

## Vita

### MITCHEL Y. ABOLAFIA

#### Office Address

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs  
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500 Haskell Place  
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#### Education

Ph.D.	State University of New York at Stony Brook, Sociology
M.A.	State University of New York at Stony Brook, Sociology
B.A.	Tufts University, Medford, MA, Sociology

#### Teaching Positions

1996 to Present	<u>Associate Professor</u> in Public Administration and Policy and the Organizational Studies Program, University at Albany.
1998 to 1999	<u>Visiting Associate Professor of Management</u> , Sloan School Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
1990 to 1996	<u>Assistant Professor</u> in Public Administration and Policy and the Organizational Studies Program, University at Albany.
1983-1990	<u>Assistant Professor</u> of Behavioral and Organizational Science, Johnson Graduate School of Management, and the Department of Sociology, Cornell University.
1981-1983	<u>Assistant Professor</u> in the Graduate School of Management and the Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis.

#### Administrative Positions

1996 to 1998	Director of the Doctoral Program in Public Administration and Policy,
1999 to 2000	University at Albany
1999 to 2004	Deputy Editor, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography

## **Areas of Research Interest**

Organizational Theory, Economic Sociology, Group Policy Making, School Reform

## **Areas of Teaching Interest**

Organizational Behavior and Theory, Public Management, Ethnographic Methods, Economic Sociology

## **Book Publications**

*Making Markets: Opportunism and Restraint on Wall Street*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997, 2001 (paper).

Chapter One, "Homo Economicus Unbound" reprinted in *Readings in Economic Sociology*, Nicole Biggart (editor), Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

*Understanding Markets*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, forthcoming.

## **Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes**

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Financial Markets" in *International Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*, Jens Beckert and Milan Zafiroski (editors), London: Routledge, forthcoming

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Making Sense of Recession: Policy Making at the Federal Reserve" in *The Economic Sociology of Capitalism*, Victor Nee and Richard Swedberg (eds), Princeton: Princeton University Press, forthcoming.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol 14, no.3, 2004

Bien Baez and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

"Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship and Institutional Change: A Sensemaking Approach," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. 12, #4, October 2002.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Fieldwork on Wall Street” *Urban Life*, G. Gmelch and W.P. Zenner (eds.), Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press, 2001.

Shahpar Modarresi, Dianna L. Newman, and Mitchel Y. Abolafia.

“Academic Evaluators versus Practitioners: Alternative Experiences of Professionalism,” *Evaluation and Program Planning*, Vol. 24:1. pp 1-11, Spring 2001.

Ralph Brower, Mitchel Y. Abolafia, and Jered Carr

“On Improving Qualitative Methods in Public Administration Research,” *Administration and Society*, Vol. 32 No.4, September 2000.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Markets as Cultures: An Ethnographic Approach,” *The Laws of Markets*, Michel Callon (ed.), Blackwell Publishers, 1998.

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Bureaucratic Politics: The View From Below,” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. VII #2, April 1997.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Hyper-rational Gaming,” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Vol.25 No.2, pp 226-250, July 1996

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Procedural Entrepreneurship: Enacting Alternative Channels to Administrative Effectiveness,” *American Review of Public Administration*, Vol. 26 # 3, pp 287-308, 1996.

Ralph Brower and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“The Structural Embeddedness of Resistance Among Public Managers,” *Group and Organization Management*, Vol. 20(2), pp 149-165, 1995.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Henry Tosi

“Conflict and the Forms of Organization,” in *The Environment/Organization/Person Contingency Model: A Meso Approach to the Study of Organization*, H. Tosi, (Ed.), Greenwich, CT:JAI Press, pp 97-117, 1992.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Nicole W. Biggart

“Competition and Markets: An Institutional Perspective,” in *Socio-Economics: A New Synthesis*, Amitai Etzioni and Paul Lawrence (Eds.), Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp 211-231, 1991.

A revised version of this paper was published as “Competitive Systems: A Sociological View,” in *Real Life Economics*, Paul Ekins and Max Neef (Eds.), New York: Routledge, pp 315-322, 1992.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Martin Kilduff

“Enacting Market Crisis: The Social Construction of a Speculative Bubble,” *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 33(2), pp 177-193, 1988.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Self-Regulation as Market Maintenance: An Organizational Perspective,” in *Regulatory Policy and Social Science*, Roger Noll (Ed.), Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp 312-342, 1985.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Structured Anarchy: Formal Organization in the Commodity Futures Markets,” in the *Social Dynamics of Financial Markets*, Peter Adler and Patricia Adler (Eds.), Greenwich, CT: JAI Press, pp 129-150, 1984.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Coordinating for the Collective Good: A Study of Coastal Zone Planning,” *Administration and Society*, Vol. 11(2), pp 172-192, 1979.

Mitchel Y. Abolafia and Alan L. Kafka

“Toward a Measure of Socio-Seismicity: A Contribution to Earthquake Risk Assessment,” in *Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Microzonation*, 1978.

## **Under Submission**

James M. Jasper, Mitchel Y. Abolafia, and Frank Dobbin

"Structure and Strategy on the Exchanges: A Critique and Conversation about Making Markets" submitted to Sociological Forum

Paul Nugent and Mitchel Y. Abolafia

“Hidden Emotions: An Analysis of Rhetoric in Four Organizational Ethnographies”  
Revise and Resubmit at *Organizational Science*.

## **Work in Progress**

Managing the Dollar: Policy Making at the Federal Reserve

This book will look at how elite policy makers at the Federal Reserve Board shape and respond to information. It explores how these policy makers frame and re-frame their knowledge in order to manage the money supply and to maintain their credibility in the face of ambiguity. Data are drawn from verbatim transcripts of the meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee as well as other archival documents.

Facilitating School-Wide Reform

The object of this project is to identify patterns in a relatively rare phenomenon. We are interested in how high poverty low performing schools are turned around: specifically, how fundamental practices (institutions) and beliefs about practice are changed. Institutional theory would predict, in fact, that real change should be rare. Rather, according to the theory, we should expect persistent decline, or in Meyer and Zucker’s phrase “permanently failing organizations” (1989). Many high poverty/low performing schools fit this description perfectly. Decades of decline are not uncommon. The reasons for permanently failing schools are well known. The more interesting question is how such failing organizations ever change institutionalized practice.

## **Book Reviews**

Review of *The Architecture of Markets*, Neil Fligstein in *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 47 #4, December 2002.

Review of *Success and Survival on Wall Street*, Charles W. Smith in *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 30 #3, 2001.

Review of *Morality, Rationality, and Efficiency*, Richard Coughlin (Ed.), in *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 22(2), pp 252-253, 1993.

Review of *Values in the Marketplace: The American Stock Market Under Federal Securities Law*, by James Burk in *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 96(4), pp 1014-1016, 1991.

Review of *The Moral Dimension: Toward a New Economics*, by Amitai Etzioni, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, Vol. 34(3), pp 496-498, 1989.

Review of *Chronicles of Corporate Change: Management Lessons from AT&T and Its Offspring*, Leonard A. Schlesinger, David Dyer, Thomas Clough, and Diane Landau, *Contemporary Sociology*, Vol. 17(5), 1988.

### **Presentations at Professional Meetings:**

2004 - "Frames Focal Points and Anecdotes: Ways of Knowing at the Federal Reserve" Inaugural Conference, Department of Sociology, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, June 3-6, 2004

2004 - "Models in Use: Economic Knowledge at the Federal Reserve" Corporations, Markets and the State: A Multidisciplinary Inquiry, George Washington University Law School, March 4-6

2003 - "Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Public Management National Research Conference, Washington, D.C. October

2003- "Enacting Economic Knowledge" American Sociological Association, Atlanta, August 18.

2003- " Framing Moves: Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Academy of Management, Seattle, August 3-6.

2003- "The Limits of Knowledge at the Federal Reserve" Financial Knowledge in Global Financial Markets, Konstanz, Germany, May 16-18.

2003- " Interpretive Politics at the Federal Reserve" Third Conference on Economic Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, March 1.

2002- "Institutional Change in High Poverty Schools", Conference on Advancing the Institutional Research Agenda in Education, University at Albany, September 20, 2002

2002- "Markets in Action: A Cultural Perspective," American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 18, 2002.

2002- "Making Sense of Recession," Conference on Social Studies of Finance - Columbia University/Social Science Research Council, New York City, May 3-4, 2002.

2001- "Making Sense of Recession: Policy Making at the Federal Reserve," Cornell Conference on the Economic Sociology of Capitalism, Ithaca, New York, September 28-29.

2001 - "Excellence in Public Management: A Problem in Construct Validity," Academy of Management Meeting, Washington, D.C., August 8

- 2000 - "Sensemaking in a Monetary Crisis," Conference on the Cultures of Financial Markets, Bielefeld, Germany, November 10-11
- 2000 - "Contested Ideologies and Dominant Frames: Sensemaking in a Monetary Crisis," Academy of Management Meeting, Toronto, Canada, August 7
- 2000 - "Making Sense of Institutional Change: Narratives of De-Institutionalization," Academy of Management Meeting, Toronto, Canada, August 8
- 2000 - "Interpreting Market Cultures," Conference on Economic Sociology at the Edge of the Third Millennium, Moscow, Russia, January 14-15
- 1999 - "Beyond Politics: The Rhetoric of Monetary Policy," American Sociological Association, Chicago, Il, August 6
- 1999 - "Logics of Action in Market Cultures," Social Science Research Council, Korilov, Russia, March 15
- 1998 - "Sensemaking at the Federal Reserve Board: An Ethnography of Economic Policy," American Sociological Association, San Francisco, Ca
- 1998 - "Local Rationality in Market Cultures," 1st Portuguese Conference on Economic Sociology, Lisbon, Portugal, March 4-6
- 1997 - "Making Markets: Opportunism and Restraint on Wall Street," Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Montreal, Canada
- 1997 - "Overcoming Institutional Defensiveness," American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
- 1996 - "Ethnographic Methods in the Public and Nonprofit Sector: A Workshop," Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1995 - "The Social Construction of Opportunism," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 - "Back to Power: Domination and Control as Recurrent Themes in Perrow's Work," Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1995 - "Innovation and Opportunism: An Interpretation of the Milken Saga," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 - "Bureaucratic Politics: The View from Below," Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Il.
- 1994 - "Institutionalized Markets: Persistence and Change," Conference on the Social Construction of Industries and Markets, Chicago, Il.

- 1994 - "The Embeddedness of Financial Markets," Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Paris, France.
- 1994 - "The Social Construction of Financial Markets," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, Ca.
- 1993 - "Hyper-rationality as a Cultural Norm," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, New York City.
- 1993 - "Taking Public Managers Seriously: Accounts of Bureaucratic Resistance," with Ralph Brower, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, D.C.
- 1993 - "Profits, Prudence, and the Public Interest: Policy Issues on Wall Street," Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington. D.C.
- 1993 - Discussant on Panel, "New Direction in Organizational Theory," Public Sector Division, Academy of Management, Atlanta, Ga.
- 1993 - "Managers as Active Resisters in the Public Sector," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Miami, Fla.
- 1992 - "Opportunism and Hyper-rationality; The Social Construction of Economic Man," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 1992 - "Human Nature and Public Policy: Wall Street Scandals in the 1980s," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Irvine, Ca.
- 1992 - "Market Makers in Decline: The Specialist System at NYSE," Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Irvine, Ca.
- 1992 - "Bureaucratic Insurgency: Resistance in Public Sector Organizations," with Ralph Brower, American Society for Public Administration, Chicago, Illinois.
- 1991 - "Whose Business is Child Care: Manager's Orientations toward Family Support Policies," Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1989 - "Culture and Ideology on Wall Street," Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Washington, D.C.
- 1989 - "Competition and Markets: An Institutional Perspective," with Nicole W. Biggart, International Conference on Socio-Economics, Harvard Business School.
- 1987 - "The Social Destruction of Reality: Organizational Conflict as Social Drama," with Martin Kilduff, Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois.
- 1986 - Discussant for panel on "Governance: Power and Efficiency Perspectives in Organization

Theory,” Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Chicago, Illinois.

1986 - “Theories of Economic Competition,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York City.

1986 - “The Sociology of Markets: Taking Stock in an Emerging Field,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York City.

1985 - “Market Crisis and Organizational Intervention,” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Washington, D.C.

### **Grants Received:**

State University of New York Research Foundation “Explaining Market Organization: The Decline of the Specialist System on the New York Stock Exchange.” April 15, 1991 through April 4, 1992. \$3,500.00

NYSUUP New Faculty Development Award. July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991. \$730.

Cornell University Johnson Graduate School of Management. “Research on the Culture of Investment Banks.” September 1987 through July 1990. \$14,000.00.

### **Teaching Experience**

Graduate Level	Organizational Theory and Behavior (Master’s Level) Contemporary Organization Theory (Ph.D. Level) Cultural Analysis in Organizations Strategy Implementation: Process and Politics Strategic Management Foundations of Public Management
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Undergraduate Level	Sociology of Organizations Industrialization and Social Change Political Sociology Introduction to Sociology
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Dissertation Committees	7 Chair, 16 Committee Member
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### **Departmental and Campus Committees**

Chair, Academic Standing and Retention Committee 2003-4 (Department)

Chair, Organizational Behavior and Theory Concentration 2002- 2004 (Department)

Faculty Senate 1999- 2002 (University)

Council on Libraries, Information Science, and Computing (2001-2002)

Search Committee in Public Management 2001- 2002 (Department)  
 Chair, Council on Academic Freedom and Ethics 2000-2001 (University)  
 Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate (University) 2000-2001  
 Committee on Academic Standing and Retention 2000-2001 (PADP)  
 Hiring Committee, Graduate Admissions Officer (Rockefeller College) 2000  
 Rockefeller College (Second Level) Promotion Review Committee (1997-1998)  
 Policy Committee 1996-1998, 1999-2000 (PADP)  
 Graduate Academic Council Curriculum Committee 1994-1995 (University)  
 Chair, Committee on Academic Standing and Retention 1993-1995 (PADP)  
 Chair, Higgins Lecture Committee (Organizational Studies)  
 Macro Comprehensive Exam Committee 1992-1998 (Organizational Studies)  
 Ad Hoc Retreat Committees 1992, 1993 (PADP)  
 Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations 1995 (PADP)  
 Public Management Curriculum Committee  
 Leadership Committee 1991 (PADP)  
 MPA Socialization Committee 1991 (PADP)  
 Professionalization Workshops 1992 (PADP)  
 Department Committee on Chair Selection 1995 (PADP)

### **Professional Association Committees/ Editorial Boards**

International Advisory Board, Financial Studies Review  
 Elected Member, Council, Section of Economic Sociology, American Sociological Association  
 (2002-2004)  
 Distinguished Book Award Committee, Economic Sociology, American Sociological  
 Association (2003)  
 Chair, Best Dissertation Award Committee of the Public and Nonprofit Division of the Academy  
 of Management (2001)  
 Committee on Nominations, Economic Sociology Division, American Sociological Association  
 (2001)  
 Max Weber Award Committee, Organizations and Occupations Division of the American  
 Sociological Association (1999-2000)  
 Executive Committee, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (1996-1999)

### **External Reviewer**

Administrative Science Quarterly, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological  
 Review, Organization Science, Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Contemporary  
 Ethnography, Sociological Forum, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory,  
 National Science Foundation Regulation and Policy Analysis Program, National Science  
 Foundation Sociology Program, Organization and Management Theory Division of the Academy  
 of Management, Public and Non-Profit Sector Division of the Academy of Management,

### **Professional Affiliations**

Academy of Management

Organization and Management Theory Division, Public Sector Division  
American Sociological Association  
Section on Economic Sociology  
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics  
Registered Representative, all U.S. Commodity Exchanges