

Department of Sociology
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Thomas Medvetz

Academic appointments

- 2008–present Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego
- 2007-08 Postdoctoral Associate
Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University

Education

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology, 2007
M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Sociology, 2000
A.B. Franklin & Marshall College, Sociology and English, 1998, *magna cum laude*,
Phi Beta Kappa, honors distinction for sociology

Areas of specialization

Sociology of knowledge and intellectuals; classical and contemporary theory; political sociology;
cultural sociology

Publications

Book (in press)

Thomas Medvetz. Forthcoming, 2012. *The Rise of Think Tanks in America: Merchants of Policy and Power*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Academic articles and book chapters

Neil Gross, Thomas Medvetz, and Rupert Russell. 2011. "The Contemporary American Conservative Movement." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 325-354.

Thomas Medvetz. 2010. "'Public Policy is Like a Having a Vaudeville Act': Languages of Duty and Difference Among Think Tank-Affiliated Policy Experts." *Qualitative Sociology* 33(4): 549-562.

Thomas Medvetz. 2010. "Terra Obscura: Vers une Théorie des *Think Tanks* Américains." ["Terra Obscura: Toward a Theory of American Think Tanks."] Pp. 139-157 in Yann Bérard and Renaud Crespin, eds. *Aux Frontières de L'expertise: Dialogues Entre Saviors et Pouvoirs*. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes.

Thomas Medvetz. 2009. "Les think tanks aux États-Unis: L'émergence d'un sous-espace de production des savoirs." ["Think Tanks in the United States: The Emergence of a Subspace of Knowledge Production."] *Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales* 176-177: 82-93.

Thomas Medvetz. 2006. "The Strength of Weekly Ties: Relations of Material and Symbolic Exchange in the Conservative Movement." *Politics & Society* 34(3): 343-368.

Other publications

Thomas Medvetz. Forthcoming, 2012. "Scholar as Sitting Duck: The Cronon Affair and the Buffer Zone in American Public Debate." *Public Culture* 24(1).

Thomas Medvetz. 2010. "Think Tanks." *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. George Ritzer, ed. Blackwell Reference Online <<http://www.sociologyencyclopedia.com>>.

Thomas Medvetz. 2008. "Beyond Credit and Blame." *Political Sociology: States, Power, and Societies*. Political Sociology Section, ASA. 14(3): 11-12.

Reprinted as Thomas Medvetz. 2008. "Hope For Change in Public Debate?" *San Diego Union-Tribune*. December 12.

Thomas Medvetz. 2008. "Think Tanks as an Emergent Field." New York: Social Science Research Council.

Thomas Medvetz. 2007. Review of *Think Tanks, Public Policy, and the Politics of Expertise*, by Andrew Rich. *Journal of Politics*. 69(1): 271-273.

Purser, Gretchen, Ofer Sharone, and Amy Schalet (with Theresa Gowan and Thomas Medvetz). 2004. *Berkeley's Betrayal: Wages and Working Conditions at Cal*.

Excerpted in Giddens, Anthony, Mitchell Duneier, and Richard P. Appelbaum, eds. 2006. *Introduction to Sociology*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 5th edition.

Works in progress

Thomas Medvetz. Forthcoming, 2012. "Indistinction: Think Tanks, Murky Organizations, and Power." For inclusion in David Courpasson, Damon Golsorkhi, and Jeffrey J. Sallaz, eds. *Rethinking Forms of Power in Organizations, Institutions, and Markets*. Bradford, UK: Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

Thomas Medvetz. Forthcoming. "The Merits of Marginality: Conservative Intellectuals and the Birth of Think Tanks." Pp. ?? in Neil Gross and Solon J. Simmons, eds. *Professors and Their Politics*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Fellowships and honors

2011-12	Hellman Fellow, University of California, San Diego
2006	University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division Conference Grant
2005-06	National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, Award SES-0526199, Principal investigator: Jerome Karabel
2004-05	Social Science Research Council, Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector Dissertation Fellowship Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Chapter, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division Summer Grant
2002-03	University of California, Berkeley, Dean's Fellowship
1998-99	University of California, Berkeley, Departmental fellowship, Department of Sociology
1998	Phi Beta Kappa, Franklin & Marshall College Keipner Prize in Sociology, Franklin & Marshall College, Awarded to one student in senior class
1994-98	Dana Scholar, Presidential Scholar, Franklin & Marshall College

Conference and workshop organization

Co-organized with Michal Pagis. Junior Theorists Symposium. Sponsored by the American Sociological Association Theory section. University of Nevada, Las Vegas. August 19, 2011.

Conservative Movements Workshop series. Department of Sociology. University of California, San Diego. 2010-11.

Co-organized with Amy Binder, Mary Blair-Loy, John Evans, and Kwai Ng. 5th UCSD Culture Conference. "Meaning and Media: Getting Sociology Across in the Public Sphere." University of California, San Diego. May 7, 2010.

Invited presentations

2009

"What is a Think Tank?: On the New Forms of Intellectual Engagement." Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference. Department of Sociology. University of California, San Diego. April 24.

"Terra Obscura: 'Think Tanks' in the U.S. Field of Power." Junior Theorists Symposium. Theory Section of the American Sociological Association. Harvard University. July 31.

"Hybrid Intellectuals: Think Tanks and Public Policy Experts in the United States." L'expertise comme objet flou: Déplacements d'objets et nouvelles perspectives de recherche dans les sciences du politique. Sciences Po Rennes. March 12-13.

"From Deprivation to Dependency: Think Tanks in the American Welfare Debate, 1958-1996." Contentious Knowledge Theme Project Colloquium Series. Institute for the Social Sciences. Cornell University. February 19.

"Hybrid Intellectuals: Think tanks and Public Policy Experts in the United States." Department of Science & Technology Studies Colloquium Series. Cornell University. January 28.

2007

"Think Tanks in America: Four Avenues of Theory and their Connections." Knowledge in Contention: Social Movements and the Politics of Science. Institute for the Social Sciences. Cornell University. October 4-6.

2006

"The Transformation of U.S. Think Tanks, 1970 to today." Power in Thought and Practice: 50 Years of C. Wright Mills' *The Power Elite*. Columbia University. April 14.

2004

"How Do Think Tanks Think About Their Own Success and Failure?" Redefining Progress (Oakland, CA think tank). December 10.

"Think Tanks, Framing, and the Conservative Movement." Redefining Progress (Oakland, CA think tank). October 26.

"Babies, Guns, and Taxes: Notes on the Structure and Logic of the American Conservative Movement." Center for Reproductive Health Research & Policy. University of California, San Francisco. September 22.

Conference presentations

2011

Discussant. "Rightward Tendencies: Making Sense of Conservatism in the Age of Obama." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, NV. August 20-23.

2010

“Indistinction’: Think Tanks, Murky Organizations, and Power.” 26th EGOS (European Group of Organizational Studies) Colloquium. Lisbon, Portugal. July 1-3.

Moderator. Panel discussion with Claude Fischer, Michael Schudson, and Margaret Talbot. 5th UCSD Culture Conference. “Meaning and Media: Getting Sociology Across in the Public Sphere.” University of California, San Diego. May 7.

2008

“From Deprivation to Dependency: Think Tanks in the American Welfare Debate, 1964-1996.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Boston, MA. August 1-4.

2007

Moderator and discussant. “Frames and Framing Processes in Diffusion.” Workshop on Contentious Knowledge and the Diffusion of Social Protest. Institute for the Social Sciences. Cornell University. November 9-10.

2006

“The Double Movement: Growing Boundedness and Dependence Among U.S. Think Tanks, 1970 to Today.” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association. Minneapolis, MN. November 2-5.

“Hybrid Intellectuals: Toward a Social Praxeology of Think Tank Experts.” Practicing Pierre Bourdieu: In the Field and Across Disciplines. University of Michigan. September 28-30.

“Merchants of Expertise: Think Tanks and Intellectuals in the U.S. Field of Power.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, QC. August 11-14.

2005

“The Strength of Weekly Ties: Institutional and Ideological Cohesion in the Conservative Movement.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 13-16.

“Taking Bourdieu into the (Interstitial) Field: Think Tanks, Intellectuals, and Politics in the U.S.” Putting Pierre Bourdieu to Work 2: A Working Conference. University of California, Berkeley. May 12-13.

Panelist. “The Virtues of Voluntarism and Nonprofit Organizations: Arguments in American Social Policy and Politics.” Social Science Research Council Capstone Conference on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector. Florence, Italy. March 24-26.

2004

“Merchants of Expertise: The Transformation of American Think Tanks, 1960-2002.” Social Science Research Council, Indiana University, and Aspen Institute Nonprofit Sector Research Fund Fellows’ Workshop. Los Angeles, CA. November 15-17.

“The Transformation of American Think Tanks: Three Lessons for Students of Advocacy,” Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. April 15-18.

Professional activities and memberships

Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Ethnography*, Oxford University Press, *Policy & Politics*, Princeton University Press, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Science and*

Public Policy, Social Forces, Sociological Forum, Sociological Theory, The Sociological Quarterly, University of Chicago Press

Member, American Sociological Association (ASA). 1999-present

ASA section memberships and activities

Theory Section

Co-organizer with Claire Laurier Decoteau, Theory Section Roundtables, ASA Meeting, 2012

Co-organizer with Michal Pagis, ASA Junior Theorist Symposium, 2011

Selection committee, Best graduate student paper, 2010

Political Sociology Section

Sociology of Culture Section

Working group member. Social Science Research Council (SSRC). "Think Tanks: Knowledge, Governance and the Public Sphere." 2008-09

Berkeley Labor Research Group. 2001-04

Editorial collective. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. 1998-9

Teaching and advising

Graduate courses

Sociology of culture (Spring 2009)

Sociology of organizations (Winter 2010)

Independent studies (graduate-level)

Sociology of knowledge (Fall 2009)

Pierre Bourdieu (Spring 2010)

Culture & politics (Spring 2011)

Undergraduate courses

Classical theory (Winter 2010)

Field research methods (Spring 2011)

Political sociology (Spring 2009, 2011, Fall 2010)

Social change (Fall 2011)

Sociology of culture (Winter 2009, 2011, Fall 2010)

Other teaching experience

Graduate student instructor, University of California, Berkeley, 2000-2006 (four semesters)

Teaching assistant, International Association for the Advancement of Youth (IAAY), Johns Hopkins University. Summer 1998.

Department & university service

Graduate admissions committee, Department of Sociology, UCSD, 2010-12

Committee member, Conservative Movements Workshop, Department of Sociology, UCSD 2009-10

Committee member, Culture & Society Workshop, Department of Sociology, UCSD, 2008-11

Graduate program curriculum committee, Department of Sociology, UCSD, 2009-10

Graduate student committees

Dissertation

David Kadanoff (Sociology, ongoing)

Laura Pecenco (Sociology, ongoing)

Field exam

Ellis Dillon (Sociology, Fall 2009)

Non-sociology

David White (Department of Visual Arts, first-year review, Spring 2010)

Joe Yorty (Department of Visual Arts, first-year review, Fall 2010)

References

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