

U M a s s B o s t o n S o c i o l o g y p r e s e n t s

Liberating Social Theory

Inspirations from Paulo Freire for Learning, Teaching, and Advancing Social Theory in Applied Settings

Wednesday, April 7, 2004, UMass Boston
The Provost Conference Room, 8th Floor, Healey Library

8:00 - 9:00 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST (for participants and attendees)

9:00 - 9:30 Welcoming Statement:
Siamak Movahedi (Professor/Chair, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Can Theory Be Liberating? An Attempt at a Deconstruction

9:30 - 11:45
PANEL ONE: LEARNING AND TEACHING SOCIAL THEORY FOR TRANSFORMATION

- Moderator: **Tim Sieber** (Professor/Chair, Anthropology, UMass Boston)
- **Samuel Zalanga** (Assistant Professor, Sociology/Antropology, Bethel College)
Teaching and Learning Social Theory to Advance Social Transformation: Some Insights, Implications, and Practical Suggestions From Paulo Freire
- **Jonathan Martin** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Framingham State College)
Freire vs. Marx in the Classroom: The Tension between Liberating Pedagogy and Student Alienation
- **Esther Kingston-Mann** (Professor, History/American Studies, UMass Boston)
Teaching Modern World History at UMass Boston: Just Don't Call it Epistemology!
- **Bart Bonikowski** (Graduate Student, Sociology, Duke University)
Questioning Pedagogy: Reflections on the Critical Theory of the Curriculum
- **Estelle Disch** (Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Helping Students Make Sense of Mills's Sociological Imagination
- Discussant: **Tim Sieber** (Professor/Chair, Anthropology, UMass Boston)
- Floor Discussion

11:45 - 1:00 LUNCH (Courtesy of STF for participants and attendees)



1:00 - 3:15

PANEL TWO: PEDAGOGY AND PRAXIS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE

- Moderator: **Rajini Srikanth** (Associate Professor, English, UMass Boston)
- **Rika Yonemura** (Graduate Student, Sociology, UC San Diego)
Critical Pedagogy of Writing: Evaluation of Possibilities and Limitations in the Context of Authoritarian Japan
- **Khaldoun Samman** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Macalester College)
A Pedagogy of Islam for Our Times
- **Kelli Lynn Joseph** (Graduate Student, Sociology, University of Virginia)
Marx, Arendt and Habermas on Common Interests and Public Action: Assessing the Modern Indian State
- **Paul Khalil Saucier** (Graduate Student, Sociology/Anthropology, Northeastern University)
A Luta Continua! Amilcar Cabral and the Struggle for Human Liberation
- **Leor Alcalay** (Liberal Arts Faculty, Quincy College)
A Synergistic Pedagogy for the Distressed: Mediating the Accommodation of Diverse Students into Academe
- Discussant: **Rajini Srikanth** (Associate Professor, English, UMass Boston)
- Floor Discussion

3:30 - 6:00

Panel THREE: TRANSFORMATION OF THE SELF: PEDAGOGIES FROM THE MARGIN

- Moderator: **Emmett Schaefer** (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
- **Emily Margulies** (Undergraduate Senior, Sociology, SUNY-Oneonta)
The Sociology of Why I Smoke: Theoretical Reflections on A Deadly Habit
- **Haley Salinas** (Undergraduate Senior, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Early Feminist Theory: Martineau, Webb, and Gilman
- **Milton Butts** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Caste, Class & Race: Theoretical and Policy Implications for a “Color Blind” Society
- **Glenn Jacobs** (Associate Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Charles Cooley: Traveler in the Inner and Social Worlds
- **M.H. (Behrooz) Tamdgidi** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Freire Meets Gurdjieff and Rumi: Towards the Pedagogy of the Oppressed and Oppressing Selves
- **Jorge Capetillo-Ponce** (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
The Dialectics of Nation and Self: The Labyrinth of Octavio Paz’s Sociology
- Discussant: **Emmett Schaefer** (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Special Thanks to the following Co-Sponsors and Individuals for their support and making this conference possible:

- **Keith Motley, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, and the Student Affairs Leadership Team, for the partial funding support from STARS (Student Affairs Resources for Success) Mini-Grant Program 2004, UMass Boston**
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- **UMass Sociology Graduate Students: Valentina Mara (web design and maintenance), Anna Martsinkiv (outreach), and Sara Johnson (accommodations)**

Participants

Leor Alcalay (Liberal Arts Faculty, Quincy College)

Serves as a tenured ESL Specialist and Liberal Arts instructor at Quincy College, Massachusetts. He has designed many curricula for college preparatory subjects and ESL, presented various teacher training workshops, and taught graduate courses at UMass Boston in "Bilingualism and Ethnicity." His interests include dialogue, complexity, accelerated learning, multiple intelligence-based pedagogy, and use of films in instruction. leormishko@aol.com

Bart Bonikowski (Graduate Student, Sociology, Duke University)

Received his B.A.(H) from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Duke University. Bonikowski is primarily interested in critical social theory and its attempts to explain the relationship between political and economic power and cultural practices. Much of his research over the past couple of years has focused on surveillance and privacy in Canadian and American societies and on the reproduction of power structures through educational narratives. bartb@soc.duke.edu

Milton Butts (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Areas of teaching and research include juvenile delinquency, urban sociology, race & ethnic relations, criminology, and deviance. Butts's current activities include follow-up with youth who were part of an ethnographic field study, to assess their life experiences since their incarceration at a state maximum security facility for juveniles. Also he has been investigating the relationships among youth services, the juvenile justice system, and the public education system in Boston. milton.buttsjr@umb.edu

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Research specializations and interests include social theory, race and ethnic relations, media studies, Latino studies, US-Latin America relations, and U.S. media coverage of Islamic societies. Capetillo's current research is focused on majority-minority identity politics in Massachusetts, US mainstream media representations of Latinos and influences on US-Mexico relations, media and violence, and the influence of Georg Simmel on Octavio Paz's *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. His recent publications include *Images of Mexico in the U.S. News Media* (editor, 2000), and "The Vote on Bilingual Education and Latino identity Politics in Massachusetts" (2003). Jorge.capetillo@umb.edu

Estelle Disch (Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

A certified Clinical Sociologist, Disch serves as coordinator of the first year seminar program at UMass Boston. Her recent research has focused on sexual abuse by professionals, and is the editor of *Reconstructing Gender* (McGraw Hill). Disch leads faculty development workshops on General Education teaching and other pedagogical issues and has provided consultations to many campuses on diversity and campus climate issues. estelle.disch@umb.edu

Glenn Jacobs (Associate Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Recent research includes the social contexts of the Afro-Cuban religion, santeria, in Cuba and the United States. Jacobs is currently completing a volume (for the University of Massachusetts Press) on Charles Horton Cooley as a belletrist, i.e., a sociologist whose inspiration came from literature. Other recent writing has been on Latino students and retention. glenn.jacobs@umb.edu

Kelli Lynn Joseph (Graduate Student, Sociology, University of Virginia)

Recipient of FLAS (Foreign Language Areas Studies) Fellowship, US Department of Education, 2002-2004, and trained in American Institute of Indian Studies, Advanced Language Program, Summer 2003. Kelli's research interests include comparative historical sociology and culture. She is particularly interested in assessing the link between economic globalization and the rise of religious nationalism in India. klj3q@virginia.edu

Esther Kingston-Mann (Professor, History/American Studies, UMass Boston)

Research has focused on questions of difference, inclusion and exclusion in pedagogy and in the writing/understanding of history, and comparative history of privatization (England, Russia, Kenya). Most recent publications include "Deconstructing the Romance of the Bourgeoisie: A Russian Marxist Path Not Taken" (2003), and *In Search of the True West: Culture, Economics, and Problems of Russian Development* (1999), and *The Transformative Power of Research: A Diversity Research Initiative at UMass Boston* (2003). Esther.Kingston-Mann@umb.edu

Emily Margulies (Undergraduate Senior, Sociology, SUNY-Oneonta)

Will be graduating in May 2004 majoring in sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice, Her immediate plans include pursuing an M.A. degree in public policy. Margulies has published "Why I Smoke: Sociology of A Deadly Habit" (2003) and "From Anti-Man to Anti-Patriarchy" (2002) in *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*. Emery036@aol.com

Jonathan Martin (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Framingham State College)

Martin's dissertation on contemporary "middle class" Americans' economic populist attitudes is currently under review at Temple University Press. His recent research and conference presentations have focused on the class consciousness of working class college students and working class participation in the movement against the Iraq War. He currently is completing his third year of teaching social theory, political sociology, and social class at FSC. jmartin@frc.mass.edu

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Participants (cont'd)

Siamak Movahedi (Professor/Chair, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Specializes in Social Psychology and Social Psychiatry, with a particular emphasis on the relationship between social structure and psychopathology, and on the sociocultural aspects of self-destructive behaviors. Publications include "Metalinguistic Analysis of Therapeutic Discourse" (1996), "Women in Multinational Corporations: Old Myths, New Constructions, and Some Deconstruction" (with Arlene Dallalgar, 1996), and "Utopian Pursuit of Death" (1999). siamak.movahedi@umb.edu

Haley Salinas (Undergraduate Senior, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Is a senior in the undergraduate program in Sociology at UMass Boston. Last fall, Ms. Salinas won a UMass grant to conduct a study on early feminist theory. She is presently engaged in research for this study that focuses on Harriet Martineau, Beatrice Webb, and Charlotte Gilman.

Khaldoun Samman (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Macalester College)

Teaches a variety of sociology courses, including "Islam and the West," and is working on a book manuscript, *Cities of God & Nationalism: Mecca, Jerusalem, and Vatican City As Contested Global Sacred Cities*. Present research interests include comparative analyses of Occidental nationalisms in Israel and Turkey in contrast to Orientalizing nationalisms in Jordan and Iran. samman@macalester.edu

Paul Khalil Saucier (Graduate Student, Sociology/Anthropology, Northeastern University)

Received his B.A. in Sociology and M.A. in Africana Studies from Rhode Island College. Saucier has co-authored (with Richard Lobban Jr.) *Historical Dictionary of Cape Verde* (forthcoming). Research interests include Race and Ethnicity, Black Experience, Social Movements, Social Change, and Political Sociology. khalil31@hotmail.com

Emmett Schaefer (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Research interests include Race and Ethnic Relations, Men's Studies, and Gender Studies. Schaefer recently published (with Cooper Thompson and Harry Brod) *White Men Challenging Racism: 35 Personal Stories* (Duke University Press, 2003). emmett.schaefer@umb.edu

Tim Sieber (Professor/Chair, Anthropology, UMass Boston)

Research interests include Urban Anthropology, Social Class and Ethnicity, Cultural Issues in Urban Development, and Schooling. Committed to teaching, learning, and the transformation of the higher education curriculum, Sieber received the 2003 Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award at UMass Boston. He has been serving on the board of the Center for Improvement of Teaching at UMass Boston, and recently co-edited (with Esther Kingston-Mann) the 2001 *Achieving Against the Odds: how Academics Become Teachers of Diverse Students*, a collection of essays by UMass Boston faculty on the craft of teaching. tim.sieber@umb.edu

Rajini Srikanth (Associate Professor, English, UMass Boston)

Is the author of the forthcoming book *The World Next Door: South Asian American Literature and the Idea of America* (2004) and coeditor of *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America* (1996); *A Part, Yet Apart: South Asians in Asian America* (1998); *Encounters: People of Asian Descent in the Americas* (1999); *Bold Words: A Century of Asian American Writing* (2001); *White Women in Racialized Spaces: Imaginative Transformation and Ethical Action*. Her interests include American Literature (including Asian American literature and literature of the American South), diaspora studies, comparative race and ethnic studies, the pedagogy of literature, and interdisciplinary approaches to literature. rajini.srikanth@umb.edu

M.H. (Behrooz) Tamdgidi (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Research and teaching interests include the comparative/ integrative sociology of academic, utopian, and mystical theories and movements, with a particular focus on the dialectics of personal self-knowledge and world-historical social structures. His recent works include "Mysticism and Utopia: Towards the Sociology of Self-Knowledge and Human Architecture (A Study in Marx, Gurdjieff and Mannheim)." Tamdgidi edits *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, a student-centered journal dedicated to the construction of new critical and liberatory conceptual and curricular structures of knowledge. mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu

Rika Yonemura (Graduate Student, Sociology, U.C. San Diego)

Research areas of interest include history of pedagogy, and educational policies in the context of the modern state formation. ryonemura@ucsd.edu

Samuel Zalanga (Assistant Professor, Sociology/Anthropology, Bethel College)

Trained in Nigeria and the U.S., and recipient of MacArthur Scholar's Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, Zalanga has done sociological field work in Malaysia and Nigeria. Broad areas of research interest include Development Studies and Social Change, and Sociology of Religion. Recent publications include "Indigenous Capitalists: The Development of Indigenous Investment Companies in Relation to Class, Ethnicity, and the State in Malaysia and Fiji" (with Erik Larson, 2004). szalanga@bethel.edu

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UMB Sociology Faculty:

Paul Benson, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill • Social Psychiatry • Medical Sociology • Deviance

Milton Butts, PhD, University of Pennsylvania • Criminology • Delinquency • Race Relations

Ann Cordilia, PhD, University of Chicago • East Asian Studies • Alcohol Addiction

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce, PhD, New School University • Social Theory • Ethnicity

Xiaogang Deng, PhD, State University of New York, Buffalo • Deviance • Criminology • Research Methodology

Robert A Dentler (Emeritus), PhD, University of Chicago • Evaluation Research • Social Policy • Social Problems • Sociology of Education

Estelle Disch, PhD, Tufts University • Gender • Human Services • Deviance

Gerald R Garrett (Emeritus), PhD, Washington State University • Alcohol Addiction • Criminology • Social Deviance and Control

Jo Ann Gora (Chancellor), PhD, Rutgers University • Higher Education • Criminology • Occupations and Professions

Susan Gore, PhD, University of Pennsylvania • Medical Sociology • Research Methodology

Stephanie Hartwell, PhD, Yale University • Criminal Justice • Substance Abuse • Forensics • Mental Health

Melissa Herman, PhD, Stanford University • Social Psychology • Sociology of Education

Glenn Jacobs, PhD, Temple University • Race and Ethnic Group Relations • Social Problems • Sociological Theory

Richard Kronish, PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison • Social Policy • Social Deviance and Control • Sociology of Work

Calvin J. Larson (Emeritus), PhD, University of Oregon • Criminology • Theory

Siamak Movahedi, PhD, (Chair), Washington State University • Social Psychology • Social psychiatry • Methodology

Edward Stern, JD, Boston University • Sociology of Law • Criminal Justice • Juvenile Justice

Russell K. Schutt, PhD, (Director of Graduate Program), University of Illinois at Chicago • Complex Organizations • Homelessness • Sociology of Law • Research Methodology

Mohammad H. Tamdgidi, PhD, State University of New York, Binghamton • Social Theory • Sociology of Knowledge, Mysticism, and Utopia

James Willis, PhD, Yale University • Sociology of Law • Criminology • Advanced Criminological Theory • Police and Society

About the Social Theory Forum (STF) Sociology Department UMass Boston

Histories of sociology tell us how the discipline was formed in the nineteenth century struggle to understand the combined upheavals of socio-political revolutions and the industrial revolution that gradually expanded throughout the world. These events radically changed the established order and posed various questions that are still with us today: questions about class, race, community, gender, the nature of social integration, and processes of social change, among others. But as we all know, the world again changed radically during the twentieth century, with great implications for social theory.

The Social Theory Forum (STF) is a series of conference-workshops organized jointly by the sociology and other interested faculty and students at UMB in order to creatively explore, develop, promote, and publish cross-disciplinary social theory in an applied and liberating (critical) framework. STF will offer the faculty and students of UMass Boston and other area colleges and universities an interactive medium to discuss various aspects of the way in which particular theoretical traditions can be relevant to present everyday issues, the current state of social theory, and the future of social theory—recognizing that it is caught between its past successes and a situation that threatens to make its achievements less relevant if it does not deal successfully with the prospects of continuity and change.

STF's goals are:

- To critically engage with and evaluate classical and contemporary social theories in a cross-disciplinary and comparative cross-cultural framework in order to develop new integrative theoretical structures and practices;
- To foster individual and collective self-reflexivity in exploring social theories in global and world-historical contexts to aid people effectively address social problems and engage in liberatory social struggles;
- To foster interactive and dialogical learning experience and research in theory within and across faculty, students, and community divides on and off-campus, characterized by respect for the dignity and empowerment of ordinary individual lives and opinions in everyday life;
- To foster dialectical exchange of ideas open to constructive and integrative exploration of diverse and conflicting viewpoints, modes of thinking, and world-views;
- To foster theoretical education and research within a praxis-oriented and applied sociological framework capable of addressing concrete issues arising in intrapersonal, interpersonal and global contexts;
- To foster theoretical education and research as practices of freedom in favor of transformative and emancipatory personal and global social experience.

Please submit questions and inquiries to organizers:

Jorge Capetillo-Ponce at (617) 287-5786

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Or by writing to

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