

- Znaniecki Conference in Poland
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- The Essential Readings in Theory
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From the Chair's Desk

How Do We Create Theory?

By Guillermina Jasso

As the spring semester draws to a close, and new scholarly energies are everywhere visible, I want to briefly take stock of sociological theory and the Theory Section. It has been a splendid privilege to watch the selflessness and devotion with which section members nurture the growth of sociological theory and its chief institutional steward, the Theory Section. I called on many of you to help with section matters, and you kindly took on extra burdens, many of them thankless except, *sub specie aeternitatis*, insofar as they play a part in advancing sociological theory. The Theory Prize Committee, the Shils-Coleman Prize Committee, the Nominations Committee, and the Membership Committee have been active; the newsletter editor has kept us informed; the session organizers have assembled an impressive array of speakers and topics. And thus, we can look forward to our meeting in August as a time for intellectual consolidation and intellectual progress.

The section program for the August meetings includes one regular open session, one roundtables session, and the three-session miniconference, entitled "The Methods of Theoretical Sociology." Because the papers from the miniconference are likely to become the heart of a book, I will be especially on the lookout for discussion at the miniconference sessions that could form the basis for additional papers or discussion in the volume.

See **METHODS** on Page 2

Social Theory's Essential Texts

By Alan Sica

I argued in my remarks at last year's miniconference session II that if one had to throw away all the sociology or social theory that one owned except for those ten volumes that meant the most, those ten would reflect as much the passionate involvement of the author with his or her material as it would elegant method or steamingly illuminating theorizing. Right after, Christopher Schmitt, an ambitious graduate student from Oregon State, asked me what ten titles I would name for him (as he took out a pad to write on). I was unprepared

to answer, but it occurred to me that asking some of the top current theory people, all of whom had been chairs of the Theory Section at one time or another, to name their favorite ten works in sociology and/or social theory might serve as some "empirically" derived basis that Schmitt and others could use. He explained that as a graduate student he is overwhelmed with material, and is looking for advice on how to spend his limited amount of time. Below are six lists

See **TOP TEN** on Page 6

Where's a Good Theory Student to Go? Readers Respond to Doubt

Theory at University of Maryland

In response to Keith Doubt's note in the April issue of *Perspectives* on "Where's the Theory?" I have good news: Theory is alive and well as a major focus of graduate education at the University of Maryland, College Park. Keith, do send us your students. Faculty members of the theory program are Richard Harvey Brown, William Falk, Jerald Hage, Patricio Korzeniewicz, Barbara Meeker, George Ritzer, and David Segal. Of these, Brown, Hage, and Ritzer devote their scholarship mainly to original theoretical work. The others do and teach theory mainly as it relates to organizations, social psychology, or political economy. The program focuses on classical, contemporary, and metatheory, covers a broad range of approaches from logical deductive theory construction to a more discourse oriented or postmodern kind of theorizing. Several of our members are internationally recognized thinkers in these fields.

We have about a dozen graduate students specializing in theory, though, as required of all our students, they have another specialty area as well (for both intellectual and market reasons). Our theory students are active as a group and form a distinct and supportive intellectual subculture within the department. They meet regularly among themselves, are preparing their own website, and the like. Our students frequently coauthor with their mentors. We also often hold international conferences on theoretical issues.

In addition, I think it could be said that theoretical reflection is widely respected throughout our department, not just among those designated as "theorists." One of the capstone courses prior to Ph.D. candidacy, for example, is aimed

precisely at integrating theory and methods. Thus we not only have theorists, but also a vibrant program in theory that operates in an intellectually supportive environment.

Do send us your tired (of mindless research), your hungry (for ideas), your students of many cultures yearning to be thinkers.

Richard Brown

Coordinator of the Graduate Program
in Theory, University of Maryland,
College Park

Theory at Boston University

In response to Keith Doubt's question about where students seeking good graduate education in social theory may go, one answer is: Boston University. Our

department is strongly oriented towards theory. We have many theorists among our faculty (and associated faculty), including Lewis A. Coser (Visiting Professor), Peter Berger, Jeff Coulter, James Schmidt, Charles Lindholm, George Psathas, Adam Seligman, Liah Greenfeld, and Stephen Kalberg. Theory is viewed as central to our graduate and undergraduate curricula, and we cover an unusually broad range of schools and approaches. Moreover, our graduate curriculum emphasizes theory: two courses are required (classical and contemporary) and our only qualifying examination is in theory. Our graduate theory classes regularly attract students from throughout the university. Last but not least, the emphasis in our graduate program upon qualitative methods might also be attractive to burgeoning theorists. We hope soon to continue our search, begun last year, for a further theorist.

Stephen Kalberg
Boston University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Theories, Predictions, and Postulates

METHODS from Page 1

How do new theories arise? By painstaking crafting of fruitful assumptions reflecting the treasury of ideas. How does a theory grow? By exuberant derivation of predictions. How do theories combine to form larger, more inclusive theories? By systematically linking the postulates and predictions of each theory to the postulates and predictions of every other theory under consideration, thereby arriving at a new basic set of assumptions from which spring all the predictions. And new and appealing ideas can set in motion a new sequence of theoretical events—a new postulate, generating new implications, the new theory subsequently linked to other (new or old) theories.

But theory development does not happen automatically. There are long hours and much *travail intellectuel*. And there is method. Like cutting a diamond, making wine, or playing a musical instrument, method makes wonders. This August at the mini-conference, we shall have an opportunity to think self-consciously and critically about the range of methods now in the service of theoretical sociology—exploring new methods and new ways to improve old methods, and providing new challenges for theorists and methodologists alike. The Theory Section, steward of sociological theory and of the tools for the advancement of theory, can be proud of the part it plays.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE COMPLETE MINICONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Theory at the ASA Meetings

Miniconference Spotlight on The Methods of Theory

The 1998 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association will take place on August 21-25, 1998 in San Francisco. The Theory Section has scheduled a miniconference consisting of three sessions, an open topics session, a roundtables session, a business meeting, and a reception to be held jointly with the Section on Mathematical Sociology. All Theory Section events will be held on Monday, August 24. Several other theory sessions have been organized by the ASA Program Committee as well, with topics ranging from the history of sociological theory to postmodernist theory.

MINICONFERENCE: THE METHODS OF THEORETICAL WORK

Monday, August 24, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Theoretical Methods I: Where Do Theories Come From?

Session 355. 8:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

This is a session on the genealogy of theory, a subject rarely addressed by sociologists or anyone else. Donald Black has asked several prominent theorists to discuss the process by which they developed a theory or type of theory, focusing particularly on the earliest stages in the creative process. How and why did it all happen?

Organizer and Presider: *Donald Black*, University of Virginia

A Simmelian Inspiration for an Un-Simmelian Theory. *Peter M. Blau*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Developing Theory of Interaction Ritual Chains. *Randall Collins*, University of Pennsylvania

My Theory Comes from Working Networks. *Harrison C. White*, Columbia University

Dreams of Pure Sociology. *Donald Black*, University of Virginia

Theoretical Methods II: Methods for Constructing Postulates from Starting Ideas

Session 381. 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Organizer: *Michael Hannan*, Stanford University

Presider: *Michael Macy*, Cornell University

Relations between Different Theoretical Imaginaries (with Application to Institution-

alism). *Ronald L. Jepperson*, Stanford University

Three Formal Models of Organizational Inertia: Different Paths in Theory Building? *Gabor Peli*, University of Groningen, and *Michael Hannan*, Stanford University

On the Evolution of Organizational Forms: Formal Models. *Laszlo Polos*, University of Amsterdam, *Glenn R. Carroll*, University of California, Berkeley, *Michael Hannan*, Stanford University, and *Gabor Peli*, University of Groningen

Aging by Default: Reasoning from Empirical Generalizations. *Laszlo Polos*, University of Amsterdam

Discussion: *Michael Macy*, Cornell University

Theoretical Methods III: Methods for Deriving Predictions from the Postulates

Session 412. 12:30-2:15 p.m.

Organizer and Presider: *Kazuo Yamaguchi*, University of Chicago

Using the Micromodel Strategy to Derive Implications from Comparison Theory. *Guillermina Jasso*, New York University

Private Games are Dangerous. *Ronald S. Burt*, University of Chicago

The Value of Process Modeling. *Kathleen M. Carley*, Carnegie Mellon University

What Do Quantifiers Do When They Quantify? *Trond Petersen*, University of California, Berkeley

Discussion: *Kazuo Yamaguchi*, University of Chicago

Other Sessions Organized by the Theory Section

Topics in Sociological Theory

Session 433. Monday, August 24, 2:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

The theme of this session might be called "New Tools for Conceptualizing Social Phenomena." Each of the four papers suggests a different way of conceiving of social relationships or structures from what has commonly been used. They suggest an openness to rethinking our approaches to theoretical questions in the discipline.

Organizer and Presider: *David G. Wagner*, State University of New York, Albany

Law and Ideology: A Theoretical Investigation in Conceptualizing the Relationship. *Cathrine Y. Lee*, University of California, Los Angeles

Social Networks, Social Movements, and the "Duality of System." *Jeff Livesay*, Colorado College

Chaos and Conduits of Audibility. *Mohammed A. Bamyeh*, New York University

Complexity, Simulation, and Ideal Types: Some Thoughts on Computer Simulation and Empirical Reality. *Kevin Mihata* and *Howard Stine*, University of Washington

Discussion: *Robert K. Shelly*, Ohio University

Theory Section Refereed Roundtables

Session 459. Monday, August 24, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Organizer: *Lauren Langnan*, Loyola University Chicago

1. POST MODERNITY

Table Presider: *Jeffery D. Tatum*, University of Virginia

Understanding Postmodernism: "Cliff Notes" for Sociologists. *Murray Milner, Jr.*, University of Virginia

See **SESSIONS** on Page 4

Roundtables, Feminist Theory, and Critical Theory at ASA

SESSIONS from Page 3

Medical Modification of the Post Modern Self: Modern and Post-Modern Influences on the Rise of Cosmetic Surgery. *Jeffery D. Tatum*, University of Virginia

2. POSTMODERN KNOWLEDGE

Table Presider: *Gavin Kendall*, Queensland University

Postmodern or Nonmodernism?: Going Beyond Hermeneutics with Michel Foucault and Bruno Latour. *Gavin Kendall*, Queensland University, and *Gary Wickman*, Murdoch University

Emmanuel Levinas and the Moral Displacement of Knowledge, Both Modern and Postmodern: Rethinking the Relation between the Moral and Social Order. *Stan J. Knapp* and *Darwin L. Thomas*, Brigham Young University

3. THEORIZING VIOLENCE

Table Presider: *Roberta Senechal de la Roche*, Washington and Lee University

Emotion as Sources of Conflicts. *Thomas J. Scheff* and *Susan Retzinger*, University of California, Santa Barbara

When Does Violence Collectivize? *Roberta Senechal de la Roche*, Washington and Lee University

4. METHODS OF THEORY

Table Presider: *Rekha Mirchandani*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Methods on the Theoretical Frontier: Tensions in Conceptual Innovation and Application. *Rekha Mirchandani* and *Albert W. Dzur*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

5. CRITICAL THEORY AND GLOBALIZED MODERNITY

Table Presider: *Douglas Kellner*, University of California, Los Angeles

Technocapital and the Information Superhighway. *Douglas Kellner*, University of California, Los Angeles

Globalization and Its Consequences. *Mark Gottdiener*, State University of New York, Buffalo

6. SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Table Presider: *Daniel Stuhlsatz*, University of Virginia

Common Ground for the Social Sciences. *Daniel Stuhlsatz*, University of Virginia

Self-Similar Social Structure. *Andrew Abbott*, University of Chicago

7. ACTION THEORY TODAY

Table Presider: *Helmut M. Staubmann*, University of Innsbruck, Austria

The Third Man and His "Thick" Description: An Action-Theoretical Model for the Social Construction of Unreality. *Helmut M. Staubmann*, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Timeless Functional Imperatives and Social Justice. *Emanuel Smikun*, AMINSO

8. RETHINKING EXTREMISM

Table Presider: *David Norman Smith*, University of Kansas

Goldhagen, Genocide, and Anti-Semitism. *David Norman Smith*, University of Kansas

The New Fascism. *Carl Boggs*, National University

9. PUBLIC POLICY AND THEORY

Public Policy and "The Good Society": General and Theoretical Perspectives. *Carl Slawski*, California State University, Long Beach and *Kenneth D. Bailey*, University of California, Los Angeles

10. STRUCTURE AND IDENTITY: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES

Table Presider: *Valery Scatamburlo*, York University

Consciousness, Agency, and the Female Subject. *Valery Scatamburlo*, York University

The Post-Structural Woman. *Jennifer M. Lehmann*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

The Beauty Context: Looks, Social Theory, and Feminism. *Lynn S. Chancer*, Columbia University

Theory Section Business Meeting

Monday, August 24, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Theory Section Reception

Monday, August 24, 6:30 p.m.

In addition to theory sessions organized by our section, several other sessions on feminist theory, critical theory, the history of sociological theory, and postmodernist theory have been organized by the ASA Program Committee. These sessions are listed below.

Feminist Theory I: Historical Explorations

Session 12. Friday, August 21, 8:30-10:15 a.m.

Organizer: *Evelyn Nakano Glenn*, University of California, Berkeley

Presider: *Ava Baron*, Rider College

Feminist Theory Before Gender: Women Founders of Social Theory, 1830-1930. *Patricia Lengermann*, George Washington University and *Jill Niebrugge-Brantley*, Wells College

Freud's Psychologies of Women: From Social Constructionism to Biological Determinism, 1893-1933. *Jennifer Pierce*, University of Minnesota

Sociology's Feminist Legacy?: Reading Durkheim in de Beauvoir. *Jennifer Bair*, Duke University

Women and the 'Feminine' in Hegel and Durkheim's Social Thought: A Feminist Critique. *Douglas Hartmann*, University of Minnesota

Discussion: *Judith Lorber*, City University of New York

Postmodern Social Theory

Session 126. Saturday, August 22, 8:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Organizer: *Charles Lemert*, Wesleyan Univ.

Presider: *Jorge Ardit*, University of Buffalo

Postmodernism and Sociology: From the Epistemological to the Empirical. *Rekha Mirchandani*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Clarity is Never Innocent: Lacan, Language, and Teaching. *Douglas Sadao Aoki*, University of Alberta, Edmonton

Feminist Politics, Community Formation, and the Concept of Structural Aporias. *Natasha Kraus*, University of Buffalo

See **MEETINGS** on Page 8

Conference in Poland The Legacy and Promise of Znaniecki's Theory

September 22-24, 1998. *Florian Znaniecki's Theory and the Challenges of the 21st Century*, Lublin, Poland.

Florian Znaniecki is among the second generation of classical sociological theorists, with this year marking the 115th anniversary of his birth and the 40th anniversary of his death. His theory seeks to understand social interaction, it advocates analyzing the active, conscious experience of participants, and it is guided by a humanistic concern with cultural phenomena. For Znaniecki, then, the sociology of knowledge is closely tied to the theory of social action. Revitalized now by postmodernists, the discussion about problems of cognition and social phenomena might be more productive if arguments already expressed in the methodological debate of the 1930s—and in particular the original stance of Florian Znaniecki—were remembered and taken into consideration. This international conference aims to contribute to the integration of the heritage of the 20th century by enlivening the interpretation of Znaniecki's works with reference to vital contemporary problems. Discussion will be organized around six leading themes encompassing problem areas studied by Znaniecki, all of which are relevant to theoretical and practical challenges at the turn of the century. These themes are: (1) Pluralistic Cultural Reality: Universalism and Localism; (2) Knowledge in Society:

Four New Books

Heritage Series Features Cooley, Anderson, Elias, and Sorokin

The University of Chicago Press is publishing four new books this year in its Heritage of Sociology series. *On Self and Social Organization* by **Charles Horton Cooley**, edited by Hans-Joachim Schubert, is a collection of Cooley's best work on human communication, social organization, public opinion, self and community. *On Hobos and Homelessness*, by **Nels Anderson**, edited by Raffaele Rauty, includes Anderson's ethnographic work on homeless men, the juvenile and the tramp, the unattached migrant, and the family. *On Civilization, Power, and Knowledge*, by **Norbert Elias**, edited by Stephen Mennell and Johan Goudsblom, is a collection of Elias's most important writings on upper class etiquette, art and culture, violence, sport, the development of knowledge and the sciences, and the methods of sociology. *On the Practice of Sociology*, by **Pitirim A. Sorokin**, edited by Barry V. Johnston, includes essays from Sorokin's early Russian years to his final works in the 1960s.

Rationality and Irrationality; (3) Social Actions: Conflict and Cooperation; (4) Social Person: Socialization and Individualization; (5) State, Nation, Church and World Society: Integration and Globalization; (6) Legacy of the Methodological Note: Explanation and Interpretation of Social Change.

Participants will include Helena Lopata, Gary Alan Fine, Zoltan Tarr, Zygmunt Baumann, Jef Verhoeven, Pierpaolo Donati, Luigi Tomasi, Uta Gerhardt, Birgitta Nedelman, Horst J. Helle, Arnold Zingerle, Gabriele Cappai, Hans Joas, Richard Grathoff, Jerzy Smolicz, Jan Szczepanski, Jerzy Szacki, Zygmunt Dulczewski, Jan Turowski, Zbigniew Bokszanski, Marek Ziolkowski, Leon Dyczewski, Joanna Kurczewska, Janusz Gockowski, Leszek Koczanowicz, Leszek Korporowicz, and Elzbieta Halas.

For further information, contact ElzbietaHalas, at hal@zeus.kul.lublin.pl

NEH Offers Fellowships

The National Endowment for the Humanities provides support for six to twelve months of full-time work on a project that will make a significant contribution to thought and knowledge in the humanities. Fellowships for University Teachers, Fellowships for College Teachers and Independent Scholars, and Summer Stipends are offered. The next deadline is October 1, 1998 for the summer stipends. For further information contact: NEH Fellowships and Summer Stipends, Room 318, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20506; the internet address is www.neh.gov.

Sociological Theory Seeks New Editor

A new editor will be needed in 1999 for *Sociological Theory*, the American Sociological Association's official theory journal. The ASA publications committee will solicit proposals from potential editors in August 1998, and a final decision is scheduled for December 1998. If interested in this important and rewarding position, please contact Craig Calhoun, the current editor, via email at craig.calhoun@nyu.edu for more information.

Perspectives is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. The deadline for all submissions is the fifth day of the month before publication. We welcome news and commentary as well as announcements about conferences, journal information, calls for papers, position openings, and any other information of interest to section members.

Top Theorists Pick Top Ten Texts For Student Reading

TOP TEN from Page 1

of ten books that I, Randall Collins, Donald Levine, Steven Seidman, Jonathan Turner, and Stephen Turner each believes are indispensable to a theorist's education, particularly those just starting out. Several other theorists were asked to submit lists but did not. Randall Collins, though he provided a list, argues that it is not a very good idea. It is certainly easy to agree with his logic. However, the chances that today's students will eagerly sit down and read fifty or sixty difficult volumes of theory are about as likely as my becoming the homecoming queen. Heartily recommended as Collins' ideas may be, they are not much help to the novice.

Alan Sica's Top Ten

1. KANT, *CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON* - with professional instruction
2. HEGEL, *PHENOMENOLOGY OF MIND* - with professional instruction
3. MARCUSE, *REASON AND REVOLUTION: HEGEL AND THE RISE OF SOCIAL THEORY*
4. WEBER, *THE PROTESTANT ETHIC AND THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM* and/or *FROM MAX WEBER*
5. MANNHEIM, *IDEOLOGY AND UTOPIA*
6. DILTHEY, *INTRODUCTION TO THE HUMAN SCIENCES* - Princeton Edition
7. GADAMER, *TRUTH AND METHOD*
8. DURKHEIM, *THE ELEMENTARY FORMS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE*
9. SIMMEL, *ON INDIVIDUALITY AND SOCIAL FORMS* - Levine Anthology
10. MERTON, *SOCIAL THEORY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE*

Having provided this list, I appreciate completely Collins' reservations about assigning priority to anybody to the exclusion of anybody else (where are Condorcet, Comte, Spencer, Marx, Mead and the dozens of other worthies?) Still, I think these ten would at least suggest what good theory can be about.

Steven Seidman's Top Ten

1. MARX, *CAPITAL*
2. WEBER, *THE PROTESTANT ETHIC AND THE SPIRIT OF CAPITALISM*
3. DURKHEIM, *THE ELEMENTARY FORMS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE*

4. FREUD, *GROUP PSYCHOLOGY AND THE ANALYSIS OF THE EGO*
5. HABERMAS, *KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN INTERESTS*
6. FOUCAULT, *THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY, INTRODUCTION*
7. SAID, *ORIENTALISM*
8. BUTLER, *GENDER TROUBLE*
9. HALL ET AL., *POLICING THE CRISES*
10. SAHLINS, *CULTURE AND PRACTICAL REASON*

Stephen Turner's Top Ten

1. WEBER, *ECONOMY AND SOCIETY*
2. WEBER, *POLITICAL WRITINGS*
3. WEBER, *METHODOLOGY OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES*
4. *FROM MAX WEBER* - edited by Gerth and Mills
5. DURKHEIM, *SUICIDE*
6. DURKHEIM, *THE ELEMENTARY FORMS OF THE RELIGIOUS LIFE*
7. MAUSS, *SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY*
8. MARY DOUGLAS, *HOW INSTITUTIONS THINK*
9. CARL SCHMITT, *THE CRISIS OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY*
10. CARL SCHMITT, *POLITICAL THEOLOGY*

Jonathan Turner's Top Ten

1. SPENCER, *THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY*
2. WEBER, *ECONOMY AND SOCIETY*
3. MEAD, *MIND, SELF, AND SOCIETY*
4. DURKHEIM, *THE DIVISION OF LABOR IN SOCIETY*

5. PARSONS AND SMELSER, *ECONOMY AND SOCIETY*
6. GOFFMAN, *INTERACTION RITUAL*
7. COLLINS, *CONFLICT SOCIOLOGY*
8. LUHMANN, *THE DIFFERENTIATION OF SOCIETY*
9. LENSKI, *POWER AND PRIVILEGE*
10. TURNER, *THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY*, 6TH EDITION

What strikes me in my list is how few books of the last twenty years have stuck in my mind. Most of the work over the last twenty years that I find most useful is in articles and chapters in books, but not whole books that I would take to an island and use for inspiration.

Donald Levine's Top Ten

First, I provide a few words on principles that guide my selections. Using other principles I would readily come up with a different list. For the response to Mr. Schmitt, my principles are: (1) the work should be nontrivially original; (2) it should challenge and stretch the mind of the reader; (3) it should raise questions that are currently significant; (4) it should be an exemplar of good theory work; (5) only one work per author, but the work can be an edition in a second language; (6) uncompromising quality; (7) no Durkheim, Marx, or Weber (I assume familiarity with their works, although it is hard not to stress the indispensability of *The Division of Labor* and the Gerth-Mills edition of Weber).

Sociological Theory's Top 10 (or so)

LISTS from Page 6

1. ARISTOTLE, *ETHICS* - This is a seminal, challenging, and enduringly relevant work.

2. HOBBS, *MAN AND CITIZEN*, edited by Gerth - This edition contains Hobbes' critical engagement with Aristotle which began the project of modern social theory. It includes choice selections of Hobbes' original formulations on human motives, political dynamics, and social science methodology.

3. ADAM SMITH, *THE THEORY OF MORAL SENTIMENTS* - This book is a lucid exemplar of social psychological discourse; it is profoundly original and of current significance.

4. GEORG SIMMEL, *THE PHILOSOPHY OF MONEY* - This is one of the most mind-stretching works in the literature, and a brilliant analysis of the contradictory tendencies of modernity.

5. DEWEY, *HUMAN NATURE AND CONDUCT* - Dewey offers, perhaps, the most brilliant single American response to the old dualisms of European discourse.

6. PARSONS, *THE SOCIAL SYSTEM* - Despite notoriously poor editing, the quality of thought in this work is high. It offers rich syntheses and new departures, and it is mind-stretching.

7. MERTON, *ON SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SCIENCE*, edited by P. Szotomka - This volume offers a choice set of selections with an introduction that lays out some of the parameters of theory work for sociology.

The next three are examples of more recent theorizing at its best:

8. EISENSTADT, *POWER, TRUST, AND MEANING*

9. TOM SMITH, *STRONG INTERACTION*

10. HANS JOAS, *THE CREATIVITY OF ACTION*

Randall Collins' Top Bunch

It is too easy and tempting to make up lists of the "top ten" of this or that. It is just the kind of numbers game of false precision that we rightly object to in the most simpleminded version of positivism. In the present instance, I object to it for three specific reasons:

(1) A serious sociologist cannot get by with reading just ten books. Maybe you could say you should master ten main authors, our so-called "classics." That means read all the major works of Weber, Marx and Engels, Mannheim, Simmel, Durkheim, Mauss, Mead, Schutz, Goffman, Coser, and Homans (which is already twelve, to which I would add at least Pareto, Levi-Strauss, Mary Douglas, and Dahrendorf). I am not listing those who no longer have anything uniquely substantive to say to us but which one might want to know for historical interest (for example, Comte, Spencer, Toennies). That is to say, you have to do a lot of reading, not ten great books but forty or fifty. There is not any shortcut. If you want to be well-educated in social theory, you need to spend two or three years in serious, extensive reading effort.

(2) I object to the implication that one can separate theory from substantive research in sociology. Most of the classic "theorists" wrote syntheses of empirical work as it existed in their time. Hence one needs to know what is going on in the major research areas. I recommend reading extensively in good textbooks or handbooks: e.g. my *Conflict Sociology* or *Theoretical Sociology*, Sanderson's *Societal Transformations*, or Smelser and Swedberg's *Handbook of Economic Sociology*. It is a moving research front, and you have to redo this about every ten years.

(3) If that were not enough, you also need to keep up with the best recent contributions. Again there is no sharp dividing line between theory and empirical re-

search; if the research is important enough it gets called "theory."

Here I will give a list of the kind of things that one ought to know, published since 1980:

1. NORBERT WILEY, *THE SEMIOTIC SELF* - This is the most important development in the symbolic interactionist tradition in many years.

2. THOMAS SCHEFF AND SUZANNE RETZINGER, *EMOTIONS AND VIOLENCE*; or THOMAS SCHEFF, *MICROSOCIOLOGY* - These show why the sociology of emotions has become the cutting edge of microsociology.

3. JACK GOLDSTONE, *REVOLUTION AND REBELLION IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD* - This is the best of many impressive recent works on revolution.

4. MICHAEL MANN, *THE SOURCES OF SOCIAL POWER* - This is state-of-the-art for our historical knowledge of states, class, and conflict mobilization.

5. IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN, *THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM* (Volumes 2 and 3 especially); or for an analytical treatment of world systems theory, CHRISTOPHER CHASE-DUNN, *GLOBAL FORMATION*.

6. CHARLES TILLY, *COERCION, CAPITAL AND EUROPEAN STATES* - It is really worth reading all of Tilly's major books.

7. PIERRE BOURDIEU, *DISTINCTION*; DAVE HALLE, *AMERICA'S WORKING MAN*; MICHELE LAMONT, *MONEY, MANNERS AND MORALS* - These are key books on stratification, sociology's most central topic. The substance is so important that it becomes theoretical.

8. JANET CHAFETZ, *GENDER EQUITY* - This represents the most systematic effort to theorize change in gender stratification.

9. VIVIANA ZELIZER, *THE SOCIAL MEANING OF MONEY* - Describes the embeddedness of money in gender and other social circuits. It is a paradigm-breaking book.

See **MORE LISTS** on Page 8

More Theory Sessions at ASA

MEETINGS from Page 4

Postmodern Terrorism. *Samar Farage*, Pennsylvania State University

Architectures of Anti-Structure: Casting Bataille in the Projects of Durkheimian Sociology. *Benjamin Bratton*, University of California, Santa Barbara

Discussion: *Jorge Ardit*, University of Buffalo

Feminist Theory II: Contemporary Issues

Session 180. Saturday, August 22, 12:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

Organizer: *Evelyn Nakano Glenn*, University of California, Berkeley

President: *Evelyn Nakano Glenn*, University of California, Berkeley

Gender, Religion and the Imagining of the Indian Nation. *Mahua Sarkar*, Johns Hopkins University

Toward a Meso Theory of Race, Class and Gender. *Barbara Ellen Smith*, University of Memphis

The Specter of Fear: Discourse and Safety. *Amy McLaughlin*, University of Maryland at College Park

[Post]Modern Democracy and the Matter of Violence: An Exegesis of Wendy Brown's Exposures of Modernity. *Alexandra Halkias*, University of California, San Diego

Discussion: *Robin Leidner*, University of Pennsylvania

History of Sociological Theory

Session 209. Saturday, August 22, 2:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Organizer and President: *Jere Cohen*, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Ferdinand Tonnies on Crime and Society: An Unexplored Contribution to Criminological Sociology. *Mathieu Deflem*, Purdue University

Lester Frank Ward as a Sociologist of Gender: A New Look at His Sociological Work. *Barbara Finlay*, Texas A & M University

Scientific Mythologies: Levi-Strauss and

Fin-de-Siecle Primitiveness. *Fuyuki Kurasawa*, La Trobe University

The Narrative Turn in Sociology. *Peter Hennen*, University of Minnesota.

Discussion: *Gianfranco Poggi*, Istituto Universitario Europeo

Critical Theory

Session 232. Sunday, August 23, 8:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

Organizer and President: *Jennifer M. Lehmann*, The University of Nebraska

The Early Frankfurt School Critique of Postliberal Capitalism. *Harry F. Dahms*, Florida State University

Foucault's Writings on the Iranian Revolution: Decentering the Debate over Modernity. *Janet Afary*, Purdue University and *Kevin Anderson*, Northern Illinois University

Recapitulation and Reconstruction of Historical Materialism, or, On Habermas. *B. Ricardo Brown*, Pratt Institute

No Body There: Habermas and Feminism. *Joan Alway*, The University of Miami.

MORE LISTS from Page 7

10. BRUNO LATOUR, *SCIENCE IN ACTION* - This is the most brilliantly written social constructivist treatment of science.

11. HARRISON WHITE, *IDENTITY AND CONTROL* - This is another paradigm breaker, attempting to construct a general theory of how social units crystallize out of fluctuating networks.

It is the *Finnegan's Wake* of avant-garde social theory. Its difficulty is mitigated somewhat if read in conjunction with White's *Careers and Creativity*, which applies the same model to the arts.

I am leaving off at least another ten important recent books. And there are

new ones of this quality that will appear in the next few years. The bottom line is: after that initial two to three years or so of intensive reading, you need to devote some time every year to keeping up with the cutting edge.

New Book on Emotions and Social Theory

Emotion, Social Theory and Social Structure: A Macrosociological Approach, by J.M. Barbalet, Cambridge University Press, 1998.

This book examines key aspects of social structure using an understanding of emotions such as fear, resentment, shame, and confidence. It proposes to redefine in sociology the roles that emotions play in social processes. While much has been written on the social consequences of pathological emotions, this book demonstrates the centrality of emotions to everyday operations of social interaction. In revealing the importance of emotions in sociology, Barbalet reevaluates the nature and history of social theory. Contents include chapters on: emotion in social life and social theory; emotion and rationality; class and resentment; action and confidence; conformity and shame; rights, resentment and vengefulness; fear and change.

Committee Rosters Finalized

The Theory Prize Committee now has its full five members: Murray Webster, Jr. (Chair), Karen Cook, Stephen Turner, Henry Walker, and Harrison C. White. The Theory Prize and Shils-Coleman Prize winners will be announced on Monday, August 24 at the section business meeting.

A membership committee has also been formed. Members of the committee are Margaret M. Marini (Chair), Barbara Meeker, and Douglas D. Heckathorn.