

Anthony J (“Tony”) Blasi was born in Dayton, Ohio, 1946, and attended schools there, Los Angeles County, California, and Santa Clara County, California. He earned the B.A. in history at St. Edward’s University, Austin, Texas, and earned the M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Notre Dame. In addition, he earned the M.A. in biblical studies at the University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto, the S.T.L. at Regis College, Toronto, and the Th.D. in ethics conjointly from Regis College and the University of Toronto. All of his full-time academic appointments have been in sociology—lecturer at St. Anselm’s College, New Hampshire, and professorial rank appointments at DePauw University, Indiana; the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; the University of Louisville, Kentucky, where he directed the graduate program in sociology; Daemen College near Buffalo, New York, where he served as department chair; the University of Hawaii, Hilo; and Muskingum College, Ohio. He came to the Tennessee State University sociology program in 1994.

He has authored, co-authored, or edited some 20 books, including translating the massive *Soziologie* of Georg Simmel (original 1908), collaborating with two fellow sociologists, and authored or co-authored some 55 scholarly articles, an additional ten articles in the 1998 *Encyclopedia of Religion and Society*, and has written 49 published book reviews. One of his collaborative works, *Readings in Sociological Theory*, is marketed primarily as a combination of CD and on-line selections, at a price considerably less than it would cost students as a volume; it includes many fresh translations of old classics and more recent but often overlooked essays from outside the first world. Not counted among his books is his introductory sociology text, which he refuses to publish commercially and makes available to students online gratis.

His work is largely in sociological theory, the history of sociology, and the sociology of religion. In the first specialty, he is an exponent of the school of thought related to pragmatic philosophy, “symbolic interactionism.” In the history of sociology, he focuses on early twentieth century American sociology. In the sociology of religion, he has authored theoretical essays, made significant contributions to the sociological study of the early Christian movement, and directed a survey of members and former members of men’s and women’s religious orders. At present he is conducting research for a history of American sociology of religion.

Dr. Blasi has served on the councils of the Association for the Sociology of Religion and of the Religious Research Association, has served as president of the former of these organizations, served as book review editor of *Sociological Analysis* (now named *Sociology of Religion*), and is at present editor of the *Review of Religious Research*. He maintains and updates an enormous searchable bibliography in the sociology of religion, which is posted by the Tennessee State University Library and supported by the University’s CIT staff; scholars use it as an index to the literature in six languages through a link on the Association for the Sociology of Religion’s web page.