

Eric Malczewski
Assistant Professor
Center for Public Administration and Policy
School of International and Public Affairs, Virginia Tech
104 Draper Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061
ericmalczewski@vt.edu / ORCID: 0000-0001-6168-7166

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Education

- 2012 Ph.D. in Sociology, Political Science, and Philosophy of Social Science
Boston University, University Professors Program
Dissertation: *The Elements of Social Science*
- 2004 M.P.P. with Honors
The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy
Thesis: *A Perspective on Ecological Anthropocentrism*
- 2000 B.S. Management and Organizational Behavior
New York University, Stern School of Business

Academic Positions

- 2018–Present Virginia Tech, School of Public and International Affairs
Center for Public Administration and Policy
Assistant Professor
Forum on Social and Political Thought
Director
- 2014–Present Yale University, Department of Sociology
Center for Cultural Sociology
Faculty Fellow (2016–Present); Visiting Fellow (2014–2016)
- 2009–2018 Harvard University, Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Social Studies
Lecturer on Social Studies (2012–2017); Member of the Board of Advisors
(2009–2017); Teaching Fellow (2009–2012)
Dudley House
Program Manager, Visiting Undergraduate Student Program (2013–2018);
Resident Tutor (2014–2018); Non-Resident Tutor (2012–2013)

Areas of Research

Sociological Theory	Culture	Environmental Sociology	Political Sociology
Historical Sociology	Institutions	Philosophy of Social Science	Nationalism
Qualitative Methods	Social Theory	Material Culture/Materiality	American Studies

Journal Articles

- 2019 “The Weberian Presuppositional Analytic.” *Sociological Theory Vol. 37(4)*: 363-380.
DOI: 10.1177/0735275119888258
- 2019 “Durkheim and the Nation.” *The Turkish Journal of Sociology (İstanbul Üniversitesi Sosyoloji Dergisi) Vol. 39*: 41-64. DOI: 10.26650/SJ.2019.39.1.0013
- 2016 “Materiality, Iconic Nature, and Albert Bierstadt’s ‘Great Pictures’.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology Vol. 4(3)*: 359-384. DOI:10.1057/s41290-016-0011-9.
- 2015 “On the Centrality of Action: Social Science, Historical Logics, and Max Weber’s Legacy.” *The Journal of Historical Sociology Vol. 28(4)*: 523-547. DOI:10.1111/johs.12081
- 2014 “This is Social Science: A ‘Patterned Activity’ Oriented to Attaining Objective Knowledge of Human Society.” *The Journal of Classical Sociology Vol. 14(4)*: 341-362.
DOI:10.1177/1468795X13495124.
- 2013 “Durkheim’s *Sui Generis* Reality and the Central Subject Matter of Social Science.” *Current Perspectives in Social Theory Vol. 31*: 161-175. DOI:10.1108/S0278-1204(2013)0000031012.

Book Chapters, Reviews, Etc.

- (2022) “Science as a Culture.” *The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton*. Charles Crothers and Lorenzo Sabetta (Eds.). (forthcoming) Accepted December 7, 2020.
- (2022) “Values in Science.” *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory*. James Mattingly and Geoffrey Golson (Eds.). (forthcoming) Accepted February 6, 2020
- 2021 “Oliver Benoit on Grenadian ‘Reasons of State.’” *Now Grenada*, 28 January. Opinion / Commentary – Politics. <https://www.nowgrenada.com/2021/01/oliver-benoit-on-grenadian-reasons-of-state/>
- 2020 “Iconic Nature, Material Symbolism, and American Nationalism: Thomas Moran and a Vista on Yellowstone.” Pp. 137-147 in *Research Handbook on Nationalism*. Liah Greenfeld and Zeying Wu (Eds.) Oxford: Edward Elgar. DOI: 10.4337/9781789903447.00020 ISBN: 9781789903430
- 2019 “Constants in History and Sociology: A Commentary on Mark Gould’s ‘History is Sociology: All Arguments are Counterfactuals.’” *The Journal of Historical Sociology Vol. 32(1)*: e11-e14. DOI: 10.1111/johs.12231
- 2016 “The Value(s) of Nature.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology Vol. 4(2)*: 228-239.
DOI: 10.1057/ajcs.2016.3
- 2015 “Émile Durkheim.” *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism*. Anthony Smith, John Stone, Rutledge Dennis, et al. (Eds.). John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
DOI:10.1002/9781118663202.wberen023

Co-authored Works

- 2010 “Nationalism as the Cultural Foundation of Modern Experience” (with Liah Greenfeld). *Handbook of Cultural Sociology*. John Hall, Laura Grindstaff, and Ming-Cheng Lo (Eds.). New York: Routledge, p. 526-534.
- 2010 “Politics as a Cultural Phenomenon” (with Liah Greenfeld). *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*. Craig Jenkins and Kevin Leicht (Eds.) New York: Springer, p. 407-422.

Manuscripts and Projects in Progress

“Ferdinand Tönnies, Human Will, and the Epistemology of Social Cognition” – (article draft / under review)

“Taking a Stand: On the Resolution of Conflict in Max Weber’s Thought” – (article in progress)

“WJ McGee and the Role of Expert Knowledge in American Conservationism” – I am continuing to organize and analyze primary documents on WJ McGee, an early and significant conservationist and member of Theodore Roosevelt’s administration. I personally have made copies of every significant document of his extant in his archive in the Library of Congress, and I have compiled an almost perfectly exhaustive bibliography of secondary materials addressing McGee and his influence. Due to Covid-19, my ability to follow-up on leads in related archives (e.g. Gifford Pinchot’s) temporarily has been curtailed.

Max Weber’s Presuppositional Epistemology (research monograph)

The Order of Nature (research monograph)

“The Order of Nature and the Logics of Institutions” (article)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

- 2021 “Max Weber on the Constitutive Qualities of Politics,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (November 14th).
- 2020 “On the State of the Art of Cultural Sociological Theory,” Boston University, Sociology, Professor Liah Greenfeld, October 28.
- 2020 “Icons, Heritage, and Material Symbols,” St. George’s University, Sociology, Professor Oliver Benoit, October 23.
- 2020 “Taking a Stand: On the Resolution of Conflict in Max Weber’s Thought,” Center for Cultural Sociology Conference, Yale University, (April; cancelled due to Covid-19).
- 2020 “The Conception of Conflict in Max Weber’s Thought,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, (August; cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2020 “Max Weber on the Constitutive Qualities of Politics,” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC, (November; cancelled due to Covid-19).
- 2019 “The Material Symbolism of Yellowstone Park, 1869-1872,” Paper Session on Classification and Consecration, Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago, (November 21st).
- 2019 “The Weberian Presuppositional Analytic,” Culture Section Roundtable, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 12th.
- 2019 “Delineating Material Symbolism and Materiality,” Paper Session on Symbols as Objects, Center for Cultural Sociology Conference: Meaning and Performing – Expressive, Civil, and Material, Yale University, New Haven, April 27th.
- 2019 “Materiality and Iconic Nature: The Case of Thomas Moran,” Paper Session on New Approaches to Consumption and Culture, Eastern Sociological Society Meetings, Boston, March 17th.
- 2018 “The Signifying State,” Paper Session Chair and Respondent, Center for Cultural Sociology Conference: Explaining Culture/Culture Explains, Yale University, New Haven, April 28th.
- 2018 “Presuppositions of Iconic Nature,” Paper Session on Thinking Iconically, Eastern Sociological Society Meetings, Baltimore, February 23rd.
- 2017 “Conservation Ethics, the Progressive Era, and the Order of Nature,” Paper Session on Morals, Methods, and Means of Explanation, Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal, November 3rd.

- 2017 “The Order of Nature: Structural Transformation in 19th Century America,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Regular Session on Sociological Theory, Montreal, August 13th.
- 2017 “The Role of the Sacred in Differentiation Theory: Conservation Ethics and the Order of Nature,” Beyond Positivism Conference, Critical Realism Network, Montreal, August 9th.
- 2017 “The Autonomy of Orders: Three Animating Presuppositions,” Center for Cultural Sociology Conference: Frontiers of Cultural Sociology, Yale University, New Haven, April 29th.
- 2017 “The Institutionalization of Art in Comparative Perspective: Grenada and the U.S.,” Seminar on Caribbean Identity, St. George’s University, Grenada, February 17th and 24th.
- 2016 “The Last of the Buffalo: Material Symbolism, Iconic Nature, and Albert Bierstadt’s Legacy,” Paper Session on Human Zoos, Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago, November 17th.
- 2016 “Materiality, Iconic Nature, and Social Resonances in the Physical Landscape,” Center for Cultural Sociology Conference: Meaning in Place, Yale University, New Haven, April 30th.
- 2016 “Iconic Nature,” Eastern Sociological Society Meetings, Paper Session on Understanding Nature, Boston, March 19th.
- 2015 “Symbolic Presuppositions and the Culture of American Environmentalism,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Theory Section Roundtable, Chicago, August 24th.
- 2015 “The Order of Nature,” Center for Cultural Sociology Conference: Cultural Sociology Writ Small, Yale University, New Haven, May 2nd.
- 2015 “Diverse Stakeholders: Obstacles and Opportunities to Implementing Environmental Policies,” Paper Session Chair, Eastern Sociological Society Meetings, March 1st.
- 2015 “The Culture of American Environmentalism,” Eastern Sociological Society Meetings, Roundtable on Environment and Ideology, New York, February 27th.
- 2015 “From Motivation to Action,” Harvard University, Department of Sociology, Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Cambridge, March 30th.
- 2013 “Social Science and Understanding Human Society,” St. George’s University, Grenada, February.
- 2013 “Nationalism and Modern Culture,” St. George’s University, Grenada, February.
- 2012 “This is Social Science,” The Institute for the Advancement of the Social Sciences at Boston University, Boston, February.
- 2010 “Durkheim and the Autonomy of Mind and Culture,” The Institute for the Advancement of the Social Sciences at Boston University, Boston, October.
- 2010 “On Mentalist Sociology,” The Institute for the Advancement of the Social Sciences at Boston University, Boston, March.
- 2007 “Occasional Lectures in the Sociology of Culture at Boston University,” Symposium Organizer, Department of Sociology, Boston University, Boston, (Fall Term).
- 2006 “Annie Dillard’s ‘Total Eclipse,’” A Socratic Conversation, The University Professors Program, Boston University, Boston, November.
- 2005 “Casuistry and the Cannibals: The Form of Conscience in Robinson Crusoe,” A Socratic Conversation, The University Professors Program, Boston University, Boston, October.

Service

Virginia Tech, CPAP, MPA Committee 2021-Present

Virginia Tech, CPAP, PhD Committee 2018-2021

Virginia Tech, CPAP, Qualifying Examination Committee (Normative Foundations) 2018-Present
Spring 2020 – Peter Gregory; Spring 2021 – Todd McDonald

Virginia Tech, CPAP, MPA Portfolio Committee 2018-Present
Spring 2019: Parker Mabe and David Malewicz
Fall 2019: Brady Deal and Jonathan McCoy
Spring 2020: Vicky Moore, Lucas Hodge, Matthew Jones, Alberto Jaimes
Fall 2020: none
Spring 2021: Hunter Anderson
Fall 2021: Patrick Elwell

VT Academic Support Committee (representing CAUS): May 26, 2020 June 30, 2022

Organized PGG/CPAP Student Colloquium with Professor Ralph Buehler – April 29, 2021

Forum on Social and Political Thought

Spring 2021 – *Visit from Charles Zug*

2018-2019 – *To be added: Rousseau/Durkheim tutorials. Check dates.*
11-08-19 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Spring 2020 – Forum Movie Night: Rope (discussion led by Eric Malczewski) 02-21-20; “Re-assessing Free Speech in Higher Education through Mill’s Harm Principle” (discussion led by Alberto Jaimes 04-02-2020); and, “Reconceptualizing the Citizen” (discussion led by Lucas Hodge 03-26-20).

Fall 2020 – Constitution Day Event: "The Constitution of the United States and Its Contribution to Human Flourishing" (featuring talks by Todd McDonald, Alberto Jaimes, and Peter Gregory 09-17-20); and, "Gun Violence in Black and White: Race and Disparities in Firearm-related Fatalities" (discussion led by Peter Gregory 10-21-20).

Forum Reading Group

Spring 2020 – Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morality* (series led by Peter Gregory) 02-07-20, 02-14-20, 02-21-20, and 02-28-20; John Locke, “A Letter Concerning Toleration” (series led by Todd McDonald) 03-27-20 and 04-03-20; and, Charles Tilly, “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime” (discussion led by Eric Rozenweig) 04-17-20.

Fall 2020 – John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government* (discussion led by Bruce Pencek) 09-11-20, 09-18-20, and 09-25-20.

Student Advising

Peter Gregory – Fall 2020 Independent Study

Todd McDonald – Spring 2021 Independent Study

Activities, Memberships, Etc.

Director, Forum on Social and Political Thought, Center for Public Administration and Policy, Virginia Tech 2019–Present

Participant, “America in the Republican Tradition,” Jack Miller Center Summer Institute, Philadelphia, June 26th–July 3rd 2019.

Referee, *Poetics* (March 2021), *Acta Sociologica* (12-03-20), *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Cultural Sociology* (01-10-19), *Journal of Classical Sociology*, *Qualitative Sociology* (12-22-18), *Sociological Inquiry*, and *Sociological Theory*

Participant, Yale University Philosophy of Social Science Post-Doctoral Seminar, August 2015

Member, The Institute for the Advancement of the Social Sciences, Boston University, 2004–2012

Member, American Sociological Association, Eastern Sociological Society, Social Science History Association

Participant, Harvard University, Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, 2012–2015

Participant, The University of Chicago, Comparative Politics Workshop, 2003–2004

Editorial Staff, The University of Chicago, Chicago Literary Review, 2002–2004

Teaching and Advising Awards

Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, & 2017)

Harvard University Star Family Prize for Excellence in Advising – Harvard’s Highest Award for Advising (2015)

Harvard University Barrington Moore Award for Excellence in Advising – Highest Departmental Award for Advising (2013)

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (2009 & 2010)

Teaching Experience

Virginia Tech, School of Public and International Affairs, Center for Public Administration and Policy

Adv. Topics (Orgs.) The Social and Political Thought of Max Weber – Fall 2018.

Normative Foundations (MPA) – Fall 2018, Fall 2019;

Capstone A Seminar – Spring 2019; Spring 2020

Normative Foundations (PhD) – Fall 2019. Spring 2021

Adv. Topics (Ethics) Principles of Politics – Fall 2020

Doctoral Mentoring Program – Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Independent Studies – Race and Gun Violence F2020; Culture and Economy S2021

Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Introduction to Social Theory (Social Studies 10) – Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Modernity, Society, and the Novel (Freshman Seminar) – Fall 2013, Fall 2014

Anti-Foundationalism and Modern Theory (Social Studies 91r) – Spring 2013

German Nationalism and Social Thought in the Postwar World (Social Studies 91r) – Spring 2012

The Cultural Foundations of American Economic Behavior (Social Studies 91r) – Fall 2009

Honors Theses Advised: “Progress or Regress: A Critical Examination of Neoliberal Feminism” (McNulty-Finn); “Coping with Crisis: Black Male Joblessness and Theories of Resilience” (Jonas); “Mayeux v. Diocese of Baton Rouge: The Social Role of Religious Obstinace” (McCallum); “Virtue, Reason, and Skepticism: The Limits of Ethical Theory” (Mitchell – Hoopes Prize Winner); “Framing American Human Rights Journalism During the Ebola Crisis” (Chung); “Restoring Human Dignity: Race, Peace, and Violence in Recent Student Protests in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa” (Leonidas); “Modern German *Wiedergutmachung*: The Remnants of ‘Moral Obligation and Mutual Responsibility’ in State and Society” (Maas); “Scenes of Violence: Political Oppression, Brutality, and Edward Bond’s *Saved*” (Regan); “Color-Blind Jurisprudence and the Veil of Racial Ignorance” (Fonge); “Exposing Reality: Globalization’s Effects on Identity and the Possibility for Social Cohesion in the 21st Century” (Ho); “From Dixieland to Walmart Country” (Schmookler); and, “Max Weber’s Theory of Ideas” (Stefanovski – Hoopes Prize Nominee).

Boston University

College of Arts and Sciences, Teaching Fellow

Classics of Social Theory – Spring 2007; *Time Recreated* – Fall 2006

University Professors Program, Teaching Assistant

Culture and Society – Spring 2006, Spring 2007, and Spring 2008

Modernity Seminar – Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, and Spring 2008

Sociology of Culture – Fall 2007

Comparative Political Analysis: Theories of Nationalism – Fall 2006

Other Experience

2005	Writing Tutor, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences
2000–2002	Associate, Marenzana Group, New York
2000–2002	Project Leader & Volunteer, New York Cares
1999–2000	Resident Assistant, NYU, Department of Housing and Residence Life
1998 / 1999	Summer Intern, Salomon Smith Barney (Santa Fe / New York)
1994–1995	Boatswain’s Mate, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, United States Navy Recipient of a National Defense Service Medal (1995)

Languages

French (reading, writing, and speaking) and German (research)

References

Jeffrey Alexander, Lillian Chavenson Saden Professor of Sociology
Yale University, 493 College Street, Room 203, New Haven, CT 06511-8907
jeffrey.alexander@yale.edu

Jonathan Eastwood, Laurent Boetsch Associate Professor of Sociology
Washington & Lee University, Newcomb Hall 225, Lexington, VA 24450
eastwoodj@wlu.edu

Liah Greenfeld, University Professor and Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and
Anthropology
Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215
lvg@bu.edu

Charles Lindholm, University Professor and Professor of Anthropology (Emeritus)
Boston University, 232 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215
ldhm@bu.edu