

**Tad Peter Skotnicki**  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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2017-present Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
2016-2017 Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
2015-2016 Lecturer in Sociology, University of California, San Diego

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, 2015

M.A. University of Chicago, 2006

B.A. University of Notre Dame, 2004

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Social Theory; Comparative Historical Sociology; Capitalism; Social Movements;  
Humanitarianism; Consumers and Consumption; Cultural Sociology; Philosophy of Social  
Science

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Book:*

Tad Skotnicki, *The Sympathetic Consumer: Moral Critique in Capitalist Culture*, in production at  
Stanford University Press – forthcoming in May 2021

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles:*

Tad Skotnicki and Kelly Nielsen. (2021) “Toward a Theory of Alienation: Futurelessness in  
Financial Capitalism,” *Theory and Society*, Online First: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-021-09440-6>

Tad Skotnicki. (2020) “Commodity Fetishism as Semblance,” *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 38, No. 4:  
362-377

Tad Skotnicki. (2019) “Unseen Suffering: Slow Violence and the Phenomenological Structure of  
Social Problems,” *Theory and Society*, Vol. 48, No. 2: 299-323

Kelly Nielsen and Tad Skotnicki. (2019) "Sociology Towards Death: Heidegger, Time, and Social Theory," *Journal of Classical Sociology*, Vol. 19, No. 2: 111-137

Tad Skotnicki. (2017) "Consumer Senses and Commodity Fetishism: Turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century Consumer Activism in the United States and England," *Journal of Historical Sociology*, Vol. 30, No. 3: 619-649

Kwai Ng and Tad Skotnicki. (2016) "That British Sound": Nation as a Branding Device," *Signs and Society*, Vol. 4, No. 1: 1-29

Jeff Haydu and Tad Skotnicki. (2016) "Three Layers of History in Recurrent Social Movements: The Case of Food Reform," *Social Movement Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 4: 345-360.

#### *Other Publications and Writing*

Tad Skotnicki, (forthcoming) Review of *Strategizing Against Sweatshops: The Global Economy, Student Activism, and Worker Empowerment* (submitted 8/12/2020)

Tad Skotnicki, (2020) Review of *Above the Fray: The Red Cross and the Making of the Humanitarian NGO Sector*. *ASA Sociology of Culture Section Newsletter*, Vol. 33, No. 3: 6-8

Tad Skotnicki, (2020) Review of *Portfolio Society: On the Capitalist Mode of Prediction*, *Contemporary Sociology*. Vol. 49, No. 3: 239-240

Tad Skotnicki, (2018) Review of *Protest Politics in the Marketplace: Consumer Activism in the Corporate Age*. *Social Forces*, Vol. 97, No. 1: e6

Tad Skotnicki, (2018) "The Consumer's Duty", Guest Post at *Critical Historical Sociology*, May 18: <http://chs.asa-comparative-historical.org/the-consumers-duty/>

Richard Biernacki and Tad Skotnicki. (2015) "Agency as an Explanatory Key: Theoretical Issues." *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (eds.) Robert Scott and Stephen Kosslyn, Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

#### *Manuscripts in Progress*

Tad Skotnicki, "Purity Politics? On Quality as a Proxy for Ethics in Consumption" [in preparation for resubmission in 3/2021]

Tad Skotnicki, "The Undisciplined Consumer Activist: Collective Action and Akrasia," [in preparation for submission in 4/2021]

Tad Skotnicki, "Modern Dramas: Transcendence and Immanence in *Power in Modernity*," [submitted, 2/2021]

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Courses Taught*

University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Classical Social Theory

Contemporary Social Theory [graduate and undergraduate]

Global Inequalities

Social Movements [graduate and undergraduate]

Global Society

University of California, San Diego

Organizations, Society, and Social Justice

Popular Culture

Comparative Historical Methods

American Society: Social Structure and Culture

## PRESENTATIONS

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Pure Consumption? On Quality as a Proxy for Ethics, Social Science History Association  
[conference cancelled], November 2020

Pure Consumption? On Quality as a Proxy for Ethics, American Sociological Association  
[session cancelled], August 2020

No Future: Alienation as Futurelessness in an Era of Financial Capitalism, UNCG Ashby  
Dialogues, January 24, 2020

The Commodity Fetish as Phenomenology, Sociological Workshop on Aesthetics, Meaning and  
Power, University of Virginia, November 15, 2019 [invited]

The Undisciplined Consumer Activist: Collective Action and Akrasia, American Sociological  
Association Annual Meeting, August 10-13, 2019

The Undisciplined Consumer Activist: Collective Action and Akrasia, Session on the Cultural  
Work and Impact of Social Movements, Southern Sociological Society, April 10-13, 2019  
[invited]

Pure Consumption? On Quality as a Proxy for Ethics, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale  
University, February 22, 2019 [invited]

Unseen Suffering: Slow Violence and the Phenomenological Structure of Social Problems,  
UNCG Sociology Brown Bag, February 1, 2019

Time in Social Movements: A Phenomenology, Paper Session on Theorizing Social Movements, Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore 2018

Sociology Toward Death: Heidegger, Finitude, and Human Possibility, Regular Session on Sociological Theory, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal 2017

Unseen Suffering: Slow Violence and the Phenomenological Structure of Social Problems, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal 2017

Unseen Suffering: Slow Violence, Consumer Activism, and Environmentalism, Session on Culture and Contestation, Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association. Chicago, November 2016

Virtuous Desires? Ethical Consumers in Turn of the Twentieth-Century England and the United States, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago 2015

The Motives of Consumer Activists: Late 19th Century Approaches to Ethical Consumerism”, Session on Making Moral Meanings, Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association. Toronto, Canada, November 2014

Three Layers of History in Recurrent Social Movements: The Case of Food Reform (with Jeff Haydu), ASA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2014

Managing or Courting Desire? Ethical Consumers in Turn of the Twentieth-Century England and the United States, Consumers and Consumption Mini-Conference, August 2014

Ethical Seeing, Ethical Buying, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, August 2013

The Convictions Gained in Looking: Vision and Ethical Action in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Consumer Activism, Mid-Atlantic Conference of British Studies, New York, New York, March 24-26, 2013

The Convictions Gained in Looking: Vision and Ethical Action in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Consumer Activism, Pacific Conference of British Studies, Berkeley, California March 8-10, 2013

Ethical Seeing, Ethical Buying, UCSD Sociology Department Colloquium, February 2013  
[invited]

What Do Theories of Action Explain? UCSD Graduate Student Conference, May 2010

What Do Theories of Action Explain? Session on the Historicity of Structure and Action, Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association. Long Beach, California, November 2009

Utopian Visions of Democracy: Tocqueville and Wright. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, August 2009.

## **AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

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Kohler International Travel Grant, UNCG, 2018  
Faculty First Summer Research Grant, UNCG, 2018  
Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Winter, UCSD Sociology Department, 2014  
Dissertation Writing Fellow, UCSD Center for the Humanities, 2013-2014  
Sociology Department Summer Research Grant, w/ Jeff Haydu, 2013  
Institute for International, Comparative, and Area Studies Travel Grant, 2012  
Sociology Department Summer Research Grant, 2012  
Graduate Advanced Research Grant, Sociology Department, 2012

## **SERVICE**

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Occasional Reviewer for *Journal of Classical Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Movement Studies*, *The Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology*  
Organizer, Working Paper Series, UNCG Sociology, 2017-present  
Honors Liaison, UNCG Lloyd Honors College, 2017-present  
Culture Network Representative, Social Science History Association, 2016-2018  
ASA Section on Consumers and Consumption, Committee on Nominations, 2014  
UCSD Sociology Colloquia Committee Coordinator, 2012-2013

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association  
Social Science History Association  
Eastern Sociological Society  
Southern Sociological Society