

# Sociology of Culture & Cognition

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The scaffolds of contemporary cognitive sociology can be found in [DiMaggio \(1997\)](#) and [Zerubavel \(1997\)](#). The cultural perspective promoted by [Ann Swidler \(1986\)](#), in which culture was not seen as aggregate of beliefs, values, and attitudes, but more as a toolkit that enables or constraints action, prompted new ways to theorize about social action and the interplay between culture and cognitive processes. The following, is a list of important papers in the field, selected by topic. One of the most updated and comprehensive sources of the field is offered by the [Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology \(2019, eds. Brekhus & Ignatow\)](#). Several of the entrances below come from this source.

## General overview of the field

- Brekhus, Wayne & Ignatow, Gabe. 2019. “Cognitive Sociology and the Cultural Mind: debates, directions, and challenges.” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*.[link](#);
- Brekhus, Wayne H. 2015. *Culture and Cognition: Patterns in the Social Construction of Reality*. Cambridge UK/Malden, MA: Polity.[link](#);
- Strydom, P. (2007). Introduction: A Cartography of Contemporary Cognitive Social Theory. *European Journal of Social Theory*, 10(3), 339–356.[link](#);
- Martin, John Levi. 2010. “Life’s a Beach but You’re an Ant, and Other Unwelcome News for the Sociology of Culture.” *Poetics* 38(2):229–44.[link](#);
- Smith, Edward Bishop, Raina A. Brands, Matthew E. Brashears, and Adam M. Kleinbaum. 2020. “Social Networks and Cognition.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 46(1). [link](#);

## Automatic VS Deliberative cognition: dual-process models

- Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. “Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action.” *American Journal of Sociology* 114(6):1675–1715.[link](#);
- Shepherd, Hana. 2011. “The Cultural Context of Cognition: What the Implicit Association Test Tells Us About How Culture Works.” *Sociological Forum* 26: 121-143. [link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar, Robert Mowry, Brandon Sepulvado, Dustin S. Stoltz, Marshall A. Taylor, Justin Van Ness and Michael Lee Wood. 2016. “What are dual process models? Implications for cultural analysis in sociology.” *Sociological Theory* 34(4): 287-310.[link](#);
- Strandel, Jacob. 2019. “Bridging the Vocabularies of Dual-Process Models of Culture and Cognition” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*.[link](#);
- Vaisey, Stephen and Frye, Margaret. 2019. “The Old One-Two: preserving analytical dualism in cognitive sociology” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*.[link](#);
- Leschziner, Vanina. 2019. “Dual-Process Models in Sociology” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*.[link](#);
- Moore, Rick. 2017. “Fast or Slow: Sociological Implications of Measuring Dual-Process Cognition.” *Sociological Science* 4:196–223.[link](#).

## Methodological perspectives

- Vaisey, Stephen & Lizardo, Omar. 2010. “Can Cultural Worldviews Influence Network Composition?” *Social Forces*, 88:4, 1595–1618.[link](#);
- Boutyline, Andrei and Stephen Vaisey. 2017. “Belief Network Analysis: A Relational Approach to Understanding the Structure of Attitudes.” *American Journal of Sociology* 122: 1371-1447.[link](#)
- Boutyline, Andrei. 2017. “Improving the Measurement of Shared Cultural Schemas with Correlational Class Analysis: Theory and Method.” *Sociological Science* 4:353–93.[link](#);
- Miles, A., Charron-Chénier, R., & Schleifer, C. (2019). Measuring Automatic Cognition: Advancing Dual-Process Research in Sociology. *American Sociological Review*, 84(2), 308–333.[link](#);
- Miles, Andrew. 2019. “An Assessment of Methods for Measuring Automatic Cognition” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. [link](#);
- Hunzaker, M. B. Fallin and Valentino, Lauren. 2019. “Mapping Cultural Schemas: From Theory to Method.” *American Sociological Review* 84(5):950–81.[link](#);
- Martin, John Levi. 2000. “The Relation of Aggregate Statistics on Belief to Culture and Cognition.” *Poetics* 28: 5-20.[link](#);
- Moore, Rick. 2017. “Fast or Slow: Sociological Implications of Measuring Dual-Process Cognition.” *Sociological Science* 4:196–223.[link](#);
- Edelmann, Achim, Tom Wolff, Danielle Montagne, and Christopher A. Bail. 2020. “Computational Social Science and Sociology.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 46(1). [link](#);

## Declarative and non-declarative culture

- Cerulo, Karen A. 2018. “Scents and Sensibility: Olfaction, Sense-making and Meaning Attribution.” *American Sociological Review* 83(2): 361-389.[link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar. 2017. “Improving Cultural Analysis Considering Personal Culture in its Declarative and Nondeclarative Modes.” *American Sociological Review* 82(1):88-115.[link](#).

## Cognitive approaches to culture

- Lizardo, Omar and Strand, Michael. 2010. “Skills, Toolkits, Contexts and Institutions: Clarifying the Relationship between Different Approaches to Cognition in Cultural Sociology.” *Poetics* 38(2):205–28.[link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar. 2004. “The Cognitive Origins of Bourdieu’s Habitus.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior* 34(4): 375-401. [link](#);
- Cohen, Dov and Angela K. Y. Leung. 2009. “The Hard Embodiment of Culture.” *European Journal of Social Psychology* 39(7):1278–89. [link](#);
- Leung, Angela K. Y. and Dov Cohen. 2007. The Soft Embodiment of Culture: Camera Angles and Motion through Time and Space. 18(9): 824-830. [link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar and Omar Lizardo. 2019. “Pierre Bourdieu as Cognitive Sociologist.” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. [link](#);
- Pickering, Martin J. and Simon Garrod. 2009. “Language, Interaction and Embodiment.” *European Journal of Social Psychology* 39(7):1178–79. [link](#);

## Cultural approaches

- Vaisey, S. (2010). What People Want: Rethinking Poverty, Culture, and Educational Attainment. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 629(1), 75–101. [link](#);
- Santos, Henri et al. 2019. “Class, Cognition, and Cultural Change in Social Class” Eds. W. Brekhus and G. Ignatow, *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. [link](#);

## Bridging fields

- Lamont, Michèle, Laura Adler, Bo Yun Park, and Xin Xiang. 2017. “Bridging Cultural Sociology and Cognitive Psychology in Three Contemporary Research Programmes.” *Nature Human Behaviour* 1(12):866–72.[link](#);

- Cerulo, Karen. 2010. “Mining the Intersections of Cognitive Sociology and Neuroscience.” *Poetics* 38: 2: 115-132.[link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar. 2007. ““Mirror Neurons,” Collective Objects and the Problem of Transmission: Reconsidering Stephen Turner’s Critique of Practice Theory.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 37: 319-350.[link](#);
- Turner, Stephen. 2007. “Mirror Neurons and Practices: A Response to Lizardo.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 37: 351-371.[link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar, Brandon Sepulvado, Dustin S. Stoltz, and Marshall A. Taylor. 2019. “What Can Cognitive Neuroscience Do for Cultural Sociology?” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.[link](#).

## Cultural Schemas

- Sewell, William H. 1992. “A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation.” *American Journal of Sociology*, 98(1): 1-29. [link](#);
- Hunzaker, M. B. Fallin and Valentino, Lauren. 2019. “Mapping Cultural Schemas: From Theory to Method.” *American Sociological Review* 84(5):950–81.[link](#);
- Boutyline, Andrei. 2017. “Improving the Measurement of Shared Cultural Schemas with Correlational Class Analysis: Theory and Method.” *Sociological Science* 4:353–93.[link](#);
- Homan, Patricia, Lauren Valentino, and Emi Weed. 2017. “Being and Becoming Poor: How Cultural Schemas Shape Beliefs about Poverty.” *Social Forces* 95(3):1023–48. [link](#);
- Goldberg, Amir. 2011. “Mapping Shared Understandings Using Relational Class Analysis: The Case of the Cultural Omnivore Reexamined.” *American Journal of Sociology* 116(5): 1397–1436. [link](#)
- Boutyline, Andrei. 2020. “Cultural Schemas: What They Are, How to Find Them, and What to Do Once You’ve Caught One” *SocArXiv*. [link](#);
- Hunzaker, M. B. Fallin. 2014. “Making Sense of Misfortune: Cultural Schemas, Victim Redefinition, and the Perpetuation of Stereotypes.” *Social Psychology Quarterly* 77(2):166–84. [link](#);
- Hunzaker, M. B. Fallin. 2016. “Cultural Sentiments and Schema-Consistency Bias in Information Transmission.” *American Sociological Review* 81(6):1223–50. [link](#);
- Wood, Michael Lee, Dustin S. Stoltz, Justin Van Ness, and Marshall A. Taylor. 2018. “Schemas and Frames.” *Sociological Theory* 36(3):244–61. [link](#);
- Williams, Joan C., Mary Blair-Loy, and Jennifer L. Berdahl. 2013. “Cultural Schemas, Social Class, and the Flexibility Stigma.” *Journal of Social Issues* 69(2):209–34. [link](#);

## Beliefs

### *Representationalist*

- Rydgren, Jens. 2009. “Beliefs.” Pp. 72–93 in *The Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology*, edited by P. Hedstrom and P. Bearman. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. [link](#);
- Boutyline, Andrei and Stephen Vaisey. 2017. “Belief Network Analysis: A Relational Approach to Understanding the Structure of Attitudes.” *American Journal of Sociology* 122(5):1371–1447. [link](#);
- Baldassarri, Delia and Amir Goldberg. 2014. “Neither Ideologues nor Agnostics: Alternative Voters’ Belief System in an Age of Partisan Politics.” *American Journal of Sociology* 120(1):45–95. [link](#);
- Brandt, Mark J. 2020. “Estimating and Examining the Replicability of Belief System Networks.” *Collabra: Psychology*, 6(1). [link](#);
- Brandt, Mark J., Chris G. Sibley, and Danny Osborne. 2019. “What Is Central to Political Belief System Networks?” *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 45(9):1352–64. [link](#);
- Kiley, Kevin & Vaisey, Stephen. 2020. “Measuring Stability and Change in Personal Culture Using Panel Data.” *American Journal of Sociology*, 85(3): 477-506. [link](#)

### *Embodied*

- Conrey, Frederica & Smith, Eliot. 2007. “Attitude representation: Attitudes as patterns in a distributed, connectionist representational system.” *Social Cognition* 25(5): 718-735. [link](#);
- Ent, Michael R. and Roy F. Baumeister. 2014. “Embodied Free Will Beliefs: Some Effects of Physical States on Metaphysical Opinions.” *Consciousness and Cognition* 27(1): 147–54. [link](#);

- Niedenthal, Paula M., Lawrence W. Barsalou, Piotr Winkielman, Silvia Krauth-Gruber, and Francois Ric. 2005. “Embodiment in Attitudes, Social Perception, and Emotion.” *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 9(3): 184-211. [link](#);
- Strand, Michael and Omar Lizardo. 2017. “The Hysteresis Effect: Theorizing Mismatch in Action.” *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 47(2):164–94. [link](#);
- Curry, Devin Sanchez. 2018. “Beliefs as Inner Causes: The (Lack of) Evidence.” *Philosophical Psychology* 31(6):850–77. [link](#);
- Strand, Michael and Omar Lizardo. 2015. “Beyond World Images: Belief as Embodied Action in the World.” *Sociological Theory* 33(1):44–70. [link](#);
- Shapiro, Larry. 2007. “The Embodied Cognition Research Programme.” *Philosophy Compass* 2(2):338–46. [link](#);
- Lakoff, George. 2012. “Explaining Embodied Cognition Results.” *Topics in Cognitive Science* 4(4): 773–85. [link](#);
- Barsalou, Lawrence W. 2008. “Grounded Cognition.” *Annual Review of Psychology* 59(1): 617–45. [link](#);
- Lizardo, Omar. 2009. “Is a ‘Special Psychology’ of Practice Possible?: From Values and Attitudes to Embodied Dispositions.” *Theory & Psychology* 19(6): 713–27. [link](#);

#### Additional resources

- [Omar Lizardo’s syllabus](#) for the course Culture and Cognition at Notre Dame (Spring 2017);
- [John Levi Martin’s syllabus](#) for the course Culture and Cognition at University of Wisconsin, Madison (Spring 2005);
- [Karen Cerulo’s bibliographic material](#);
- Omar Lizardo and Michael Strand (UCLA) have a blog called [CultureCog](#) in which they write posts about central concepts in this field, such as that of habitus and embodiment. They adopt a Bourdieusian perspective, for which culture is not studied in its social representations (Durkheim) or interpersonal/micro situations (Goffman), but as incorporated in everyday practices (see, for example, [Dieter Vandebroek’s \(2016\)](#) book about how class divisions become inscribed in the body and how physical properties, in turn, contribute to naturalizing and legitimizing class divisions). The blog constitutes a good companion to the papers to better grasp and reflect upon their main theoretical, methodological, and empirical findings.