

SETH ABRUTYN

The University of British Columbia
6303 NW Marine Drive
Department of Sociology
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

Email: seth.abrutyn@ubc.ca
sethabrutyn.com
[Google Scholar](#)
[Semantic Scholar](#)

POSITIONS HELD

2024-Present Professor, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia
2019-2024 Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CA
2017-2019 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CA
2011-2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Memphis

PART-TIME/TEMPORARY POSITIONS HELD

2012 University of Bielefeld, Department of Sociology, Visiting Professor

EDUCATION

2009 Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Riverside
2004 M.A., Sociology, San Diego State University
2000 B.A., Sociology, Western Michigan University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociological Theory / Youth Suicide / Social Psychology / Emotions / Qualitative Methods / Institutions / Social Organization

BOOKS

Abrutyn, Seth and Omar Lizardo (eds.). Under Contract. *Handbook of Sociological Theorizing*. Oxford University Press.

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2024. *Life under Pressure: The Social Roots of Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community*. Oxford University Press.

- **Finalist PROSE Award for Cultural Anthropology and Sociology, Association of American Publishers, 2025**

Abrutyn, Seth and Jonathan H. Turner. 2022. *The First Institutional Spheres in Human Societies: Evolution and Adaptations from Foraging to the Brink of Modernity*. New York: Routledge.

- **Winner of Best Book Award, ASA Section on Biosociology and Evolutionary Sociology, 2024**

Abrutyn, Seth and Omar Lizardo (eds.). 2021. *Handbook of Classical Sociological Theory*. New York: Springer.

Abrutyn, Seth and Kevin McCaffree (eds.). 2021. *Theoretical Sociology: The Future of a Disciplinary Foundation*. New York: Routledge.

Abrutyn, Seth (ed.). 2016. *Handbook of Contemporary Sociological Theory*. New York: Springer.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. *Revisiting Institutionalism in Sociology: Putting the "Institution" Back in Institutional Analysis*. New York: Routledge.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Underline = Student Authors

Abrutyn, Seth. (Forthcoming). "Theorizing Affective Motivation: Motives, Seeking, and the Mundanity of Pleasure." *Sociological Theory*.

Abrutyn, Seth. (Forthcoming). "Weberian Agency in Sociocultural Evolution: Entrepreneurship, Cultural Assemblages, and Differentiation." *Zeitschrift für Theoretische Soziologie*.

Ghaziani, Amin and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2024. "Renewal without Replication: Extending Durkheim's Theory of Disruptions via Queer Nightlife." *British Journal of Sociology*. 75(4): 854-72. DOI:10.1111/1468-4446.13134

Abrutyn, Seth and Omar Lizardo. 2024. "Wanting, Liking, and a Theory of Motivation." *Sociological Forum*. 39(2):173-188. DOI:10.1111/sof.12996

Abrutyn, Seth and Jienian Zhang. 2024. "Morality, Affect, and Reputation in the Making of a Social Self." *Sociological Theory*. 42(1):73-96. DOI:10.1177/07352751231223203

Zhang, Jienian, Colter Uscola, **Seth Abrutyn**, and Anna S. Mueller. 2024. "Phenomenology, Cultural Meaning, and the Curious Case of Suicide: Localizing the Structure-Culture Dialectic." *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 54(6):516-40 DOI: 10.1177/00483931241246069

Abrutyn, Seth. 2024. "The Roots of Social Trauma, Collective, Cultural Pain and its Consequences." *Society and Mental Health*. 14(3):240-56. DOI:10.1177/21568693231213088

Abrutyn, Seth. 2024. "Disintegration in the Age of COVID: Biological Contamination, Social Danger, and the Search for Solidarity." *American Behavioral Scientist*. 68(6):740-759. DOI: 10.1177/00027642221132176

Abrutyn, Seth. 2023. "Toward a Sociological Theory of Social Pain." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. 53(3):351-371.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2023. "A Social Disorganizational Theory of Suicide." *Sociological Forum*. 38(2):298-323. DOI:10.31235/osf.io/35h96

Abrutyn, Seth and Omar Lizardo. 2023. "A Motivational Theory of Roles, Rewards, and Institutions." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. 53(2):200-220. DOI:10.1111/jtsb.12360

Mueller, Anna S., **Seth Abrutyn**, and Sarah Diefendorf. 2022. "Transforming U.S. Education to Prevent Suicide: A Vision for 2050." *Contexts*. 21(4):14-19.

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2022. "Toward a Robust Science of Suicide: Epistemological, Theoretical, and Methodological Considerations in Advancing Suicidology." *Death Studies*. 45(7):522-527. DOI: 10.1080/07481187.2019.1660081

Mueller, Anna S., **Seth Abrutyn**, Bernice Pescosolido, and Sarah Diefendorf. 2021. "The Social Roots of Suicide: Theorizing how the External Social World matters to Suicide and Prevention." *Frontiers in Psychology*. 31:doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.621569

Vanzella-Yang, Adam and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2021 "Tastes, Emotions, and Social Cohesion: Toward a Cultural Theory of Social Exchange." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. 52(2):315-335. DOI: 10.1111/jtsb.12323

Mueller, Anna S., Sarah Diefendorf, **Seth Abrutyn**, Katherine A. Beardall, Krystina Millar, Lauren O'Reilly, Hillary Steinberg, and James T. Watkins. 2021. "Youth Mask Wearing and Social Distancing Behavior at in-person High School Graduations during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 68(3):464-71. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2020.12.123>

Abrutyn, Seth and Omar Lizardo. 2020 "Grief, Care, and Play: Theorizing the Affective Roots of the Social Self" *Advances in Groups Processes*. 37:79-108.

McCaffree, Kevin and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2020. "Big Gods, Socio-Cultural Evolution and the Non-Obvious Merits of a Sociological Interpretation." *Religion*. 50(4):570-589. DOI: 10.1080/0048721X.2020.1712666

Abrutyn, Seth, Anna S. Mueller, and Melissa Osborne. 2020. "Re-keying Cultural Scripts for Youth Suicide: How Social Networks Facilitate Suicide Diffusion and Suicide Clusters following Exposure to Suicide" *Society and Mental Health*. 10(2):112-135. DOI:10.1177/2156869319834063

Miklin, Sanja, Anna S. Mueller, **Seth Abrutyn**, and Katherine Ordoñez. 2019. "What Does it Mean to be Exposed to Suicide: Suicide Exposure, Suicide Risk, and the Importance of Meaning Making." *Social Science and Medicine*. 233:21-27.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2019. "Toward a General Theory of Anomie: A Social Psychological Account of the Disintegrative Process." *European Journal of Sociology* 60(1):109-136.

Shuker, Zeinab and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2019. "Oil, Polity, and Civil Society: The Construction of a Hegemonic System in Iraq (1945-1958)." *Journal of Historical Sociology*. 32(4): 426-441. DOI:10.1111/johs.12250

Bottomely, Jamison S., **Seth Abrutyn**, Melissa A. Smigelsky, and Robert A. Neimeyer. 2019. "Exposure to Non-Fatal Suicide Behavior: Examining Pathways to Suicide Risk Using the IPTS." *Journal of Loss and Trauma* 24(3):261-278. DOI: 10.1080/15325024.2019.1565107

Abrutyn, Seth. 2018. "Integrity, Sportsmanship, Character: Baseball's Moral Entrepreneurs and the Production and Reproduction of Institutional Autonomy." *The Sociological Quarterly*. 59(3):519-544.

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2018. "Towards a Cultural-Structural Theory of Suicide: Examining Excessive Regulation and its Discontents." *Sociological Theory*. 36(1):48-66.

Binnix, Taylor, Carol Rambo, **Seth Abrutyn**, and Anna S. Mueller. 2018. "The Dialectics of Stigma, Silence, and Misunderstandings in Suicidality Survival Narratives." *Deviant Behavior*. 39(8):1095-1106.

Bottomely, Jamison S., **Seth Abrutyn**, Melissa A. Smigelsky, and Robert A. Neimeyer. 2018. "Mental Health Symptomology and Exposure to Non-Fatal Behavior: Factors that Predict Vulnerability and Resilience Among College Students." *Archives of Suicide Research*. 22(4):596-614.

Turner, Jonathan H. and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2017. "Returning the "Social" to Evolutionary Sociology: Reconsidering Spencer, Durkheim, and Marx's Models of "Natural" Selection." *Sociological Perspectives*. 60(3):529-556. DOI: 10.1177/0731121416641936.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2017. "What Hindu Sati Can Teach Us About the Social Psychological Dynamics of Suicide." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. 47(4):522-539.

Mueller, Anna S., **Seth Abrutyn**, and Melissa Osborne. 2017. "Durkheim's *Suicide* in the Zombie Apocalypse." *Contexts*. 16(2):44-49.

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2016. "Adolescents under Pressure: A New Durkheimian Framework for Understanding Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community." *American Sociological Review*. 81(5): 877-899.

- **Winner of the Best Publication, ASA Section on *Mental Health*, 2017**
- **Winner of the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award, ASA Section on *Children and Youth*, 2017**

Abrutyn, Seth, Justin Van Ness, and Marshall Taylor. 2016. "Collective Action and Cultural Change: Revisiting Eisenstadt's Evolutionary Theory." *Journal of Classical Sociology*. 17(1):369-95.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2016. "Why Groups Matter to Sociocultural Evolution: How Religio-Cultural Entrepreneurship Drove Political and Religious Evolution in Ancient Israel." *Comparative Sociology*. 15(3):324-353.

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2016. "When Too Much Integration and Regulation Hurts: Re-Envisioning Durkheim's Altruistic Suicide." *Society and Mental Health*. 6(1):56-71.

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2015. "Suicidal Disclosures among Friends: Using Social Network Data to Understand Suicide Suggestion." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 56(1):131-148.

- **Winner of the Best Publication, ASA Section on *Mental Health*, 2015**

Mueller, Anna S., Wesley James, **Seth Abrutyn**, and Martin Levin. 2015. "Suicide Ideation and Bullying Among U.S. Adolescents: Examining the Intersection of Sexual Orientation, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity." *American Journal of Public Health*. 105(5):980-985.

Mueller, Anna S., **Seth Abrutyn**, and Cynthia Stockton. 2015. "Can Social Ties Be Harmful? Examining the Social Dynamics of Suicide Suggestion in Early Adulthood." *Sociological Perspectives*. 58(2):204-222.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2015. "Money, Sacredness, and Love: Generalized Symbolic Media and the Production of Instrumental, Affectual, and Moral Reality." *Czech Sociological Review*. 51(3):445-471.

Abrutyn, Seth and Justin Van Ness. 2015. "The Role of Agency in Sociocultural Evolution: Institutional Entrepreneurship as a Force of Structural and Cultural Transformation." *Thesis Eleven*. 127(1):52-77.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2015. "The Institutional Evolution of Religion: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Ancient Israel." *Religion*. 45(4):505-531.

Lawrence, Kirk and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2015. "The Degradation of Nature and the Growth of Environmental Concern: Toward a Theory of the Capture and Limits of Ecological Value." *Human Ecology Review*. 21(1):87-108.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2015. "Pollution-Purification Rituals, Cultural Memory, and the Evolution of Religion: How Collective Trauma Shaped Ancient Israel." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*. 3(1):123-155.

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2014. "The Socioemotional Foundations of Suicide: A Microsociological View of Durkheim's Suicide." *Sociological Theory*. 32(4):327-351.

- **Winner of the Recent Contribution to the Literature, ASA Section on *Emotions*, 2015**

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2014. "Are Suicidal Behaviors Contagious in Adolescence?: Using Longitudinal Data to Examine Suicide Suggestion." *American Sociological Review*. 79(2):211-227.

- **Winner of the Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, ASA Section on Medical Sociology, 2015**
- **Winner of the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award, ASA Section on Children and Youth, 2015**

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2014. "Reconsidering Durkheim's Assessment of Tarde: Formalizing a Tardian Theory of Imitation, Contagion, and Suicide Suggestion." *Sociological Forum*. 29(3):698-719.

Abrutyn, Seth and Michael J. Carter. 2014. "The Decline in Shared Collective Conscience as Found in the Shifting Norms and Values of Etiquette Manuals." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*. 45(3):352-376. DOI: 10.1111/jtsb.12071

Abrutyn, Seth. 2014. "Religious Autonomy and Religious Entrepreneurship: An Evolutionary-Institutionalist's Take on the Axial Age." *Comparative Sociology*. 13(2):105-134. (lead article).

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. "Reconceptualizing the Dynamics of Religion as a Macro Institutional Domain." *Structure and Dynamics*. 6(3):1-21. (lead article)

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. "Revisiting and Reinvigorating Evolutionary Sociology: Bringing Institutions Back to Life." *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*. 31:247-76.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. "Reconceptualizing Religious Evolution: Toward a General Theory of Macro-Institutional Change." *Social Evolution and History* 12(2):5-36. (lead article)

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. "Political Evolution, Entrepreneurship, and Autonomy: Causes and Consequences of an "Axial" Moment." *Research in Political Sociology* 21:3-29. (lead article)

Abrutyn, Seth. 2013. "Teaching Sociological Theory for a New Century: Contending with the Time Crunch." *The American Sociologist* 44(2):132-54.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2012. "Towards a General Theory of Institutional Ecology: The Dynamics of Macro Structural Space." *Review of European Studies* 4(5):167-80.

Abrutyn, Seth and Jonathan H. Turner. 2011. "The Old Institutionalism Meets the New Institutionalism." *Sociological Perspectives* 54(3):283-306.

Stephen K. Sanderson, **Seth Abrutyn**, and Kristopher Proctor. 2011. "Testing the Protestant Ethic Thesis with Quantitative Historical Data: A Research Note." *Social Forces* 89(3):1-7.

Abrutyn, Seth and Kirk Lawrence. 2010. "From Chiefdom to State: Toward an Integrative Theory of the Evolution of Polity." *Sociological Perspectives* 53(3):419-42.

- **Winner of Best Paper Award for a Faculty Member, ASA Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society, 2013**

Brint, Steven G. and **Seth Abrutyn**. 2010. "Who's Right About the Right?: Comparing Competing Explanations of the Link Between Conservative Protestants and Conservative Politics in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 49(2):328-50.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2009. "Toward a General Theory of Institutional Autonomy." *Sociological Theory* 27(4):449-65.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Abrutyn, Seth, Anna S. Mueller, Sarah Diefendorf, Jienian Zhang, Lauren Beard, Katie A. Beardall, Jessica Brantez, Olivia DeCrane, Robert Gallagher, Roberto Ortiz, Brindin Parrot, and Hillary Steinberg. January 2024. "Building Schools & Communities that Prevent Youth Suicide." Prepared for the Western Slope Public School District and included in the Final Report of the Social Worlds and Youth Well-Being Study, Western Slope, Colorado. DOI: 10.31235/osf.io/pcmhs

Mueller, Anna S., Sarah Diefendorf, **Seth Abrutyn**, Katie A. Beardall, Robert Gallagher, J'Mauri Jackson, Yingjian Liang, Hillary Steinberg, James Watkins, and Hannah Worton. October 2021. "Strategies to Improve Youth Suicide Prevention in Schools and Communities." Prepared for the Front Range School District and included in the Final Report of the Social Worlds and Youth Well-Being Study, Front Range, Colorado. DOI:10.31235.osf.io/znrjg

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Abrutyn, Seth. Forthcoming. "The Logic of Generalized Media of Exchange: Revisiting Simmel's Philosophy of Money." In *Elgar Companion to Georg Simmel*, edited by D. Silver and M. Brocic. New York: Elgar.

Zhang, Jienian, Anna S. Mueller, and **Seth Abrutyn**. Forthcoming. "The Social Psychology of Children and Youth. In *Handbook of Social Psychology: Micro, Meso, and Macro Perspectives*, edited by J. Stets, K. Hegvedt, L. Doan. New York: Springer

Abrutyn, Seth and Colter Uscola. Forthcoming. "The Neurosociology of Social Pain." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Neurosociology, v2*, edited by W. Kahlkoff, R. Firat, J. Dippong. New York: Springer.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2024. "Religion as World Maker: On Robert Bellah, *Religion in Human Evolution*." Pp. 176-185 in *21st Century Theories of Religion*, edited by M. Stausberg. Taylor & Francis.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2024. "A Goldmine of Ideas – Q/A with Malcom Gladwell." *Contexts*. 23(1):8-10.

Abrutyn, Seth and Julia Goldman-Hasbun. 2023. "The Sociology of Childhood and Youth Morality." Pp. 159-72 in *Handbook of the Sociology of Morality, v2* edited by S. Hitlin, A. Luft, S. Dromi. New York: Springer

- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2023. "Reacquainting Ourselves with the Familiar." *Symbolic Interaction*. doi.org/10.1002/symb.643. (Invited Book Review).
- Sarah Diefendorf, Sarah Van Norden, **Seth Abrutyn** & Anna Mueller. 2022. "Understanding Bereavement, Contagion, and the Importance of Thoughtful Postvention." Pp. 51-60 in *Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention: Current Best Practices and Policy Implications* edited by Ackerman, J. and L. Horowitz. Cham: Springer International. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-06127-1_6
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2021. "Re-conceptualizing the Axial Age as the Re-emergence of Transcendence: Why Religio-Cultural Entrepreneurship Matters." Pp. 123-151 in *Interpreting and Explaining Transcendence: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Beyond* edited by R. Yelle and J. Ponzio. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2021. "Does Differentiation Still Matter to Sociology?" Pp. 147-168 in *The Handbook of Classical Sociological Theory* edited by **S. Abrutyn** and O. Lizardo. New York: Springer.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2021. "Beware of Fads and Fashions: A Case for Macro-Evolutionary Sociology." Pp. 84-120 in *Theoretical Sociology: The Future of a Disciplinary Foundation* edited by **S. Abrutyn** and K. McCaffree. New York: Routledge.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2020. "Sociological Theory in the Digital Age." *Information, Communication, and Society*. DOI; 10.1080/1369118X.2020.1791219. (Book Review)
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2019. "Dialogical Social Theory." *Contemporary Sociology*. 48(6):674-676 (Invited Book Review)
- Abrutyn, Seth** and Kevin McCaffree. 2019. "Evolutionary Sociology." In *Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, edited by G. Ritzer and C. Rojek. New York: Wiley-Blackwell. DOI:10.1002/9781405165518.wbeose093.pub2
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2018. "Anomie and Strain Theory." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*, edited by L. Spillman. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI:10.1093/OBO/9780199756384-0157
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2018. "Teenage Suicide Notes." *Sociological Inquiry*. 88(1):184-186. (Invited Book Review)
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2017. "JTS After-Panel: Theory, the Good Society, and Positionality." *Perspectives*. 39(2).
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2017. Resurrecting Durkheim." *Perspectives*. 39(1):9-13.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2016. "Institutional Spheres: The Macro Structure and Culture of Social Life." Pp. 207-228 in *The Contemporary Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by S. Abrutyn. New York: Springer.

- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2016. "Introduction: The State of Sociological Theory." Pp. 1-16 in *The Contemporary Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by S. Abrutyn. New York: Springer.
- Blume, Amelia and Seth Abrutyn.** 2016. "Polygyny." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9781119085621.wbef266
- Blume, Amelia and Seth Abrutyn.** 2016. "Polyandry." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9781119085621.wbef119
- Blume, Amelia, Zeinab Shuker, and Seth Abrutyn.** 2016. "Place of Residence Rules." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9781119085621.wbef120
- Shuker, Zeinab and Seth Abrutyn.** 2016. "Primogeniture." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9781119085621.wbef101
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2015. "Herbert Spencer, (1820-1903)." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Doi.org/10.1002/9781118663202.wberen122
- Stack, Steven and **Seth Abrutyn.** 2015. "Suicide by Fire: Ethnicity as a Predictor of Self Immolation in the U.S." Pp. 193-210 in *Suicide as Performance*, edited by D. Lester and S. Stack. New York: Transaction Press.
- Anderson, Eugene and **Seth Abrutyn.** 2014. "Religion in Human Evolution." *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*. 8(1):111-127. (Book Review)
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2013. "Positivism." In *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*, edited by J. Manza. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199756384-0142
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2012. "Hinduism." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by G. Ritzer and N. Jurgenson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9780470670590.wbeog268
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2012. "Religions, Global." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by G. Ritzer and N. Jurgenson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. doi.org/10.1002/9780470670590.wbeog493
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2010. "Functionalism." In *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by G. Kurian. Washington D.C.: CGPress and the Encyclopedic Society.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2010. "Post-Modernism." In *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by G. Kurian. Washington D.C.: CGPress and the Encyclopedic Society.
- Abrutyn, Seth.** 2010. "Structuralism." In *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, edited by G. Kurian. Washington D.C.: CGPress and the Encyclopedic Society.
- Brint, Steven G. and **Seth Abrutyn.** 2009. "From Status Group Conflict to Institutionalized Party-Movement Electoral System." Pp. 105-40 in *Evangelicals, the "Traditionalist*

Alliance, ” and Democracy in America, vol. II, edited by S.G. Brint and J. Schroedel. New York: Russell Sage.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2009. “Institutions as Evolutionary Adaptations.” *Perspectives* 30:2-4, 11.

Stets, Jan E., Michael J. Carter, Michael M. Harrod, Christine Cerven, and **Seth Abrutyn.** 2008. “The Moral Identity, Moral Emotions, and the Normative Order.” Pp. 227-52 in *Social Structure and Emotion*, edited by D.T. Robinson and J. Clay-Warner. San Diego: Elsevier.

HONORS, DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS

- *Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda Setting in Sociology* (American Sociological Association Section on Sociological Theory), 2024
- *Best Book Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Biosociology and Evolutionary Sociology, w/ Jonathan H. Turner), 2024
- *Best Publication Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Mental Health, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2017
- *Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Children and Youth, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2017
- *Early Career Research Award* (The University of Memphis), 2015
- *Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2015
- *Best Publication Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Mental Health, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2015
- *Recent Contribution Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Emotions, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2015
- *Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Children and Youth, w/ Anna S. Mueller), 2015
- *Best Faculty Paper Award* (American Sociological Association Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society, w/ Kirk Lawrence), 2013
- *Teaching Assistant of the Year*, University of California, Riverside, 2007

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS

- National Institute of Mental Health (R01), “Suicide Clusters in Schools and Communities,” (\$1.91 Million; Role: co-Investigator; PI Anna S. Mueller) (9/1/21-8/31/24).
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Standard Research Grant (9/19-8/21), Role: Consultant, (\$6000)
- Hampton Endowment Grant, (\$8900), UBC 2018
- *The Sociology Scholarship Incentive Award*, (\$500), The University of Memphis, 2013
- *Travel Enrichment Grant*, (\$1200), The University of Memphis, 2012

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “Imagining an Affective Turn in Sociology.” *Coser Salon* lecture at the meeting of the American Sociological Association, Theory Section, Chicago, IL.
- 2025 “Organizations and Suicide Prevention.” Invited paper at *Suicide Cultures and the Culture of Suicide* at University of Edinburgh. (5/2025)
- 2025 “Social Roots of Suicide.” Invited talk at the University of Washington Sociology. (4/2025)
- 2025 “Normative Capacity and a Cultural Model of Suicide.” Paper presented at the meetings for the Suicide Research Symposium. (4/2025)
- 2025 “Imagining an Affective Sociology.” Invited Talk at WiSIU (Indiana University Sociology). (2/2025)
- 2024 “Preventing Suicide in Schools: Strategies & Barriers to Effectively Supporting Youth” (w/ Robert Gallagher). At the meeting of *Suicide Research Symposium*. (4/2024).
- 2023 “The Social and Cultural Roots of Youth Suicide.” Invited talk at the *Division of Social & Transcultural Psychiatry* Speaker Series, McGill University (12/14/23).
- 2023 “Schooling amidst Rising Youth Suicide: How Supporting Vulnerable Students Impacts School Staff’s Work and Wellbeing” (w/ Anna S. Mueller, Sarah H. Diefendorf, Katherine Phillippo, Jonathan Singer, and Jienian Zhang). At the meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Goffman’s Theory of Self” (w/ Jienian Zhang). At the meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Cultural Sociology and the Study of Suicide.” Invited paper at the *Suicide Cultures* mini-conference. Edinburgh, Scotland. (6/2023)
- 2023 “Whose Job is Suicide Prevention: Institutional Ambiguity and the Challenge of Suicide Prevention in U.S. Schools” (w/ Katie Beardall, Anna S. Mueller, and Sarah Diefendorf) At the *Suicide Research Symposium* (4/2023)
- 2023 “Jan Fuhse: Social Networks of Meaning and Communication.” Invited critic in Author-Meets-Critic session. Eastern Sociological Society. Baltimore, MD.
- 2023 “Natasha Warikoo: A Race to the Top.” Invited critic in Author-Meets-Critic session. Eastern Sociological Society. Baltimore, MD.
- 2022 “Improving Suicide Prevention in Schools and Communities.” Invited Talk at the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Summit. 9/15/2022.
- 2022 “Displacing Suicidal Youth: How School Bureaucracies Prioritize Student Mental Health and Equity Matters for Suicide Cluster Formation.” (w/ Anna Mueller and Sarah

- Diefendorf). Invited Session at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 “Whose Job is Suicide Prevention? Institutional Ambiguity and the Challenge of Suicide Prevention in U.S. Schools.” (w/ Katie Beardall and Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2021 “Building Effective Mental Health Safety Nets in Schools: An Organizational Theory of Youth Suicide Clusters in Schools.” (w/ Anna Mueller and Sarah Diefendorf). Invited talk at the *Suicide Cultures Seminar*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. (11/17/21).
- 2021 “The Social Roots of Adolescent Suicide.” Invited Plenary Address at the meetings of the Canadian Sociological Association, Alberta, Canada (On Zoom).
- 2021 “Bringing Neuroscience and Sociology into Dialogue on Emotions.” Invited talk at This View of Life webinar series *Evolutionary Science and Sociology: A Series of Conversations*.
- 2021 “The Social Roots of Adolescent Suicide Clusters in a High School.” Invited talk at Bowling Green State University’s Center for Family and Demographic Research speaker series.
- 2020 “Erich Fromm’s *Escape from Freedom* and Contemporary Sociological Theory.” Invited talk at The Psychosocial Turn: Multidimensional Perspectives on Politics, Society, and the Individual mini-conference (on Zoom).
- 2020 “Durkheim, the Sociology of Suicide, and the Evolution of Theory.” Invited Paper presented at the Department of Sociology, University of North Texas. (Canceled Covid-19)
- 2020 “Classical Theory and its Discontents.” Paper presented at the meetings of Pacific Sociological Association, Eugene, OR. (Canceled Covid-19)
- 2019 “The Social Roots of Adolescent Suicide.” Invited Paper presented at the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Summit, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019 “The Social Roots of Adolescent Suicide” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York City.
- 2018 “After a Suicide in High School: The Consequences of Not Talking to Youth Openly about Suicide.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the International Sociological Association World Congress, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2018 “Abductive Methods, Constructing Theory, and Building Research Programs.” (w/ Amelia Blume). Paper presented at the Future Theory Symposium at the Canadian Sociological Association meetings, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 2018 “After a Suicide in High School: The Consequences of Not Talking to Youth Openly about Suicide.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.

- 2018 “Exposure to Suicide in Adolescence: Leveraging Longitudinal Data and Causal Modeling Techniques to Understand Risk of Suicidality Post-Exposure.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “Durkheim and His Discontents: A Social Psychological, Cultural, and Emotional Reappraisal of Suicide.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Invited paper in a special session “Generations of Suicide Risk” at the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “Theory, Theorists, and Public Sociology.” Invited paper at the Junior Theorist Symposium’s after-panel, “Theory, the Good Society, and Positionality.” Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “How Suicide Becomes an Option for Youth in a Cohesive Community.” Invited talk at the Department of Sociology’s Urban Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2016 “Fusing the Old with the New: How Integrative Approaches to Morality and Emotions Resist Reinventing the Wheel.” Paper Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Modernizing Durkheim’s Fatalistic Suicide: The Social Psychological, Cultural, and Emotional Dynamics of Suicide” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Abduction and the Reimagining of Durkheim’s Suicide: A Case Study of a Suicide-Prone Cohesive Community” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Reconceptualizing Durkheim’s Suicide: The Case of Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community.” Invited Paper presented at the University of California-Riverside, Department of Sociology and The School of Public Policy’s Colloquium Series. (February)
- 2016 “Adolescents under Pressure: A New Durkheimian Framework for Understanding Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community” (w/ Anna Mueller). Invited talk at the Demography Workshop, Population Research Center, University of Chicago (March 3, 2016), Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Reconsidering Durkheim’s Altruistic Suicide: Toward a Broader Theory of Integration, Regulation, and Suicide” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Parents Under Pressure: The Social Dynamics Surrounding Blame for Suicide Deaths in a Privileged Community” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “Community Matters: Understanding the Social Dynamics in an Echo-Suicide-Cluster Case Study.” (w/ Anna. S Mueller. and Taylor Binnix). Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Association of Suicidology. Atlanta, GA.

- 2014 “The Socioemotional Structure of Suicide (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 “The Socioemotional Structure of Suicide” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Association for Suicidology, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 “Suicidal Disclosure between Friends: Using Social Network Data to Understand Suicide Suggestion” (w/ Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Association for Suicidology, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014 “Examining Gender Differences in the Social Contagion of Suicide through Friendships” (w/ Anna S. Mueller and Darla Still). Paper presented at the meetings of the Sociologists for Women in Society, Nashville, TN.
- 2013 “Suicidal Disclosures between Friends: Using Social Network Data to Understand Suicide Suggestion.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Invited talk at the Social Networks Graduate Seminar, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education, College of Education, Michigan State University, (December 2013) E. Lansing, Michigan.
- 2013 “Can Social Ties Be Harmful?” (w/ Anna S. Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York City, NY.
- 2013 “Authoritative Nuances in NRMs: An Ethnographic Examination of Informal Authority Structures in the Twelve Tribes.” (w/ Amelia Blume). Paper presented at the meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, NY.
- 2013 “Examining the Limits of Social Contagion: Suicide Suggestion in Early Adulthood.” (w/ Anna Mueller and Cynthia Stockton). Paper presented at the annual meetings of the Population Association of America, Princeton, NJ.
- 2012 “The 21st Century and Teaching Sociological Theory: Contending with the Time Crunch.” Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO.
- 2012 “Are Suicidal Behaviors Contagious in Adolescence? Understanding the Role of Selection in Suicide Imitation.” (w/ Anna Mueller). Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO.
- 2012 “Max Weber and the Rise of Capitalism: The City, Law, and Yes, the Protestant Ethic.” Presented at the meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2012 “Institutional Entrepreneurship.” (w/ Justin Van Ness). Presented at the meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2011 “On the State of Theory.” Invited to present at the meetings of the California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA.
- 2011 “From the Margins to the Center: Revisiting Macro Structural Analysis.” Paper presented at the meetings of the California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA.

- 2011 “Towards a Theory of Institutional Ecology.” Paper presented at the meetings of American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 “The Axial Age: Religious Entrepreneurship.” Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009 “From Chiefdoms to States.” (w/ Kirk Lawrence). Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco.
- 2008 “Putting the “Institution” Back in Institutional Analysis: An Evolutionary Approach.” Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
- 2008 “Institutional Autonomy: Revisiting Old Institutional Analysis From the “Inside Out.” Presented at the Junior Theorist Symposium at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2007 “The Mechanisms and Processes of Institutional Autonomy.” Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York City, NY.
- 2007 “Towards a General Theory of Institutional Autonomy.” Presented at the meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA.
- 2007 “From Status Group Conflict to Institutionalized Party-Movement Electoral System.” (w/ Steven G. Brint). Presented at the Christian Conservatives and American Democracy Conference in New York.
- 2006 “The Israeli Legal System: A Barrier to Theocracy?” Presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Social Worlds and Youth Well-Being Final Report: Identifying Strategies to Improve Suicide Prevention on the Western Slope.” (w/ Anna S. Mueller). Presented in 14 Meetings (2/11-2/16) in Grand Junction, CO Public Schools.

EDITORIAL, COMMITTEE, & ADVISEMENT WORK

Editorial Positions & Board Memberships

- 2023-2025 **Co-Editor** (w/ Amin Ghaziani), *Contexts*, American Sociological Association Journal
- 2024-Present *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* (Editorial Board Member)
- 2021-2022 *Social Psychology Quarterly* (Editorial Board Member)
- 2018-2020 *American Sociological Review* (Editorial Board Member)
- 2018-2020 *Sociological Perspectives* (Editorial Board Member)

Advisory Board Membership

2020-2025 Advisory Board Member, *Suicide Cultures: Reimagining Suicide Research*, PI Amy Chandler, University of Edinburgh

American Sociological Association Elected Officer

2023-2025 **Council Member**, American Sociological Association Section on *Biosociology and Evolutionary Sociology*

2022-2024 **Council Member**, American Sociological Association Section on *Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity*

2019-2021 **Secretary/Treasurer**, American Sociological Association on *Children and Youth*

2016-2019 **Council Member**, American Sociological Association Section on *Emotions*

American Sociological Association Committee Member/Chair

2024 Book Prize Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Sociological Theory*

2023 Graduate Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association Section on *Emotions*

2022 Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Sociological Theory*

2021 **Chair**, Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Children and Youth*

2020 **Chair**, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Emotions*

2016 Best Contribution (Book) Award Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Emotions*

2014 **Chair**, Best Student Paper Award Committee, American Sociological Association Section on *Evolution, Biology, and Society*

2011 Best Faculty Book Award, American Sociological Association Section on *Evolution, Biology, and Society*

PhD, Committee Chair

Uscola, Colter (Present)

Goldman-Hasbun, Julia (2023)

PhD, Committee Member (UBC, Unless Otherwise Noted)

Ward, Pace, Notre Dame (Present)

Gallagher, Robert, Indiana (Present)

Yang, Tori (Present)

Ivanova, Lily (Present)

Vanzella-Yang, Adam (2022)

Miklin, Sanja, Chicago (2021)

Blume, Amelia, Arizona (2020)

PhD Service Member (UBC, Unless Otherwise Noted)

Jopling, Ellen (2024, Psychology, External Examiner)
Bročić, Miloš, Toronto (2023, External Examiner)
Anderson, Bryce, Dalhousie College (2023, External Examiner)
Babando, Jordan, Queen's College (2020, External Examiner)
Keats-Osborn, William (2018, Internal Department Examiner)

Masters Thesis Directed (UBC, Unless Otherwise Noted)

Curran-Morton, Olivia (Present)	Uscola, Colter (2022)
Pollack, Lauren (Present)	Harris, ReKeycha (2017, Memphis)
Antebi, Lara (2024)	Binnix, Taylor (2016, Memphis)
Corbett, Matja-Leena (2023)	Shuker, Zeinab (2015, Memphis)
Charles, Jada. (2023)	Blume, Amelia (2014, Memphis)

Masters Thesis Committee Member (UBC, Unless Otherwise Noted)

Kong, Capri (2025)	Taylor, Marshall, Memphis (2014)
Nkoghe, Tristan (2023)	Scott, Michele, Memphis (2013)
Jamula, Ryan (2021)	Smiley, Kevin, Memphis (2013)
Boudreaux, JoAnna, Memphis (2017)	
Bottomley, Jamison S. Memphis (2017 Psychology)	

Undergraduate Supervision

Dierkes, Emma. 2024. Directed Study – Research Assistantship, Faculty Supervisor, UBC
Srirachanikorn, Richy. 2022. Directed Study in Social Psychology, Faculty Advisor, UBC
Cho, David. 2020-21. Honor's Thesis, Faculty Advisor, UBC
Ellis, Rayna. 2019-20. Honor's Thesis, Faculty Advisor, UBC
Cho, Veronica. 2018-19. Faculty Advisor for *Student Directed Seminar*, UBC
Still, Darla. 2013. Honor's Thesis, Faculty Advisor, U of Memphis

Service for Annual Meetings of Professional Organizations

2025	Organizer , Regular Session on Emotions, American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
2022	Discussant , Regular Session on Sociological Theory, American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA
2020	Organizer , Regular Session on Social Capital, American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA
2016	Program Committee (Theory Sessions), Southern Sociological Society
2017	Organizer/Presider , Regular Session on Sociology of Emotions, American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada
2015	Organizer/Presider , Regular Paper Session on “Contemporary Sociological Theory,” Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA
2014	Organizer/Presider , Regular Paper Session, American Sociological Association Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society, San Francisco, CA
2013	Organizer/Presider , Regular Session on “Developments in Sociological Theory,” Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA
2012	Organizer/Presider , Regular Session on “Social Theory: From Marx to Himes

- 2012 (Beauregard),” Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA
Organizer/Presider, Regular Session on “Entrepreneurship and Networks,”
Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 **Organizer**, Roundtables, American Sociological Society Section on
Sociological Theory, Boston, MA
- 2008 **Discussant**, Regular Session on “Positive Movements in Sociological
Theory, Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA