

ANDREAS GLAESER

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ACADEMIC POSITION:

The University of Chicago,

Associate Professor of Sociology and of the Social Sciences in the College, affiliation with the Department of Germanic Studies and Center for International Studies (since 2005)

Assistant Professor (1998-2004)

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Political Epistemics: The Secret Police, the Opposition and the End of East German Socialism.
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Spring 2011

Divided in Unity: Identity, Germany and the Berlin Police. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Spring 2000 (paperback edition, Fall 2002)

Articles:

“Competence, Power, and Critique: Approaching Agency Ethnographically” ready for submission

“Political Understandings and the Stability of Institutions” in *Perspectives on Europe* 42.2 (Fall 2011)

“Generating Theory Ethnographically”, in James Faubion, George Marcus and Dominic Boyer eds. *Theory is Much More than it Used to Be* Cornell University Press, Fall 2013

"An Ontology for the Ethnographic Analysis of Social Processes: Extending the Extended Case Method" in, *Social Analysis* 49.3, 2005 Reprinted in Handleman, Don and Evens, T.M.S. 2006. The Manchester School. New York: Berghahn, pp. 64-93; French version in preparation.

“Collective Intentionality, Belonging and the Production of State Paranoia: Stasi in the Late GDR” in press in Shryock, Andrew, ed., 2004, *Off Stage/On Display: Intimacies and Ethnographies in the Age of Public Culture*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

“Power/Knowledge Failure: Epistemic Practices and Ideologies in the Secret Police of Former East Germany” in, *Social Analysis*, vol. 47 (1), 2003

“Why Germany Remains Divided” in Sander Gilman and Todd Herzog (eds.) *The New Germany in a New Europe*. London: Routledge, 2000

“Placed Selves: The Role of Space in Identity Formation Processes of Eastern and Western Berlin Police Officers after German Unification,” in *Social Identities*, vol. IV, 1.1998

BOOK REVIEWS AND INCIDENTAL PIECES:

“Theory by Way of Ethnography” in, *Perspectives*, January 2004

“Where the World Ended: Reunification and Identity in the German Boderland” by bookreview in *AJS*. 105.5, 2000

“Reconstructing a Woman’s Prison: The Holloway Redevelopment Project 1968-88” bookreview in *AJS*. 104.6, 1999

CURRENT PROJECTS:

Book and Paper Projects:

“*An Essay on the History of the Social Imagination in the Western World*”

Both current academic and popular social imaginaries are characterized by a certain paucity that is new for the period of history commonly labeled “modernity”. At present, there is no set of social imaginaries judged both plausible and desirable that could assume the critical role that contract theory played to absolutism or that socialism played to the emerging liberal democratic market order of the 19th and early 20th century. In other words, we seem to have a hard time today to imagine persuasive alternatives to the established order. Other forms of institutional arrangements are either judged as utopian (that is implausible in their potential for realization) or dystopian (that is highly undesirable). For me this is reason enough to explore social imaginaries and notably political fantasies at other times and places with the triple agenda of identifying the sources of present imaginaries, of reconsidering discarded alternatives and of understanding the institutional environment within which these imaginaries have both emerged and wielded effects. I have begun with an exploration of the imaginaries cultivated in the Hebrew Bible and in classical Greek understandings of social life.

"Towards a Sociology of Liberation"

The extant political theory literature on freedom largely ignores the fact that humans are social beings constituted in their relationship with others. How would we think differently about freedom if took the insights of the social sciences seriously? Such perspective immediately recasts the entire question as one of institutional arrangements not so much to safe-guard humans from interference or from subjection to arbitrary rule (the liberal and republican imaginaries resectively) but to cultivate the conditions for the possibility to think and experience the world in open and creative ways.

"Fantastic Riches: Circular Knowledge in the Formation of Economic Bubbles"

Fantasy is a central aspect of economic life because investments are based on discounting future income streams. Since what is expected is difficult to ascertain, the opinions of others matter greatly in the production of confidence about what appears as scientifically generated projection. What emerges here is a very peculiar way of producing knowledge from within the economy about the economy which has considerable consequences for the performance of the economy.

" Process Dynamics: A Critique of "Mechanisms" This article existing in draft form outlines an alternative to the fast proliferating thinking in terms of "mechanisms" in the social sciences.

EDUCATION:

Harvard University:

PhD in sociology (November 1997). Areas of specialization: Theory, culture, identity, ethnographic field methods

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University:

MPA (June 1992). Area of specialization: International political economy

Eberhard-Karls University, Tübingen, Germany:

MA. in economics (1990). Areas of specialization: Econometrics and statistics, development economics

SPEECHES AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

"Politics and the Ironies of Control: The Case of German State Socialism" Keynote address to the fourth annual seminar of the History-Sociology Graduate School at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, 9 February 2012.

"Thinking Theoretically with Ethnography" Keynote address to the Chicago area ethnography conference, February 2010

"How About Becoming a Poet?" The Aims of Education Address 2005, The University of Chicago. To be published in the series "Occasional Papers on Higher Education," The College of the University of Chicago

“Theory by Way of Ethnography” keynote address, the Chicago Area Ethnography Conference, Chicago, February 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

“In the Warming Shadow of the Cold War: Liberal Fantasies in Henckel von Donnersmarck's *The Lives of Others*”

“Sociotheology: Social Imaginaries and Political Fantasies in the Hebrew Bible”, paper presented at the 20th anniversary conference of the department of sociology and anthropology of the Central European University, Budapest, September 2011

“In the Warming Shadow of the Cold War: Political Fantasy in the “Lives of Others” American Anthropological Association, Montreal November 2011

“Plausible Pasts: A New Method for Historical Ethnography”, paper presented at the SSHA conference, Chicago November 2010

“Agency: A Hermeneutic Approach” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, November 2009

“Though Shalt Theorize: Narrative and Theory in Fiction and Ethnography”, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 2009

“From East-West to Rich-Poor: Class Formation and Political Entrepreneurship in Contemporary Germany” paper presented at the “Happy Birthday FRG Conference” sponsored by the Humboldt Foundation, Montreal, Canada, May 2009

“Though shalt Theorize! Narrative and Theory in Literature and Ethnography” paper presented at a conference at Rice University's department of anthropology, Houston April 2009

“The Metapragmatics of Everyday Nationalism” response to Rogers Brubaker's *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Nationalism in a Transylvanian Town*, author meets critics panel, Council for European Studies meetings, Chicago 2008

“Insitutions and Agency” response to Linda Zerilli' *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom*, author meets critics panel, American Sociological Association, New York 2007

“The autonomy of the Colonial State Reconsidered, response to George Steinmetz' *The Devil's Handwriting*, author meets critics panel, Social Science History Association, Chicago 2007

“The Noisy Silence of the Party: The epistemic reasons why Socialism has failed” in a panel on “Why Socialism has Failed” at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Jose, for which I was a co-organizer.

- "Converging Understandings: Analysis of the Dynamics of Press Reporting on a Berlin Murder Case" Council for European Studies, Chicago March 2006
- "A Plea for Process Dynamics: Theorizing Political Understandings in Late Socialist East Germany," annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, Portland (Oregon), November 2005
- "Unimaginable Communities: Mass-Mediated Political Epistemologies of the Foreign in Contemporary Germany," paper presented at the NSF workshop on Politics and Cultures of Globalization in Eastern Europe, Budapest, May 2005-06-08
- "How Understandings Gain and Lose Certainty: Members of the East German Civil Rights Opposition for example," paper presented at the American Sociological Association annual meetings, San Francisco, August 2004
- "Memory and the Ontology of Social Processes" paper presented at the "Collective Memory and Social Interaction" conference, Northwestern University, June 2004
- "When Pride becomes Shame: Ironies of Intentional Emotional Cultures in the Late GDR," Council of European Studies, biennial meeting, Chicago, March 2004
- "Other Minds and the Secret Police: Ironies of Bureaucratic Reality Construction in the Late GDR," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, November 2003
- "Emotional Poetics, Culture and Social Change: East German Secret Police Officers and the End of Socialism," American Sociological Association annual meeting, Atlanta, August 2003
- "Second Thoughts on Power and Knowledge," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans, November 2002
- "Revolutionary Intentionality, Synecdochical Mischief and the Production of State Paranoia", American Sociological Association annual meeting, Chicago, August 2002
- "Making Enemies: How Stasi has (Mis-)Understood the GDR Civil Rights Movement," Council of European Studies biennial meeting, Chicago, March 2002
- "Synecdochical Mischief, Cultural Intimacy and the Production of State Paranoia: Stasi and the GDR Peace Movement", Washington, November 2001
- "The Temporal Dynamics of Memory: Berlin's Palace of the Republic" New Hampshire Symposium on GDR research, Conway, June 2000
- "Berlin's Politics of Remembering: Past and Present Memory Practices Centering on the Palace of the Republic," American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, November 1999

- "The Poetics of Personality: Towards a Sociology of Personal Difference", American Sociological Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 1998
- "Space and Identity in Postunification Berlin" Berlin Conference, Center of European Studies, Harvard University, February 1998
- "The Temporal Hermeneutics of Self and Other in the Postunification Berlin Police," New Hampshire Symposium for GDR research, June 1998
- "Developmental Othering: Identity Formation Through Distemporalization, American Sociological Association annual meeting Toronto, August 1997
- "Spatializing Identity: The Role of Space and Place in Identifying Self and Other in the Post-Unification Berlin Police," paper presented at the annual meeting of the ASA in New York, August 1996
- "Treading the Public-Private Divide in an East Berlin Police Precinct," Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting, Boston, March 1996
- "Reversal of Fortunes: The Dialectic between Interpretations and Actions in the Salem Witchcraft Episode," American Sociological Association annual meeting, Washington, August 1995

INVITED EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS:

- "Politics and the Ironies of Control: Reflections from and on the Late GDR", department of Sociology, Oxford University, May 2012
- "Political Knowledge, Secrets, and the Livelihood of States: A view from and on the late GDR", Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, April 2012
- "Social imaginaries and political fantasies in the ancient Mediterranean World", Center for Cultural Theory, Yale University, March 2012
- "Political Epistemology" sociology department colloquium, University of Georgia, Athens, December 2011
- "Agency" sociology department colloquium, Brown University, October 2011
- "Competence, Agency, Power: A hermeneutic Approach" presented at the sociology and philosophy workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 2011
- "Political Epistemics" presented at the sociological imagination workshop of the New School for Social Research, March 2011

"Power/Knowledge Failure and the End of East German Socialism" presented at the Centre for Criminology and the Center for East European Studies at the University of Toronto, April 2011

"Agency, Critical Agency, Meta-Agency: A Hermeneutic Approach, Sociology Department Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley."

"Varieties of Agency: A Hermeneutic Approach" Franke Institute for the Humanities "Every Wednesday" lecture series, May 2010

"Theory by Way of Ethnography—A Way out Social Theory's Crisis?" paper presented in the colloquium of the sociology department, University of Pennsylvania, April 2006

"Identity Formation Processes in Post-Unification Germany" paper presented at the Center for European Studies, University of California, Los Angeles, March 2006

"The Dynamics of Understanding State and Socialism among GDR Peace Activists" paper presented in the colloquium series of the department of sociology, University of Southern California, October 2005

"The Sociology of Understanding and its Application to the Dynamics of Political Knowledge in Late Socialist East Germany" paper presented in the colloquium series of the sociology department, Yale University, October 2005

"Political Epistemologies: Developing Understandings of State and Polity among East German Opposition Members," papers presented at the Social Movements Workshop, University of Michigan, March 2005

"Studying Social Processes Ethnographically," paper presented at the Narratives Workshop, University of Michigan, March 2005

"Political Epistemologies: Developing Understandings of State and Polity among East German Opposition Members," papers presented at the Center for East European and Russian Studies, University of Michigan, November 2004

"Emotive Governmentality: Making Political Subjects in former East Germany," paper presented in the department of sociology and the Center for German and European Studies University of Wisconsin Madison, April 2004

"The Sociality of Understandings and its Limits," Department of Germanic Studies, Cornell University, February 2004

"Making Realities among the Secret Police in former East Germany," paper presented at the anthropology department, The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, April 2003

"Why we Believe What we Believe: Former East German Secret Police Officers for Example," paper presented at the sociology department, Northwestern University, February 2003

"Divided in Unity," discussion of three chapters of my book in the ethnography workshop, department of Sociology, Northwestern University, November 2002

"Cultural Processes," paper presented at the John F. Kennedy Institut of the Free University of Berlin, June 2001

"Insitutions, Practical Ontologies and the Experience of Order," paper presented at the sociology department, Columbia University, October 2000

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION/PANELS:

Theory and Ethnography, Rice University, April 2009

Program Committee, Council for European Studies, Chicago 2008

"Constru(ct)ing the Current: Theorizing Media in the New Millenium," University of Chicago, Chicago, May 2004, co-organizer

"Government by Emotion (Emotive Governmentality): Past and Current European Cases" Council for European Studies, panel-organizer

"Semiotic Technologies, the State, and the Ironies of Control," American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, November 2003, co-organizer

"Epistemological Practices and Ideologies in Government Bureaucracies," American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 2002, panel organizer

"The Ethnography of Global Processes: Methodologies for Studying Local, National and Global Linkages," University of Chicago, Chicago, May 1999, co-organizer

"Socializing Knowledge: Transformation and Continuity in Post-Socialist Cultural Forms," co-organizer, University of Chicago, Chicago, March 1999

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

Ethnographic-historical fieldwork:

Since January 2001 long term oral history and biographical interviews in conjunction with intensive archival work aiming at a reconstruction of the everyday life of members of Stasi, the secret police of former East Germany.

Ethnographic fieldwork:

Eleven months of ethnographic fieldwork in two east German police precincts (1994-95); follow-up summer 1996.

Economic research, Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen:

Research in Thailand on the impact of distortions in the international rice markets on Thailand's development, involving interviewing and data collection (winter 1989/90)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Graduate:

A two part course sequence introducing students to theories of culture with a focus on the implication of theoretical framing and ontological assumptions on empirical, especially ethnographic and historical research. The courses deal respectively with cultural theory before and after the linguistic turn. This sequence is supplemented by more specialized courses:

- a. Social Epistemologies
- b. Culture and Emotions
- c. Culture and Identity
- d. Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge in Weimar Germany

Furthermore: A required introductory theory course on social ontologies;

Dissertation committee memberships in sociology, history and anthropology (12)

Numerous doctoral qualifying exams in sociology, history and anthropology

Undergraduate:

Introductory social theory classes (core course) for first and second year students

Undergraduate seminar: Full year course accompanying and supervising undergraduate students writing their BA-thesis

Classical Theories of Culture

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Department of Sociology:

Chair, undergraduate program 1999-2003

Administrative committee 2001-2003

Junior and senior search Committees, 2000-2003

Admissions committee 2004-2005

Chair, examinations committee 2008-

Division of Social Sciences:

Institutional Review Board, 2009--

Social Science Collegiate Division, Governing Council, since 2003

Selection Committee, Fulbright and DAAD predoctoral fellowships, 2002, 2003

Selection Committee, Mellon and Harper Predoctoral Fellowships, Spring 2002

Committee on Divisional Research Grants, 2003
Master Nominating Committee

University:

University Board of Publications, since 2004—2007; 2009--
Council on Advanced Studies, Board, 2003--2006
International House Committee reviewing the future of the University of Chicago's
International House, Spring 2000

EDITING EXPERIENCE:

Sociological Theory, Editorial Board since 2004

American Journal of Sociology, associate editor, book review, 2004--2008

University of Chicago Press, University Board of Publications, since 2004—2007; 2009--

University of Chicago Press, book series "Chicago Series in the Practices of Meaning," co-editor
with William Sewell jr, Jean Comaroff and Lisa Wedeen

American Journal of Sociology, associate editor, 1999-2000

Book reviews for the University of Chicago Press and Princeton University Press

Paper reviews for the American Journal of Sociology, Sociological Methodology, American
Ethnologist, Ethnos, American Anthropologist, Comparative Studies in Society and
History, Cultural Anthropology, Sociological Theory

RESEARCH GRANTS:

Franke Institute for the Humanities, Faculty Fellowship 2008-09

German Marshall Fund of the United States, Advanced Research Fellowship 2003-04: \$ 40,000

Joint Social Science Division research grant 2000-01: \$ 33,000 (individual allotment)

Social Science Division junior faculty seed money 1999: \$ 3,000

TEACHING AWARDS:

Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, The University of Chicago, 2008

Joseph Neubauer Teaching Award, University of Chicago (2004)

HONORS:

Aims of Education Address, University of Chicago (2005)

Harvard University, Program for the Study of Germany and Europe, Center for European Studies, Predissertation Scholarship (1994-95)

Harvard University, William Guild Howard Memorial Scholarship (1992-1994)

McCloy Scholarship, Volkswagen Foundation (1990-92)

Scholar of the German National Scholarship Foundation (German Federal Honors Society) (1984-89)

Scheffelbund (South German Poetry Society), elected member (1982-1987)

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

Management consultant, McKinsey&Co. Boston:

Consulting projects on organizational change management, post-merger integration, and market dynamics (1997-1998)

Management consultant, McKinsey&Co, Munich:

Strategy consulting for *Deutsches Museum*, Germany's leading museum of science and technology. Topics included: development of exhibition and collection policies, organizational restructuring, privatization models (summers 1994, '95, '96)

Management consultant, Boston Consulting Group, Munich:

Strategy consulting for a large retail bank, international benchmarking (summer 1991)

MEDIA APPEARANCE:

CNN International, "3 October 2000, Discussant in news Program about 10th anniversary of German unification

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:

American Sociological Association

American Anthropological Association

Council for European Studies

Social Science History Association