

UMB Sociology's  
*Social Theory Forum*  
presents

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

Saturday, April 10, 2004  
University of Massachusetts Boston

Call for Papers

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 invites you to submit papers for its debut conference-workshop to be held on Saturday, April 10, 2004. This event will focus on the exploration of applied strategies for learning, teaching, and research in a liberating framework—i.e., strategies that adopt practical *and* critical transformative attitudes towards taken-for-granted and habituated social structures. In this pursuit, it will seek to draw inspirations from Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy and philosophy for the promotion of liberating theoretical literacy. The one-day event will consist of three panels (one comprised of student presenters and the other two of faculty presenters), a keynote speech, and an interactive audiovisual workshop and discussion. The schedule will be tentatively as follows:

9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Panel 1: Learning Social Theory for Transformation (student panel) 3-4 presentations, 1 moderator, 1 discussant

11:00 am to 12:45 p.m.

Panel 2: Teaching Social Theory for Transformation (faculty teaching panel) 3-4 presentations, 1 moderator, 1 discussant

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm Lunch

Keynote Speech: Inspirations from Paulo Freire for the Promotion of Liberating Theoretical Literacy

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Panel 3: Advancing Social Theory for Transformation (faculty research panel) 3-4 presentations, 1 moderator, 1 discussant

3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Interactive Audiovisual Workshop: Film and Discussion

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 papers, abstracts, or volunteering proposals in triplicate via emails to:  
jcapet@aol.com , mohammad.tamdgidi@umb.edu and glenn.Jacobs@umb.edu

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Or by writing to  
Attn.: Social Theory Forum  
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Questions may be directed to the above emails or by phone to: Jorge Capetillo-Ponce at (617) 287-5786, or M.H.(Behrooz) Tamdgidi at (617) 287-6284, or Glenn Jacobs at 617-287-6262

**Deadline for Submission of paper abstracts/proposals: January 15, 2004.**

Presenters will be expected to submit a completed draft by March 20, 2004, for discussant preparations and considerations for post-conference publication.