

## **Nancy Weiss Hanrahan**

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
George Mason University  
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### **Employment, Academic**

2000- Associate Professor, Sociology, George Mason University  
Affiliate Faculty: Women and Gender Studies, Cultural Studies  
2016-2018 Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology, George Mason University  
2002-2009 Director, Women and Gender Studies, George Mason University  
1994-2000 Assistant Professor, Sociology, George Mason University

### **Employment, Non-academic**

1981-1987 Program Director, New Jazz at the Public, New York Shakespeare Festival, NYC  
1979-1980 Radio announcer / producer, WBUR, Boston

### **Education**

New School for Social Research, Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science  
Ph.D., Sociology, 1995. Dissertation: "Surprise: Event and Explanation in the Sociology of Music", awarded the *Alfred Schutz Memorial Award for the Outstanding Dissertation in Sociology and Philosophy*; M.A., Sociology, 1989.  
Wesleyan University, B.A., History, 1976, Cum Laude.

### **Honors and Awards**

2019 British Sociological Association Award for Excellence and Innovation (shortlisted)  
"Hearing the Contradictions: Aesthetic Experience, Music and Digitization"  
*Cultural Sociology* Volume 12, No 3, September, 2018.  
2018 Faculty Research and Development Award, College of Humanities and Social Science,  
George Mason University (\$14,755) for "*Women's Work*", *Education Strikes and the Crisis of Care*  
2011 Faculty Research and Development Award, College of Humanities and Social Science,  
George Mason University (\$4,967)  
2010 Fulbright Scholar, Brazil (teaching in Department of Sociology and Politics, Pontificia  
Universidade Catolica, Rio de Janeiro)

### **Publications**

#### books:

*The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture*, co-editor with Mark Jacobs, Blackwell  
Publishers: Oxford and Malden, MA. 2005. Chinese translation: Nanjing University  
Press, 2013.

*Difference in Time: A Critical Theory of Culture*, Praeger Publishers: Westport, CT and

London. 2000.

book chapters:

- “Digitized Music and the Aesthetic Experience of Difference” in David Arditi and Jennifer Miller, eds., *The Dialectic of Digital Culture* (Lexington Books) 2019.
- “Critique and Possibility in Cultural Sociology” (with Sarah S. Amsler) in John R. Hall, Laura Grindstaff, and Ming-cheng Lo, eds., *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Sociology*, second edition (Routledge: New York and London) 2018.
- “La Découverte Musicale en Régime Numérique: Personnalisation, Popularité et Possibilité Esthétique,” in Philippe Le Guern, ed. *Ou Va La Musique? Numerimorphose et Nouvelles Experiences d’Ecoute*. (Presses des Mines: Paris) 2016.
- “Feminism and the Politics of Recognition: A Cautionary Tale”, in *Direitos humanos em seus desafios contemporâneos (Human Rights and its Contemporary Challenges)*. (Pallas: Rio de Janeiro) 2012.
- “Re-Imagining Critique in Cultural Sociology” (with Sarah S. Amsler) in John R. Hall, Laura Grindstaff, and Ming-cheng Lo, eds., *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Sociology* (Routledge: London) 2010.
- “Difference and Cultural Systems: Dissonance in Three Parts,” in *Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture*, 2005.
- “The Form of Difference: Reimagining Critical Theory,” in *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*, vol. 22, Jennifer Lehmann, ed., Elsevier Science: UK. 2002.
- “Cultural Practice, Social Change: Theoretical Perspectives,” in *Rethinking Social Transformation: Criticism and Creativity at the Turn of the Millenium*, Ananta Giri, ed., Rawat Publications: Jaipur and New Delhi. 2001.

Articles:

- "Relearning Liberation: Critical Methodologies for the General Crisis" (with Sarah S. Amsler) *Berlin Journal of Critical Theory*, Volume 2, No 4, October, 2018.
- "Hearing the Contradictions: Aesthetic Experience, Music and Digitization", *Cultural Sociology* Volume 12, No 3, September, 2018.
- “Big Data, Little Music” <http://www.publicseminar.org/features/#.UzGnRBROVDA>, *Public Seminar*, March, 24, 2014.
- “‘If the People Like it, it Must be Good’: Criticism, Democracy and the Culture of Consensus” *Cultural Sociology*, Volume 7 No 1, March, 2013.
- “Music, or the Triumph of *Technics*?” <http://www.deliberatelyconsidered.com/2012/01/music-or-the-triumph-of-technics>. January 19, 2012.
- “The Institution of Art in Postmodernity: The Problem of Autonomy,” *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, Vol. 14, #2, Winter, 2000.
- “Negative Composition,” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 15:3, (1989).

**Work in Progress**

“*Women’s Work*”, *Education Strikes and the Crisis of Care*

## Recent Papers / Presentations

- “Digitized Music and the Aesthetic Experience of Difference”, The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology, ASA Philadelphia, August, 2018.
- “Relearning Liberation: Critical Theory for our Time and Place” – **Invited Keynote**, International Social Theory Consortium conference, Chicago, May 2018.
- “Dignity, Democracy or Liberation? Critical Theory and the Ethical Turn”. Regular Paper session on Critical Theory, ASA Montreal, August, 2017.
- “Digital Music Discovery: Personalization, Popularity and Aesthetic Possibility”, American Sociological Association, 2016 Annual Meeting, Seattle.
- Invited panelist: Institute for Immigration Research (George Mason University) Colloquium on Art, Immigration and Entrepreneurship, April, 2016.
- “Musical Discovery and its Discontents,” Musimorphoses Symposium, Paris, France, 2015.
- “Aesthetic Pleasures or Instrumental use? Listening to Music in the New Digital Economy”, Art and Society Annual meeting, London, UK. 2015
- “Is art critique?”, London Conference on Critical Thought, Goldsmith’s University, London, UK. 2014
- “What’s new? Music or *Technics*?” European Sociological Association 2013 meeting, Turin, Italy.
- “Music, *Technics*, and the Lost Art of the New”, From the Art of Memory to Memory and Art: A One Day Conference Honoring Professor Vera L. Zolberg's Career, New York, 2012.
- “Cultural Critique in the Age of the Internet”, invited speaker, Sociology Department Seminars, University of Brasilia, Brazil, 2011.
- Roundtable participant: “Women in the Academy”, The Presence of Women in Different Sectors of Brazilian Society, Fulbright / US Department of State, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2011.
- “Feminism and the Politics of Recognition: A Cautionary Tale”, Fulbright Chair International Seminar: Human rights and its Contemporary Challenges, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2011.
- “If the People Like it, it Must be Good’: Criticism, Democracy and the Crowd”, European Sociological Association, Research Network on Culture, 2010 meeting, Milan, Italy.
- Closing Plenary speaker (invited): “Sound: Print: Record: African-American Legacies Symposium”, University of Delaware, 2009.
- “Aestheticization and Post-Modernity: Critical Possibilities for the Sociology of Art”, European Sociological Association, Research Network on the Arts, 2008 meeting, Venice, Italy.
- “Recovering the Sociological Imagination: Critique and Judgment in Cultural Sociology”, American Sociological Association, 2008 Annual Meeting, Boston.
- “On Beauty, Sociology and the Arts”, European Sociological Association 2007 meeting, Glasgow, Scotland.
- “But is it Art? The Case of World Music”, American Sociological Association, 2007 Annual Meeting, New York.

## Media

- “Downloading Democracy” on *With Good Reason*, aired on 126 NPR stations (June, 2019).
- “Songs Haven’t Shied from Violence”, *The Tennessean*, October 27, 2013.

Discussion of domestic violence and country music, on *Live and Local* 102.3, Chattanooga, TN (October 2013).

### **Professional Service**

Discussant: Gender Section regular session, “Positionality and the Construction of Feminist Theory”, American Sociological Association 2019 Annual Meeting, New York City.

Organizer and Presider, Theory Section regular session, “Critical Theory”, American Sociological Association 2017 Annual Meeting, Montreal.

Chair, DC Sociological Society Awards committee, 2016.

Grant reviewer, Social Science panel, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2012.

Organizer and Presider, Theory Section regular session, “Critical Theory”, American Sociological Association 2012 Annual Meeting, Denver.

Advisory Committee member, for development of degree program in “Contemporary Music Journalism: New Media Studies”, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA. 2010.

Organizer, Aesthetics panels, European Sociological Association Research Network on the Arts 2008 meeting, Venice, Italy.

Discussant: Culture Section regular session, “Musical Lifeworlds”, American Sociological Association 2006 Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

### **Professional Associations**

Comparative and International Education Society

American Sociological Association / Culture Section