

Robert C. Bulman

Education:

Ph.D. 1999. Sociology, U.C. Berkeley

Dissertation: "School Choice Stories: Unraveling the Dynamics of High School Selection"

M.A. 1992. Sociology, U.C. Berkeley

B.A. 1989. Sociology, with Highest Honors, U.C. Santa Cruz, Stevenson College

Occupation:

Since 2009 - Professor, Saint Mary's College of California, Sociology Department

2003-2009 – Associate Professor, Saint Mary's College of California, Sociology Department (tenured in 2005)

2001–2003 – Assistant Professor, Saint Mary's College of California, Anthropology and Sociology Department

1999-2001 - Adjunct Professor, Saint Mary's College of California, Anthropology and Sociology Department

Publications:

Books

Bulman, Robert. (2015). *Hollywood Goes to High School: Cinema, Schools and American Culture, Second Edition*. New York: Worth Publishers

Bulman, Robert C. (2005). *Hollywood Goes to High School: Cinema, Schools, and American Culture*. New York: Worth Publishers

Peer-reviewed articles

Bulman, Robert C. & McCants, Nicole S.* (2008). "Enlightened Teenage Masculinity." *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds, Vol. 7, Iss. 3*, 68-69.

Leib, Allison Yamanashi* & Bulman, Robert C. (2007). "The Choreography of Gender: Masculinity, Femininity, and the Complex Dance of Identity in the Ballroom." *Men and Masculinities, Vol. December*.

Bulman, Robert C. (2007). "Can a Living Legend be Inauthentic?" *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds, Vol. 6, Iss. Fall*.

Bulman, Robert C. (2006). "Shall We DanceSport? The World of Competitive Ballroom Dancing." *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds, Vol. 5, Iss. 1*.

Bulman, Robert C. (2005). "Coach Carter: The Urban Cowboy Rides Again." *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds.* Vol. 4, Iss. 3.

Bulman, Robert C. (2004). "School-Choice Stories: The Role of Culture." *Sociological Inquiry, Vol. 74, Iss. 4*

Bulman, Robert C. (2002). "Teachers in the 'Hood: Hollywood's Middle-Class Fantasy." *The Urban Review, Vol. 34, Iss. 3*.

* Co-authored with a Saint Mary's College undergraduate student

Book chapters

Bulman, Robert C. (2022) "'You look good wearing my future: Social Class and Individualism in the 1980s films of John Hughes" in *ReFocus: The Films of John Hughes*. Edited by Timothy Shary and Frances Smith. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Bulman, Robert C. (2020) "Surviving the Rapids." A brief invited book chapter in *Sharing Gratitude: Daily Reflections* edited by Mary M. Dalton. Library Partners Press. 2020

Bulman, Robert (2017) "Mr. Plecki and Me: Lessons from *Cheaters* About Critical Pedagogy" in *Screen Lessons: What we have learned from teachers on television and the movies*. Edited by Laura Linder and Mary Dalton. NY: Peter Lang

Bulman, Robert (2016) "Foreword" in *Exploring Teachers in Fiction and Film*. NY: Routledge

Bulman, Robert. (2010). "Class in the Classroom: Hollywood's Distorted View of Inequality." In Sutherland, Jean-Anne and Feltey, Kathryn (Eds.), *Cinematic Sociology: Social Life in Film*. Sage

Bulman, Robert C. (2007). "Response to the essay, 'One Nation, Slightly Divisible'" by David Brooks. In *The Presence of Others: Voices and Images that Call for Response*. Bedford/St. Martins

Bulman, Robert C. & Kirp, David L. (1999). "The Shifting Politics of School Choice." In *School Choice and Social Controversy: Politics, Policy, and Law*. Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

Book Reviews

Bulman, Robert. (2013). Book Review of *Dance with Me: Ballroom Dancing and the Promise of Instant Intimacy* by Julia Ericksen. *Social Forces*, Vol. doi:10.1093/sf/sot058, NA

Bulman, Robert (2008). Book Review of *The First Year Out: Understanding Teens after High School*. *Teaching Sociology* 36 (3).

Bulman, Robert C. (2006). Book Review of *Hollywood Films About Schools* by Ronald Chennault. *Teachers College Record*, online, Vol. www.tcr.org.

Reports

Bulman, Robert. (2007). "Building Bridges: A Report on the Napa Colloquium on School Choice". In *Family Choice in Education and the Lasallian Educational Mission*. Napa, California: The Brothers of the Christian Schools, District of San Francisco.

Conference Keynote Addresses:

"Hollywood Still Goes to High School: How Films about Schooling Reveal American Cultural Beliefs about Inequality," Keynote address at the *Teachers Teaching and the Media Conference*, Wake Forest University, 2017.

"Film and American Culture: The Case of the High School Film." Keynote address at the *Teachers, Teaching and the Movies Conference* at the College of Charleston, October 26, 2007. (I was the co-keynote speaker at this event alongside Henry Giroux)

Essays and Op-Eds

Published an op-ed in *Newsweek.com* on August 8, 2024: “‘Gender Ideology’ Is Not What You Think It Is.” <https://www.newsweek.com/gender-ideology-not-what-you-think-it-opinion-1936641>

Published an op-ed in *Newsweek.com* on July 11, 2024: “Because ‘Moms for Hate’ Just Doesn’t Have the Same Ring.” <https://www.newsweek.com/because-moms-hate-just-doesnt-have-same-ring-opinion-1923855>

Published an op-ed about Moms for Liberty in the *Davis Vanguard*, March 17, 2024 – “Responding to Bourne’s Vanguard Piece.”

Published an op-ed about Moms for Liberty in the *Davis Vanguard*, October 7, 2023 – “It’s Not About Parental Rights.”

Published an op-ed about Moms for Liberty in the *Davis Enterprise*, September 28, 2023 – “How to Respond to Toxi Politics in Davis.”

Published an essay in the online site *Faculty Focus*. “How Teaching can inform Scholarship: It’s not always the Other Way Around.” April 10, 2015.

Published an op-ed as part of the cover story in the Sunday “Insight” section in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. “Conflicted View of High School is Reflected in Hollywood Films” March 27, 2015 <http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Conflicted-view-of-high-school-is-reflected-in-6161698.php>

Published a blog essay in the online site *The Sociological Cinema*. “Is Kevin Costner’s *McFarland, USA* a White Savior Film? Well, Yes and No.” March 10, 2015 <http://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/blog>

Published a personal essay in the *Davis Enterprise*, September 28, 2014. “Facing my Fears in Oregon, and Barely Surviving.” <http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/news-columns/standing-in-facing-my-fears-in-oregon-and-barely-surviving/>

Bulman, Robert. (2011, March 11). “A Win-Win: Helping the Poor and Helping Ourselves.” *The Davis Enterprise*, B-7.

Substack

Various personal essays, political essays, and poetry posted on my Substack page, “Collectively Effervescent” <https://robertbulman.substack.com/>

References to my scholarly expertise in popular media outlets:

Was quoted in a feature article in the *New York Times* about the continuing fascination with the movie *Home Alone*. December 2023. “Just How Rich Were the McCallisters in ‘Home Alone?’”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/20/movies/home-alone-mccallisters-wealth.html>

Was heavily quoted in an article about cultural representations of Black students in the University of Alabama Black-student magazine, *Nineteen Fifty-Six*, Fall 2023.

My research was cited in an article in *The Conversation*, “Why Security Measures Won’t Stop School Shootings.” February 14, 2018

My research was cited in an article in *The Atlantic*, “Hollywood’s Reductive Narratives about School.” May 30, 2017.

Was quoted twice in an article about the social movements opposed to Donald Trump in *Semana*, the “Time Magazine” of Colombia. “Cien Dias de Resistencia Anti-Trump.” April 29, 2017

Was heavily cited in a “Sunday Review” column in the *New York Times*, April 10, 2016. “Why Teachers on TV have to be Incompetent or Inspiring.” <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/10/opinion/sunday/why-teachers-on-tv-have-to-be-incompetent-or-inspiring.html>

Was the subject of a Saint Mary’s produced online video about my research. “Hollywood Goes to High School: Faculty Profile, Robert Bulman.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuAmnTRdw2o>

Cited in an interview with a filmmaker as an inspiration for a documentary film about education in North Carolina. Published in the independent weekly *Indyweek* in North Carolina, February 11, 2015
<http://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/an-in-progress-documentary-about-a-raleigh-teacher-gets-swept-up-in-a-protest-movement/Content?oid=4335585#.VNwIFD8hviQ.facebook>

Quoted in *USA Today* article about Ferguson protests in Berkeley, December 14, 2014
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2014/12/14/berkeley-protests-civil-rights-anti-racism-michael-brown-eric-garner/20327175/>

Was quoted in *USA Today* article about Ferguson protests in Berkeley, December 10, 2014
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2014/12/09/berkeley-protests-michael-brown-eric-garner-fourth-night/20162279/>

Quoted about Saint Mary’s January Term in book about higher education, *College (Un)Bound* by Jeffrey Seligno. New Harvest Press. 2013

I was featured in the documentary film “Teacher of the Year,” made by filmmakers in North Carolina creating a documentary that explores what it means to be a public-school teacher in North Carolina.

Quoted about January Term in the book, *Colleges that Change Lives* by Loren Pope. Penguin Books. 4th revision. 2012.

Quoted in *San Jose Mercury News* article about the Occupy Movement, November 5, 2011
http://www.mercurynews.com/nation-world/ci_19272906

Quoted in book about 80s teen movies, *You Couldn't Ignore Me If You Tried* by Susannah Gora. Three Rivers Press, 2011.

Quoted in a *Sacramento Bee* article about the 20th anniversary of *The Breakfast Club* by Doug Rutsch. February 2005. It was reprinted in several papers around the country under different titles.

Hollywood Goes to High School was the subject of a feature article in the *Contra Costa Times*, February 15, 2005

Quoted in *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* article about movie catch phrases. Date?

Quoted in *Contra Costa Times* article about high school sports movies, "Field of Dreams: High School Sports Movies Capture Imaginations" January 12, 2005

Awards and honors

The American Educational Studies Association awarded *Hollywood Goes to High School* one of its "Critic's Choice" awards in 2006.

Hollywood Goes to High School was the subject of an "author-meets-critic" session at the 2006 Pacific Sociological Association meetings in Hollywood, CA. A panel of professors, students, and a Hollywood producer critiqued the book, and I responded to questions and comments.

Invited book talks

"Hollywood Film and American Culture." Bulman, Robert C. Kiwanis Club Meeting, Moraga, CA (May 2007)

"Hollywood Goes to High School." Bulman, Robert C. Socialization class at San Jose State University (November 2006)

"Hollywood Goes to High School." Bulman, Robert C. Hollywood Goes to High School class, at Portland State University. This class was inspired by and organized around my book. (July 2006)

"Hollywood Goes to High School." Bulman, Robert C. Sociology of Film class, Sacramento State University (June 2005)

"Hollywood Goes to High School." Bulman, Robert C. Saint Mary's College of California A public lecture given at Saint Mary's College of California (February 2005)

Published Poems

- **Yet Another Poem about Birds** *34 Orchard*, 2022
- **A Masterpiece of Goo** *Neologism*, November 2021
- **Beyond the Bridge** in *Short Circuit #8* and in *Short Edition* dispensaries around the world, 2021
- **fabric and hope** *Orchards Poetry Journal*, December 2021
- **away we go** *Third Wednesday*, Winter, 2021
- **The names of stars** *Eunoia Review*, February 2022 (*After John Ashbery's "Just Walking Around"*)
- **The archaeology of anxiety** *Bluepepper* September 30, 2021
- **An Insufficient Soul** *Sledgehammer Lit*, November 5, 2021
- **Language into Magic** *The Trouvaille Review* August 29, 2021
- **A foul ball** *The Daily Drunk* August 23, 2021

Published Photos

"Pedestrian Tunnel" and "One Swing" published in *Willows Wept Review*, Fall 2023.

Selected service activities at Saint Mary's College of California

Advising

I regularly advise at least 10 sociology majors. I also attend at least one summer advising/academic orientation session each year. I've taught a FYAC several times. I do phone advising with sociology transfer students over the summer.

Faculty Expert

I am regularly available as a "faculty expert" and I work with the Office of College Communications to be available to media on various topics. I have been interviewed for about 15 news stories over the years. My perspective on January Term has been featured in the books *Colleges that Change Lives* and *College (Un)Bound*. I was interviewed for an article that appeared in the *New York Times* that featured aspects of my research. I've been quoted several times in *USA Today*. My work has been cited in *The Atlantic*. I am featured in an award-winning documentary about teaching called *Teacher of the Year*. I wrote an op-ed as part of the cover story in the Sunday "Insight" section in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Seminar Enrichment Series Committee, 2024-2025

In addition to help plan the co-curricular Seminar events for the year, I developed and delivered two of the events— "Making Sense of Marx" and "How Do We Know What We Know?"

Rank and Tenure Committee, 2023 – present

Rank and Tenure Task Force Chair, 2018 – 2021

In February of 2018 the Senate created the Rank and Tenure Task Force to review the procedures and criteria for tenure and promotion at Saint Mary's College and to make any recommended changes. The nine-member task force elected me as the chair.

Library Steering Task Force, 2018 - 2020

I was the faculty representative on this task force to help guide the development of the new library.

Sustainability Committee, 2018 – 2020

After helping to re-organize the Electric Vehicle Owner's Group on campus and organizing an Earth Day/De La Salle Week Electric Vehicle demonstration President Donahue appointed me to the Sustainability Committee.

Rank and Tenure Committee, 2013-2017 (as Chair, 2015-2017)

As chair of the R&T Committee I revised the way in which we write letters to candidates, revised and clarified Committee procedures, implemented a new, more user-friendly Form A template for candidates to use, developed an abridged fourth year review, increased communication and transparency about the R&T process, and revised portions of the R&T section of the *Handbook* for clarity.

Chair of the Sociology Department, 2016-2017 and 2019 - 2021

GUIDE committee, 2016-17

Sunny Bradford asked me to serve on the committee to help revise the old Campus of Difference workshops into the new GUIDE diversity workshops.

Teachers, Teaching, and the Media conference. 2014

I chaired the committee that brought this national conference to Saint Mary's College on October 16-18, 2014. It took a year of planning and organizing. The conference had two themes – the use of media in the classroom and the representation of the classroom in media.

Strategic Initiative Task Force 2015

President Donahue invited me to serve on the "Getting the Message Out Claiming our Competitiveness" task force that helped to develop the strategic plan.

Social, Historical, and Cultural Sub-Committee of the CCC, 2012- 2013

Committee on Teaching and Scholarship, 2012 - 2013

January Term Committee, 2011-2013

Campus Committee on Inclusive Excellence, Co-Chair, 2008-2010

After WASC issued a notice of concern regarding Saint Mary's climate for students and faculty of color, I initiated a series of faculty discussions to address the issue. Shortly thereafter, Provost Dobkin appointed me as the faculty co-chair of the newly created CCIE. We initiated a series of

programs to systematically address concerns about diversity and inclusion at Saint Mary's College.

Chair of the Sociology Department, 2006-2009

As chair of sociology, I helped manage the delicate split between an anthropology and sociology and successfully revised the sociology curriculum.

Core Curriculum Task Force, 2006-2009

I was a member of the original committee that began the revision of the core curriculum requirements for Saint Mary's College undergraduates. We developed the structural framework for the current core curriculum for undergraduates at Saint Mary's College.

Teachers, Teaching, and the Movies conference. 2009

I co-chaired the committee that brought this international conference to Saint Mary's College on March 26-28, 2009. It took a year of planning and organizing. The conference had two themes – the use of media in the classroom and the representation of the classroom in media.

Member of the CILSA Advisory Council, 2006-2009

Elected Liberal Arts representative to the Academic Senate, 2004 – 2006

Member, WASC accreditation Educational Effectiveness committee, 2003-2005

Committee on Teaching and Scholarship, 2002 – 2005

As a member of the Committee on Teaching and Scholarship I developed a speaker series, the "Faculty Research Forum," that lasted for several years.

Member, International Programs Coordinating Committee, 2004-2005

Member of the Educational Effectiveness committee for the WASC report, 2003

Strategic Planning Committee for Scholarship, 2003 (chaired by Ed Biglin).

Director of the International Area Studies Program, 2001 – 2004

As the director of IAS I helped to revitalize the major. In my term as director, IAS went from having only 5 majors to having over 25. We added several new faculty advisors and hosted regular informational open houses for interested students. Under my directorship the board updated and clarified the requirements for the international area studies major.

Member of the Disciplinary Review Hearing Board, 2001-2003

Professional Service Activities

In 2006-2007 I worked on a project for the Christian Brothers as they explored their position on school vouchers. I helped to organize a conference on the subject, I gave a paper at the conference, and I wrote the final report summarizing the multiple perspectives presented at the conference.

I served from 2006-2009 on the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Book Award Committee. This committee reads and reviews all the books that were nominated for the national "best book" award in sociology for that year. I served as the chair of the committee in 2009.

I served 2012-2015 as a Deputy Editor for the official journal of the Pacific Sociological Association, *Sociological Perspectives*.

I have served over the years as an expert reviewer of articles and manuscripts for a variety of sociology journals and academic presses.

Sociology courses taught in the past few years

Social Problems
Introduction to Sociology
The Sociological Imagination
Education and Society
Wealth and Poverty in the United States
Crime and Delinquency
Visual Sociology
Special Topics: The Sociology of Film

Previous January Term courses I have taught

Hollywood Goes to High School
Earthquakes, Floods, and Fires: The Sociology of Disaster
The Social Experience of Music
America and the Railroad
California

I regularly teach in the **Collegiate Seminar** program and have taught all the courses over the years.