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/Anthropology, 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)
  Freire vs. Marx in the Classroom: The Tension between Liberating Pedagogy and Student Alienation
• 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
• Khalidoun 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, University of Virginia)
  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 Marquilles (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: Martinete, Webb, and Gilman
• Milton Butts (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
  A Pedagogy of Islam for Our Times
• 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)
  The Dialectics of Nation and Self: The Labyrinth of Octavio Paz’s Sociology
• Discussant: Emmett Schaefer (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
• Floor Discussion

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
• Professor Donald Macedo and partial funding support from the Graduate Program in Applied Linguistics, UMass Boston
• Tony Nadler, Assistant Coordinator, Office of Service-Learning and Community Outreach, UMass Boston
• UMass Sociology Graduate Students: Valentina Mara (web design and maintenance), Anna Martsinkiv (outreach), and Sara Johnson (accommodations)
Liberating Social Theory
Inspirations from Paulo Freire for Learning, Teaching, and Advancing Social Theory in Applied Settings

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

Participants

Loo Alcoff (Liberal Arts Faculty, Quinnipiac College)
Loo Alcoff serves as a tenured ESI, Specialist and Liberal Arts instructor at Quinnipiac College, Massachusetts. He has designed many curricula for college professors, including curricula for objects and classroom techniques in teaching (specifically, teaching in undergraduate courses at UMass Boston) and engaged in various cultural and ethnic interest discussions including dialogue, critical pedagogy, and use of films in instruction. looalcoff@ec.holyoke.edu

Bart Bonkowski (Graduate Student, Sociology, Duke University)
Bonkowski received his B.A. (Hons) from the University of Kentucky and is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Duke University. Bonkowski 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 representation of power 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' current research includes factors that keep young people who are part of an ethnographic field study from accessing 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.butts@umb.edu

Jorge Capellitto-Ponce (Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Research and teaching activities and interests include social theory, race & ethnic relations, media studies, Latino studies, US-Latin American relations, and U.S. media coverage of indigenous societies. Capellitto’s current research is focused on majority-minority identity politics in Massachusetts. His US mainstream media analysis indicates that 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.capellitto@umb.edu

Jorge Capellitto-Ponce (Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
A certified Clinical Sociologist, Discih 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). Discih leads faculty development workshops in General Education and other pedagogical issues and has provided consultations to many campuses on diversity and campus climate issues. estelle.discih@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 on the social impacts of the University of Pennsylvania (as part of Charles Horton Cooley as a bellwether, i.e., a sociologist whose inspiration came from literature. Other recent work includes the Latin of students and retention. gregJacobs@umb.edu

Kelli Lynn Joseph (Graduate Student, Sociology, University of Virginia)
Recent research includes a focus Langano’s Areo 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 and sociological study of the nation. She is particularly interested in assessing the link between economic globalization and the rise of religious nationalism in India. KelliJ@virginia.edu

Estelle Disch (Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Estelle Disch 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. She has published: “Why I Smoke: Sociology of A Deadly Habit” (2003) and “From Anti-Marijuana to Patriarchy” (2002) in Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge, Emers 036@umb.com

Jonathan Martin (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Framingham State College)
Martin’s dissertation on contemporaneous major-minority “middle class” American’s economists is currently under review at Temple University Press. Recent research papers have focused on the class consciousness of working class students and working-class participation in the movement against the Iraq War. He is currently completing his third year of teaching social theory, political sociology, and social class at FSC. jonmart@framingham.edu

Susan Alouf (Professor/Chair, Sociology, UMass Boston)

Haley Salinas (Graduate Student, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Haley Salinas 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 marriage. She is presently engaged in research for this study that focuses on Harriet Martineau, Beatrice Webb, and Charlotte Gilman.

Khaled Saifa (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: Medieval Islam, and City-Making in the Middle East. Current research interests include comparative analyses of Orientalist nationalism in Italy and Israel in contrast to Orientalizing nationalism in Jordan and Iran. sumar@macalester.edu

Paul Khall Saeid (Graduate Student, Sociology/Anthropology, Northeastern University)
Received his B.A. in Sociology and M.A. in African Studies from Rhode Island College. Soncier has co-authored (with Richard Lobban Jr.) Historical Dictionary of Cape Verde (forthcoming). Research interests include Race and Ethnicity, Black Experience, Social Movement, Social Change, and Political Sociology. khallS@umb.edu

Emmett Schafer (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Research interests include Race and Ethnic Relations, Men’s Studies, and Gender Studies. Schafer recently published (with Cooper Thompson and Harry White) Why Men Challenging Racism: 35 Personal Stories (Duke University Press, 2003). emmettSchafer@umb.edu

Tim Sieber (Professor/Chair, Anthropology, UMass Boston)
Research interests include urban anthropology, Social Class, Ethnicity, Cultural Issues in Urban Development, and Schooling. Committee work in 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 other knolins, “Shock! Ache&ning Against the current of How-Academia-Becomes-Teachers of Diverse Students, a collection of essays by UMass Boston faculty on the craft of teaching. timsieber@umb.edu

Rajini Srikanth (Associate Professor, English, UMass Boston)

Tim Sieber

M.H. (Behrouz) Tamdgidi (Assistant Professor, SOCiology, UMass Boston)
Research interests include the comparative integrative sociology of academic, acuatic, and mystical theories and movements, and with a particular focus on the dialectics of personal self-knowledge and world-historical social structures. His recent works include “Mysticism and Beyond: A Genealogy of Human Rights and the Transformation of the Dialectics of Self-Knowledge and Self-Knowledge.” 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. mohanandtamdgidi@umb.edu

Rika Yogendra (Graduate Student, Sociology, UMass Boston)
Research areas of interest include history of pedagogy, and educational policies in the context of the modern state formation. r yogendra@umb.edu

Samual Zalanga (Assistant Professor, Sociology, Anthropology, Bethel College)
Trained in the U.S. 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). zalanga@bethel.edu