EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT "PRACTICING THEORY"
August 10-11—San Diego

"Practicing Theory, a conference sponsored by the Theory Section of the American Sociological Association and the Department of Sociology, University of California—San Diego, is taking fantastic shape. As can be seen on the next page, the preliminary program promises a stimulating time for all theorists traveling to San Diego for this special gathering following the ASA meeting in Los Angeles.

The best public transportation between Los Angeles and San Diego is AMTRAK. The round-trip fare from Los Angeles to the Del Mar station is $5.1, and trains run every two hours. On Tuesday, August 9th, trains leave at 2:40 PM, 6:45 PM, 6:29PM. and 9:00 PM. On Wednesday, August 10th, trains leave at 6:40 AM. 8:40 AM. and 10:45 AM. The trip takes about two hours and ten minutes. Harvey Goldmann is finalizing arrangements for transportation between Del Mar train station and the conference hotel, even through the hotel itself provides a shuttle service. There will be a table staffed all day on August 9 in the ASA registration area with the most up-to-data information about transportation and other aspects of the conference.

The conference sessions will take place at the UCSD Faculty Club. The official conference hotel is Summer House Inn. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Summer House Inn, located at the intersection of La Jolla Shore Drive and Ardath Road in La Jolla. Summer House Inn is close to a beautiful beach and has a top-floor restaurant with breathtaking views of the ocean. Summer House Inn also has a freshwater swimming pool.

The conference hotel is one and a half miles from the UCSD. Buses will run at set times between the Summer House Inn and the UCSD campus. The Summer House Inn is offering those attending the conference single and double rooms at $67 a night. You each need to make our own room reservation directly with the hotel. The deadline for the guaranteed dis-count rate is June 30th, but reservations should be made as soon as possible due to the limited number of rooms being held for conference attendees. The hotel number is #619-454-0261. When you call, be sure to mention the ASA-UCSD mini-conference and have a credit card ready to guarantee payment for the room. If you choose to write, the address of Summer House Inn is 7905 La Jolla Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037.

An alternative to the Summer House Inn is the Del Mar Inn, which offers single rooms at $62 and double rooms at $72 for UCSD visitors. The Del Mar Inn is an English Tudor Inn located in quint Del Mar. Its phone number is #619-453-6030, its address is 720 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014. Another alternative is in La Jolla at the Mira, which is about five miles from the UCSD campus. For UCSD visitors, it offers single and double rooms at $67; Inn by the Sea's phone number is #619-459-4461; its address is 7830 Fwy Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037. Since coastal hotels tend to be booked for August as early as May and these hotels are not holding rooms for us, reservations should be made as soon as possible.

The advance registration fee for "Practicing Theory" is ten dollars. Send your check to "Practicing Theory, c/o Professor Harvey Goldmann, Department of Sociology, Department 1012, University of California—San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92037-1012. Graduate students need not pay a registration fee.

If you have any questions, contact Harvey Goldmann at the above address or call him at #619-534-6427. Harvey Goldmann's e-mail address is hgoldm at weber.ucsd.edu. If you cannot reach Harvey Goldmann, contact Mary Rogers at #904-474-2797 or write at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL 32514.
**August 10**

1:00-2:15

Session 1: Seeing Ourselves as Others: See Us: View of Users
David L. Collins, University of Warwick, UK
Joe Gusfield, University of California, San Diego
Andrew Scull, University of California, San Diego
Gerald Doppelt, University of California, San Diego

Session 2: The Exemplary Nature of Classical Theory
Organizer: Mark Gould
Presider: Andrew McLean, Department of Sociology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, 90024 USA
Robert Freeland, University of California at Berkeley
Marc Schneiberg, University of Arizona
Ward Breeze, University of California at Berkeley
Mark Gould, Harvard College
Commentator: Susan Carle, Washington, DC
2:30-3:45

I. Sociologists as Morality and Aestheticists
Keith Doughty, Northeast Missouri State University
Gary Alan Fine, University of Georgia
Helmut Staubhammer, University of Innsbruck
Bennet Berger, University of California, San Diego
4:15-5:30

I. Publishing Theory
Presider: Michele Lamont
Panelists: George Ritzer, University of Maryland
Chris Rojek, Routledge
Peter Biesta, Thesis 11, LeMare University
Alan Sica, Sociological Theory, Penn State
Ben Agger, Current Perspectives in Social Theory, State University of New York at Buffalo

II. Sociology after Deconstruction
Organizer and Referee: Steven Salzman
Panelists: Richard Harvey Brown, University of Maryland
Arvy Gordon, University of California-Santa Barbara
Jennifer Lehrmann, University of Nebraska
Charles Lewison, Wesleyan University
John O'Neill, York University

5:30-7:00 Reception sponsored by Dean of Social Science, UC - San Diego and Walk to Ocean Overlook
7:00-9:00 Buffet Dinner

**August 11**

8:30-9:30 AM Coffee and Bagels
9:30-10:45

I. Theory in the Experience of Students: Ari Berman, Penn State
Joe Hopper, University of Colorado
Susan Godwin, North Carolina State University
Dan Weiner, Princeton University
David Baran, University of Wisconsin
11:00-12:15

Session 3: Gender Inflections in Social Theory: An Open Discussion on the Exclusion of Women from Theory
Presider: Chandra Mukerji

Session 4: Workshops: Detecting Solidarity and Alienation in Discourse
Organizer: Thomas Scheff
Lunch Available on Campus
1:30-2:45

I. How We Teach Theory
Craigh Calhoun, University of North Carolina
Charles Camic, University of Wisconsin
Michele Lamont, Princeton University
Mary Rogers, University of West Florida
David Brain, New College

Sessions in developments

*Beyond Theory* with Steven P. Turner, University of South Florida, Harvey Goldman, University of California - San Diego, and William Buxton, Simon Fraser University

*Theory as Critique* with Lauren Langman, University of Loyola at Chicago, Stanley Aronowitz, CUNY Graduate Center, Douglas Kellner, University of Texas, Austin, Dorothy Smith, OSBI in Toronto, and Robert Antonius, University of Kansas

*Theory as Terror* with David N. Smith, Helen Feltey (Genocide), Kathy Blee (Women and the Klan), Greg McLeachlan (The Nuclear State), and Stjepan Nesirovic (Istrie Cleansing).
The new editor of *Sociological Theory* is Craig Calhoun. Until September 1, 1994, continue to send all manuscripts and materials to be considered for publication to the current editor, Alan Sica, at the address printed on the inside front cover of each issue. After September 1, 1994, send all materials to Craig Calhoun, Editor, *Sociological Theory*, Department of Sociology, Campus Box 3210, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3210.

More Theory Sessions in L.A.
Session Co-Sponsors: Comparative and Historical Sociology Section and Theory Section

Session Title: THEORY IN HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY
Organizers: Ann Shola Orloff, University of Wisconsin, Madison and Theda Skocpol, Harvard University
Presider: Theda Skocpol, Harvard University
Papers:
Discussion: Jack Goldstone, University of California, Davis

Session Co-Sponsors: Sociology of Culture Section and Theory Section
Session Title: CULTURE AND THEORY
Organizers: Michele Lamont, Princeton University and Theda Skocpol, Harvard University

President: Michele Lamont, Princeton University
1. What is Agency? Mustafa Emirbayer and Anse Mische, New School for Social Research
2. Meaning and Interpretive Cultural Studies in Sociology: Toward a Concept of Practical Meaning. Orville Lex, University of California, Berkeley
3. Culture(s) Structure(s): Marshall Bittner, David R. Hall, and Rosemary Powers, University of California, Davis.
4. Institutions and Cultural Interlock: Jeffrey K. Glick, Columbia University.
Discussion: Jeffrey C. Alexander, University of California, Los Angeles

Session Sponsor: Theory Section, Open
Organizer: Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago
Presider: Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago
1. Mannheim's Scientific Politics and Social Dissonant: Rational New Dawn or RATIONAL NEW WORLD GEDER. Mark Swiecicki, University of Connecticut, Storrs
2. The Dialectical Moment in Modern Social Theory Peter Knapp, Villanova University
3. Rationality of Power and Legitimacy. Heinz Anderson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
4. The Ends of Social Theory: Postmodern Considerations. Barry Smart, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Discussion: Jacques Mourrano, University of California, Irvine

THE EMOTIONS SECTION CONFRONTS RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY
The Sociology of Emotions Section will devote a special Roundtable session on August 9th, the first day of the ASA meetings, to a consideration of Jim Coleman's 1992 Presidential Address, "The Rational Reconstruction of Society," from the standpoint of emotions. Coleman will appear as a general discussant. The Emotions Section invites all those interested in the Rational Choice position to attend.
Pantry. 1. A room or apartment in a house, etc., in which food or other provisions are kept; (see Butler’s or housemaid’s pantry) one in which the plate, etc., for the table are kept. The word can be used figurativeness in regional verse, 1432-1440, “Paradise ...” in the pantry or place of sale of poultry.

Theory is well understood as the pantry or place of all ideas and frameworks. Given this, you may task my total incomprehension that some sociology departmental have seen fit to reduce or eliminate altogether, the requirement of undergraduate and graduate instruction in theory. My own department, armed with the realization that the need for a theory requirement has ceased to exist, no longer offers undergraduate theory courses and has drastically reduced its theory offerings at the graduate level.

Theory, like a pantry, is a separate room in the building of sociology. Being separate, however, renders the term neither the product nor a concept. Its separation is a matter of focus. There exist theoretical traditions apart from the accumulated facts and understandings that comprise the various substantive subdisciplines of sociology. Theories borrow from these subdisciplines and expand the ideas which their researches generate. Similarly, at least currently, it has been the practice in the specialty fields to use concepts and frameworks that have been developed within the different theoretical traditions. Specialization in the subdisciplines do and must generate their own ideas: they do that naturally, so to speak, as they confront the specific problems and tasks that exist within their limited remit. Theory, however, is a common space and, as such, receives impressions, stimulation, and hypotheses from multiple sources both within and outside of sociology proper. Relying solely on their own concepts and problems, specialty areas become increasingly parochial and self-centered. This may serve to reduce information overload, but the cost is a loss of imaginative conceptualization and bold speculation. Today we face arguments that theory and specialty areas could just as well exist independently and might be better off divorced.

The unsettling aspect to the argument favoring the separation of specialty areas from theory is that it is not value-free. Houses no longer are designed with pantries, rooms may once have been useful but this was long ago, in the era before technology created appliances for cold storage and before suburban modes of living undermined the need for dining room tables. Today we move quickly, travel light, and restrict our eating to waiting rooms, airplanes, and Sunday mornings as we wait for the sermons on the tube to give way to talking heads and long boards. The decline of theory, in other words, must be under

stood as part of a more general social change in which technological development has created not only new modes of communication and leisure, but also newer modes of academic practice. We can indeed manage without theory, maintaining in place a general viewpoint, a liberal Weimarachau with vague roots in sociology but more direct grounding in the needs of our purview, the modern Welfare State, for demonstrable results and feasible prescriptions for limiting the encroachment of social problems past ANY limits, for ensuring the safety of children traveling across these limits, and for legitimating our pursuit of popular culture in the dwindling expanse of time we call leisure.

Theory fits poorly, if at all, within this agenda. It is too slow, too "theoretical," for an enterprise that requires fast summaries, methodological procedure, and a fixed format. A feel for theory comes slowly, only after considerable reading and writing. Furthermore, even with the commitment of time to this theory project, a successful or pleasing presentation of theoretical insights is never guaranteed. Unlike the use of more technical tools of scholarship, the application of theory requires imagination, a feel for language, and an appreciation of abstraction. Theory has uncertain alleles and a reputation for being a hand that feeds it. Theory requires continual issues of resistance, insurgency, and conflict and each's policy recommendations for the short term. It resists a quick read on a short flight and appears poorly at a nest to be kept handy to smooth the wrinkles of time while waiting for the meeting to begin or the train to arrive.

We continue to produce facts, faster than ever before, but we need to turn to the pantry to make sense out of the numbers and stories. Without theory, research is self-satisfying and superficially useful. It is a common space and, as such, receives impressions, stimulation, and hypotheses from multiple sources both within and outside of sociology proper. Relying solely on their own concepts and problems, specialty areas become increasingly parochial and self-centered. This may serve to reduce information overload, but the cost is a loss of imaginative conceptualization and bold speculation. Today we face arguments that theory and specialty areas could just as well exist independently and might be better off divorced.

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