

CURRICULUM VITAE

Peter C. Blum

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Department of Sociology
Hillsdale College
33 E. College St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242
Phone: 517-607-2444
Email: pblum@hillsdale.edu

EDUCATION:

- 1993 University of Notre Dame, Ph.D. in Sociology
Areas of Specialization: Social Theory, Sociology of Religion
Dissertation: "The Sacred, the Hermeneutical Attitude, and the Sociology of Religion:
A Metatheoretical Inquiry."
- 1988 University of Notre Dame, M. A. in Philosophy
- 1985 Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries (Elkhart, Indiana)
Courses in Theology, Ethics, and Biblical Studies
- 1984 Goshen College (Goshen, Indiana), B. A.
(Interdisciplinary Major: Philosophy, Religion, and Sociology)
Two years of undergraduate study were at Indiana University South Bend

AREAS OF COMPETENCE AND RESEARCH INTEREST:

Sociology & Religion

Classical & Contemporary Social Theory, Sociology of Knowledge and Cognition, Sociology of Religion, Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies, Modern & Postmodern Culture

Philosophy

20th Century Continental Philosophy, American Pragmatism, Philosophy of Religion, Religious and Social Ethics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, MI)

Professor of Philosophy and Culture, and Director of Sociology and Social Thought, 2007-Present
Associate Professor of Sociology and Social Thought, 1998-2007
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 1992-1998

Spring Arbor University (Spring Arbor, MI)

Adjunct Professor of Sociology, 1998-2001

Indiana University (South Bend, IN)

Adjunct Instructor in Sociology, 1992
Adjunct Instructor in Philosophy, 1988

University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN)
Teaching Assistant in Sociology, 1989-1992
Teaching Assistant in Philosophy, 1986-1990

WORK IN PROGRESS:

(working titles)

For a Church to Come: Experiments in Postmodern Social Theory and Anabaptist Thought (book manuscript in preparation).

"What if All Religion is Idolatry?" (on Cornelius Castoriadis)

PUBLISHED ARTICLES:

(Asterisk [*] indicates invited publications. All others peer-reviewed.)

"Two Cheers for an Ontology of Violence: Reflections on Im/Possibility," forthcoming in a volume on Anabaptism & Radical Orthodoxy, edited by Chris Huebner and Tripp York, to be published by Canadian Mennonite University Press.

"Heidegger's Shoes and Beautiful Feet: Ritual Meaning and Cultural Portability," *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, vol. 79 (January 2005), pp. 89-107.

"Yoder's Patience and/or with Derrida's *Differance*," in Ben C. Ollenburger and Gayle Gerber Koontz, eds., *A Mind Patient and Untamed: Assessing John Howard Yoder's Contribution to Theology, Ethics, and Peacemaking* (Cascadia Publishing House, 2004), pp. 75-88.

"Totality, Alterity, and Hospitality: The Openness of Anabaptist Community," *Brethren Life and Thought*, vol. 48, nos. 3 & 4 (Summer and Fall 2003), pp. 159-175.

"Who Defines Family? Mennonite Reflection on Family and Sociology of Knowledge," *The Conrad Grebel Review*, vol. 19, no. 2 (Spring 2001), pp. 68-82.

"Public Scandal and Moral Enterprise: Hints from Interactionist/Constructionist Sociology," *The Michigan Association for Speech Communication Journal*, vol. 34 (1999-2000), pp. 61-70.*

"Foucault, Genealogy, Anabaptism: Confessions of an Errant Postmodernist," in Susan Biesecker-Mast and Gerald Biesecker-Mast, eds., *Anabaptists and Postmodernity* (Pandora Press U.S. and Herald Press, 2000), pp. 60-74.

"Overcoming Relativism? Levinas's Return to Platonism," *Journal of Religious Ethics*, vol. 28, no. 1 (Spring 2000), pp. 91-117.

"Typification, Transcendence, and Critique: On the Social Construction of New Age Music," in Fabio Dasilva & David Brunnsma, eds., *All Music: Essays on the Hermeneutics of Music* (Avebury Press, 1996), pp. 117-132.*

"Heidegger and Rorty on 'the End of Philosophy.'" *Metaphilosophy*, vol. 21, no. 3 (July, 1990), pp. 223-238.

REVIEWS AND RESPONSES:

"In Praise of the Least Oppressive Oligarchy," part of the forum, "Anabaptist Witness in the Public Square," *The Conrad Grebel Review*, Spring 2005, pp. 80-86.

Review of Daniel Liechty, ed., *Death and Denial: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Legacy of Ernest Becker* (Praeger, 2002). *The Conrad Grebel Review*, Spring 2004, pp. 135-137.

- “Poverty, Prophecy and Openness: On Not Being Strong Enough” (response to articles by Gerald Biesecker-Mast and Scott Holland), *Brethren Life and Thought*, Summer and Fall 2003, pp. 212-214.
- “Response 1,” part of “Is God Nonviolent? A Mennonite Symposium,” *The Conrad Grebel Review*, Winter 2003, pp. 37-39.
- Review of Donald B. Kraybill and Carl F. Bowman, *On the Backroad to Heaven: Old Order Hutterites, Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001). *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, April 2002, pp. 240-241.
- Review of Stanley Hauerwas, Chris K. Huebner, Harry J. Huebner, and Mark Thiessen Nation, eds., *The Wisdom of the Cross: Essays in Honor of John Howard Yoder* (Eerdmans, 1999). *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*, July 2001, pp. 248-250.
- Review of Leo Driedger, *Mennonites in the Global Village* (University of Toronto Press, 2000). *Canadian Journal of Sociology Online*, November-December 2000 (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~cjscopy/cjs.html>).
- Review of Kieran Flanagan, *The Enchantment of Sociology: A Study of Theology and Culture* (Macmillan/St. Martin’s Press, 1996). *Sociology of Religion*, Winter 1998, pp. 419-420.
- Review of Calvin Redekop, Stephen C. Ainlay, & Robert Siemens, *Mennonite Entrepreneurs* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995). *American Journal of Sociology*, July 1996, pp. 310-311.
- Review of Nadine Moonje Pleil, *Free from Bondage* (San Francisco: Carrier Pigeon Press, 1994). *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, July 1996, pp. 368-369.
- Review of Jeff Spinner, *The Boundaries of Citizenship: Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in the Liberal State* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994). *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, April 1996, pp. 235-238.

UNPUBLISHED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND RESPONSES:

(Excludes presentations of published articles)

- Response to Susan Biesecker-Mast, “A Genealogy of the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective,” presented at the conference, “Holding Fast to the Confession of Our Hope: The Confession of Faith Ten Years Later,” Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, June 8-10, 2006.
- “Saving Relativity from Relativism, or How to Believe in Truth Without Having It in Your Back Pocket,” presented to a faculty luncheon colloquium, Hillsdale College, April 15, 2005.
- “On the Impossibility of Peace: Nonviolence and ‘Deconstructionist’ Social Theory,” presented at the conference, “Teaching Peace: Nonviolence and the Liberal Arts Curriculum,” Bluffton College, May 26-28, 2004.
- Response to Miroslav Volf, “Political and Philosophical Pluralism,” presented as part of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s annual Theological Lectureship, February 26, 2004.
- “Symbolic Meaning and the Sociology of Anabaptist Cultures,” presented at the Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology meeting, Goshen College, October 1999.
- “Self and Other Online: A Phenomenological Exploration of Internet-Based Interaction” (with Abram Sirignano and Piper Warwick). Presented at the 1999 annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Troy, Michigan, April 17, 1999.
- “Will There Be Anyone in Heaven Besides the Amish?” (lecture on the Anabaptist view of the church). Presented at a colloquium held at Hillsdale College by the Fairfield Society, September 10, 1997.

“Emmanuel Levinas on Meaning and the Self: Toward a Sociological Reading.” Presented at the 1996 annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, Illinois, April 3, 1996.

“Aesthetic Value and Constructionist Sociology of Music.” Presented at the 1994 annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Columbus, Ohio, April 15, 1994.

“Meaning, Structure, and the Sociology of Religion: Wuthnow’s Way Forward.” Presented at the 1991 annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio, August 22, 1991.

“Weberian Ideal Types Revisited: Some Reflections on Concept Formation in the Social Sciences” (with Fabio Dasilva). Presented by Fabio Dasilva at the 29th International Congress of the *Institut International de Sociologie*, Rome, Italy, June 12, 1989.

Various popular presentations on Amish and Mennonite culture for churches and community groups, and presentations on various topics for Elderhostel.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Redesign of Hillsdale Sociology and Social Thought program as an interdisciplinary program, 2007.

Steering Committee Member, Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network, 2000-present.

Planning committee member for conference, “Holding Fast to the Confession of Our Hope: The Confession of Faith Ten Years Later,” Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, June 8-10, 2006.

Newsletter Editor and Steering Committee Member, Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology Association, 1996-2006.

Faculty Teaching and Learning Mentor (in instructional technologies), Hillsdale College (initiated by Ameritech Faculty Development Technology Program and Michigan Colleges Foundation), 2001-2005.

Planning and local arrangements for conference, “Ritual in Anabaptist Communities,” Hillsdale College, June 26-28, 2003.

Participant, “Webtech II,” advanced web design seminar sponsored by Ameritech and the Michigan Colleges Foundation, Albion College, June 23-24, 1999.

Panel discussion participant, “How Do We Know God?” Fairfield Society colloquium, Hillsdale College, April 29, 1998.

Participant as Hillsdale College representative, “The Future of Christian Scholarship in a Post-Modern Age” (Michigan Regional Conference of the Lilly Fellows Program in the Humanities and the Arts), Calvin College, June 21-23, 1994.

Design and implementation of a major in Sociology and Social Thought and a minor in Sociology, Hillsdale College, effective spring 1993.

Other committee service has included Faculty Library Advisory Committee, Academic Computing Advisory Committee (chair of both), Educational Policies Committee, and various faculty search committees.