

CURRICULUM VITAE

Peter C. Blum

(Updated January, 2020)

Hillsdale College
33 E. College St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

Email: pblum@hillsdale.edu
Webpage: <http://pblum.xyz>

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 INTEREST:

Sociology & Religion

Classical & 20th Century Social Theory, History of Sociology, Sociology of Knowledge,
Sociology of Religion, Anabaptist-Mennonite Studies, Modern & Postmodern Culture

Philosophy

19th & 20th Century Continental Philosophy, Phenomenology, Classical American Pragmatism,
Post-Structuralism, Psychoanalytic Thought, Philosophy of Religion, The Conservative
Intellectual Tradition

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 at South Bend (South Bend, IN): Adjunct Instructor in Sociology 1992,
in Philosophy 1988.

University of Notre Dame (Notre Dame, IN): Teaching Assistant in Sociology 1989-1992 (some classes as
sole instructor); in Philosophy 1986-1990

(A sample listing of courses taught is available at <https://pblum.xyz/academic/>)

PUBLISHED BOOK:

For a Church to Come: Experiments in Postmodern Theory and Anabaptist Thought. Published by Herald Press (Harrisonburg VA & Waterloo, ONT), March 5, 2013 as part of their series, *Polyglossia: Radical Reformation Theologies*. (This book includes revised versions of several articles below.)

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Blum's One-Sheet Guides. A series of articles, designed to fit on two sides of one sheet of paper, for use primarily in sociology courses. These could ultimately turn into a supplemental text for a general course in sociology in a liberal arts environment.

"Embodiment, Ambiguity, and the Tacit: Revisiting Polanyi and Merleau-Ponty" (current working title).

A reexamination of the work of Peter L. Berger.

PRINT ARTICLES:

(Asterisk [*] indicates invited publications. All others peer-reviewed. Caret [^] indicates articles revised and incorporated into *For a Church to Come*.)

"Two Cheers for an Ontology of Violence: Reflections on Im/Possibility," in Chris Huebner and Tripp York, eds., *The Gift of Difference: Radical Orthodoxy, Radical Reformation* (Canadian Mennonite University Press, 2010).*^

"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. Reprinted in *The New Yoder*, ed. Peter Dula & Chris K. Huebner (Cascade Books, 2010).^

"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. Reprinted in *The New Yoder*, ed. Peter Dula & Chris K. Huebner (Cascade Books, 2010).^

"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 Brunzma, 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.

ONLINE ESSAYS:

"Language Touches Nothing but Language." *The Imaginative Conservative*, February 28, 2018.

<http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/2018/02/language-touches-nothing-language-peter-blum.html>

"Freud Among the Great Books: Beyond a Monolithic 'Freudian Theory.'" *The Imaginative Conservative*, June 2, 2014. <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/2014/06/sigmund-freud-among-great-books-beyond-monolithic-freudian-theory.html>

"Derrida's Seriousness Part 2: On the 'Existence' of Justice." *The Imaginative Conservative*, March 29, 2013. <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/derridas-seriousness-part-two-on-the-existence-of-justice/>

"Is Jacques Derrida Serious? Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Deconstruction." *The Imaginative Conservative*, March 3, 2013. <https://theimaginativeconservative.org/2013/03/is-jacques-derrida-serious-how-i-learned-to-stop-worrying-and-love-deconstruction.html>

"On Saving Relativity from Relativism." *The Imaginative Conservative*, January 11, 2013. <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/on-saving-relativity-from-relativism/>

"Coming Out." *The Imaginative Conservative*, October 19, 2012. <http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/coming-out/>

PUBLISHED REVIEWS AND RESPONSES (Recent and Selected):

Review of John Patrick Koyles, *The Trace of the Face in the Politics of Jesus: Experimental Comparisons Between the Work of John Howard Yoder and Emmanuel Levinas* (Pickwick Publications, 2013). *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, October 2015, pp. 647-650.

Review of Clayton Crockett, B. Keith Putt, and Jeffrey W. Robbins (eds.), *The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion* (Indiana University Press, 2014). *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, March 30, 2015. <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/56526-the-future-of-continental-philosophy-of-religion/>

"Authority is the Real Issue: On Paul Martens' *The Heterodox Yoder*," *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, July 2013, pp. . Also posted with permission of *MQR* on my blog: <http://pblum.xyz/2013/04/17/heterodoxyoder/>.

"Secularism, Pluralism, and Particularity: What Was the Question?" *The Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network Newsletter*, Fall 2012. Also posted with permission on my blog: <http://pblum.xyz/2013/03/02/whatwasthequestion/>

"In Praise of the Least Oppressive Oligarchy," part of the forum, "Anabaptist Witness in the Public Square," *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.

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 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.

UNPUBLISHED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND RESPONSES (Recent and Selected):

(Excludes presentations of subsequently published articles)

- “Pluralism After the Death of Secularization: How Peter Berger’s Mind Did Not Change.” Presented at the Midwest Sociological Society Meetings, Cincinnati OH, April 18, 2019
- “Both Subversive and Conservative: Peter Berger and the Politics of Objectivity.” Presented at the North Central Sociological Association Meetings, Pittsburgh PA, April 6, 2018, as part of a session that I organized, “In Memory of Peter L. Berger (1929 – 2017)”.
- “Lost in the Commonsense Ambiguity: A Heideggerian Reflection on ‘The Situation’ as a Complex System.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, Seattle WA, August 19, 2016.
- “Close, but No Cigar? Mead, Freud, and the (Bodily) Space Between.” Presented at the joint meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association, Chicago IL, March 2016, as part of a panel that I organized, “Rereading George Herbert Mead: Embodied Mind, Constructed Self, and Big-Other Society.”
- “‘Where Two or Three are Gathered,’ but Who’s Counting?” Presented at the Toronto Mennonite Theological Centre, and as the Dean’s Lecture at Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON, November 2015.
- “The Body as Unit of Individuation: Notes from a Cell in the Panopticon.” Presented at the North Central Sociological Association Meetings, April 2015, Cleveland OH.
- “Systemic Meaning as Paradigm for the ‘Postmodern’: Is Hegel Waiting for Us?” Presented as part of the Doctoral Humanities Seminar for the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship, Hillsdale College, February 2015.
- “Explicit Sex and Mennonite Scruples: On Normative and Descriptive Topographies of Sexuality” (Alternate title: “Fixations: An Event with Four Footnotes”). Presented at the Mennonite Scholars and Friends Forum, San Diego CA, November 2014.
- “Of Slips Not Yet Showing: Rediscovering the Sociality of Self in Freud.” Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 11, 2014.
- “Not Every Other’s Your Mother, or Why We Should Pay More Attention to Freud than to ‘Freudians’.” Presented at Mossey Library, Hillsdale College, March 21, 2014.
- “Theory as a Kind of Writing (and Its Demonization).” Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 6, 2013, in a session that I organized, “History of Sociology and/as Theory.”

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Recent and Selected):

- Contributing Blogger, *Progarchy: A Celebration of Music* (<https://progarchy.com/author/umblay/>), 2012-Present
- Consulting Editor, *Conrad Grebel Review*, 2012-2018.
- Scholarly Achievement Award Committee Member, North Central Sociological Association, 2014.
- 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.
- Planning and local arrangements for conference, “Ritual in Anabaptist Communities,” Hillsdale College, June 26-28, 2003.

Design and implementation of the program in Sociology and Social Thought at Hillsdale College, 1992-93.
(Administration and program revisions continuing to the present.)

Committee service at Hillsdale College:

- Educational Policies Committee
- Faculty Library Advisory Committee (chair)
- Information Technology Advisory Committee (chair)
- Learning Management System (LMS) Change Task Force
- Sabbatical and Summer Leave Committee
- Tenure and Promotion Committee
- various faculty search committees