

SETH ABRUTYN

The University of Memphis
Department of Sociology
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POSITIONS HELD

2011-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, The University of Memphis

2012 Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology, The University of Bielefeld, Germany

2009-2011 Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Research on World-Systems, University of California, Riverside

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 / Medical and Mental Health Sociology / Suicide / Social Psychology / Emotions / Qualitative and Historical Methods / Institutions / Political Economy

HONORS, DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS

College of Arts and Science's *Early Career Research Award*, The University of Memphis, 2015

American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology *Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award* (w/ Anna Mueller), 2015

American Sociological Association Section on Mental Health *Best Publication Award* (w/ Anna Mueller), 2015

American Sociological Association Section on Emotions *Recent Contribution Award* (w/ Anna Mueller), 2015

American Sociological Association Section on Children and Youth *Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award* (w/ Anna Mueller), 2015

The Sociology Scholarship Incentive Award, The University of Memphis, 2013

American Sociological Association Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society *Best Faculty Paper Award* (w/ Kirk Lawrence), 2013

Travel Enrichment Grant, The University of Memphis, 2012

American Sociological Association Section on Emotions *Recent Contribution Award* (w/ Jan Stets, Michael Carter, Michael Harrod, and Christine Cerven), 2010

Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of California, Riverside, 2007

BOOKS

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

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. (Manuscript in Progress). *In the Shadow of Privilege*.

Abrutyn, Seth (Manuscript in Progress). *The Spheres of Social Life: An Evolutionary-Institutional Inventory*.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* = Equal Authorship; Underline = Student Authors

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. 2015. “When Too Much Integration and Regulation Hurts: Re-Envisioning Durkheim’s Altruistic Suicide.” *Society and Mental Health*. DOI: 10.1177/2156869315604346

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

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 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.

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* Section, 2015

Abrutyn, Seth. 2015. "The Institutional Evolution of Religion: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Ancient Israel." *Religion*. DOI:10.1080/0048721X.2015.1009864

*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

Reprinted in Russell K. Schutt. (2015). *Investigating the Social World: The Practice and Process of Social Research*, eighth edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Pp. 596-612

***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*. DOI: 10.1111/jtsb.12071

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

*Anderson, Eugene and **Seth Abrutyn.** 2014. "Religion in Human Evolution." *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*. 8(1):111-127.

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.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Abrutyn, Seth. *Forthcoming*. "Institutional Spheres: The Fundamental Divisions of Social Reality." In *The Contemporary Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by S. Abrutyn. New York: Springer.

Abrutyn, Seth. *Forthcoming*. "Introduction: The State of Sociological Theory." In *The Contemporary Handbook of Sociological Theory*, edited by S. Abrutyn. New York: Springer.

Stack, Steven and **Seth Abrutyn.** *Forthcoming*. "Suicide by Fire: Ethnicity as a Predictor of Self Immolation in the U.S." In *Suicide as Performance*, edited by D. Lester and S. Stack. New York: Transaction Press.

Blume, Amelia and **Seth Abrutyn.** *Forthcoming*. "Polygyny." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Blume, Amelia and **Seth Abrutyn.** *Forthcoming*. "Polyandry." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Blume, Amelia, Zeinab Shuker, and **Seth Abrutyn.** *Forthcoming*. "Place of Residence Rules." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Shuker, Zeinab and **Seth Abrutyn.** *Forthcoming*. "Primogeniture." In *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*, edited by C.L. Shehan. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2014. "Herbert Spencer, (1820-1903)." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism*.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2012. "Hinduism." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by G. Ritzer and N. Jurgenson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Abrutyn, Seth. 2012. "Religions, Global." In the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, edited by G. Ritzer and N. Jurgenson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

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.

Winner, Recent Contribution to the Literature, ASA Section on Emotion, 2010

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. *Revise and Resubmit (American Journal of Sociology)*
"Shame, Silence, and Suicide"

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. *Revise and Resubmit (American Sociological Review)*
"Examining the Structural and Cultural Roots of Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community"

Abrutyn, Seth, Justin Van Ness, and Marshall Taylor. *Revise and Resubmit (Journal of Classical Sociology)* "S.N. Eisenstadt's *Institutional Entrepreneurs* and Neo-Evolutionary Theory: Assessing Eisenstadt's Contribution."

*Turner, Jonathan H. and ***Seth Abrutyn**. "Selection as an Under-theorized Sociocultural Dynamic." *Sociological Perspectives*.

*Summers-Effler, Erika, ***Seth Abrutyn**, and Justin Van Ness. "Emotional Energy, Action, and Organizational Change." *American Sociological Review*.

*James, Wesley L., *Anna S. Mueller, and ***Seth Abrutyn**. "Using Durkheim's Theory of Social Integration to Understand Alcoholism in Young Adults." *Social Currents*.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. "Theorizing Why Suicides Spread: Considering the Logic of Social Scripts."

Abrutyn, Seth and Anna S. Mueller. "The Curious Case of Fatalistic Suicides: How A Footnote Vexes Cumulative Knowledge."

Anna Mueller and **Seth Abrutyn**. "Suicide and Cultural Scripts."

Mueller, Anna S. and **Seth Abrutyn**. “Setting the Sociological Study of Suicide’s Agenda for the 21st Century.”

Seth Abrutyn. “The Problem with Classical Theory: Or, How We Learned to Love the Cult of Personality.”

Seth Abrutyn. “Towards a Neurosociological Theory of Action: Brains, Emotions, and Self”

Seth Abrutyn. “What the Israelite Religious Entrepreneurs of the First Millennium BCE Teach Us About Sociocultural Evolution.”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Reconsidering Durkheim's Altruistic Suicide: Toward a Broader Theory of Integration, Regulation, and Suicide” (with 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” (with 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.” (with Mueller, Anna. S. and Taylor Binnix). Presented at the annual meetings of the American Association of Suicidology. Atlanta, GA.
- 2014 “The Socioemotional Structure of Suicide (with Anna Mueller). Paper presented at the meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 “The Socioemotional Structure of Suicide” (with 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” (with 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” (with Anna S. Mueller and Darla Still). Paper presented at the meetings of the Society for Women Sociologists, Nashville, TN.
- 2013 “Can Social Ties Be Harmful?” (with 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.” (With 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.” (with 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.” (with 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.” (with 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.” Invited to present at the meetings of the California Sociological Association, Berkeley, CA.
- 2011 “Towards a Theory of Institutional Ecology.” Invited to present 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.” (with 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.” (with 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Memphis (* = Graduate Seminar)

Rise of Sociological Theory (Fall 2012)
 Contemporary Sociological Theory (Spring 2012; Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Fall 2015)
 Contemporary Sociological Theory – Online Course (Fall 2014)
 The Individual and Society (Spring 2013)
 Social Change (Spring 2014)
 Sociology of Religion (Fall 2014)
 *Globalization and Social Change (Fall 2011; Spring 2015)
 *Seminar in Sociological Theory (Fall 2012; Fall 2013; Fall 2015)
 *Seminar in Social Psychology (Spring 2013)
 *Seminar in the Sociology of Religion (Spring 2014)

The University of California-Riverside (Lectureship)

Introduction to Sociology (Winter 2008)
 Human Societies (Spring 2010)
 Population (Winter 2010)
 Human Social Institutions (Spring 2011)
 Sociology of the Family (Fall 2009)
 Formal Organizations (Winter 2011)
 Sociology of Religion (Fall 2009; Fall 2010)
 Sociology of Education (Winter 2010)
 Development of Sociological Theory (Fall 2006; Spring 2007; Summer 2008; Summer 2010)
 Modern Sociological Theory (Summer 2009; Spring 2010)
 Core Social Psychology Course (Spring 2009)
 Socialization and Personality (Winter 2009)
 Social Roles and Interaction (Fall 2008)

FORMAL ADVISEMENT

Master's Thesis Chair

Harris, ReKeycha. 2016 (Anticipated)
 Binnix, Taylor. 2016 (Anticipated)
 Shuker, Zeinab. 2015 (Currently Ph.D. Student at University of California-Riverside)
 Blume, Amelia. 2014. (Currently Ph.D. Student at University of Arizona)

Master's Thesis Committee Member

Taylor, Marshall. 2014.

Scott, Michele. 2013.

Smiley, Kevin. 2013.

Undergraduate Honor's Thesis Chair

Still, Darla. 2013. (Currently Ph.D. Student at University of Arizona)

SERVICE

Departmental/University Service

2015-Present	Webmaster , Department Online Coordinator
2015-Present	Member , Department Graduate Committee
2015	Member , Chair Search Committee
2014	Member , Comprehensive Exams Committee
2014	Department Representative , Relay Education Committee
2014-2015	Member , Department Undergraduate Committee
2013	Chair , Instructor Search Committee
2012-Present	Faculty Advisor , Undergraduate Club, <i>Social Pupils</i>
2012	Member , University Scholarship Selection Committee
2011-Present	Department Representative , Library
2011	Member , Assistant Professor Search Committee
2011	Member , Associate Professor Search Committee
2011	Chair , Comprehensive Exams Committee
2011-2014	Member , Department Graduate Committee
2011	Department Representative , University Graduate Council

Disciplinary Service

2015-2016	Member , Program Committee (Theory Sessions), Southern Sociological Society
2015	Organizer/Presider , Regular Paper Session on "Contemporary Sociological Theory," Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA
2014	Chair , Best Student Paper Award Committee, American Sociological Association Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society
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 (Beauregard)," Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA
2012	Organizer/Presider , Regular Session on "Entrepreneurship and Networks," Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA

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

Occasional Reviewer

<i>American Journal of Cultural Sociology</i>	<i>Social Currents</i>
<i>American Journal of Public Health</i>	<i>Social Forces</i>
<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>	<i>Social Problems</i>
<i>American Sociological Review</i>	<i>Social Psychology Quarterly</i>
<i>European Sociological Review</i>	<i>Sociological Forum</i>
<i>Health Sociology Review</i>	<i>Sociological Inquiry</i>
<i>Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion</i>	<i>Sociological Perspectives</i>
<i>Journal of Classical Sociology</i>	<i>Sociology Compass</i>
<i>Journal of World Systems Research</i>	<i>Sociology of Religion</i>
	<i>Thesis Eleven</i>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association
(Member of Theory; Mental Health; Medical Sociology; Sociology of Emotions;
Evolution, Biology, and Society Sections)

Southern Sociological Society

American Association of Suicidology

Association for the Sociology of Religion

MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

- 2015 Quoted in *Le Monde* article “Knowing that a Friend Made a Suicide Attempt
Disrupts the World of a Teenager.” 6/21/15. (<http://tinyurl.com/paprsp5>)
- 2015 **Podcast** by Anna Mueller (w/ **Seth Abrutyn**) on SAGE sociology: “*Suicidal
Disclosure among Friends.*”
- 2014 **Guest Blog** (w/ Anna Mueller) post on University of Oxford’s *OpenPop*: “*Are
Suicidal Behaviors Contagious In Adolescents.*”
(<http://www.openpop.org/?author=42>)
- 2014 **Podcast** (w/ Anna Mueller) on SAGE sociology: “*Are Suicidal Behaviors
Contagious in Adolescents.*”
- 2014 Research featured on 12News: “*Paper by University of Memphis Sociology
Professors Ask ‘Is Teenage Suicide Contagious?’*”
- 2014 Research featured on PR Newswire: “*Paper by University of Memphis Sociology
Professors Ask ‘Is Teenage Suicide Contagious?’*”

2014 Research featured on technology.org: “*Paper by University of Memphis Sociology Professors Ask ‘Is Teenage Suicide Contagious?’*” (<http://tinyurl.com/pqzg8f5>)