as Reading and Performance: A Cultural-Sociological Understanding of Epistemology.” *European Journal of Social Theory*. 12(1): 21-41. (With Jeffrey Alexander).
- 2008 “Maximal Interpretation in Clifford Geertz and the Strong Program in Cultural Sociology: Towards a New Epistemology” *Cultural Sociology*. 2(2): 187-200.
Reprinted pp. 65-77 in Jeffrey C. Alexander, Philip Smith, and Matthew Norton, eds. *Interpreting Clifford Geertz: Cultural Investigations in the Social Sciences*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan. 2011.
- 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.
[Winner, Sage Excellence and Innovation Award for Best Article published in *Cultural Sociology* in 2007 and 2008.]
- Translated “El sentido de Salem: cultura, genero y la persecucion puritan de la brujeria,” pp. 45-82 in Claudio Benzecry, editor, *Hacia una nueva sociologia cultural. Mapas, dramas y practicas*. Buenos Aires: Universidad de Qulimes. 2012

Non-peer-reviewed Journal Contributions

- 2015 “Counting, interpreting, and their potential interrelation in the human sciences.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*. 3(3): 353-364.
- 2015 “Interpretive Explanation and its Discontents: Author’s Reply to Commentaries.” *Czech Sociological Review* 51(3): 532-545.
- 2014 “When Acceleration Negates Progress: Review Essay on Hartmut Rosa’s *Social Acceleration: A New Theory of Modernity*.” *Contemporary Sociology*.
- 2013 “Science, Democracy and Sociology in the 21st Century: Response to Cruickshank’s ‘Anti-authority’.” *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective*. 2(12): 40-45.
- 2013 “Theoretical labors necessary for a global sociology: Critique of Raewyn Connell’s *Southern Theory*” *Political Power and Social Theory*. Volume 25: 157-171.
- 2012 “Essay: Comment On Swedberg: On the Politics and Culture of Theorizing-as-Abduction” *Sociologica* n. 2.
- 2012 “Essay: Analytical Sociology: Appreciation and Ambivalence,” *Sociologica*, n.1.

- 2010 “Modernity and social knowledge reconsidered: On John R. Hall’s *Apocalypse*.” *Qualitative Sociology*. 33 (4): 575-581.
- 2008 “Social Theory, Post-post-positivism, and the Question of Interpretation,” *International Sociology*. 23 (5): 665-675.
- 2003 “Structural Hermeneutics and the Possibility of a Cultural Science,” *Yale Journal of Sociology* 3 (Fall): 105-111.

Book Chapters (*=peer-reviewed)

- 2015 “What is Interpretive Explanation in Sociohistorical Analysis?” In *Inheriting Gadamer: New Directions in Philosophical Hermeneutics*, edited by Georgia Warnke. Edinburgh University Press.
- 2014 “The Unsettling of Communities of Inquiry,” in *Theorizing in the Social Sciences*, edited by Richard Swedberg. Stanford University Press. (With Mayer N. Zald).*
- 2012 “Cultural Sociology as a Post-positivist Research Program,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology*, edited by Jeffrey Alexander, Philip Smith, and Ron Jacobs. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2011 “Hermeneutics and Sociology: Deepening the Interpretive Perspective,” in *New Directions in Sociology: Essays on Theory and Methodology in the 21st Century*, edited by Michael DeCesare and Ieva Zake. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishers. (With Benjamin Lamb-Books).
- 2009 “Culture as Object and Approach in Sociology,” in *Meaning and Method: The Cultural Approach to Sociology*, edited by Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.
- 2008 “Cultural Sociology,” in *The New Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*, edited by Bryan Turner. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell. (With Jeffrey Alexander)
- 2007 “Cultural Sociology and the Democratic Imperative,” *Culture, Society, and Democracy*, edited by Isaac Reed and Jeffrey Alexander. Boulder, CO: 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. New York: Cambridge University Press.*

Dictionary and Encyclopedia Entries

2006 “Culture,” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology*, ed. Bryan S. Turner. (With Jeffrey Alexander).

2004 “Positivism,” in *The Social Science Encyclopedia*, edited by Adam Kuper and Jessica Kuper. Routledge. (With Jeffrey Alexander).

Book Reviews

2015 “Book Review: Emily Erikson, *Between Monopoly and Free Trade*.” *American Journal of Sociology*. 121(3): 962-965.

2013 “Book Review: Uta Gerhardt, *The Social Thought of Talcott Parsons*.” *Contemporary Sociology*. 43(1). 2014.

2010 “Book Review: Ari Adut, *On Scandal: Moral Disturbances in Society, Politics, and Art*.” *American Journal of Sociology*. 115 (4): 1325-1328.

2009 “Book Review: John Frauley and Frank Pearce, editors, *Critical Realism and the Social Sciences: Heterodox Elaborations*.” *Contemporary Sociology*. 38 (2): 194-196.

2002 “Book Review: Ann Swidler, *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*.” *Theory and Society*. 31 (6): 785-94.

Newsletter Contributions

2013 “Response to Critics: Interpretation and Social Knowledge.” *Trajectories*. Summer.

2012 “A Note on *Interpretation and Social Knowledge*,” *Theory*. Spring/Summer.

2012 “What is the JTS for?” *Perspectives* 34(2).

2008 “Language as a Metaphor for Culture and the Uses of Theory in Cultural Sociology.” *Perspectives* 30 (2).

2006 “Theory, Culture, and Understanding: Clifford Geertz, 1926-2006,” *Theory* Fall/Winter
Reprinted, with minor additions, in *Nexus*, The Newsletter of the Australian Sociological Association, September 2007, 19 (3).

2004 “Love and Theory: Other Ways Culture Could Matter” *Culture* (Newsletter for the Section on the Sociology of Culture, ASA), 18 (2).

2004 “The Beginning of an Era: Sociological Theory a Generation after the Cultural Turn (A Response to Seidman),” *Perspectives*, 27 (1).

2003 “Introduction” and “Comment on the Yale-Konstanz Debates” in *Theory*

(Newsletter for the Research Committee on Sociological Theory, ISA). Spring.

2002 “The Turn from Scientific to Normative Hermeneutics” in *Theory* (Newsletter for the Research Committee on Sociological Theory, ISA). Fall.

2001 “Report on Cultural Turn III: Profane and Sacred” in *Culture* (Newsletter for the Section for the Sociology of Culture, ASA), Spring (with Jeffrey Alexander).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2015 Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda Setting

2014-2015 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for “Trouble at the Edge of Empire: Principals, Agents, and Others at the Origins of American Modernity” [\$35,000]

2014 Honorable Mention, Theory Prize for Best Book, American Sociological Association, Section on Theory

2014 Junior Theorist Award, American Sociological Association Section on Theory, for “Power: Relational, Discursive, and Performative Dimensions”

2012 Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book, American Sociological Association, Section on the Sociology of Culture

2011 CU Population Center Rapid Response Grant for “Historical Demography and Imperial Instability” [\$3000]

2009 Dean’s Fund for Excellence Award, University of Colorado, Boulder

2009 Sage Excellence and Innovation Award
Awarded to best article published in *Cultural Sociology* in 2007 and 2008.

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

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Crisis Action and Structural Breakdown” Theory Workshop, University of California at Los Angeles. October 23, 2015.

“States and Performative Power”
 Harvard University, Culture and Social Analysis Workshop & Historical Sociology Workshop, March 27, 2015.

University of Illinois-Chicago Sociology Colloquium, March 11, 2015.

“Normativism and Interpretivism, a discussion of two chapters from *Interpretation and Social Knowledge*” Institute for the Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, October 3, 2014

“Counterfactuals” Politics and Culture Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 2, 2014.

“Assembling the Crisis: A Processual Approach to Problems with Sovereignty,” Sociology Colloquium Series, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, October 1, 2014.

“Power, Crisis, and Performative Domination,” Keynote Address, Power, Culture, and Economy Conference, Tampere, Finland, August 25-27, 2014.

“The Crystallization of Crisis and (some of) its Consequences,” University of California-San Diego, April 24, 2014.

“The Crystallization of Crisis,” University of Virginia, March 27, 2014.

“Cosmic Intellectuals, Charismatic Warrior Heroes, and Temporizing Rebels: Explaining the use of culture during crisis,” Boston University, February 14, 2014.

“How to think about events: A Sociohistorical Perspective.” Yale University, November 1, 2013.

“Comment on Danermark” Critical Realism: Problems and Prospects, New York City, August 14-15.

“Life beyond the mechanism: from forcing to forming causes (and back again) in social

research,” Sociology in Progress Lecture Series, Colorado State University, May 3, 2013

“Action during Crisis and Performative Domination,” New School for Social Research, December 6, 2012

“How do Events Work?” Michigan Social Theory Workshop, Spring, 2012.

“Causality Beyond the Mechanism” and “Modernity, Power, and Critical Sociology,” Featured Speaker, Kultursociologisk Konferens, Campus Vaxjo, Linneas University, Sweden, November 18-18, 2011

“Power and Causality in Social Theory and Social Research,” Sociology Colloquium Series, Univeristy of California-Riverside, November 3, 2010.

“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.

“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. (With Julia Adams)

“Why Salem Made Sense,” Transitions to Modernity Colloquium, Yale University, April 16, 2007.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS (selected)

“Interpreting Crisis and Explaining the Use of Discourse: Conceptual Methodology of ‘Eventful’ Historical Sociology” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. 2014.

“Modernity Reconfigured,” International Sociological Association World Congress, Yokohama Japan, 2014.

“On Claire Decoteau's Ancestors and Antiretrovirals” Presented at Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, November 21-24, 2013.

“The Whiskey Rebellion and American Empire” Presented at Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Nov. 21-24, 2013.

“Bacon’s Rebellion, Charismatic Authority, and the Uncertainties of Imperial Semiotics,” Social Science History Association Meetings, Vancouver, BC. November 1-4, 2012.

“Reply to critics” Author Meets Critics Session on *Intepretation and Social Knowledge*, Social Science History Association Meetings, Vancouver, BC. November 1-4, 2012.

“Mechanism and Metaphor: On Realism and Causal Pluralism in Sociology,” Annual Meeting of

the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO, August 13-16, 2012.

“Power is Causality, or, How to Explain Bacon’s Rebellion,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV, August 20-23, 2011.

“Theorizing the Power-Causality Link,” Philosophy and the Social Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic, May 11-15, 2011.

“Power and Causality,” Social Science History Association annual conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 18-21, 2010.

“Don’t let the women near the cosmos: The Imagination of Agency and the Crisis of Puritan Patriarchy” Social Science History Association annual conference, Long Beach, California, November 11-14, 2009.

“Identifying the Mechanism and Disclosing the Landscape: Notes on Social Causation in History,” Social Science History Association annual conference, Long Beach, California, November 11-14, 2009.

“Culture in the Transitions to Modernity: Seven Sociological Models” Comparing Past and Present conference at University of California, Berkeley, August 12, 2009. (With Julia Adams)

“Realism/Interpretation” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 8-11, 2009.

“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.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Member, Theory Prize Committee, Theory Section of the American Sociological Association, 2014-2015

National Endowment for the Humanities Panelist/Reviewer, 2014

Member, Mary Douglas Prize Committee for Best Book in the Sociology of Culture, 2012-2013

Chair, Charles Tilly Award Committee for Best Paper in Comparative-Historical Sociology, 2012-2013

Board Member, Center for Advanced Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2012-

Council Member, ASA section for Comparative and Historical Sociology, 2012-2014

Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*, 2011-2013

Editorial Board, *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2010-

Co-Editor, *Trajectories*, Newsletter for ASA section for Comparative and Historical Sociology, 2009-2011

Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*, 2008-2011

Manuscript referee for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Body and Society*, *Sociological Theory*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Social Science History*, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*

Book Manuscript referee for University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Paradigm Publishers, Sage Publications.

Organizer, Roundtables, Theory Section of the American Sociological Association 2010, 2011

Nominations Committee, Section on the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2009-2010.

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, 2007-2009

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)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Classical, Modern, and Contemporary Social Theory; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Cultural Sociology; Philosophy of Social Science; States and Empires

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Duties for 2013-2014 Academic Year:

Course	Hours	Number of Students
Classical Theory (Fall)	3	100 Undergraduate
Classical Theory (Fall)	3	50 Undergraduate
Contemporary Theory (Fall)	3	50 Undergraduate
Classical Theory (Spring)	3	100 Undergraduate
Classical Theory (Spring)	3	50 Undergraduate
Sociological Theory (Spring)	3	15 Graduate

Other courses taught: Cultural Sociology (Graduate); Sociology of Culture (Undergraduate); Senior Honors Seminar (Undergraduate); Critical Thinking (Undergraduate); Contemporary Social Theory (Graduate)

Research Supervision:

Primary Advisor To:

Benjamin Lamb-Books, Ph.D. Candidate (Start date August 2008, expected completion May 2015). Masters received, November 2011. Thesis: "In tones of holy affection: Abolitionist Emotion Culture and the Rhetoric of Slavery."

Benhamin Hutcheson, Ph.D. Candidate

Vanessa Roberts, Ph.D. Candidate

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American Sociological Association.

Section memberships: Theory; Sociology of Culture; Comparative and Historical Sociology; Political Sociology; Political Economy of the World System; Sociology of Scientific Knowledge

Member, Social Science History Association

REFERENCES

Available upon request.