

Grant Blank

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Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Chicago. 1999.
Dissertation: *Stars, Thumbs, and Best Buys: A Sociological Theory of Reviews and Credible Knowledge*.
Committee: William L. Parish (Chair), Andrew Abbott, Wendy Griswold.

M.A. Sociology, University of Chicago. 1980.
Thesis: *Patterns of International Development, 1950-1977*.

B. A. *summa cum laude*, Sociology, University of Minnesota. 1974.
Thesis: *Aufbruch in West Berlin: A Case Study of the Social Movement among the Students of the Free University, 1965-1968*.

Free University of Berlin. Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, 1972-1973.

Professional Interests

Social and cultural impact the Internet and other new media; quantitative and qualitative methods; cultural sociology, especially cultural evaluation; sociology of science and technology; artificial intelligence.

Books

Nigel Fielding, Raymond M. Lee, and Grant Blank (eds). 2008. *Handbook of Online Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications.

Grant Blank. 2007. *Critics, Ratings, and Society: The Sociology of Reviews*. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Leland Wilkinson, Grant Blank, and Christian P. Gruber. 1996. *Desktop Data Analysis with SYSTAT*. New York: Prentice-Hall.

Grant Blank, James L. McCartney, and Edward Brent (eds). 1989. *New Technology in Sociology: Practical Applications in Research and Work*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

Norton Ginsburg, James Osborn, and Grant Blank. 1986. *Geographical Perspectives on the Wealth of Nations*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago. Department of Geography. Research monograph #220.

Articles: Sociological

Grant Blank & Darja Leskovec. (in preparation). "The nature of social network sites: Adoption, use and types".

Grant Blank & Darja Leskovec. (in preparation). "The property space of Internet use: Amount, variety and types".

Grant Blank & William H. Dutton. Forthcoming. "Next Generation Internet Users: Digital divides, choices, and inequalities" chapter 3 in Mark Graham & William H. Dutton (eds.). *Society and the Internet: How information and social networks are changing our lives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nic Newman, William H. Dutton & Grant Blank. Forthcoming. "Social media and the news" chapter 11 in Mark Graham & William H. Dutton (eds.). *Society and the Internet: How information and social networks are changing our lives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

William H. Dutton & Grant Blank. Forthcoming. "The emergence of Next Generation Internet users". *International Economics and Economic Policy*. 10.

Grant Blank. 2013. "Who produces content? Stratification and content production on the Internet". *Information, Communication & Society*. 16: 590-612.
DOI:10.1080/1369118X.2013.777758

Grant Blank & William H. Dutton. 2013. "The emergence of Next Generation Internet users" pp. 122-141 in John M. Hartley, Jean Burgess & Axel Bruns (eds.) *Blackwell companion to new media dynamics*. London: Blackwell.

Nic Newman, William H. Dutton & Grant Blank. 2012. "Social media and the changing ecology of news: The Fourth and Fifth Estates in Britain" *International Journal of Internet Science*. 7(1): 6-22.

Grant Blank & Bianca C. Reisberg. 2012. "The participatory web: A user perspective on Web 2.0" *Information, Communication & Society*. 15: 537-554.
DOI:10.1080/1369118X.2012.665935

Grant Blank & William H. Dutton. 2012. "Age and trust in the Internet: The centrality of experience and attitudes toward technology in Britain" *Social Science Computer Review*. 30: 135-151. DOI: 10.1177/0894439310396186

Heidi Netz Rupke & Grant Blank. 2009. "'Country Roads' to Globalization: Sociological Models for Understanding American Popular Music in China" *Journal of Popular Culture*. 42:126-146. DOI: 10.1111/j.1540-5931.2009.00574.x

Grant Blank. 2008. "Online research methods and social theory" pp. 537-550 in Nigel Fielding, Raymond M. Lee & Grant Blank (eds). *Handbook of Online Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications. DOI: 10.4135/9780857020055.n29

Raymond M. Lee, Nigel Fielding & Grant Blank. 2008. "The Internet as a research medium" Pp. 2-22 in Nigel Fielding, Raymond M. Lee & Grant Blank (eds). *Handbook of Online Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage Publications.
DOI: 10.4135/9780857020055.n1

Grant Blank. 2007. "Food and Cultural Consumption" pp. 721-724 in George Ritzer (ed.) *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. New York: Blackwell. (Invited article)

Grant Blank. 2006. "Communication and Information Technologies: A History of the Middle Years" *Social Science Computer Review*. 24: 158-164.
DOI:10.1177/0894439305284623

Grant Blank. 2000. "The Progress of the Internet" pp. 37-45 in G. David Garson (ed.). *Social dimensions of information technology: Issues for the new millennium*. Hershey PA: Idea Group Publishing.

Grant Blank. 1997. "The Road Ahead: Observations on the Role of the Internet" *Social Science Computer Review*. 15: 190-195. DOI: 10.1177/089443939701500207

Grant Blank. 1991. "Why Sociological Computing Gets No Respect" *Social Science Computer Review*. 9: 593-611. DOI: 10.1177/089443939100900406

Grant Blank. 1991. "The Obsolescence of the SAS® System Revisited" pp. 1110-1115 in *Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual SAS® Users Group International Conference*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute.

Grant Blank & William L. Parish. 1990. "Rural Industry and Nonfarm Employment: Chinese and Comparative Perspectives" Pp. 109-139 in R. Yin-Wang Kwok, William L. Parish, and Anthony Gar-On Yeh with Xu Xueqiang (eds.). *Chinese Urban Reform: What Model Now?* Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharp.

Grant Blank. 1989. "Bias in Statistical Software Reviews" pp. 14-20 in Kenneth Berk and Linda Malone (eds.). *Proceedings of the 21st Symposium on the Interface: Computing Science and Statistics*. Alexandria, VA: American Statistical Association.

Grant Blank. 1988. "New Technology and the Nature of Sociological Work" *The American Sociologist*. 19: 3-15. An expanded version is published in *New Technology in Sociology: Practical Applications in Research and Work*, edited by Grant Blank, James L. McCartney, and Edward Brent. 1989. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Grant Blank. 1985. "The Obsolescence of the SAS® System" Pp. 279-284 in *Proceedings of the Tenth Annual SAS® Users Group International Conference*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute.

Articles: Methodological

Karsten Boye Rasmussen & Grant Blank. 2007. "The Data Documentation Initiative: A Preservation Standard for Research" *Archival Science*. 7(1):55-71.

Grant Blank & Karsten Boye Rasmussen. 2004. "The Data Documentation Initiative: The Value and Significance of a World-Wide Standard" *Social Science Computer Review*. 22: 307-318. DOI: 10.1177/0894439304263144

Grant Blank. 1993. "Codebooks in the 1990s; or, Aren't You Embarrassed to be Running a Multimedia-Capable, Graphical Environment like Windows and Still be Limited to 40-byte Variable Labels?" *Social Science Computer Review*. 11: 63-83. DOI: 10.1177/089443939301100106

Grant Blank. 1986. "Reviewing Statistical Software on Microcomputers: Methods and Vision" *Computers and the Social Sciences*. 2: 1-10. Reprinted in *Science Software*. 1987. 3: 11-19.

Grant Blank. 1986. "An Essay on Multivariate Methodology in Cross-National Research" Pp. 101-120 in Norton Ginsburg, James Osborn, and Grant Blank. *Geographical Perspectives on the Wealth of Nations*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago. Department of Geography. Research monograph #220.

Teaching

Grant Blank. 2004. "Teaching Qualitative Data Analysis to Graduate Students" *Social Science Computer Review*. 22: 187-196. DOI: 10.1177/0894439303262559

Oxford University. 2010-present. Oxford Internet Institute. Graduate statistics and research methods courses.

American University. 1999-2007. Department of Sociology. Graduate research methods courses, Graduate statistics courses, Sociology and Popular Culture, Public Policy Research, Introduction to Sociology, Critical Social Theory.

Lecturer. Northwestern University. 1988. Sociology Department graduate statistics courses.

Reviews, Other Papers and Monographs

Grant Blank. 2013. "Social stratification and content production: A response" *Information, Communication & Society*. 16. DOI:10.1080/1369118X.2013.804142

Grant Blank. 2013. "Blurring the boundaries: New social media, new social science" *International Journal of Market Research*. 55(3):461-464. DOI:10.2501/IJMR-2013-000.

William H. Dutton & Grant Blank. 2011. *Next Generation Users: The Internet in Britain, The Oxford Internet Survey 2011 Report*. Oxford: Oxford Internet Institute.

Grant Blank. 2009. Review of "Art from Start to Finish: Jazz, Painting, Writing and other Improvisations". Howard S. Becker, Robert R. Faulkner, & Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (eds.). *American Journal of Sociology*. 114: 1892-1894.

Grant Blank. 1995. Review of askSam for Windows version 2.0. *Social Science Computer Review*. 13: 571-575.

- Grant Blank. 1994. Review of Statistica/DOS. *PC Magazine*. 12 (9): 283-4.
- Grant Blank. 1993. "Frequency Tables using the SAS® System: What They Are and What They Could Be" Pp. 104-107 in *Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual SAS® Users Group International Conference*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute.
- Grant Blank. 1992. "Rejoinder to George H. Conklin" *Social Science Computer Review*. 10: 358-361.
- Grant Blank. 1989. "What Can We Learn from Modeling Social Theory?" Review of Brian P. Bloomfield's "Modeling the World" in *Contemporary Sociology*. 18: 451-453.
- Grant Blank. 1989. Review of EXPERTIMENTAL DESIGN. *Science Software*. 5: 55-9.
- Grant Blank. 1989. "Finding the Right Statistic with Statistical Navigator," Review of Statistical Navigator. *PC Magazine*. 8 (5): 97.
- Grant Blank. 1989. Review of CSS (Complete Statistical System). *PC Magazine*. 8 (5): 123-4.
- Grant Blank. 1989. Review of Prodas (Professional Database Analysis System). *PC Magazine*. 8 (5): 125, 130.
- Grant Blank and Leland Wilkinson. 1988. "The Case of the Missing Data" Pp. 221-225 in *Computer Science and Statistics*, Edited by Thomas J. Boardman. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Peter G. Ford and Grant Blank with Richard Goldstein. 1987. "Review of ForMath, version 2.2" *Notices of the American Mathematical Society*. 34: 472-474.
- Grant Blank. 1986. "Another View of Full-Featured Software" *Computers and the Social Sciences*. 2: 57-58.
- Grant Blank and Andrew A. Norton. 1983. "A Program to Read SPSS-X System Files" Pp. 531-535 in *Proceedings of the Eighth Annual SAS® Users Group International Conference*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute.

Selected Professional Presentations

- "Opportunities and Challenges for the Digital Researcher" (with Yvette Morey) Social Research Association. December 10, 2012. Invited plenary presentation.
- "The Internet in Britain 2011". Prime Minister's Digital Policy Group. 10 Downing Street, London. December 8, 2011
- "The Participatory Web: A User Perspective on Web 2.0" (co-authored with Bianca C. Reisdorf). Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, NV. August 22, 2011.

“Toward a Systematic Theory of Consumer Choice and the Internet” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Atlanta, GA. August 16, 2010. ESA RN02 Sociology of the Arts Conference. September 2, 2010.

“Convergence Theory and Disciplinary Differences” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 10, 2009.

“Why do Audiences read Reviews?” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Boston, MA August 1, 2008.

“Satisfaction with Doing Science: Convergence or a Two-Tier System?” (Co-authored with Roberta Spalter-Roth) Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Boston, MA August 4, 2008.

“Camping out in the Coffee Shop World: A Sociological Analysis of Coffee Shop Conventions” (Co-authored with Nicole Van Vooren) Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY August 14, 2007.

“Online Research Methods and Social Theory” ESRC e-Society Programme Colloquium. Royal Society, London, UK. March 29, 2007.

“Status and the Sociology of Choice” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 13, 2006

“Measuring Cultural Values in National Development” (Co-authored with Judith Coats-Crowson) Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia PA. August 2005

“‘Country Roads’ to Internationalization: Sociological Models for Understanding American Popular Music in China” (Co-authored with Heidi Netz) Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia PA. August 2005

“Worldwide Data Documentation Standards and the Future of Social Science Research” Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society. Washington DC. March 18, 2005.

“Toward a Sociological Theory of Choice” Annual meeting to the American Sociological Association. San Francisco CA. August 14, 2004

“Perceived Effects of Popular Culture and Censorship of Youth” (Co-authored with Margaret Emma Holland). Annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. San Francisco CA. August 2004.

“A Sociology of Choice” Annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Washington DC. July 9, 2004.

American University Center for Teaching Excellence seminar “Qualitative research: Qualrus and Nud*ist software” February 9, 2004

“The Production of Censorship” (Co-authored with Margaret Emma Holland) Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Atlanta GA. August 16, 2003.

“The Internet and the Entertainment Industry: A Cultural Analysis” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago IL. August 18, 2002

“Human Subjects Protection and Course-Based Research” Sociology Department Chair’s Conference. Chicago IL. August 16, 2002.

“Implications of the Internet for Theories of Cultural Production and Reception” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Anaheim CA. August 16, 2001.

“Technology and Teaching Large Classes” Invited presentation to conference Lessons from New Faculty: Teaching Across the Social Sciences. University of Chicago. May 12, 2001

“Eating Out: The Rise and Character of Public Evaluation of Food” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Washington, DC. August 14, 2000.

“Internet Data Sources for Teaching Globalization” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Washington, DC. August 15, 2000.

“The Nature and Types of Reviews: A Study of a Social Institution” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Chicago. August 10, 1999.

“‘Their Power is in the Stars’: Reviews, Audience Involvement, and Cultural Hierarchies” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco. August 24, 1998.

“Reviewers: Makers of Hierarchies and Boundaries” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Toronto, Canada. August 11, 1997.

“Social Science Computing Beyond HTML” Keynote speech for Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA. June 26, 1997.

“The Data Documentation Initiative: Building an International Standard” Annual meeting of the Association of Public Data Users. Washington, DC. October 29, 1996.

“Statistical Graphics for Sociologists” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY. August 19, 1996.

“Computer Support for Text-Based Research: Directions for Future Development” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. Minneapolis, MN. May 14, 1996.

“Research, Text, and Computing: Retrieving and Organizing your Words” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Washington, DC. August 21, 1995.

“Facilitating Electronic Data Interchange: A World-wide, Standard Social Science Codebook Format” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. San Diego, CA. June 18, 1995.

“The Science of Software Reviews” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. College Park, MD. June 3, 1994.

“Expressing Social Theories with Rule-Based Expert Systems” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Pittsburgh, PA. August 24, 1992.

“Codebooks in the 1990s” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. Ann Arbor, MI. May 6, 1992.

“Models of Sociological Theory” World Congress of Expert Systems. Orlando, FL. December 19, 1991.

“Wayward Programs: The Social Control of Deviant Software” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Washington, DC. August 13, 1990

“An Expert System Model of Barrington Moore’s *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 12, 1989.

“Using Artificial Intelligence to Model Theory” Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society. Philadelphia, PA. March 12, 1988.

“Sociology and Microcomputer Statistical Software” Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society. Boston, MA. May 1-3, 1987. Invited presentation.

“When Can You Use Your Microcomputer for Statistical Analysis?” Annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. St. Louis, MO. April 10-13, 1985.

“Patterns of International Development” Annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. Chicago, IL. April 19-21, 1984.

Discussant and Panelist

Discussant for session “Mixing Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches” American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA. August 2004.

Invited panelist for “Making Smart Decisions about Technology for your Department” Sociology Department Chair’s Conference. Atlanta, GA. August 15, 2003.

Discussant for session “Sociology and the Internet: Research and Teaching Opportunities” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Toronto, Canada. August 13, 1997.

Discussant for session “The Culture of the Internet” Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY. August 19, 1996.

Panelist for “The Road Ahead: Social Sciences and the Internet” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. Minneapolis, MN. May 13, 1996.

Debater arguing *against* the proposition, “Resolved: Information Technology will Significantly Improve the Quality of Life for Americans in the 21st Century” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. San Diego, CA. June 19, 1995.

Panelist for “Present and Future Role of Expert Systems in Research” Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences. Ann Arbor, MI. May 5, 1992.

Professional Experience

Oxford Internet Institute. University of Oxford. Survey Research Fellow. 2010-present.

American Sociological Association. Senior Research Associate. 2008-2009.

Applied Social Research Associates. 2007-2008. A consulting firm specializing in social science data collection, data analysis, and research design.

American University. Assistant Professor of Sociology. 1999-2007

Independent Consultant. 1979-1999. Specialties: Data Analysis and Research Design. Responsibilities included statistical analysis, survey design and analysis, focus groups, interviewing, research design, teaching statistics and research design, writing user manuals, data management, systems analysis, computer programming.

Northwestern University. Lecturer. Winter and Spring 1988. Graduate statistics courses.

Research Assistant. 1979-1980. “Urban Life in China” William L. Parish, University of Chicago.

Data Analyst. 1978-1979. Social Psychiatry Study Center, University of Chicago, Sheppard Kellam, Director.

Research Assistant. 1977-1978. “Atlas of Economic Development and Policy” Norton S. Ginsburg, University of Chicago, funded by the National Science Foundation.

Research Associate. 1975-1976. Minnesota Systems Research, Inc. Minneapolis, Minnesota. I directed field work for “The Effects of Interpersonal Similarity and Spatial Proximity among Navy Recruits” Principal Investigator Richard Sykes, University of Minnesota. Funded by the Office of Naval Research.

Professional Activities: Editorial

National Science Foundation review panelist for Human and Social Dynamics. 2005 & 2008.

Editorial Board. *Social Science Computer Review*. 1999-2006.

Editorial Board. Sage Publications. Sage Series on New Technologies in Social Science Research. 1996-2000.

Special issue editor. *The American Sociologist*. Issue titled “New Technology and the Nature of Sociological Work” Volume 19, Number 1. 1988.

Special issue editor. *Computers and the Social Sciences*. Issue titled, “Full-Featured Microcomputer Statistical Software” Published as Volume 2, Numbers 1-2. 1986.

Book referee for Sage Publications, Wadsworth Publishing Co., and University of Chicago Press.

Manuscript referee for *American Journal of Sociology*; *American Sociologist*, *Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*; *Information, Communication & Society*; *Journal of Consumer Culture*; *Poetics*; *Social Problems*; and *Social Science Computer Review*.

Professional Activities: Organizational

Principal Investigator. 2013-2015. "The geography of digital inequality" Economic and Social Research Council grant ref: ES/K00283X/1. £200,000.

Co-Principal Investigator. 2013-2014. Rural Supplement to the Oxford Internet Survey 2013. Dot.rural Digital Hub. £170,000

Principal Investigator. 2012-2014. Oxford Internet Survey 2013. Nominet Trust. £125,000.

Co-Principal Investigator. 2012. "Blurring the boundaries: New social media, new social science?" ESRC National Centre for Research Methods. Networks of Methodological Innovation. £23,300

Co-Principal Investigator. 2009-2011. "Mentoring, networks and under-represented minorities in the science pipeline" National Science Foundation. \$119,000.

Best Graduate Student Paper award selection committee. Sociology of Culture section, American Sociological Association. 2006, 2007.

Chair. Communication and Information Technologies section, American Sociological Association. 1999-2000.

Communication and Information Technologies section, American Sociological Association. Best Graduate Student Paper award committee chair 2004; Nominating committee chair 2000-2001, 2001-2002; Secretary-Treasurer 1994-1998; Section Council member 1988-1989, 1992-1993; Organizer of refereed roundtables for the 1995 Annual Meeting.

Program Co-Chair. Conference on Computing for the Social Sciences (CSS98), the annual conference of the Social Science Computing Association. Yale University. May 20-22, 1998.

President. Social Science Computing Association. 1996-1997.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Data Documentation Initiative Committee member. 1995-2003.

Session organizer. "Software reviews: Editors and Vendors Perspectives" Computing for the Social Sciences 1994. College Park, MD. June 4, 1994.

American Sociological Association Electronic Networking Committee. 1988-1993.

Session organizer. "Microcomputer Statistical Software for Sociologists" Annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. St. Louis, MO. April 10-13, 1985.

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association. Section memberships: Communication and Information Technologies; Sociology of Culture; Science, Knowledge, and Technology.

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR).

International Association of Social Science Information Service and Technology (IASSIST).

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Special interest group: Computers & Society.

References

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Professor Ralph Schroeder. Oxford Internet Institute. University of Oxford. 1 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3JS United Kingdom. +44 (0)1865 287 210. ralph.schroeder@oii.ox.ac.uk.

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