

# EVIATAR ZERUBAVEL

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Department of Sociology  
Rutgers University  
26 Nichol Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1976 University of Pennsylvania (Sociology)  
M.A. 1973 University of Pennsylvania (Sociology)  
B.A. 1971 Tel Aviv University (Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2013- Board of Governors and Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University  
2007-13 Board of Governors Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University  
1993-2007 Professor II of Sociology, Rutgers University  
1988-93 Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University  
1985-88 Professor of Sociology, SUNY at Stony Brook  
1984-85 Associate Professor of Sociology, Queens College  
1980-84 Associate Professor of Sociology, Columbia University  
1976-80 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Sociology, University of Pittsburgh

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

**Taken for Granted: The Remarkable Power of the Unremarkable** (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018).  
(**Italian edition** – Meltemi Editore, 2019)

**Hidden in Plain Sight: The Social Structure of Irrelevance** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).  
(Both hardcover and paperback editions)

**Ancestors and Relatives: Genealogy, Identity, and Community** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)

(**Paperback edition** -- New York: Oxford University Press, 2013)

**The Elephant in the Room: Silence and Denial in Everyday Life** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

(**Paperback edition** -- New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)

(**Traditional Chinese edition** – Taipei, Taiwan: Good Morning Press, 2008)

(**Simplified Chinese edition** – China: Chu Chen Books, 2010)

**Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past** (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003)

(**Paperback edition** -- Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004)

(**Italian edition** – Bologna: Il Mulino, 2005)

**The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books** (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

(Both hardcover and paperback editions)

(**Marathi edition** – Lokvangmaya Griha, India, 2012)

**Social Mindscapes: An Invitation to Cognitive Sociology** (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997).

(**Paperback edition** – Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)

(**Norwegian edition** – Oslo: Gyldendal Akademisk, 2000)

**Terra Cognita: The Mental Discovery of America** (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992).

(Both hardcover and paperback editions)

(**New edition with new preface** -- New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2003)

**The Fine Line: Making Distinctions in Everyday Life** (New York: Free Press, 1991).

(**Paperback edition** -- Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993)

**The Seven-Day Circle: The History and Meaning of the Week** (New York: Free Press, 1985).

(**Paperback edition** -- Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989)

(**Korean edition** – Suhije Publishing Co., forthcoming)

**Informed Consent: An Empirical Study of Decisionmaking in Psychiatry** (New York: Guilford Press, 1984). (With Charles Lidz et al.)

**Hidden Rhythms: Schedules and Calendars in Social Life** (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

(**Japanese edition** – Tokyo: Simul Press, 1984)

(**Italian edition** – Bologna: Il Mulino, 1985)

(**Paperback edition** – Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985)

**Patterns of Time in Hospital Life: A Sociological Perspective** (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979).

## **ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS**

“Toward A Concept-Driven Sociology: Sensitizing Concepts and the Prepared Mind.” In Wayne H. Brekhus et al. (eds.), **The Oxford Handbook of Symbolic Interaction** (New York: Oxford

University Press, forthcoming).

- "Taken for Granted: Semiotic Asymmetry and the Sociocognitive Production of Normality." In Carmelo Lombardo and Lorenzo Sabetta (eds.), **Against the Background of Social Reality: Defaults, Commonplaces, and the Sociology of the Unmarked** (New York: Routledge, forthcoming).
- "Sociology Meets Biography: Peter Berger and the Social Construction of Discontinuous Selves." **Society** (forthcoming).
- "The Sociology of Time." In Juliane Reinecke et al. (eds.), **About Time: Temporality and History in Organization Studies** (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).
- "Listening to the Sound of Silence: Methodological Reflections on Studying the Unsaid." Pp. 59-70 in Amy Jo Murray and Kevin Durrheim (eds.), **Qualitative Studies of Silence: The Unsaid as Social Action** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- "Cognitive Sociology: Between the Personal and the Universal Mind." Pp. 31-41 in Wayne H. Brekhus and Gabe Ignatow (eds.), **The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).
- "Foregrounding and Backgrounding: The Logic and Mechanics of Semiotic Subversion." Pp. 567-84 in Wayne H. Brekhus and Gabe Ignatow (eds.), **The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology** (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019).
- "The Five Pillars of Essentialism: Reification and the Social Construction of an Objective Reality." **Cultural Sociology** 10 (2016): 69-76.
- "Historical Narratives and Collective Memory." Pp. 99-116 in Steven R. Corman (ed.), **Narrating the Exit from Afghanistan** (Tempe, AZ: Center for Strategic Communication, 2013).
- "Transcending Cognitive Individualism." **Social Psychology Quarterly** 73 (2010): 321-25 (With Eliot R. Smith).
- "The Social Sound of Silence: Toward A Sociology of Denial." Pp. 32-44 in Efrat Ben-Ze'ev, Ruth Ginio, and Jay Winter (eds.), **Shadows of War: A Social History of Silence in the Twentieth Century** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
- "The Social Structure of Denial: A Formal Sociological Analysis of Conspiracies of Silence." Pp. 181-88 in Isaac Reed and Jeffrey C. Alexander (eds.), **Culture, Society, and Democracy: The Interpretive Approach** (Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2007).
- "Generally Speaking: The Logic and Mechanics of Social Pattern Analysis." **Sociological Forum** 22 (2007): 131-45.
- "The Social Marking of the Past: Toward a Socio-Semiotics of Memory." Pp. 184-95 in Roger Friedland and John Mohr (eds.), **Matters of Culture: Cultural Sociology in Practice** (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).
- "Calendars and History: A Comparative Study of the Social Organization of National Memory." Pp. 315-37 in Jeffrey K. Olick (ed.), **States of Memory: Continuities, Conflicts, and Transformations in National Retrospection** (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003). [Spanish translation, Pp. 471-99 in Maya Aguiluz Ibarguen and Gilda Waldman M. (eds.),

**Memorias (In)cognitas: Contiendas en la Historia** (Mexico City: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, 2007)].

"The Elephant in the Room: Notes on the Social Organization of Denial." Pp. 21-27 in Karen A. Cerulo (ed.), **Culture in Mind: Toward a Sociology of Culture and Cognition** (New York: Routledge, 2002).

"Social Identity and Social Descent: Some Sociological Reflections on Population Genetics." **Sociological Forum** 15 (2000): 361-66.

"Language and Memory: 'Pre-Columbian' America and the Social Logic of Periodization." **Social Research** 65 (1998): 315-30.

"Lumping and Splitting: Notes on Social Classification." **Sociological Forum** 11 (1996): 421-33.

"Social Memories: Steps to A Sociology of the Past." **Qualitative Sociology** 19 (1996): 283-99.

"The Rigid, the Fuzzy, and the Flexible: Notes on the Mental Sculpting of Academic Identity." **Social Research** 62 (1995): 1093-1106.

"In the Beginning: Notes on the Social Construction of Historical Discontinuity." **Sociological Inquiry** 63 (1993): 457-59.

"Horizons: On the Sociomental Foundations of Relevance." **Social Research** 60 (1993): 397-413.

"The Language of Time: Toward A Semiotics of Temporality." **Sociological Quarterly** 28 (1987): 343-56.

"Schedules and Social Control." Pp.129-46 in Ephraim Mizruchi et al (eds.), **Time and Aging: Conceptualization and Application in Sociological and Gerontological Research** (Bayside, NY: General Hall, 1982).

"The Standardization of Time: A Sociohistorical Perspective." **American Journal of Sociology** 88 (1982): 1-23. [French translation – **Politix** 3 (1990), #10-11: 21-32].

"Easter and Passover: On Calendars and Group Identity." **American Sociological Review** 47 (1982): 284-89.

"Personal Information and Social Life." **Symbolic Interaction** 5 (1982), #1: 97-109.

"The Bureaucratization of Responsibility: The Case of Informed Consent." **Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law** 8 (1980): 161-67.

"If Simmel Were A Fieldworker: On Formal Sociological Theory and Analytical Field Research." **Symbolic Interaction** 3 (1980), #2: 25-33.

"The Benedictine Ethic and the Modern Spirit of Scheduling." **Sociological Inquiry** 50 (1980): 157-69.

"Private Time and Public Time: The Temporal Structure of Social Accessibility and Professional Commitments." **Social Forces** 58 (1979): 38-58.

"The Temporal Organization of Continuity: The Case of Medical and Nursing Coverage." **Human Organization** 38 (1979): 78-83.

"The French Republican Calendar: A Case Study in the Sociology of Time." **American Sociological Review** 42 (1977): 868-77.

"Timetables and Scheduling: On the Social Organization of Time." **Sociological Inquiry** 46 (1976): 87-94.

## **OTHER WRITINGS**

An excerpt from *Ancestors and Relatives* in **Aftenposten Innsikt** (in Norwegian), March 2017.

Review of *The Unfinished Revolution* by Kathleen Gerson, **Sociological Forum** 27 (2012): 261-64.

"Why Do We Care about Our Ancestors?" **Salon. Com** (November 7, 2011).

"Race in America: Shades of Gray?" **The Philadelphia Inquirer**, March 23, 2008, pp. D1-3.

"Historical Analogy: On the Social Typification of Memory." **Culture** 15 (2001), #3: 1-3.

"The Elephant in the Room: Toward a Sociology of Denial." **Culture** 15 (2000), #2: 1-3.

"History and Social Identity: The Socio-Cognitive Organization of Ancestry and Descent." **Culture** 15 (2000), #1: 1-3.

"Studying Culture at Rutgers University." **Culture** 14 (1999), #1: 9-10.

"How to Finish Your Dissertation." **The Chronicle of Higher Education** (electronic website), October 15, 1999.

"The Cognitive Manifesto: Towards a Sociology of Thinking." **Culture** 12 (1998), #2: 1-5.

Review of *Smut* by Murray S. Davis, **Contemporary Sociology** 25 (1996): 462-63.

Review of *How Classification Works* by Mary Douglas and David Hull, **Contemporary Sociology** 24 (1995): 404-05.

Review of *The Anthropology of Time* by Alfred Gell, **Contemporary Sociology** 23 (1994): 135-36.

"Rediscovering Columbus: A Hero or a Plunderer?" **The Philadelphia Inquirer**, October 12, 1992, p. A13.

"The Jewish Week: Its Origin and Essence." **Reconstructionist** 50 (1985), #8: 16-20.

"Modern Times." **The Sciences** 24 (1984), #5: 38-41.

Review of *Temporal Man* by Robert H. Lauer, **Social Forces** 61 (1983): 939-40.

Review of *Forms of Talk* by Erving Goffman, **Society** 19 (1982), #5: 84-85.

## **GUEST EDITING**

A special issue of **Sociological Forum** on “Lumping and Splitting” (Vol.11, No.3), September 1996.

## **SPECIAL HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Taken for Granted** was awarded the Charles Horton Cooley Award for Best Book by the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction (SSSI), 2019.

**Taken for Granted** was awarded the Susanne K. Langer Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Ecology of Symbolic Form by the Media Ecology Association (MEA), 2019.

Received the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction’s Helena Lopata Mentor Excellence Award, 2017.

Received Rutgers University’s Faculty Scholar-Teacher Award, 2015-16.

**Ancestors and Relatives** was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2012 PROSE Award (“Sociology and Social Work” category) by the Association of American Publishers.

John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 2003-04.

Elected to membership in the Sociological Research Association, 1994.

**The Seven-Day Circle** was listed among *Choice*’s Outstanding Academic Books in 1985.

## **INTERVIEWS** (with links)

*Sociologica* 13.2 (2019): 55-74. <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.1971-8853/9747>

BBC Radio 4’s “Thinking Allowed” (2018). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09tf5vz>

Tel Aviv Review Podcast (2018). <https://tlv1.fm/the-tel-aviv-review/2018/08/27/take-notice-the-power-of-the-unremarkable/>

Bios Sociologicus: The Erving Goffman Archives (“Studying with Erving Goffman”), 2008. [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1077&context=goffman\\_archives](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1077&context=goffman_archives)

NPR’s “The Brian Lehrer Show,” 2007. <https://www.wnyc.org/story/26387-denial-is-your-friend/>

NPR’s “The Diane Rehm Show,” 2006. <https://dianerehm.org/shows/2006-06-20/eviatar-zerubavel-elephant-room-oxford>

### **MEDIA (SELECTED)**

Featured on WBEZ's "World View," 2017.

Featured in Wall Street Journal, 2016.

Featured in *Atlas Obscura*, 2016.

Featured in *The Huffington Post*, 2014.

Interviewed on KNews Radio's "Conversations with Charlie Dyer," 2012.

Interviewed on Sirius XM's "Doctor Radio," 2011.

Interviewed in *Altre Modernità* (Italy), 2011.

Interviewed in the *New York Times*' Science Section, 2007.

Interviewed in *Der Standard* (Austria), 2007.

Featured on NPR's "Radio Times," 2006.

Interviewed in *La Repubblica* (Italy), 2005.

Interviewed in the *New York Times*, 1999.

Interviewed in *Newsday*, 1985.

Interviewed in the *New York Times*' Book Review Section, 1985.

### **DISTINGUISHED LECTURES**

Keynote address, "What Is Done When Nothing Is Being Done: Social Theory and the Power of the Unmarked" Symposium, Sapienza University of Rome, 2019

Keynote Address, "The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology" conference, 2018

Keynote Address, The Tenth International Process Symposium, Halkidiki, Greece, 2018

Keynote Address, "Identity, Memory, and Genealogy," Memory Symposium, Espoo, Finland, 2014

Keynote Address, "History, Memory, and Narrative Structures," Memory Symposium, Espoo, Finland, 2014

Plenary Address, "Being There: Phenomenology and Social Structures," Conference, New School University, 2014

Plenary Address, "The Simmel-Goffman Tradition in Symbolic Interactionism," Couch-Stone Symposium, Northwestern University, 2012.

Keynote Address, "Categories and Concepts in Health, Medicine, and Society" International Workshop, Umeå, Sweden, 2012.

Keynote address, "Time in Culture" Conference, Tartu, Estonia, 2010.

Distinguished Lecture, The Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, 2009.

Keynote address, International Colloquium on Time, Mexico City, 2008.

Keynote address, Annual Meeting of the Israeli Association for Qualitative Research, 2006.

Keynote address, "History Matters" Conference, New School University, 2004.

Keynote address, International Congress of Architecture, Barcelona, 2004.

Keynote address, Annual Joint Meeting of the Sociologists of Minnesota and Wisconsin, 1996.

### **INVITED TALKS (SINCE 1996)**

Bar-Ilan University (Israel), 2018

Loyola University New Orleans, 2018

Yale University, 2018

New York University, 2017

Princeton University, 2016

University of Michigan, 2016

International Christian University (Japan), 2016.

CUNY Graduate Center, 2015.

Wellesley College, 2015.

Yale University, 2014

CUNY Hunter College, 2014

New School University, 2013

Stockholm University (Sweden), 2012.

Copenhagen University (Denmark), 2012.



CUNY Graduate Center, 2011.

Wellesley College, 2011.

U.S. Military Academy at West Point, 2011.

Columbia University, 2010.

University of Washington, 2009.

Wellesley College, 2009.

Kazan State University (Russia), 2007.

New School University, 2007.

University of Wisconsin, 2007.

Princeton University, 2006.

Van Leer Institute (Israel), 2006.

Lafayette College, 2005.

University of Virginia, 2005.

Tel Aviv University (Israel), 2005.

Goucher College, 2005.

Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada), 2004.

Hebrew University (Israel), 2004.

University of California – Berkeley, 2001.

Murray State University, 2000.

Swarthmore College, 2000.

University of California – Los Angeles, 2000.

University of Missouri, 1999.

Haverford College, 1999.

Institute for Future Studies (Sweden), 1999.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1996.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### American Sociological Association

Chair, Culture Section, 2000-01

Nominations Committee, Theory Section, 1998-99

Nominations Committee, Theory Section, 1993-94

Nominations Committee, Culture Section, 1992-93

Chair, Nominations Committee, Culture Section, 1991-92

Program Committee, 1986-87

### Eastern Sociological Society

Graduate Committee, 2002-03

Candace Rogers Award Committee, 1984

### Yale University

Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, 2004-

### *Sociological Theory*

Member, Editorial Board, 2008-11

### *Memory Studies*

Member, Editorial Board, 2008-

### *Cultural Sociology*

Member, International Advisory Board, 2007-

### *Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale*

Member, Scientific Committee, 2019-

### *Sociological Forum*

Member, Editorial Board, 2006-09

### Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction

Herbert Blumer Award Committee, 1982-83

Reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Forum*, *Social Problems*, Harvard University Press, University of Chicago Press, Cambridge University Press, Princeton University Press, Yale University Press, Routledge, National Science Foundation (selected list)

Member of the Advisory Board of the June 2015 International Conference on the Legacy of World War I, The Hague, The Netherlands

## **UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

### Rutgers University

Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Sociology, 2012-13, 2016-17

Promotion Reading Committee, Department of Sociology, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2017-18, 2018-19

Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology, 2010-11, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2019-20

Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology, 2007-09

Website Committee, Department of Sociology, 2007-09

Committee of Review of the Graduate School, 2007-08

Director of Graduate Program, Department of Sociology, 1992-2001, 2006-09

Peer Evaluation Committee, Department of Sociology, 2002-03, 2005-06, 2008

Committee on Standards and Priorities in Academic Development (CSPAD), 2002-04

Graduate Program Committee, Department of Sociology, 2001-03, 2005-06, 2011-18

Dissertation Teaching Award Committee, Graduate School, 2000-01, 2006-07, 2007-08

Acting Co-director, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, 1999-2000

Bevier Fellowship Committee, Graduate School, 1997-2000

Social Science Area Committee, Graduate School, 1994-96

Student Disciplinary Hearing Committee, 1994-95

Advisory Committee for FAS Appointments and Promotions, 1993-96, 1997-99, 2005-09, 2014-15

Executive Committee, Department of Sociology, 1992-96, 1997-2001, 2006-09

Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 1992-94, 1997-2000, 2006-07 (Chair), 2007-08

Advisory Board, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, 1990-96

M.A. Committee, Department of Sociology, 1989-90

Personnel Committee, Department of Sociology, 1988-91, 1993-96, 1997-2003, 2005-09,  
2013-14, 2016-17

State University of New York at Stony Brook

Director of Graduate Program, Department of Sociology, 1986-88

Columbia University

Director of Graduate Program, Department of Sociology, 1982-84

Publications Committee, Columbia University Press, 1982-83

Chair, Theory Comprehensive Examinations Committee, Department of Sociology, 1981-83

Assistant Chair, Department of Sociology, 1981-82

Chair, Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, 1980-83

Chair, Fellowships Committee, Department of Sociology, 1980-82

University of Pittsburgh

Planning Committee for Architectural Studies Program, 1979

Coordinator, lecture series on behavioral medicine, Department of Psychiatry, 1978-79