## Beyond Positivism: Theory, Methods, and Values in Social Science Conference

**August 8 – 10, 2017**  
*Palais des congrès de Montréal, Canada*  
*(201 Viger West, 5th floor, Viger Hall)*

### Tuesday, August 8

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Room 513 C, D, &amp; E</th>
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<td>9:00 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Opening Remarks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Room 513AB (Theatre)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Philip Gorski</td>
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<td>George Steinmetz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chair: Douglas Porpora</td>
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<td>10:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:45 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1,2,3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>513 C</td>
<td><strong>Theory Stream 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Frederic Vandenberghe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:05</td>
<td>Jean-François Côté</td>
<td>Margaret Archer and George Herbert Mead on Reflexivity: Opening the Debate on Dialectical Morphogenesis</td>
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<td>11:05 – 11:25</td>
<td>Daniel Morrison</td>
<td>The Neglected Legacy and Promising Future of a Pragmatic, Realist, Approach to Interactionism</td>
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<td>11:25 – 11:45</td>
<td>Eric Lybeck</td>
<td>Humans in Processes: Exploring the Normative Significance of Abbot's Processual Sociology</td>
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<td>513 D</td>
<td><strong>Methods Stream 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Esther Chan</strong></td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:05</td>
<td>Kyle Caler</td>
<td>The use of Q methodology as a Critical Realist tool</td>
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<td>11:05 – 11:25</td>
<td>Andrew Keefe</td>
<td>Defining Evidence-Based Policymaking: A Comparative Study of Epistemological Approaches</td>
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<td>11:25 – 11:45</td>
<td>Matthew Mahler</td>
<td>A Prolegomenon to a Cubist Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>513 E</td>
<td><strong>Political Stream 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Moderator: Ben Manski</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:05</td>
<td>Catherine Craven</td>
<td>Critical Realism, Assemblages, and Practices beyond the State: A new framework for analyzing global diaspora engagement?</td>
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</table>
11:05 – 11:25  Jeffrey Broadbent  Modes and Fields of Power: Labor Policy Networks in Japan, the US and Germany

11:25 – 11:45  Hannah Waight  The Field of Inequality Knowledge in the US and UK

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch

1:00 – 2:30  **Plenary Session on Theory and Explanation After Positivism**  
**Room 513AB**

*Chair:* Philip Gorski

1:00 – 1:30  Daniel Little
1:30 – 2:00  Rani Lill Anjum
2:00 – 2:30  Discussion

2:30 – 2:45  Break

2:45 – 4:00  Session 4,5,6  
**Room 513 C, D, & E**

**513 C**  
**Historical Stream 1**  
**Moderator:** Sahan Karatasli

2:45 – 3:05  Dylan Riley  The Social Foundations of Positivism: The Case of Late Nineteenth Century Italy


3:25 – 3:45  Jane McCamant  Problems, Mysteries, and the Purposes of Historical Knowledge in Sociology

**Q&A**

**513 D**  
**Systems Stream 1**  
**Moderator:** Dave Elder-Vass

2:45 – 3:05  Larissa Buchholz  Causal Explanation and Global Sociology

3:05 – 3:25  Danny Alvord  Emergent Social Structures and Embeddedness in Economic Sociology

3:25 – 3:45  Emma Greeson  Post-Positivist Ethnography: Markets, non-markets, and the ontology of social worlds

**Q&A**

**513 E**  
**Race Stream 1**  
**Moderator:** Paige Sweet

2:45 – 3:05  Joseph Klett  #laughingwhileblack: a theory of perception

3:05 – 3:25  Christopher Robertson  “Overcoming” Racial Bias: Implicit-Association Tests and the Limits of Experimental Science

3:25 – 3:45  Mary Arneaud  The Development of Cultural Models of Ethnic Identity for Ethnically-Equivalent Contexts

**Q&A**

4:00 – 4:15  Break
### 513 C  
**Theory Stream 2**  
**Moderator: Timothy Rutzou**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:35 – 4:55</td>
<td>Katelin Albert</td>
<td>Theorizing Objects: Ontological Realism and Scifi Exploration</td>
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</table>
| 4:55 – 5:15| Luca Delbollo | What is beyond reality? A dialogue between Critical Realism and Speculative Realism  
|            |               | *Q&A*                                                                  |

### 513 D  
**Systems Stream 2**  
**Moderator: Larissa Buchholz**

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<tr>
<td>4:15 – 4:35</td>
<td>Philippe Sormani</td>
<td>Practicing Art/Science as “Public-Private Partnership”: Rise and Fall of a Transdisciplinary Experiment in Critical Realism</td>
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<td>4:35 – 4:55</td>
<td>Dana Kornberg</td>
<td>Theorizing Contemporary Economic Life beyond Formal Markets</td>
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| 4:55 – 5:15| Ilimpi Jimenez | Towards a Social Ontology of International Migration  
|            |               | *Q&A*                                                                  |

### 513 E  
**Facts, Values, and Religion Stream 1**  
**Panel: Agency and Temporality in the Emergence of the Secular**  
**Moderator: Nicolette Manglos-Weber**

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<td>4:35 – 4:55</td>
<td>Jeffrey Guhin</td>
<td>Same Fears, Different Religions: The Historical Roots of American Islamophobia</td>
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</table>
| 4:55 – 5:15| Elizabeth Becker | Value Migration and Integration? Multiple Secularities in Conservative European Muslim Communities  
|            |               | *Q&A*                                                                  |

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**Wednesday, August 9**

**9:00 – 10:30  
Plenary Session on Quantitative Post Positivist Social Science  
Room 513AB**

*Chair: Douglas Porpora*

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:20</td>
<td>John Mohr</td>
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<td>9:20 – 9:40</td>
<td>Wendy Olsen</td>
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<td>9:40 – 10:00</td>
<td>Seth Prins</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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</table>
10:30 – 10:45  Break

10:45 – 12:00  Session 1,2,3

Room 513 C, D, & E

513 C  Historical Stream 2  Panel: Rethinking Comparison
Moderator: Nicholas Hoover Wilson
10:45 – 11:05  Xiaohong Xu  What Is Defensible about Skocpolian Structural
Comparison?
11:05 – 11:25  Nicholas Hoover Wilson  Heuristic and Recursive Comparison in Historical
Sociology
11:25 – 11:45  Philip Goski  Q&A

513 D  Methods Stream 2  Panel: Reviving Ethnographic Pluralism in
Post-Positivist Social Science
Moderator: Rachel Rinaldo
10:45 – 11:05  Corey Abramson  Reviving Ethnographic Pluralism in Post-Positivist Social
Science I
11:05 – 11:25  Neil Gong  Ethnographic Pluralism in Post-Positivist Social
Science II
11:25 – 11:45  Jason Orne  Intersectional Consequences of Heritage
Commodification in Cultural Enclave Neighborhoods
Q&A

513 E  Facts, Values, and Religion Stream 2  Moderator: Andrew Lynn
10:45 – 11:15  Kevin Schilbrack  Religion as Joint Commitment
11:15 – 11:45  Brandon Vaidyanathan  Towards a post-positivist philanthropy
11:45 – 12:00  Q&A

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch
1:00 – 2:15  Session 4,5,6

Room 513 C, D, & E

513 C  Methods Stream 3  Panel: Studying Social Ties: Realism and
Relationality in Person-to-Person Research
Moderator: Daniel Morrison
1:00 – 1:20  Rachel Rinaldo  Embedded in Indonesia: Being an Observer and a
Participant in Sociological Research
1:20 – 1:40  Robert Brenneman  Entertaining Villains: The Joys and Risks of
Research among Purveyors of Violence
1:40 – 2:00  Nicolette Manglos-Weber  Friendships in the ‘Field’: Critical Realism, Interpersonal Trust, and Relationship-Driven Ethnography

513 D  Systems Stream 3  Moderator: Dana Kornberg
1:00 – 1:30  Sarah Manski  The Blockchain World: Explaining a Technological Revolution in Real Time
1:30 – 2:00  Apoorva Ghosh  Understanding Transnational Sexuality in India: Globalization and Institutional Schemas
2:00 – 2:15  Q&A

513 E  Race Stream 2  Moderator: Douglas Porpora
1:00 – 1:20  Candice Robinson  Will Moving Beyond Positivism Moves Towards Diverse Thought?
1:20 – 1:40  Issa Kohler-Hausmann  Detecting Discrimination: What’s Wrong with Counterfactual Causal Thinking About Racial Discrimination
1:40 – 2:00  Daniel Sherwood  The Reality of Structural Racism: Knowledge, Critique, Emancipation
2:15 – 2:30  Break
2:30 – 3:45  Session 7,8,9

513 C  Theory Stream 3  Moderator: Katelin Albert
2:30 – 2:50  Alison Assiter  Kant, Bhaskar, and Realism
2:50 – 3:10  Paige Sweet  Realism and Feminist Standpoint Theory: Interrogating Boundaries and Bodies
3:10 – 3:30  Paul Erb  Bhaskar and his critics: what are the alternatives to critical realism?
3:30 – 3:45  Q&A

513 D  Methods Stream 4  Moderator: Elizabeth Becker
2:30 – 3:00  Tatiana Rodriguez  Headaches, Victories, Puzzles and Dilemmas: an interview approach for understanding what matters to people at work
3:00 – 3:30  Lucas Wehrwein  The Myth of the Stradivarius Violins: Self-Fulfilling Prophecies and Causal Explanation in Historical Sociology
3:30 – 3:45  Q&A
513 E   Political Stream 2   Moderator: Atef Said
2:30 – 3:00   Onur Ozgode   The State and its Problems: Toward an Assemblage Theory of the State
3:00 – 3:30   Eric Malczewski   Conservation Ethics and the Order of Nature: The Role of the Sacred in Differentiation Theory
3:30 – 3:45

3:45 – 4:00   Break

4:00 – 5:30   Plenary Session on Ethics and Values After Positivism   Room 513AB
   Chair: Claire Decoteau
   4:00 – 4:20   Frederic Vandenberghe
   4:20 – 4:40   Christopher Winship
   4:40 – 5:00   Dave Elder-Vass
   5:00 – 5:30   Discussion

Thursday, August 10

9:00 – 10:30   Plenary Session on Qualitative Post-Positivist Social Science   Room 513AB
   Chair: George Steinmetz
   9:00 – 9:20   Alford Young
   9:20 – 9:40   Gary Alan Fine
   9:40 – 10:30   Discussion

10:30 – 10:45   Break
10:45 – 12:00   Session 1,2,3   Room 513 C, D & E

513 C   Historical Stream 3   Moderator: Nicholas Hoover Wilson
10:45 – 11:05   Samuel Stabler   Between Religious and Political Fields: Reformulating Parish Space in Puritan New England (1637-1741)
11:05 – 11:25   Jonah Stuart Brundage   For a (Realist) Historicism in Sociology
11:25 – 11:45   Xiaohong Xu   Dialogical Struggle in the Becoming of the Cultural Revolution: Between Elite Conflict and Mass Mobilization
Q&A

513 D   Facts, Values, and Religion Stream 3   Moderator: Brandon Vaidyanathan
10:45 – 11:05   Andrew Lynn   Ditching the Dichotomy: Economic Sociology’s Engagement with the Fact-Value Distinction
11:05 – 11:25   Mary Shi   Against Instrumental Rationality, the Ethical Unity of Post-Positivists
11:25 – 11:45 Mary Elliot How Thinking Becomes a Moral Consideration: Hannah Arendt and the Relationship Between Philosophical Inquiry, Social Knowledge, and the Researcher Q&A

513 E Race Stream 3 Panel: Re-Theorizing REN: Post-Positivist Perspectives on Studying Intangible Social Categories

Moderator: Joseph Klett

10:45 – 11:05 G. Reginald Daniel From Race to Multiraciality: Postpositivism and the Monoracial Imperative

11:05 – 11:25 Joseph Loe- Sterphone Outline for the Post-Positivist Study of Nation and Nationalism

11:25 – 11:45 Jasmine Kelekay Examining and Theorizing Race in Colorblind Scandinavia: The Case for a Critical Post-Positivist Race Methodology Q&A

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 Session 4,5,6

513 C Theory Stream 4 Moderator: John Mohr

1:00 – 1:20 Daniel Jaster Beyond Critical Sociology: Bourdieu's Positivism and the Sociology of Critique I

1:20 – 1:40 Bruno Frere Beyond Critical Sociology: Bourdieu's Positivism and the Sociology of Critique II

1:40 – 2:00 Georg Rilinger Methodological Blind Spots: Immanent Critique and Alienation Q&A

513 D Methods Stream 5 Moderator: Nicolette Manglos-Weber

1:00 – 1:30 Mike Bare The Paradox of Parsons' Analytical Realism

1:30 – 2:00 Carl Auerbach Towards an Idiographic, Qualitative Scientific Psychology: A Critical Realist Approach

2:00 – 2:15 Q&A

513 E Political Stream 3 Panel: Is a post-positivist social movement theory possible? The critical search for relevance in social movement studies

Moderator: Emma Greeson

1:00 – 1:20 Ben Manski On the Making of History: Restoring the Agency of Activists to Social Movement Studies
1:20 – 1:40 Maria Martinez Beyond causality and linearity? Identity process in the contemporary feminist movement in Spain

1:40 – 2:00 Atef Said Towards a Realist Multitemporal Perspective in the Study of Revolutions
Q&A

2:15 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 4:00 **Plenary Session: Utopian Social Science After Positivism** Room 513AB

*Chair:* Philip Gorski

- 2:30 – 3:00 Erik Olin Wright
- 3:00 – 3:30 Margaret Archer
- 3:30 – 4:00 Discussion

4:00 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:30 **Closing Plenary Session: Beyond Positivism** Room 513AB

*Chair:* Philip Gorski

- 4:15 – 4:35 Douglas Porpora
- 4:35 – 4:55 Claire Decoteau
- 4:55 – 5:15 Timothy Rutzou

**Closing Remarks**

Philip Gorski