

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

LAURA J. MILLER

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### **Education**

- Ph.D. Department of Sociology  
University of California, San Diego, 1998  
Dissertation: "Merchandising to the Mind: The Cultural and Economic Context of Book Retailing and Wholesaling in the United States"
- M.A. Department of Sociology  
University of California, San Diego, 1992
- M.L.I.S. School of Library and Information Studies  
University of California, Berkeley, 1987  
(Beta Phi Mu -- The International Library and Information Science Honor Society)
- B.A. Department of Sociology  
University of California, Berkeley, 1984  
(Graduated with Highest Distinction; Departmental High Honors; Phi Beta Kappa)

### **Teaching Positions**

2009-present Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Brandeis University

#### Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Culture of Consumption (Spring 2017, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2012, Fall 2010, Spring 2010)  
Globalization and the Media (Fall 2013)  
Mass Communication Theory (Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Spring 2013, Fall 2011, Fall 2009)  
Social Production of Food (Spring 2016, Spring 2013)  
Social Theory and Contemporary Society (Spring 2016, Fall 2013, Spring 2012, Fall 2009)  
Sociology of Information: Politics, Power, and Property (Spring 2017, Spring 2014, Spring 2010)

Urban Life and Culture (Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2011)

Graduate Courses Taught:

Foundations of Sociological Theory (Fall 2014, Fall 2012)  
Sociology of Culture (Fall 2015, Spring 2012)  
Theories of Morality (Fall 2010)

2002-2009 Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Brandeis University

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Culture of Consumption (Spring 2009, Spring 2008, Fall 2005, Fall 2004, Spring 2004, Spring 2003)  
Globalization and the Media (Fall 2008, Fall 2006, Fall 2004)  
Mass Communication Theory (Fall 2007, Spring 2007, Spring 2005, Fall 2003, Fall 2002,)  
The Popular Book (Spring 2004)  
Social Theory and Contemporary Society (Fall 2006, Spring 2005)  
Sociology of Information (Spring 2008)  
Suburbia: Refuge, Fortress, or Prison (Fall 2007)  
Urban Life and Culture (Spring 2009, Spring 2007, Fall 2003, Fall 2002)

Graduate Courses Taught:

Sociology of Culture (Fall 2008, Fall 2005, Spring 2003)

1999-2002 Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology and Faculty of Information & Media Studies  
University of Western Ontario

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

The Culture of Consumption (Winter 2002, Winter 2001)  
Designing and Critiquing Research Methods (Winter 2001, Winter 2000)  
Suburban Life (Winter 2001)  
Theories of Mass Communication (Fall 2001, Fall 2000,, Winter 2000)  
Urbanization: Micro-Analysis (Winter 2002)

Graduate Courses Taught:

The Book Trade (Fall 1999, Fall 2000)  
Information Practices in Everyday Life (Fall 2001)

1998-99 Visiting Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology, Vassar College

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

Introductory Sociology (Fall 1998)  
Media Industries in Transition (Fall 1998)  
Sociology of the Family (Spring 1999)  
Suburban Life (Spring 1999)

1993-94, Lecturer

1998 Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego

Undergraduate Courses Taught:  
Sociology of Sex and Gender Roles (Fall 1994, Fall 1993)  
The Family (Winter 1998)

### **Publications -- Books**

2017 *Building Nature's Market: The Business and Politics of Natural Foods.*  
University of Chicago Press.

2006 *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption.*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### **Publications – Articles and Chapters**

2017 “Relevance without Resonance: One-Dimensional Critique Today,” *Radical Philosophy Review*, 20(1), pp. 163-183.

2015 “By the Pinch and the Pound: Less and More Protest in American Vegetarian Cookbooks from the Nineteenth Century to the Present.” (Laura J. Miller and Emilie Hardman) In *Protest on the Page: Essays on Print and the Culture of Dissent since 1865*, edited by James L. Baughman, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, and James P. Danky, pp. 111-136. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

2013 “Whither the Professional Book Publisher in an Era of Distribution on Demand.” In *The International Encyclopedia of Media Studies, Volume II: Production*, edited by Angharad N. Valdivia and Vicki Mayer, pp. 171-191. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.

2011 “Perpetual Turmoil: Book Retailing in the Twenty-First Century United States.” *Logos: Journal of the World Publishing Community*, 22(3), pp. 16-25.

2010 “Barnes & Noble,” “Books in Print,” “Borders,” “Brentano’s,” “Cody’s Books,” “Kroch’s & Brentano’s,” “Macy’s and Wanamaker’s Book Departments,” “Powell’s Books,” “Waldenbooks.” In *Oxford Companion to the Book*, edited by Michael F. Suarez, S.J. and H.R. Woudhuysen. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2009 “Selling the Product.” In *A History of the Book in America, Volume 5: The Enduring Book: Print Culture in Postwar America*, edited by David Paul Nord, Joan Shelley Rubin, and Michael Schudson, pp. 91-106. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

2009 “Reading the Data on Books, Newspapers, and Periodicals: A Statistical Appendix.” (Laura J. Miller and David Paul Nord) In *A History of the Book in America, Volume 5: The Enduring Book: Print Culture in Postwar America*, edited by David Paul Nord, Joan Shelley Rubin, and Michael Schudson, pp.503-518. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

- 2003 "The Rise and Not-Quite-Fall of the American Book Wholesaler." *Journal of Media Economics* 16(2), pp. 97-120.
- 2002 "Saving Books from the Market: Price Maintenance Policies in the United States and Europe." In *Citizenship and Participation in the Information Age*, edited by Manjunath Pendakur and Roma Harris, pp. 219-230. Aurora, ON: Garamond Press.
- 2001 "Publishing as Medium." In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, edited by Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes, V. 18, pp. 12599-603. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- 2000 "The Best-Seller List as Marketing Tool and Historical Fiction." *Book History* 3, pp. 286-304.
- 1999 "Shopping for Community: The Transformation of the Bookstore Into a Vital Community Institution." *Media, Culture and Society* 21(3), pp. 385-407.
- 1999 "Cultural Authority and the Use of New Technology in the Book Trade." *Journal of Arts Management, Law and Society* 26(4), pp. 297-313.
- 1995 "Family Togetherness and the Suburban Ideal." *Sociological Forum* 10(3), pp. 393-418.
- 1994 "Informed Control: Dun & Bradstreet and the 'Information Society.'" (Sharon Hayes and Laura Miller) *Media, Culture and Society* 16(1), pp. 117-140.
- 1989 "The Self-Image of the Library Profession." *International Library Review* 21, pp. 141-155.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2016 *Health, Food and Social Inequality: Critical Perspectives on the Supply and Marketing of Food* by Carolyn Mahoney. *Sociology of Health & Illness*. First published online June 13, DOI: 10.1111/1467-9566.12465.
- 2010 *The Late Age of Print: Everyday Book Culture from Consumerism to Control* by Ted Striphas. *Journal of Consumer Culture* 10(2), pp. 300-302.
- 2009 *Regionalism and the Reading Class* by Wendy Griswold. *Contemporary Sociology* 38(5), pp. 403-404.
- 2009 *Consuming Life* by Zygmunt Bauman. *Contemporary Sociology* 38(1), pp. 74-75.
- 2008 *Consumer Culture: History, Theory and Politics* by Roberta Sassatelli. *Journal of Consumer Culture* 8(3), pp. 419-421.
- 2008 *Getting Loose: Lifestyle Consumption in the 1970s* by Sam Binkley. *American*

*Journal of Sociology* 114(1), pp. 271-273.

- 2000 *Book Industry Trends, 1998: Covering the Years 1992-2002* prepared for the Book Industry Study Group by Statistical Service Center; *The 1997 Consumer Research Study on Book Purchasing* prepared by the NPD Group, Inc.; *The World Book Report: An International Market Intelligence Report, 1998 edition* by Euromonitor. *The Library Quarterly* 70(2), pp. 263-265.
- 2000 *Cultural Theory and the Problem of Modernity* by Alan Swingewood. *Contemporary Sociology* 29(2), pp. 430-431.
- 1999 *A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire* by Janice A. Radway. *The Library Quarterly* 69(1), pp. 96-98.
- 1994 *For Inquiring Minds: A Cultural Study of Supermarket Tabloids* by S. Elizabeth Bird. *Publishing Research Quarterly* 10(2), pp. 50-52.

### **Reprints**

- 2015 "Perpetual Turmoil: Book Retailing in the Twenty-First Century United States." In *The Cottage by the Highway and Other Essays on Publishing: 25 Years of Logos*, edited by Angus Phillips, pp. 309-324. Leiden: Brill. Reprinted from *Logos: Journal of the World Publishing Community*.
- 2010 "Designing the Bookstore for the Standardized Consumer." In *The History of the Book in the West: 1914-2000*, edited by Alexis Weedon, pp. 467-501. Farnham: Ashgate. Reprinted from *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption*.

### **Conference Papers Presented**

- 2017 "West Meets East in the American Natural Foods Field." Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society/Association for the Study of Food and Society Joint Annual Conference, Los Angeles.
- 2016 "Selling Vegetarianism: The Publishing and Politics of American Vegetarian Cookbooks"  
(Emilie Hardman and Laura J. Miller)  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2013 "Cooking and Consciousness Raising: Vegetarian Cookbooks as Manuals for Social Change."  
(Laura J. Miller and Emilie Hardman)  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2012 "By the Pinch and the Pound: Protest in American Vegetarian Cookbooks from the Nineteenth Century to the Present."  
(Laura J. Miller and Emilie Hardman)  
Center for the History of Print & Digital Culture conference on Protest on the

Page: Print Culture History in Opposition to Almost Anything, Madison.

- 2012 "Business on the Barricades: Challenging Agro-Medical Interests from Within the Natural Foods Industry."  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York.
- 2011 "Meanings and Practices in Co-optation: The Case of Natural Foods."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas.
- 2010 "When Politics and Business Overlap: Defining Insiders and Goals in the Natural Foods Movement."  
Organization Studies Workshop, Margaux, France.
- 2010 "The Price of Eating Ethically: Natural Foods in Hard Times."  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2008 "From Living an Ethic to Consuming It: Battle Creek and the Early Commercialization of Natural Foods."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2006 "Expandable Markets and Sustainable Consumption: The Role of Industry in the Natural Foods Movement."  
16<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Sociological Association, Durban, South Africa.
- 2005 "Politics and Products: The Commercial Underpinnings of the Natural Foods Movement."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2005 "Changing the World by Feeding the Self: Natural Foods Cookbooks as Political Tracts."  
Thirteenth International Conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing, Halifax.
- 2005 "Designing Consumer Experience: The Aesthetics of Retailing."  
37<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, Stockholm.
- 2004 "Accomplices to Fun: The Bookstore as Urban Entertainment Center."  
Print Culture and the City Conference, Montreal.
- 2003 "Politics or Marketing: Varieties of Persuasion in Book Retailing."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- 2003 "The Clash Between Armchairs and Cash Registers: Customer Behavior and Corporate Strategies at Book Superstores. "  
(Laura J. Miller, Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie, and Paulette M. Rothbauer)  
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference, Claremont.
- 2001 "Latte Grande, No Sprinkles: An Observational Study of Customer Behaviour at Chapters Bookstores."  
(Christopher M. Dixon, Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie, Laura J. Miller, and Paulette

M. Rothbauer)  
Library Research Seminar II, College Park, MD.

- 2001 "Big-Box Bookselling Comes to Canada: The Globalization of Retailing."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Anaheim.
- 2001 "Knocking at the Door: Social Theory, Social Science Methodology, and Book History."  
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference, Williamsburg.
- 2001 "Latte Grande, No Sprinkles: An Exploratory Observational Study of Customer Behaviour at Chapters Bookstores."  
(Christopher M. Dixon, Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie, Laura J. Miller, and Paulette M. Rothbauer)  
Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science, Quebec City.  
Published in *Beyond the Web: Technologies, Knowledge and People: Proceedings of the 29th Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Information Science*, edited by D. Grant Campbell, pp. 165-174.
- 2000 "The Politics of Shopping: Anti-Chain Activity and the Consumption-Related Social Movement."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 1999 "Saving Books from the Market: Price Maintenance Policies in the United States and Europe."  
Citizens at the Crossroads: Whose Information Society?, London, Ontario.
- 1999 "Combating the Discount Evil: The Struggle for Price Maintenance."  
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference, Madison.
- 1998 "The Best Seller List as Marketing Tool and Historical Fiction."  
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference, Vancouver.
- 1998 "The Persistence of the Mass Culture Critique in the Book Business."  
Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, San Francisco.
- 1997 "Consumer Choice and Cultural Authority: The Bookseller as Ambivalent Taste Leader."  
Annual Conference on Social Theory, Politics and the Arts, Cape Canaveral.
- 1996 "Shopping for Community: The Transformation of the Bookstore Into a Vital Local Institution."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York.
- 1996 "Selling Community in the Independent Bookstore."  
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Annual Conference, Worcester, MA.

- 1995 "The Making of an 'Independent' Identity in the Book Trade."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 1993 "Family Fun in the Suburbs: Family Togetherness and the Suburban Ideal."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Miami.
- 1992 "The Kinko's Case and the Problem of Intellectual Property."  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh.
- 1992 "Informed Control: Dun & Bradstreet and the 'Information Society.'"  
(Sharon Hays and Laura Miller)  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh.

### **Honors, Grants, and Awards**

- 2017 Bibliographical Society of America-Pine Tree Foundation Fellowship in  
Culinary Bibliography (with Emilie Hardman)
- 2009 Entrepreneurship Bootcamp  
Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2007 American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Culture Book  
Award for *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption*.
- 2003 Visiting Professor Program  
Advertising Educational Foundation, New York
- 2000 "The Bullies of the Book Trade: Bookselling by American Department Stores"  
Internal Research Grant  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario
- 1996 Dissertation Fellowship  
Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego
- 1993 Eva Salber Phillips, M.D. Memorial Prize  
Department of Sociology, University of California, San Diego
- 1988-89 University of California Regents Fellowship
- 1986 Anne Ethelyn Markley Scholarship  
University of California, Berkeley

### **Invited Scholarly Presentations**

- 2014 "The Resonance of Marcuse in the '60s and Now."  
Conference on The Many Dimensions of Herbert Marcuse, Brandeis University,  
Waltham.
- 2014 "Inspired by *From Graven Images*."



Chandra Mukerji Festschrift: Culture, Power & Materiality, University of California, San Diego.

- 2008 "Can Consumption Lead to Social Change? Natural Foods and the Lifestyle Movement."  
Department of Sociology, Boston University.
- 2008 "Digital Technology and the Role of the Book: A Social Revolution?"  
Colloquium on the Future of the Book in the Digital Age, California State University, Fresno.
- 2006 "Letting Go of Marginality in Natural Foods: Causes and Consequences of Industry Mainstreaming."  
MIT-Harvard Economic Sociology Seminar, Cambridge, MA.
- 2006 Panelist, "The Future of Media Sociology."  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.

### **Presentations to the Public and Practitioners**

- 2008 Invited speaker, John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI.
- 2006 Guest, "Upfront & Unscripted: The BEA Interview Series."  
BookExpo America, Washington, DC.
- 2004 Food for Thought Luncheon on "Domestic Archeology" exhibit.  
Rose Art Gallery, Brandeis University.
- 2002 "Bullies of the Book Trade: Bookselling by American Department Stores."  
Ontario Library Association Super Conference, Toronto.
- 2002 "Latte Grande, No Sprinkles: The Perceived Threat of the Super-Bookstores to the Future of Public Libraries."  
(with Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie, and Paulette M. Rothbauer)  
Ontario Library Association Super Conference, Toronto.

### **Departmental and University Service (last 10 years)**

- 2014- Member, Library Advisory Council, Brandeis University.
- 2013- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2013- Chair, Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2013- Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University (Chair 2013 & 2015; Member 2014)
- 2005- Member, Steering Committee, Journalism Program, Brandeis University
- 2010-2016 Member, Rabb School Council, Brandeis University

- 2012-2015 Member, Online Learning Advisory Council, Brandeis University
- 2008-2013, 2002-2007 Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2012-2013, 2010-2011 Master's Students Advisor, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2011-2012 Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2007-2011 Member, Bookstore Advisory Committee, Brandeis University
- 2005-2011 Member, Faculty Committee, Cultural Production Program, Brandeis University
- 2010 Member, Teaching with Technology Committee, Brandeis University
- 2009-2010 Chair, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2006-2010, Undergraduate Advising Head, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University
- 2006-2008 Honors Coordinator, International & Global Studies program, Brandeis University

### **Professional Service**

Reviewer (last 10 years)

*Social Forces* (2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2008)  
*Poetics* (2016, 2015, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008)  
*Social Problems* (2016, 2013, 2009)  
*Journal of Historical Sociology* (2015)  
*Sociological Theory* (2014)  
 Ashgate Publishing (2014)  
 New York University Press (2014)  
*American Sociological Review* (2013, 2009, 2007)  
 University of Chicago Press (2013)  
*American Journal of Cultural Sociology* (2013)  
*Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* (2012)  
*Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy* (2011)  
 Wiley-Blackwell (2011)  
 University of Massachusetts Press (2011)  
*Theory and Society* (2010)  
*American Behavioral Scientist* (2009)  
 Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (2008)

Secretary-Treasurer, American Sociological Association Section on Consumers and Consumption (2013-2016)

Reviewer, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship Program, Social Science Research Council (2016)

Editorial Board Member, *Contemporary Sociology* (2012-2014)

Organizing Committee Member, conference on “Farm to Table,” Berkeley (2014).

Creator, *Major Publishers with North American Holdings: A Who Owns Whom Guide to the Book Publishing Industry*

<http://people.brandeis.edu/~lamiller/publishers.html> (2000-2013)

Section Organizer, American Sociological Association Section in Formation on Consumers and Consumption (2011-2013)

Advisory Group Member, Consumer Studies Research Network (2005-2012)

Book Review Editor, *Contexts* (2008-2011)

Organizing Committee Member, conference on “Contested Terrain of Consumption Studies,” Boston (2008)

Ronald Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee Member, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association (2007)

Organizer, session on “Cultures of the Marketplace,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal (2006)

Membership Chair, American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Culture (1998-2000)

Founder and Manager, Socgrad (national electronic discussion list for graduate students in sociology) (1992-1998)

Co-Editor, *Working Papers in Sociology*, University of California, San Diego (journal of graduate student research) (1989-1990)

### **Professional Memberships**

American Sociological Association

Section on Consumers and Consumption

Section on Culture

Section on Economic Sociology

Association for the Study of Food and Society

Eastern Sociological Society

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing