

BRENT W. SOCKNESS

Department of Religious Studies
Building 70, Main Quad
Stanford University
Stanford, California, 94305-2165
sockness@stanford.edu
650-723-4051

EDUCATION:

University of Chicago, Ph.D., Theology, 1996
University of Chicago, M.A., Religious Studies, 1985
St. Olaf College, B.A., Economics, 1984

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Associate Professor of Religious Studies (and German Studies by courtesy) Stanford University, 2005-
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Stanford University, 1996-2004.
Instructor in the Department of Religion and Tutor in the Paracollege, St. Olaf College, 1991-92, 1993-1996.

Visiting Professor, Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies (IZEA), Excellence Network "Aufklärung-Religion-Wissen," Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), July 2014.

Visiting Professor, Ökumenisches Institut, Theologische Fakultät, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, June 2014.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS:

Violet Andrews Whittier Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2016-2017
Leibniz Professorship, Leipzig University, invitation in 2015 declined for familial reasons
Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, Halle, Germany, 2002-2003
Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, 2001-2002
John Philip Coghlan Fellow, Stanford University, 2000-2002
Berlin Prize Fellow, American Academy in Berlin, Autumn 1999
Hewlett Faculty Grant, Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, 1999-2000
Brown Faculty Fellow, Stanford University, 1998-1999
Recipient, Occasional Fellowship Program, Midwest Faculty Seminar, Summer, 1996
Dissertation awarded distinction, March 1996
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Annual Grant, 1992-93
Junior Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Chicago, 1989-90

Doctoral examinations passed with distinction, May 1989
Josephine de Kármán Fellow, Josephine de Kármán Fellowship Trust, 1988-89
Divinity School Fellow, University of Chicago, 1988-89
Divinity School Fellow, University of Chicago, 1987-88
B.A. summa cum laude, St. Olaf College, 1984
Phi Beta Kappa, 1983

BOOKS:

Against False Apologetics: Wilhelm Herrmann and Ernst Troeltsch in Conflict. Beiträge zur historischen Theologie 105. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998.

Co-edited with Wilhelm Gräb (Humboldt Universität Berlin). *Schleiermacher, the Study of Religion, and the Future of Theology.* Theologische Bibliothek Töpelmann 148. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2010. Paperback edition, 2016.

In Progress:

Ethics in History: Ernst Troeltsch's Moral Theory—a study of Troeltsch's systematic views on ethics in the context of late-nineteenth-century German historicism and Idealism.

Translation/Edition (with Paul E. Capetz): *The Essential Ethical Writings of Ernst Troeltsch.*

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS:

“Historicism and Its Unresolved Problems: Ernst Troeltsch's Last Word.” In *Historisierung : Begriff – Geschichte – Praxisfelder*, edited by Moritz Baumstark and Robert Forkel, 210-230. Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler, 2016.

“Troeltsch's Reading of Schleiermacher's Ethics: Seven Theses.” In *Die aufgeklärte Religion und ihre Probleme: Schleiermacher, Troeltsch, Tillich*, edited by Ulrich Barth, Christian Danz, Friedrich Wilhelm Graf, and Wilhelm Gräb, 283-405. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013.

“Ernst Troeltsch.” In *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, vol. 8, edited by Hugh LaFollette, 5192-5201. Oxford: Blackwell, 2013.

“Schleiermacher's 'Essentialist' Hermeneutics of Culture.” In *Schleiermacher, the Study of Religion, and the Future of Theology*, edited by Brent W. Sockness and Wilhelm Gräb. Theologische Bibliothek Töpelmann 148, 273-283. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2010.

- “Cultural Theory as Ethics.” In *Christentum—Staat—Kultur: Akten des Internationalen Schleiermacher-Kongresses Berlin 26.-29.03.2006*, edited by Ulrich Barth and Wilhelm Gräb, 517-525. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2008.
- “Brilliant misslungen: Die historistische Apologetik der Absolutheitsschrift.” In *Christlicher Wahrheitsanspruch—historische Relativität: Auseinandersetzung mit Ernst Troeltschs Absolutheitsschrift im Kontext heutiger Religionstheologie*, edited by Reinhold Bernhardt and Georg Pfeleiderer, 169-187. Zurich: Theologischer Verlag, 2004.
- “The Study of Religion in North America.” *Mitteilungen der Ernst-Troeltsch-Gesellschaft* 17 (Autumn 2004): 69-82.
- “Schleiermacher and the Ethics of Authenticity: The *Monologen* of 1800.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 32/3 (Winter 2004): 477-517.
- “The Forgotten Moralist: Friedrich Schleiermacher and the Science of Spirit.” *Harvard Theological Review* 96/3 (July 2003): 317-48.
- “Geschichte durch Ethik überwinden?: Ernst Troeltsch, Moral Consciousness, and the Abiding Crisis of Historicism.” In *Praktische Theologie und Protestantische Kultur*, edited by Wilhelm Gräb and Birgit Weyel, 200-217. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlaghaus Gerd Mohn, 2002.
- “Was Schleiermacher a Virtue Ethicist?: *Tugend* and *Bildung* in the Early Ethical Writings.” *Zeitschrift für neuere Theologiegeschichte/Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 8 (2001): 1-33.
- “Troeltsch’s ‘Practical Christian Ethics’: The Heidelberg Lectures (1911/12).” *The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* 17 (1997): 71-94.
- “Looking Behind the *Social Teachings*: Troeltsch’s Methodological Reflections in ‘Fundamental Problems of Ethics’ (1902).” *The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* 15 (1995): 221-246.
- “Ethics as Fundamental Theology: The Function of Ethics in the Theology of Wilhelm Herrmann.” *The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics* 12 (1992): 75-96.
- “The Ideal and the Historical in the Christology of Wilhelm Herrmann: The Promise and Perils of Revisionary Christology.” *Journal of Religion* 72/3 (July 1992): 366-388.
- “Luther’s Two Kingdoms Revisited: A Response to Reinhold Niebuhr’s Criticism of Luther.” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 20/1 (Spring 1992): 93-110.

REVIEWS:

The Understanding of Christian Faith, by Schubert M. Ogden. *Journal of Religion* 94/1 (January 2014): 124-127.

Liberal Theology: A Radical Vision, by Peter C. Hodgson. *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 62/2 (April 2008): 212.

Schleiermacher, by Terrence Tice. *Theology Today* 64/3 (October 2007): 368-372.

Clio the Romantic Muse: Historicizing the Faculties in Germany, by Theodore Ziolkowski. *German History* 23/2 (2005): 267-268.

Protestantische Theologie und moderne Welt: Studien zur Geschichte der liberalen Theologie nach 1918, by Matthias Wolfes. *Religious Studies Review* 29/1 (January 2003): 64.

Dialogische Wissenschaft: Perspektiven der Philosophie Schleiermachers, edited by Dieter Burdorf and Reinold Schmücker. *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 84 (2002): 119-122.

Religion and the Rise of Historicism: W. M. L. de Wette, Jacob Burckhardt, and the Theological Origins of Nineteenth-Century Historical Consciousness, by Thomas Albert Howard. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 69/2 (June 2001): 493-495.

Die kritische Identität des neuzeitlichen Christentums. Schleiermachers Wesensbestimmung der christlichen Religion, by Markus Schröder. *Zeitschrift für neuere Theologieggeschichte/ Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 6 (1999): 159-165.

Religion and the Enlightenment: From Descartes to Kant, by James M. Byrne. *Journal of Religion* 79/2 (April 1999): 313-314.

The Historian and the Believer: The Morality of Historical Knowledge and Christian Belief, by Van A. Harvey. *Religious Studies Review* 23/4 (October 1997): 373.

The Ethics of Ernst Troeltsch: A Commitment to Relevancy, by Bryce A. Gayhart. *Journal of Religion* 74/1 (January 1994): 117-118.

Fallen Freedom: Kant on Radical Evil and Moral Regeneration, by Gordon E. Michalson, Jr. *Journal of Religion* 72/4 (October 1992): 598-599.

CONFERENCE PAPERS:

“Ernst Troeltsch: Ethik in Systematischer Absicht.” Plenary at conference in honor of Prof. Dr. Klaus Tanner on the theme, “Protestantismus und politische Kultur.” Heidelberg University, January 17-18, 2014.

- “Kulturphilosophie unter ethischem Gesichtspunkt: Troeltsch’s Appropriation of Schleiermacher’s Doctrine of Goods.” Joint conference of the German Schleiermacher, Troeltsch, and Paul Tillich Societies on the theme, “Die Aufgeklärte Religion und Ihre Probleme.” Humboldt University, Berlin, March 18-21, 2012.
- “Theological Reflection and the Pursuit of Ideals in the Constructive Ethics of Ernst Troeltsch.” Conference in honor of David Klemm on the theme, “Theological Reflection and the Pursuit of Ideals.” University of Chicago Divinity School, The Martin Marty Center, May 8-10, 2011.
- “Schleiermacher’s ‘Essentialist’ Hermeneutics of Culture.” International Schleiermacher Conference on the theme, “Schleiermacher, the Study of Religion and the Future of Theology: A Transatlantic Dialogue.” University of Chicago, October 29-November 1, 2008.
- “Kulturtheorie als Ethik.” International Schleiermacher Congress on the theme, “Christentum-Staat-Kultur.” Humboldt University, Berlin, March 26-29, 2006.
- “Schleiermacher’s Ethical Thought.” Featured speaker for the Christian Ethics and the Enlightenment Interest Group of the Society of Christian Ethics, Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. Chicago, January 9-11, 2004.
- “Schleiermacher and the Ethics of Authenticity.” International Schleiermacher-Kierkegaard Congress on the theme, “Subjektivität und Wahrheit.” University of Copenhagen, October 9-13, 2003.
- “Deontological Aspects of Troeltsch’s Late Philosophy of Culture.” German Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, September 18-21, 2003.
- “The Splendid Failure of the *Absolutheitsschrift*.” Post-Graduate Conference commemorating the centenary of Ernst Troeltsch’s *Die Absolutheit des Christentums und die Religionsgeschichte*. University of Basel, Switzerland, December 6-8, 2002.
- “Ethics in a Romantic Key: Schleiermacher’s *Soliloquies*.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. Vancouver, January 10-13, 2002.
- “Geschichte durch Ethik überwinden? Ernst Troeltsch, Moral Consciousness, and the Abiding Crisis of Historicism.” Conference on the theme, “Praktische Theologie und protestantische Kultur in Berlin.” Humboldt University, Berlin, June 22-24, 2001.
- “Schleiermacher as Contemporary Ethicist: Preliminary Considerations for an Anglo-Saxon Interpretation of Schleiermacher’s Moral Philosophy.” Conference on the theme, “The Future of Christian Theology: The Liberal Traditions.” York University, England, March 22-25, 1999.

“Troeltsch’s ‘Practical Christian Ethics’: The Heidelberg Lectures.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, January 10-12, 1997.

“Looking Behind the *Social Teachings*: Troeltsch’s Methodological Reflections in ‘Grundprobleme der Ethik’ (1902).” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C., January 6-8, 1995.

“Ethics as Fundamental Theology: The Function of Ethics in the Theology of Wilhelm Herrmann.” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, January 10-12, 1992.

PUBLIC LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, RESPONSES:

“Ethics in History: Troeltsch’s Moral Theory,” German Studies Lecture Series, Stanford University, May 23, 2017.

“The Ethics of a Liberal Protestant Polymath,” Stanford Humanities Center, October 18, 2016

“Subjectivity and Historicism: Ernst Troeltsch’s Last Word.” Public lecture at the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies (IZEA). Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, July 7, 2014.

“Historicism, Moral Consciousness, ‘Noologie’: Troeltsch’s Last Word.” Public lecture at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA). Heidelberg University, June 17, 2014.

“‘Religious Studies’ in Amerika.” Presentation to the Theological Faculty of the Martin-Luther-Universität. Halle, Germany, June 12, 2003.

“The Appropriation of Otherness and the Recognition of One’s Own: Hermeneutical Dimensions of Schleiermacher’s *Monologen*.” Presentation for the Schleiermacher-Gesellschaft Research Colloquium on the theme, “Schleiermacher’s Hermeneutics.” Tutzing, Germany, September 30-October 2, 2002.

“The Science of Spirit: Schleiermacher’s Philosophical Ethics.” Presentation for the Schleiermacher-Gesellschaft Research Colloquium on the theme, “Schleiermachers Kulturtheorie.” Münster, Germany, March 11-14, 2001.

“Schleiermacher’s Development as Ethicist.” Lecture for doctoral students and *Habilitanden* in the Theological Faculty at the Humboldt University and for the “Theologische Sozietät” of the University of Kiel. Berlin and Kiel, December 1999.

“Was Schleiermacher a Virtue Ethicist?: *Tugend* and *Bildung* in the Early Ethical Manuscripts.” Public lecture held at the American Academy in Berlin. Berlin, November 12, 1999.

Concluding response to the conference, “The Future of Christian Theology: The Liberal Traditions.” York University, England, March 22-25, 1999.

Response to *The Promise of Lutheran Ethics*, ed. Karen L. Bloomquist and John R. Stumme (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998). Annual Gathering of Lutheran Ethicists. San Francisco, January 1999.

CONFERENCES/LECTURES ORGANIZED:

“The Religion, Science and Democracy Series.” Five lectures and workshops open to the public co-organized with Michael Friedman (Philosophy) under the auspices of the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, Stanford University, February-May 2016. Speakers: Avishai Margalit, Peter Gordon, Paul Weithman, Linda Woodhead, and Franklin Gamwell.

“Religious Extremism and the Future of Liberal Societies.” The Tenth Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, April 20, 2016.

“Understanding ISIS.” The Ninth Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, April 27, 2014.

“Building Spiritual Leadership in the App Generation.” The Eight Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, March 12, 2014.

“The Global Religious Challenges to the Secular State.” A lecture given by Mark Juergensmeyer (University of California Santa Barbara) in the McCoy Family Center for Ethics “Ethics and War Series.” Stanford University, May 3, 2012.

“The Ethics of War in Christian and Islamic Perspectives.” The Seventh Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, April 19, 2012.

“Transitional Justice: Truth, Reconciliation, and Religion.” The Sixth Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, February 11, 2011.

“Religion and the Marketplace: Pope Benedict’s Critique of the Global Economy.” The Fifth Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, February 5, 2010.

“Religion and Secularization in Europe, Question Mark.” Conference co-organized with Philippe Buc and Amir Wiener of the Center for European Studies. Stanford University Humanities Center, April 24, 2009.

“Religion and the Environment: Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity, and Buddhism.” The Fourth Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, February 13, 2009.

“Schleiermacher, the Study of Religion, and the Future of Theology: A Transatlantic Dialogue.” Conference co-organized with William Schweiker (University of Chicago). The University of Chicago Divinity School, October 29th-November 1, 2008.

“Religion and the Presidency.” The Third Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, February 22, 2008.

“Ethical Responses to Genocide.” The Second Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies. February 27, 2007.

“Religious Reasons and Public Purposes: Religious Conviction, Civic Discourse, and the First Amendment.” The First Annual Howard M. Garfield Forum for Undergraduates. Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, February 28, 2006.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Director, Ethics in Society Honors Program, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: 2015-2016, 2017-

Pre-major Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Program: 2015-present.

Center Associate, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: 2013-present.

Advisory Board, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: 2011-present.

Affiliated Faculty, The Europe Center, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies: 2010-present.

Lecturer, SLE (Structured Liberal Education) Program: 2009-present.

Education for Citizenship/Ethical Reasoning Subcommittee member: 2006-present.

Referee, Stanford Humanities Center (external faculty selection): 2005-present.

Numerous Search Committees, Department of Religious Studies: 1997-present.

Provost’s Search Committee, Dean of Religious Life: 2014-15.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies: 2013-14.

Director, Ethics in Society Honors Program, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: Autumn 2013.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies: 2011-2012.

Director, Ethics in Society Honors Program, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: 2011-2012.

Freshman and Sophomore Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Program: 2011-12.

Hope House Instructor, Course: “Existentialism and the Meaning of Life,” co-taught with Dan Edelstein for the Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics: Winter 2012.

New Student Orientation Speaker, “Engaging with Faculty”: September 2011.

Faculty Director, “Mythos and Logos: Religion and Rationality in the Humanities,” The Claire and John Radway Research Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center: 2010-11, renewed 2011-12.

Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors (C-RUM): 2009-2012.

Stanford Humanities Center, Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee: 2009.

Sophomore Mentor, Freshman and Sophomore Programs: 2007-2009.

Advisory Board, Stanford McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society: 2006-2009.

Steering Committee, Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities: 2006-2009.

Resident Fellow, Lantana House (Academic Focus: Humanities): 2005-2008.

New Student Orientation Speaker, “Engaging with Faculty”: September 2005.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies: 2004-2009.

Freshman and Sophomore Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Program: 2004-2006.

Sophomore Mentor, Freshman and Sophomore Programs: 2004-2005.

Professor-in-Residence, Stanford Overseas Program in Berlin: Winter Quarter 2000-2001.

Freshman and Sophomore Advisor, Undergraduate Advising Program: 1998-2000.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

Member, Board of Consultants, *Journal of Religion*: June 2014-present.

Vice-President, Schleiermacher-Gesellschaft e.V.: 2006-2011, re-elected 2012-2017.

Member, Program Subcommittee on the Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion: Spring 2010.

Member, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Review Committee for the Research Group (FOR 593), “Anfänge (in) der Moderne: Theoretische Konzepte, literarische Figurationen, historische Konstruktionen,” convened in Munich, November 20-21, 2008.

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Schleiermacher Group, American Academy of Religion: 2008-2009.

Chair, Steering Committee, Schleiermacher Group, American Academy of Religion: 2005-2008.

Co-Chair, Steering Committee, Schleiermacher Group, American Academy of Religion: 2004-2005.

Member, Steering Committee, Schleiermacher Group, American Academy of Religion: 1999-2004.

Referee, *Harvard Theological Review*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of Religion*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Oxford University Press.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

American Academy of Religion
Ernst-Troeltsch-Gesellschaft e.V.
Schleiermacher-Gesellschaft e.V.
Society of Christian Ethics

July 5, 2017