

CURRICULUM VITAE

James E. Block

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FIELDS: Political Theory, American Political Culture, American Cultural History, Anglo-American Religious Thought

EDUCATION:

University of California, Berkeley

B.A., *Magna cum Laude*, Western Intellectual History, 1967

University of Sussex

M.A., History of Ideas, 1968

Columbia University

Doctoral student in Social and Intellectual History in joint program with Wolfson College, Oxford, 1968-70

New York University

J.D., 1973

University of Chicago

Committee on Social Thought, Ph.D., 1998

Thesis Subject: *A Nation of Agents: The Making of the American Social Character (1570-1890)*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

1978-82 Lecturer, DePaul University

Public Law, Political Theory, Interdisciplinary Studies

1982-87 Instructor, DePaul University

Political Theory, Great Books, Cultural History

James E. Block

1987-91 Associate Director, DePaul University Honors Program

Program Direction, Teaching in Political Theory, Great Books and Cultural History, Direction of Great Books Program

1991-92 Director, DePaul University Honors Program
Program Direction, Teaching in Great Books and Interdisciplinary
Seminars, Direction of Great Books Program

1994-2000 Instructional Associate, DePaul University
Great Books, Interdisciplinary and Honors Seminars, Political Theory

2000-05 Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, DePaul University

2005- Associate Professor, Political Science Department, DePaul University

PUBLICATIONS:

“Beyond Parenthood,” *Social Policy*, March/April, 1980

“New Shapes of Family Life,” *Dissent*, Summer, 1981

“Liberal Values are Tearing the Family Apart,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 1981

“The Shibboleth of Productivity,” *New York Times*, May 11, 1981

“The Myth of Declining Productivity,” *Progressive*, July, 1982

“Selling the Productivity Crisis,” *New Political Science*, Spring, 1983

“The Shibboleth of Productivity: The Exhaustion of Industrial-Age Strategies in Post-Industrial Society,” *Review of Radical Political Economics*, Vol. 17, Nos. 1 and 2, Spring and Summer, 1985

“Looking Forward: Hobbes on Modernity,” in *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics and Culture*, September, 2000

“Narratives of Reversal: Fiction of the Young Republic and the Crisis of Liberation,” *PROSPECTS: An Annual Journal of American Cultural Studies* (published by Cambridge University Press), 2001

“Millennial Modernism and the Subversion of Change: Post-Revolutionary America as the New ‘Established Order,’” accepted for publication, on-line journal, Millennial Studies Association, 2001

“Generational Conflict and Social Change: The Structural Role of Youth in Liberal Political Transformation,” (requested for publication by conference organizers), 2002

A Nation of Agents: The American Path to a Modern Self and Society, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2002

“Modern Exemplar or Universalist Fallacy: Assessing Liberalism’s Quest to Excise the Theological,” (requested for publication by conference organizers), 2002

“The Construction of Modern Childhood: American Socialization and the Crisis of Individualism,” a chapter in *The Politics of Childhood* ed. Allison James, etc., Palgrave Macmillans, 2005

“Agency and Popular Activism in American Political Culture,” lead essay in *Formative Acts: Reckoning with Agency in American Politics*, ed. Stephen Skowronek, Yale University (University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming)

The Perilous Progression: The Crisis of American Individualism in an Organizational Age (Harvard University Press, forthcoming)

The Crucible of Consent: American Child-Rearing and the Forging of a Liberal Society (Harvard University Press, forthcoming)

“Psychopolitics and Vision: Marcuse’s Post-Modern Dialectic of Transformation” accepted for publication in a volume of essays, *Eros and Liberation: The Work of Herbert Marcuse for Our Time* (forthcoming, University of Michigan, in negotiation) Co-Editor of *Eros and Liberation: The Work of Herbert Marcuse for Our Time*. co-writing the introduction “Marcuse For Our Time” with the other co-editors (now in negotiation with University of Michigan Press)

“The Future as Present: Recovering Dialectics in Marcuse’s Psychopolitics” has been accepted by the director of the International Social Theory Consortium, Professor Wolfgang Natter of Virginia Tech, for publication in a volume of essays from the 2006 conference.

“The Radical Present: The Psychopolitics of Transformation in Marcuse,” in *No Social Science Without Critical Theory* (Elsevier Limited Press, in production)

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS:

“Forced Treatment: Protected Rights and the Coercion of Narcotic Addicts,” policy study for City of New York, 1974

Brief before United States Supreme Court in *Legion v. Weinberger*, 1974

“The Crisis in the American Family,” DePaul University, 1979

“Psychology and the Politics of Thomas Hobbes,” Midwest Conference on Political Theory, 1979

“A New Perspective on Thomas Hobbes,” University of Chicago, 1979

“Socialization and the Youth Movement of the 1960’s,” Society for the Study of Social Problems, 1980

“Socialization and the End of the Liberal Consensus,” St. Xavier University Conference on the Future of Liberalism, 1982

“LeisurePhobia: The Contemporary Fear of Declini Work,” DePaul University, 1983

“Generational Conflict and Contemporary American Social Movements,” American Political Science Association, 1984

“The Nature of Apocalyptic Movements,” DePaul University Theology Series, 1985

“Trancendentalist Reflections on the Founding,” DePaul University Bicentennial Quarter, 1987

“Jefferson’s Anomalous *Declaration*: The Revolutionary Legacy and the Meaning of the First New Nation,” University of Chicago Lecture, 1998

“Beyond Perfectionism: The Mixed Legacy of an ‘Exceptional’ Revolution,” Tulsa Conference on American Cultural Studies, 1999

“Reassessing the Freedom Narrative: An Encounter with Eric Foner,” DePaul University Lecture, 1999

“Panic in the Republican Wilderness: Robert M. Bird, Early National Literature and the Crisis of Liberation,” Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association, 1999

“Recovering the Internal American Revolution: The Religious and Class Origins of American Popular Radicalism,” Youngstown University Working-Class Studies Conference, Youngstown, Ohio, 1999

“A New American Revolution and the Prospects for a Post-Liberal Political Theory,” Indiana University Seminar in Political Thought, Bloomington, Indiana, 1999

“Channeled ‘Freedom’ and Laissez-Faire Mythology: The Protestant Origins of Post-Bellum American Liberal Economics,” CHEIRON: International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference, Carleton University, 1999

“Turning Authors into Supporters: Hobbes’ Advice to a Fragmenting World,” American Political Science Association Conference, 1999

“The Shaping of a Republican Childhood: Constructing Modern Citizenship in the Early American Republic,” Society of Historians of the Early Republic Conference, S.U.N.Y. Buffalo, July, 2000

“Apocalypse Then and Now: The Origins of American Political Modernism and its Contemporary Transformations,” California American Studies Conference, U.C. Santa Barbara, March, 2000

“Socialization and Social Reconstruction: The Politics of Liberal Child-Rearing,” Conference on Social Theory, University of Kentucky, May, 2000

“The Religious Foundations of American Self and Society: Rethinking the Secular Project,” MacArthur Foundation Secularism/Religion Conference at the University of Minnesota, May, 2000

“The Colonial Emergence of Agency Culture: The Radical Awakening as the Crucible of American Identity,” M.W.A.S. Eighteenth Century Studies Conference, Michigan State University, November, 2000

“Reshaping Childhood for a Republican World: American Socialization and Education as a Crucible of Modernity,” Royal Melbourne University and University of Melbourne, July, 2001

“The Construction of Modern Childhood: The Search for Modern Individualism in Early American Socialization,” Conference on the History of Children and Youth, Marquette University, July 2001

“Mattapoisett.org: A Late Twenty-First Century Intentional Community,” Communal Studies Association Conference, New Harmony, Indiana (with DePaul University Honors students), September, 2001

“From Decentralized to Organizational Pedagogy: John Dewey and the Transformation of the Liberal Citizen,” History of Education Conference, Yale University, October 2001

“The Creation of Modern Childhood: American Socialization and the Crisis of the Early Republic,” Newberry Library Seminar on American Culture, October, 2001

“Millennial Modernism and the Subversion of Change: Post-Revolutionary America as the New ‘Established Order,’” Millennial Studies Association, Boston University, November, 2001

“That Dangerous ‘Core of Darkness’: Early Modern Socialization and the Emerging Politics of Interiority,” Early Modern Studies Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 2001

“Generational Conflict and Social Change: The Structural Role of Youth in Liberal Political Transformation,” Youth, Popular Culture, and Everyday Life Conference, Bowling Green State University, February, 2002

“The Construction of Modern Individualism: The Search for Ordered Individualism in Early American Socialization,” European Social Science History Conference, The Hague, Netherlands, February, 2002

“The Modern Transformation of Liberal Socialization,” DePaul Faculty Research Seminar in Behavioral and Social Sciences, April, 2002

“Zones of Structural Conflict: The Generational Struggle over Socialization in Liberal Society,” Youth, Schooling, and Pop Culture Conference, Syracuse University, June, 2002

“The Construction of Modern Childhood: American Socialization and the Crisis of Individualism,” and plenary panel on the future of childhood studies, Conference on the Social Study of Childhood, Centre for the Social Study of Childhood, University of Hull, September, 2002

“Modern Exemplar or Universalist Fallacy: Assessing Liberalism’s Quest to Excise the Theological,” The Place of Theology in the Liberal State and the Globalized World, University of Wisconsin Law School, October, 2002

“The Pedagogy of Childhood Studies,” Social Science History Association Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, October 2002

“Foundational American Values and the Global Project,” Barat College, January 2003

“Agency and American Culture,” Odyssey Program on National Public Radio, January 2003

“The ‘Impossibility’ of an American Narrative,” Yale University Lecture, February, 2003

“Rethinking the Foundations of American Nationhood,” Swarthmore College Lecture, March, 2003

“From Freedom to Agency: Rethinking the American Narrative,” University of North Carolina Lecture, March, 2003

“An End -- and a Beginning?: The Free Speech Movement in Berkeley, 1964, Critical Moments Conference, Emory University, March 2003

“From Freedom to Agency: Rethinking the American Social Contract,” American Bar Foundation, May, 2003

“Refiguring Post-Modern Social Theory: Rethinking Power and Opposition in the American Case,” International Social Theory Conference, Tampa Bay, Florida, May, 2003

“G.S. Hall and the Origins of the American Study of Childhood,” Society for the History of Children and Youth, University of Maryland, June, 2003

“Religion and the American Global Role,” Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, Switzerland, September, 2003

“Toward a New Transformational Theory: Rethinking Power and Opposition in the American Case,” Association for Political Theory, Calvin College, October, 2003

“Always the Bridesmaid: Education in the American Story,” Plenary Address, History of Education Society, November, 2003

“Religion and the American Project: a roundtable with James Morone,” Southern Political Science Meetings, January, 2004

“American Culture and its Global Role,” Center for American Studies, University of Havana, March, 2004

“The American Historical Project and the Dynamic of Social Change,” Center for Studies of the United States, University of Havana, March, 2004

“The American Political Dynamic,” Staff of the Head of the National Legislature, Havana, Cuba, March, 2004

“Political Faith and the Crisis of Progressive Social Theory,” International Conference on Social Theory, York University, Toronto, May, 2004

“The Path to Participatory Institutions: Strengths and Weaknesses of the American Case,” Budapest University of Economics and Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, July, 2004

“The Least Visible Branch: Child Rearing and the Forming of American Society,” University of Pennsylvania, September, 2004

“Agency and American Political Development,” Plenary Address at Conference on American Political Development, Yale University, October, 2004

“The Jeremiad and Political Transformation,” Association for Political Theorists, Colorado College, October, 2004

“Spiritual Identities and the American Narrative,” Spiritual Identities Conference, University of Lancaster, November, 2004

“A Privileged Window: Viewing Childhood as the Site of Modernity and Post-Modernity,” University of Sheffield, November, 2004

“A Republic of Agents: Recasting the Story of the ‘First New Nation,’” Oxford University, November, 2004

“Political Transformation and the Crisis of Social Theory,” Cambridge University, November, 2004

“Emerson and the American Century: Speaking Truth to Power,” Unitarian Church Lecture Series on Emerson, February, 2005

“Democracy Without Liberalism: Reflections from the Center,” DePaul University Philosophy Colloquium, April, 2005

“Death or Transfiguration: Family Authority in the Permissive Era,” Plenary Talk, Society for the History of Children and Youth, Marquette University, August, 2005

“Beyond the Perpetual Contract: Emerson and American Liberal Theory,” Association for Political Theory, Washington University in St. Louis, October, 2005

“Psychopolitics and Vision: Marcuse’s Post-Modern Dialectic of Transformation,” Plenary Address, Conference in Honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of *Eros and Civilization*, November, 2005

“Emerson and the Crisis of the American Empire,” Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Speakers’ Series, 2006

“David Harvey and the Problematic of Cultural Lag,” Seminar on the Work of David Harvey (Harvey in attendance), DePaul University, 2006

“The Future as Present: Recovering Dialectics in Marcuse’s Psychopolitics,” International Social Theory Consortium, Virginia Tech, 2006.

“Religion and Modernization: Agency in a Post-Colonial Context,” University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2006

“Participation and Empowerment: Theorizing Children’s Rights,” Center for the Study of Children and Youth International Conference on Children’s Rights, University of Sheffield, England, 2006

“Starting Over: Rousseau’s Second Discourse and the Origins of Modern Utopianism,” Society for Utopian Studies, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2006

“A Quixotic Victory: Progressive Education and the Progressive Movement,” History of Education Society, Ottawa, Ontario, 2006

“The Crisis of Progressive Theory and New Directions,” North American Conference on Radicalism,” Michigan State University (co-organizer of panel), 2007.

“Envisioning the Future of Childhood,” Civically Engaged Youth in the Americans Conference, University of Illinois, Chicago, 2007

“From Development to Developmental Integration: Dewey’s Organizational Pedagogy and Modern Liberalism,” Society for the History of Children and Youth Conference,” University of Linköping, Sweden, 2007.

“Theories of Childhood,” Society for the History of Children and Youth Conference, University of Linköping, Sweden, 2007

“The Wages of Respectability,” Society for the History of Children and Youth Conference, University of Linköping, Sweden, 2007

“The PsychoPolitics of Plenitude: From Liberalism’s (Libidinal) Scarcity to Marcuse’s Abundant *Eros*,” International Herbert Marcuse Society Conference, St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, 2007

“Winning the Child’s Will: Creating Consent in the American republic,” Plenary Address, University of Denver, 2008

“Progressive Child Development and the Return to Individualism,” PolicyHistory Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, 2008

“The Emancipatory Present: The Call to Experiment in an Age of Eros,” International Utopian Studies Conference, University of Limerick, Ireland, 2008

“Toward a New Theory of Child Development,” International Child Studies Conference, University of Sheffield, England, 2008

“Post-Industrial Phobia: The Rightward March of the American Center,” A.P.S.A., Boston, (co-organizer of panel), 2008

“Emerson and the Reframing of Evil,” Association for Political Theory, Wesleyan University, 2008

“The Democratic Citizen,” Conference on After Post-Modernism, University of Liege, Belgium, 2008

“Give Unto Batman that which is Batman’s,” Huffington Post, 2008

“The Progressive Dilemma,” Huffington Post 2008

“The Sun and the Wind: Two Views of Globalism” Huffington Post, 2008

“The Cunning of Desire: Beyond the Age of Compensatory Narcissism,” Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, B.C. (co-organizer of panel) 2009

“After Post-Modernism: Toward the Recovery of Theory,” International Social Theory Consortium, University of Tennessee (co-organizer of panel), 2009.

“Renewing the Promise of Plenitude,” Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture, Carleton University, Ottawa 2009

“Rousseau and the Revival of Human Development Studies,” U.C.L.A., 2009

“Reflections on the Critical Historiography of Childhood,” Society for the History of Children and Youth, University of California, Berkeley, 2009

“From Pedestal to Indictment: The Cultural Campaign against the Contemporary Young,” Society for the History of Children and Youth, University of California, Berkeley, 2009

“Self-Illumination: Beyond Emersonian Self-Reliance,” International Herbert Marcuse Society, York University, Toronto, 2009

“After Post-Modernism: Toward the Recovery of Theory,” in volume of essays, *Current Perspectives in Political Theory: Nature, Knowledge and Negation*, 2009

“Wrong Turn at Paradise: Woodstock at 40,” Huffington Post, 2009

“*Mad Men* and the High Cost of Advertising,” Huffington Post, 2009

“The Specter of the Counterculture I: A Footnote to History?,” Huffington Post, 2009

“The Specter of the Counterculture II: The Cunning of Desire,” Huffington Post, 2009

“The Specter of the Counterculture III: The Land of False Dreams,” Huffington Post, 2009

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Executive Board, Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, 1976

Co-Chair, Chicago Citywide Faculty for Harold Washington, 1983

National President, Caucus for a New Political Science, 1983-84

National Meeting and Presentation Co-Ordinator, Caucus for a New Political Science, 1983-84

Editorial Advisor, *New Political Science Journal*, 1983-84

National Meeting and Presentation Co-Ordinator, Caucus for a New Political Science, 1984-5

Editorial Advisor, *New Political Science Journal*, 1987

Chair, Bicentennial Conference on the American Founding, DePaul University, 1987

Co-Chair, Committee to Develop DePaul University American Studies Program, 1988-89

Chair, Conference on Politics and the Arts, DePaul University, 1990

Review article manuscripts, *Journal of Politics*, 2001

Organizational involvement in conference planning for the International Consortium of Social Theory, 2003

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT SERVICE:

Program Committee, American Studies Program (including planning, officiating and hosting at the "Pursuits of Happiness" theme quarter), 2000-01

Participation and discussion leadership for Center for Black Diaspora, 2000-01

Participation in Capstone Committee, 2000-01

Member of Political Science Personnel, Department Life and Theory Revision Committees, 2000

Member of Political Science Personnel, Department Life and Political Theory Revision Committees, 2001

Organizer of Political Science Faculty Seminar for outside speakers, 2001

Barat College Planning Committee, 2001

Directed the planning of student presentations (throughout spring quarter, summer and early fall quarter) for the Communal Studies Meeting in New Harmony, Indiana in September, 2001 with several students and accompanied them to the meetings, 2001

Organized visits to DePaul of Professors Stephen Toulmin (and coordinated with the Humanities Center) and Michael Apple (coordinated with the School of Education), 2001
Member of Political Science Department Personnel, Department Life and Political Theory Revision (chair) Committees, 2002

Organized visit of Tom Hayden to DePaul with the Humanities Center and several departments, 2002

Organized the visit including lectures and other presentations to campus of Islamic political theorist Muqtedar Khan and Islamic feminist filmmaker Farah Nousheen with the Humanities Center and several departments, 2003

Served on the Peace and Justice Program program committee, 2003-04

Involvement in the seminars, lectures and reading groups of the Black Diaspora Program, 2003-04

Taught at Barat College and promoted the political science program there as well as participated in planning of the interdisciplinary majors with the program committees, 2003-04

Member of the Political Science Personnel Committee and directed the search committee for a political theory position, 2003

Directed several student independent study projects and summer projects, 2003-04

Organizer of Peter Steinfels' visit to DePaul University as well as the visit of Luis Gandin, an educator from Brazil in conjunction with many other programs, 2003-04
Convener of the coordinating committee for the LA&S theme series—"Confronting Empire" to plan the events for Winter and Spring Quarters 2006