

## Peter Baehr

### Contact Information:

WYL 209, Dorothy Y.L. Wong Building  
Department of Sociology and Social Policy  
Lingnan University  
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## Profile Summary

*Peter Baehr is Chair Professor of Social Theory at Lingnan University. Before coming to Hong Kong in 2000, he worked at universities in Canada and Britain. He teaches and writes mainly in the areas of social/ political thought, political culture, and mass emergency. Peter Baehr's work has been translated into nine languages, including Chinese. Baehr is an advisor and consultant to Oxford University Press's Digital Research initiative, an executive board member of the History of Sociology Research Committee of the International Sociological Association, and he sits as an international editor on eight journals. He is a member of Hong Kong's Research Grants Council and, at Lingnan, is a Senate elected member of the university's executive Council.*

## Current Position

- Chair Professor of Social Theory, Lingnan University

## Qualifications

- Ph.D. University of Leicester, UK. (1986)
- Certificate of Education, Elizabeth Gaskell College of Education, University of Manchester, UK. (1976)
- BA (Hons) Soc. Sci., University of Leicester, UK. (1975)

## Work Experience

2007-                    **Chair Professor of Social Theory**

- 2009 - 12      **Academic Dean of Social Sciences**
- 2007- 2009    **Head of Department of Sociology and Social Policy**
- 2004-7        **Head of Department of Politics and Sociology**
- 2003-7        **Professor**
- 2000-2003    **Associate Professor**  
Department of Politics and Sociology, Lingnan University
- 1994- 2000    **Associate Professor**  
Department of Sociology, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- (1996-1997) **Visiting Professor**  
Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon  
Tong, Hong Kong
- 1990-1994    **Assistant Professor**  
Department of Sociology, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- 1989-90      **Visiting Fellow in Sociology**  
Department of Sociology, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1979-89      **Lecturer II/Senior Lecturer**  
Department of Social Science and Policy Studies, Coventry University

### Teaching

- Social and political theory (classical/modern)
- Economic Development
- Graduate Seminar

### University Service

#### Service at Lingnan – inter alia:

- Academic Dean of Social Sciences (ex-officio member of the University Administrative Planning Committee, Academic Staff Review Committee,

- Academic Quality Assurance Committee, Research and Postgraduate Studies Committee; etc.)
- Head of Politics and Sociology
  - Head of Sociology and Social Policy
  - Member of Senate
  - Member of Council
  - Member of Committee on Internationalization
  - Chair of the Discontinuation Appeal Panel
  - Member of the Academic Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC)
  - AQAC Representative to the Community College
  - Member of the Research and Postgraduate Studies Panel (Social Sciences)
  - Member of the Program Management Group
  - Member of the Sub-Group on Staff Development Grants
  - Member of Social Science Program and Curriculum Committee
  - Member of General Studies Program and Curriculum Committee

### **Current and Recent Professional Service**

Consultant and Advisory Editor, Oxford Handbooks Online, Oxford University Press, 2015 -

Hong Kong Research Grants Council Member, 2012-

Hong Kong Fulbright Advisory Committee Member, 2010-14

Member of HKSPACE Accreditation Panel (Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications), May 2014

Executive Member of the History of Sociology, International Sociological Association, 2014 -

President of the Research Committee of the History of Sociology, International Sociological Association, 2010 – 2014.

*Journals; International Board Member (all current):*

- 1) The American Sociologist
- 2) Canadian Journal of Sociology
- 3) European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology (*European Sociological Association journal*)
- 4) Journal of Classical Sociology
- 5) Max Weber Studies

- 6) Serendipities: Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences
- 7) Society
- 8) Turkish Journal of Sociology

*Selected International Lectures and Honors*

Guest speaker on Hannah Arendt, Zeppelin University (Germany), December 2016

Keynote speaker, "Totalitarianism." Workshop at Boston University, December, 2014

"Prestigious Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences" (the prize for one year research leave is awarded by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council; it is modeled on the Guggenheim), January 2014-December 2015

Raymond Aron Fellow, Institute for the Advancement of Social Sciences, Boston University, 2010 – 2015

Keynote Speaker, Danish Institute of International Studies, Copenhagen, May 2013

Guest Speaker, Østfold University College, Halden, May 2013

Guest Speaker, Baird College (Berlin Campus), May 2013

Guest Speaker, Descartes Center, University of Utrecht, February 2012

Guest Speaker, Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney, November 2010

Keynote Speaker, Conference on Multiculturalism and Global Community, National Archive of Iran, Tehran, July 2010

Author-Meets-Critics session at the International Sociological Association World Congress, Gothenburg, July 2010

Guest Professor, European College of Liberal Arts, Berlin, June 2010

Visiting Professor in Political Thought, IMT Institute of Advanced Studies, Lucca, May 2005/May 2006/May 2009/June 2010

Visiting Professor in Political Science, American University of Afghanistan, Kabul, June/July 2008

Address to the American University of Beirut, April 2008

Visiting Professor of Political Science, Peking University, March 2005

Keynote Speaker at the *Max Weber Today* symposium, University of British Columbia, November 4 2004

The Baehr-Wells edition of Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the 'Spirit' of Capitalism*, is nominated for the Wolff Translation Prize

Visiting Professor of Political Science, National University of Taiwan/Academic Sinica, Taipei, October 2004

Visiting Professor of Political Sociology, Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociale (LUISS), Rome, January 2004

Visiting Professor, Peking University, March 2003

Hannah Arendt Memorial Lecture, University of Bremen, May 22, 2003

### Current and Ongoing Research

- History of the Concept of “Unmasking” since the French Revolution
- Conservatism and Sociology
- Oppositional Collaboration in the Social Sciences
- The Political Liberalism of Rebecca West

### Funded Research

- Several internal research grants over the years on such topics as Robert Nisbet and Conservatism, The Causes of Reputational Decline (focus: Raymond Aron).
- GRF Grant on “Hannah Arendt’s Appraisal of Sociology,” January 2009-December 2010 (\$446, 800)
- - Prestigious Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences (topic = “Unmasking: A Critical Study”), January 2014-December 2015 (\$552,600)

(In October 2016 a new GRF was submitted on “The Political Liberalism of Rebecca West.”)

## Publications

### **Books Authored**

*Unmasked! Social Theory and the Politics of Exposure.* London/New York: Routledge, 2018.

*Founders, Classics, Canons: Modern Disputes over the Origins and Appraisal of Sociology's Heritage.* New Brunswick, N.J. Transaction. 2<sup>nd</sup>, paperback edition with a Preface by Steven Lukes and Critical Essays by Adomas Puras, William Outhwaite, and Philip Walsh, 2016 (orig. 2002), pp. 310.

*Hannah Arendt, Totalitarianism and the Social Sciences.* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010, pp. 248.

*Caesarism, Charisma and Fate. Historical Sources and Modern Resonances in the Work of Max Weber.* New Brunswick, N.J. Transaction, 2008, pp. 243.

*Caesar and The Fading of the Roman World.* Author. New Brunswick, N.J: Transaction, 1998, pp. 359. A Choice “Outstanding Book of 1998.”

### **Edited Books**

*The Anthem Companion to Hannah Arendt.* Co-editor (with Philip Walsh) and contributor. London/New York: Anthem. 2017, pp. 274.

*Dictatorship in History and Theory: Bonapartism, Caesarism, Totalitarianism.* Co-editor (with Melvin Richter) and contributor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, pp. 308.

*The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism and Other Writings.* Co-editor/translator (with Gordon C. Wells]). New York: Penguin, 2002, pp. 392.  
*Nominated for the Wolff (Translation) Prize*

*The Portable Hannah Arendt.* Editor. New York: Penguin, 2000; 2nd ed. 2003, pp. 576 + lxii.

*Max Weber: The Russian Revolutions.* Co-editor/translator, Gordon C. Wells. Cornell University Press, 1995, pp. 287.

### **Journal Special Issues**

“A Conservative in Academe: Robert Nisbet and American Sociology.” Special issue of *The American Sociologist*. Editor and Contributor. 45:1 (2014).

*Journal of Classical Sociology*. Special Issue on the Thought and Legacy of Raymond Aron. Editor and contributor. 11:2 (2011).

*Journal of Classical Sociology*. Special Issue on the Centenary of Max Weber’s “Protestant Ethic and the ‘Spirit’ of Capitalism.” Editor. 5:1 (2005).

*Citizenship Studies*. Special Issue on Citizenship and Democracy in Hong Kong 5:2 (2001). Editor and Contributor.

*Current Sociology*. Special Issue on Canons 42:1 (1994). pp. 126 (co-author, with Mike O’Brien).

### **Articles and Book Chapters**

“Unmasking, or Theoretical Exposure,” *Cambridge Handbook of Social Theory*, ed. Peter Kivisto. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (completed; forthcoming 2018a).

“Paradoxes of Diversity” (with Daniel Gordon), *Sage Handbook of Political Sociology*, eds. William Outhwaite and Stephen Turner. New York: Sage (completed; forthcoming 2018b).

“Rules of Relevance: Six Exercises in Thinking,” *Canadian Review of Sociology* (completed; forthcoming 2018c).

“Movement, Formation, Maintenance: Totalitarian Variations in the Soviet Union,” in *Totalitarian Societies and Democratic Transition* (ed. Tomasso Piffer). Budapest/New York: Central European University Press (completed; forthcoming 2017a).

Entries on “Community of Fate,” “Debunking,” “Grey Zone,” “Phobic Social Language,” and “Social Closure” in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2nd Edition (ed. George Ritzer). Oxford: Wiley (completed; forthcoming 2017b).

“Foreword” to Donald Levine, *Dialogical Social Theory*, New Brunswick, N.J. Transaction (completed; forthcoming 2017c).

“The Theory of Totalitarian Leadership,” in *The Anthem Companion to Hannah Arendt*. Editor and contributor. London/New York: Anthem, 2016, pp. 221-248.

- “Stalinism in Retrospect,” *History and Theory* 54 (3) 2015a: 353-366.
- “American Sociology and the Limits of Partisan Expertise,” *The American Sociologist*, 46 (1) 2015b: 40-50.
- “British Sociology and Raymond Aron,” in *Sociological Amnesia: Cross Currents in Disciplinary History* (eds. Alexander Law and Eric Royal Lybeck). London/New York: Routledge, 2015c, pp. 7-36.
- “One to Avoid, One to Engage: Unmasking and Conflict Pluralism as European Heritages,” *HA: The Journal of the Hannah Arendt Center* 3 (October) 2015d: 107-120.
- “Totalitarianism in America? Robert Nisbet on the ‘Wilson War State’ and Beyond,” *The American Sociologist* 45 (1), 2014a: 84-102.
- “The Informers: Hannah Arendt’s Appraisal of Whittaker Chambers and the Ex-Communists,” *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* 1 (1) 2014b: 35-66.
- “The Honored Outsider. Raymond Aron as Sociologist,” *Sociological Theory* 31 (2) 2013a: 93-115.
- “The Undoing of Humanism,” *Society* 50 (4) 2013b: 379-390.
- “The Problem of Unmasking in *Ideology and Utopia*,” *Sociologica: Italian Journal of Sociology On-Line*, 1/2013c: 1-32.
- “Unmasking and Disclosure: Contrasting Modes for Understanding Religious and Other Beliefs” (with Daniel Gordon), *Journal of Sociology* 48 (4) 2012a: 380-396.
- “Debating Totalitarianism: An Exchange of Letters between Eric Voegelin and Hannah Arendt” (with Gordon C. Wells), *History and Theory* 51 (3), 2012b: 364-380.
- “On the Edge of Solidarity,” (with Daniel Gordon) *Society* 49 (5) 2012c: 457-467.
- “Imagining Sociological Theory,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 36 (2) 2011a: 213-218 (review essay).
- “Marxism and Islamism. Intellectual Conformity in Raymond Aron’s Time and Our Own,” *Journal of Classical Sociology* 11 (2) 2011b: 173-90.
- “L’ideologia totalitaria: interpretazioni a confronto,” in *Società totalitarie e transizione all democrazia* (eds. Tomasso Piffer and Vladislav Zubok.) Bologna: Il Mulino, 2011c, pp. 73-105.

- “Purity and Danger in the Modern University,” *Society* 48 (4) 2011d: 297-300.
- “China the Anomaly,” *European Journal of Political Theory* 9 (3) 2010a: 267-286.
- “Leon Botstein on Hannah Arendt and Max Weber: An Interview,” *Max Weber Studies* 10 (1) 2010b: 95-100.
- “Tribes and Terror in the Middle East: A Conversation with Philip Salzman,” *Society* 46 (5) 2009a: 394-7.
- “The Novelty of Jihadist Terror,” *Society* 46 (3) 2009b: 210-13.
- “The Fabrication of Man,” *History of the Human Sciences*, 22 (2) 2009c: 121-127.
- “An American University in Afghanistan: An Interview with Athanasios Moulakis,” *Society* 46 (1) 2008a: 9-11.
- “What are the ‘knowledge-conditions’ of sociology?” *Current Sociology*, 56 (6) 2008b: 943-951.
- “City under Siege,” in *Networked Disease: Emerging Infections in the Global City* (eds. Harris Ali and Roger Keil). Oxford: Blackwell, 2008c, pp. 138-151.
- “Philosophy, Sociology, and the Intelligentsia,” *Journal of Social Sciences and Philosophy*, 19 (3) 2007a: 341-373 (in Chinese and English).
- “The ‘Masses’ in Hannah Arendt’s Political Theory”, *The Good Society*, 16 (2) 2007b: 12-18.
- “Fascism, Ethnic Cleansing, and the ‘New Militarism’,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 10 (1): 2007c: 99-113.
- “Susan Sontag, Battle Language, and the SARS Outbreak in Hong Kong,” *Economy and Society*, Vol. 35 (1) 2006a: 42-64.
- “Randall Collins,” in John Scott (editor), *Fifty Contemporary Sociologists*. London: Routledge, 2006b: 84-90.
- “Pacifismo realista,” *Ventunesimo Secolo*, October 2006c: 217-226.
- “Social Extremity, Communities of Fate, and the Sociology of SARS,” *Archives européennes de sociologie*, XLVI (2) 2005a: 179-211.

“Deciphering a Classic Text: The Protestant Ethic and the 'Spirit' of Capitalism 100 Years On,” *Shiso* (in Japanese), No. 978, 2005b: 6-27.

“The Sociology of Almost Everything,” (Debate with Randall Collins), *Canadian Journal of Sociology Online* Jan.-Feb. 2005c.

“Totalitarianism,” *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas* Vol. 6, 2005d:2342-2348.

“Personal Dilemma or Intellectual Influence? The Relationship between Hannah Arendt and Max Weber,” *Max Weber Studies* 5 (1) 2005e: 125-130.

“Schicksalsgemeinschaft in German Political Thought,” *Societas: A China Journal for the Philosophical Study of Public Affairs* 13, 2005f: 181-200.

“Max Weber and the Avatars of Caesarism,” in *Dictatorship in History and Theory: Bonapartism, Caesarism, Totalitarianism* (Co-editor [with Melvin Richter] and contributor), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004a: 155-174.

“Of Politics and Social Science,” *European Journal of Political Theory* 3 (2) 2004b: 191-217.

“In Search of Joanna Tse: Reflections on Heroism and Decency in Extreme Situations,” *Quest* 3 (2) 2004c: 13-35.

“On the Heroism of Decency,” *St. John’s Review* 72, 2004d: 20-21.

“Hong Kong, la Cina continentale e l’epidemia della Sars” *Ventunesimo Secolo* 6, 2004f: 91-115 (2004e.)

“City of Masks,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology Online* March-April 2003a  
<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/cjscopy/pdf/citymasks.pdf>

“Heart, Character, and a Science of Man,” *Political Theory* 31 (1) 2003b: 117-125.

“Identifying the Unprecedented: Hannah Arendt, Totalitarianism and the Critique of Sociology,” *American Sociological Review* 67 (6) 2002a: 804-831.

Entries on a) “Asian Values” and b) “Classics of Sociology” in William Outhwaite (ed.) *Dictionary of Modern Social Thought*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2002b.

“Freedom, Politics, and Social Science: Hannah Arendt in America,” in David Kettler (ed.), *Contested Legacies: The German-Speaking Intellectual and Cultural Emigration to the United States and United Kingdom, 1933-1945*, Annandale-on-Hudson: Bard College, 2002c: 4-7

“The People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong’s New Political Dispensation,” *Citizenship Studies* 5 (2) 2001a:101-125.

“The Iron Cage and the Shell as Hard as Steel: Parsons, Weber and the stahlhartes Gehäuse metaphor in The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,” *History and Theory* 40 (2), 2001b: 153-169.

“Sentinels in a Pitch Black Night,” *Society* 38 (3) 2001c: 80-84.

“The Grammar of Prudence,” in Steven Aschheim (ed.), *Hannah Arendt in Jerusalem* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001d: 306-324, (endnotes on 407-416). Translated into Hebrew in 2008 under the auspices of the Hebrew University Magnes Press, Jerusalem.

“E.P. Thompson and European Nuclear Disarmament: A Critical Retrospective,” *Online Journal of Peace and Conflict Resolution* 3:1 March 2000a.  
[http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/3\\_1baehr.htm](http://www.trinstitute.org/ojpcr/3_1baehr.htm)

“Feature Review” of books by Ruth Cherrington, Bruce Gilley and Willy Wo-Lap Lam, *China Review International* 7 (1) 2000b: 7-18.

“Carl Schmitt and the Contradictions of Liberal Democracy” (with Richard Bellamy), in Richard Bellamy, *Rethinking Liberalism*. London: Pinter, 2000c: 67-90

“An Ancient Sense of Politics”? Weber, Caesarism and the Republican Tradition”, *Archives européennes de sociologie*, 40 (2) 1999a: 333-350.

Review essay of Randall Collins, “The Sociology of Philosophies. A Global Theory of Intellectual Change,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology Online*, May 1999b.  
<http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/cjscopy/reviews/socofphil.html>

“What Should Universities Do?” in *Macau and its Neighbours Towards the 21st Century*, edited by D.Y. Yuan. Macau: Macau University Press, 1999c: 245-250.

“Mundane Foundationalism and the Limits of ‘Radical’ Social Theory,” *Textual Practice* 8 (3) 1994: 516-526.

Entries on: a) Bonapartism, b) Caesarism, c) Charisma, and d) Dictatorship in William Outhwaite and Tom Bottomore (eds.) *Dictionary of Twentieth Century Social Thought*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1993.

“Peace Politics,” *Politics* 11 (1) 1991: 43-48.

“The ‘Masses’ in Weber’s Political Sociology,” *Economy and Society* 19 (2) 1990: 242-265.

“Critical Realism, Cautionary Realism,” *Sociological Review* 38 (4) 1990b: 767-777.

“Weber and Weimar: The Reich President Proposals,” *Politics* 9 (1) 1989: 20-25.

“Peace and Political Theory: A Response to Paul Hirst,” *Economy and Society* 17 (1) 1988a: 90-108.

“Max Weber as a Critic of Bismarck,” *Archives européennes de sociologie*, 29 (1) 1988b: 149-164. (Reprinted in P. Hamilton (ed.) *Max Weber: Critical Assessments*, Vol. 1, Routledge: 1991)

“The ‘Irrationality’ of the Arms Race,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 2 (2) 1985: 231-241.

“Accounting for Caesarism,” *Economy and Society* 16 (2) 1987: 341-356.

“Durkheim’s Review of *Philosophie des Geldes*,” *Social Research* 46 (2) 1979: 321-328.

### **Reviews and Miscellany**

Review of Andreas Hess, “The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar,” *Society* 53 (1) 2016: 100-102.

Review of “Why Concepts Matter. Translating Social and Political Thought,” *European Legacy* 18 (4) 2013: 77-81.

Review of Pierre Birnbaum, “The Geography of Hope,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology*. 35 (1) 2010a: 159-161.

“Victor Zaslavsky” (memoir), in Victor Zaslavsky. *Viaggiatore Attraverso il Secolo* (ed. Fernando Orlini). Rome: CSSEO, 2010b: 15-17.

Review of Dmitry Shlapentokh, “The Proto-Totalitarian State: Punishment and Control in Absolutist Regimes,” *International History Review*, 30 (3) 2008: 603-4.

Review of Sam Whimster, “Understanding Weber,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 33 (3) 2008: 701-3.

Review of Steve Fuller, “The New Sociological Imagination,” *British Journal of Sociology* 58 (3) September 2007: 500-1.

- “Touched souls,” *Times Literary Supplement*, 28 November 2003: 24-25.
- “The Critical Path,” *Times Literary Supplement* 31st January 2003: 3-5. *Feature article*
- Review of “In the Grip of Freedom,” by Cary Boucock, *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 27 (4) 2002: 587-590.
- “A Wheel that has Come Off,” *Times Literary Supplement* 12th April 2002: 3-4. *Feature article*
- “My Father's Watch” (memoir), *TickleAce: A Journal of Literary and Visual Art*, 36, 2001: 84-86.
- “The anti-politics of two-world theory,” *Hannah Arendt Newsletter*, 3, May 2000: 15-17.
- “Frieda and the Sphinx,” *Times Literary Supplement*, Feb. 11, 2000: 5-8.
- Review of Anthony Giddens and Christopher Pierson, “Conversations with Anthony Giddens,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 2 (3) 1999: 431-433.
- “In the Talking Shop,” *Times Literary Supplement*, August 27, 1999: 19.
- “After Revolution and Democratization: Conceptualizing the 18th Brumaires and Regimes of the Two Bonapartes,” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*, September 1999: 24-5. (This Conference report also appears in an abbreviated form in *Annales Historiques de la Revolution française*, 3, 1999.)
- “Rallying to Little Rock,” *Times Literary Supplement*, February 5, 1999: 26.
- “Nazi Germany and Totalitarianism,” *Harvard International Review*, 21:1 (Winter 1998/1999): 6-7.
- “The Erosion of Conscience in Nazi German,” *Newsletter of the Association of Contemporary Church Historians*, 4:12, 1998 (WWW.)
- “Sociology and Interpretation,” *Contemporary Sociology*, 26 (6) 1997: 134.
- “The Age of New Words,” *Times Literary Supplement*, October 3, 1997: 27.
- “A Commitment to Campaign,” *British Sociological Review*, 44 (2) 1993: 349-50.
- “Beyond Bricolage,” *Semiotic Review of Books*, 4 (2) 1993: 7-8.

Review of books by L.A. Scaff, G. Oakes and P. Lassman and I. Velody, *British Journal of Sociology* 43 (1) 1992: 86-87.

“Personality and Passion,” *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 23 March, 1990: 18, (Feature article, written with Richard Bellamy.)

“A Legacy to be Treasured,” *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 16 November, 1990: 23.

“Military Presences,” *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 27 October 27, 1989: 27

“The Mystery of Albert Speer,” *Times Higher Education Supplement*, 22 September, 1989: 15. (Short article based on my interview with Speer, Hitler’s architect and War Minister.)

### Additional Information

**Place and Year of Birth**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1953.

**Nationality**

Canadian

**Marital Status**

Married to Hedda Schuurman; two children (Isolde, 20; Max, 18).

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March 2017