

PERSPECTIVES

The Theory Section Newsletter

VOLUME 17, NO. 3

May 1994

ASA MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

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Perspectives

EDITORS

Keith Doubt
Division of Social
Science
Northeast Missouri
State University
Kirksville, MO 63501

tel: (816) 785-4636

FAX: (916) 785 4181

BITNET:

SS83@NEMOMUS

INTERNET:

SS83@NEMOMUS@ACADEMIC

.NEMOSTATE.edu

Richard Moodey
Department of
Sociology
Allegheny College
Meadville, PA 16335

tel: (814) 332-3327

INTERNET:

RMOODEY@ALLEG.EDU

Theory Section

Refereed Roundtable Discussions

Organizer: Paul Kamolnick, East Tennessee State University—August 9, 1994

1. Old and New Directions for Critical Sociological Theory

Ernest Becker: A Reassessment for Post-Enlightenment Critical Sociology. Dwight Fee, University of California, Santa Barbara

Reconsidering Sadosomochism in Everyday Life. Lynn S. Chancer, Barnard College, Columbia University

Some Problems of Rationality, Understanding, and Universalistic Ethics in the Context of Habermas's Theory of Communicative Action. Jan Ajzner, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

2. Rethinking Constructions of Agency-Structure Relationality

Time Consciousness and the Dialogic Formation of the Self. Julie Ford, CUNY Graduate Center

Essentialism, Nominalism, and Population Thinking: Toward a New Organizational Ecology. Paul McLaughlin, Rutgers University

3. Epistemological Foundations of Social Knowledge

Autonomy as a Model of Real Interests: An Intersubjective Definition of Knowledge, Truth, and Power. Timothy McGettigan, Washington State University

Knowledge, Society, and the Modern Constitution of Truth. Steven C. Ward, Adrian College

Scientific Hegemony and Subjective Unity: Gramsci's Dialectical Sociology of Science. Michele L. Landis, Northwestern University

Who Saw Weber in Just What Way? Or, the Sociologist of Knowledge as Biographer. Ellen Ziskind Berg

4. Metatheory as Theory Construction and Policy Tool

Unlayered and Multilayered Theories: Strategies of Theory Construction. Recep Senturk and Jay Cross, Columbia University

Metatheory, Models, and Policy. Jeffrey J. Kamakahi, University of Central Arkansas, and Heather-Jo Hammer, University of Hawaii, Manoa

Metatheorizing in Sociology: The Case of Ibn Khaldun's Social Theory. Taghi Azadarmaki, University of Tehran, Iran

5. Meaning, Identity, and Social Movement Theory

Movements without Meaning: The Role of Culture and Ideology in Social Movement Theory. Andrew J. Fish, SUNY-Stony Brook

Messianic Marxism as a Response to War and Revolution: The Case of Ernst Bloch and Walter Benjamin. Warren Goldstein, New School for Social Research

Styles of Thought within the Green Movement. Michael E. Christopher, University of California-San Diego

6. Theorizing the Nature and Significance of "Civil Society"

Corporative Transition: Civil Society and the State in Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*

Publics in History. Mustaga Emirbayer and Mimi Sheller, New School for Social Research

The Contemporary Relevance of Civil Society. Jeff Livesay, Colorado College

7. Social Theory and the Changing Catholic Church

Dramaturgical Aspects of the Emerging Role of the Deacon's Wife. Rebecca Meehan, Case Western Reserve University

An Application of Ralph H. Turner's Process Role Theory to the Emerging Role of the Permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Mark A. Latcovich, Saint Mary Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio

The Structural Functional Foundations of Merton's Theory of Reference Group Behavior as Applied to the Process of Organizational and Anticipatory Socialization in the Diaconate Ministry. Richard L. Furman

8. New Applications for Grand Sociological Theory

Action Theory and Aesthetics: Outline of a Sociological Theory of Aesthetics Based on Talcott Parsons's General Theory of Action. Helmut Staubmann, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Chaos Theory: The Challenge. Sara Horsfall, Texas A & M

A General Model of Elites-Nonelites. Murry Milner, Jr., University of Virginia

Postmodern Social Theory: Grasping at Its Meaning Within An Historical Context. Brian Knickrehm and Brigitte Neary, University of Carolina-Greensboro

9. Power, Pedagogy, and the Politics of Identity

I am a Citizen: Pedagogy, Identity, and Hegemonic Process. Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

Race, Power, and Consciousness. Steven Hames, Loyola University of Chicago

Critical Pedagogy, Identity, and the Politics of Difference. Peter McLaren, University of California-Los Angeles

Pearls & Scraps

"In America the purely practical part of science is admirably understood, and careful attention is paid to the theoretical portion which is immediately requisite to application. On this head the Americans always display a clear, free, original, and inventive power of mind. But hardly anyone in the United States devotes himself to the essentially theoretical and abstract portion of human knowledge"

(Alexis de Tocqueville in *Tocqueville's America: The Great Quotations*, edited by Frederick Kershner, Jr. [Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press], p. 74).

THEORY SECTION NEWS

Theory Prize History Updated

R. Stephen Warner reports that David Rubinstein at University of Illinois at Chicago was the first recipient of the Theory Prize in 1981 for his article, "On the Concept of Action." In 1985 the Theory Prize went to Mark Granovetter for his article "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness" which appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*. It has been suggested that the Theory Section consider publishing a volume of Theory Prize Essay winners.

Theory Abroad

The *Swiss Journal of Sociology* publishes three times a year articles in English, French, and German. Its "World Sociology" section is devoted to debates on theoretical matters of wide significance. In the six latest issues, Jeffrey Alexander, Raymond Boudon, Richard Münch, Helga Nowotny, and Alain Touraine discussed the occurrence of a "new theoretical movement" and its effects on sociology today.

Sample copies and subscriptions can be ordered from SEISMO PRESS, P.O. Box 313, CH-8028 Zurich, Switzerland. Tel. +411/261.10.94. Fax +411/252.10.54. E-Mail

Peruso@soziologie.unizh.ch (Annual subscription: Individuals SF 115; Institution SF 135).

More Theory Sessions to Consider

The Freudian Left: Sex, Hate, Power, and the Reproduction of Domination

Co-Sponsors: SSSP and ASA Theory Section, Social Psychology Section, and Marxist Section

I. Organizer: Lauren Langman. Presider: Reid Helford

1. Marxism and Psychoanalysis. Victor Wolfenstien, University of California at Los Angeles
2. Sexuality and Hegemony: Wilhelm Riech's Contribution to Understanding Hegemony. Carl Boggs, National University
3. From Repression to Celebration: Marcuse, Eros, and Culture. Douglas Kellner, University of Texas
4. From Authority to Identity: Toward a Critical Social Psychology. Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

II. Organizer and Presider: Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

1. Fromm and Buber: The Jewish Path of Affirmation. Philip Wexler, Graduate School of Education, University of Rochester
2. Eric Fromm on Alienation: Insights for the Present Age. David Simon, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
3. Situating Fascism: Deleuze, Guattari, and Kristeva. Jeff Haley, University of Texas at San Antonio
4. Capitalism and the Self: An Object Relations Approach. Richard Lichtman, Wright Institute, San Francisco

Informal Discussion Roundtables—August 9th

Integralist Sociology: Incorporating Religious Ideas in Sociological Theory and Research. Vincent Jeffries, California State University-Northridge

How Amenable to Normative Propositions [of "Democratic Participation"] are General Sociological Theories? Carl Slawski, California State University-Long Beach; Ken Bailey, University of California-Los Angeles

Book Notice

Sociology and the New Systems Theory by Kenneth D. Bailey. State University of New York Press. This book provides current information about the many recent contributions of social systems theory. While some sociologists feel that the systems age ended with functionalism, in reality a number of recent developments have occurred within the field. The author makes these developments accessible to sociologists and other non-systems scholars, and begins a synthesis of the burgeoning systems field and mainstream sociological theory. After providing a review of classical theory, this book carefully sketches the chief contributions of living systems theory, social entropy theory, autopoiesis, and other approaches.

Religion

The first organizational meeting of the newly formed Sociological of Religion Section will be held at the ASA meeting in L.A. on Saturday, August 6, 10:30 a.m. Agenda items include plans for the Section.

— PRACTICING THEORY INFORMATION— REPEATED AND CORRECTED

SAN DIEGO, CA
AUGUST 10-11, 1994

The "Practicing Theory" conference, sponsored by the Theory Section of the American Sociological Association and the Department of Sociology, University of California - San Diego, has taken wonderful shape. As can be seen on the next page, the program promises a stimulating time and constructive experience for all those traveling to San Diego for this special Theory Section conference 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 \$31, and trains run every two hours. On Tuesday, August 9th, trains leave at 2:40 PM, 4:45 PM, 6:25PM, 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 Goldman is finalizing arrangements for transportation between Del Mar train station and the conference hotel, even though the hotel itself provides a shuttle service. There will be for a table staffed all day on August 9 in the ASA registration area with the most up-to-date information about transportation and other aspects of the conference.

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 need to make your own room reservation directly with the hotel. The deadline for the guaran-

teed discount 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 #619-459-0261 [This phone number corrects the previous announcement in *Perspectives*, Vol. 17, No. 2]. 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 7955 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 Tutor Inn located in quaint 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 Inn By the Sea, which is about five miles from the UCSD campus. For UCSD visitors, it offers single and double rates of \$67; Inn By the Sea's phone number is #619-459-4461; its address is 7830 Fay 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 Goldman, Department of Sociology, Department 0102, University of California - San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0102. Graduate students need not pay a registration fee.

If you have any questions, contact Harvey Goldman at the above address or call him at #619-534-4627; Harvey Goldman's e-mail address is hgoldman@weber.ucsd.edu. If you cannot reach Harvey Goldman, contact Mary Rogers at #904-474-2797 or write at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, The University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL 32514.

Dogmas & Heresies

"We criticize Americans for not being able either to analyse or conceptualize. But this is a wrong-headed critique. It is we who imagine that everything culminates in transcendence, and that nothing exists which has not been conceptualized. Not only do they care little for such a view, but their perspective is the very opposite: it is not conceptualizing reality, but realizing concepts and materializing ideas, that interests them" (Jean Baudrillard, *America*, trans. Chris Turner [London: Verso], p. 84).

"PRACTICING THEORY" PROGRAM

San Diego, CA – August 10-11, 1994

August 10

1:00- 2:15

Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us

Session I: Theory from the Point of View of Users

Chair: Stephen Turner

David L. Collinson, University of Warwick

Joe Gusfield, University of California, San Diego

Gerald Doppelt, University of California, San Diego

Charles Smith, CUNY

Session II: The Exemplary Nature of Classical Theory

Organizer: Mark Gould, Haverford College

President: Andrew McLean, UCLA

Ward Breeze, University of California at Berkeley

Robert Freeland, University of California at Berkeley

Mark Gould, Haverford College

Marc Schneiberg, University of Arizona

Commentator: Susan Carle, Bredhoff and Kaiser, Washington, DC

Session III: Theory as Critique Organizer and

President: Jan Rupp, University of Amsterdam

Craig Calhoun, University of North Carolina

Randall Collins, University of California at Riverside

Michael Kennedy, University of Michigan

2:30-3:45

Session I: Sociologists as Moralists and Aestheticians

Chair: John R. Hall, University of California-Davis

Bennett Berger, University of California, San Diego

Keith Doubt, Northeast Missouri State University

Gary Alan Fine, University of Georgia

Helmut Staubmann, University of Innsbruck

Session II: Uses of Theory

Panelists:

Robin Leidner, University of Pennsylvania

Carol Heimer, Northwestern University

Michael Schudson, University of California-San Diego

Alan Sica, Penn State University

Session III: Theory as Critique

Organizer and President: Lauren Langman,

University of Loyola at Chicago

Panelist: Robert Antonio, University of Kansas

Stanley Aronowitz, CUNY-Graduate Center

Douglas Kellner, University of Texas, Austin

Dorothy Smith, OISE at Toronto

4:15-5:30

Session I: Publishing Theory

President: Michele Lamont, Princeton

University

Panelists:

Ben Agger, CPST, State University of New

York at Buffalo

Peter Bielharz, *Thesis 11*, Latrobe University

Mike Featherstone, *TCS*, The University of Teesside

George Ritzer, University of Maryland

Chris Rojek, Sage Publications, London

Alan Sica, *ST*, Penn State

Session II: Sociology after Deconstruction

Organizer and Referee: Steven Seidman

Panelists:

Richard Harvey Brown, University of Maryland

Patricia Clough, Fordham University

Avery Gordon, University of California- Santa

Barbara

Jennifer Lehmann, University of Nebraska

Charles Lemert, Wesleyan University

Session III: Theory and Terror

Organizer and President: David N. Smith,

University of California, Berkeley

Panelists:

Kathy Blee, University of Kentucky

Helen Fein

Greg McLauchlan, University of Oregon

Stjepan Mestrovic, Texas A & M

5:30-7:00 Reception/Walk to Walk to Ocean Overlook

7:00-9:00 Buffet Dinner

August 11

8:30-9:30 AM Coffee and Bagels

9:30-10:45

Session I: Theory in the Experience of Students

President: Mary Rogers, University of West Florida

Ann Branamane, Penn State

Joe Hopper, University of Colorado

Sandra Godwin, North Carolina State University

Dan Weber, Princeton University

David Yamane, University of Wisconsin

Session II: Workshop on Structural and Constructionist Perspectives

President: Mike Lynch, Brunel University

Presentations:

Karin Knorr-Cetina, University of Bielefeld

Murray Milner, University of Virginia

Session III: Cultural Studies

President and Organizer: Mustafa Emirbayer,

New School for Social Research

Lynn Spillman, University of Notre Dame

John R. Hall, University of California, Davis

11:00-12:15

Session I: Gender Inflections in Social

Theory: An Open Discussion on the

Exclusion of Women from Theory

President: Chandra Mukerji

Session II: Workshop: Detecting Solidarity

and Alienation in Discourse

Organizer: Thomas Scheff

Session III: Social Theory from the

Viewpoint of Other Cultures and Orientations

President: David Brain, New College

Taghi Azadarmaki, Tehran University

Peter Beilharz, Latrobe University

Lunch: Available on Campus

1:30-2:45

Session I: How We Teach Theory

Chair: Jeff Alexander, UCLA

David Brain, New College

Craig Calhoun, University of North Carolina

Charles Camic, University of Wisconsin

Mary Rogers, University of West Florida

Morris Zelditch, Jr., Stanford University

Session II: Beyond Theory

William Buxton, Concordia University

Harvey Goldman, University of California-San Diego

John O'Neill, York University

Stephen Turner, University of South Florida