

Sociology 621. Week 2. September 8, 2014

The Overall Agenda

I. NORMATIVE FOUNDATIONS

1. Interests versus Justice: what is the point?

2. Four moral principles

Equality: In a just society all persons would have broadly equal access to the material and social means necessary to live a flourishing life.

Democracy: In a fully democratic society, all people would have broadly equal access to the necessary means to participate meaningfully in decisions about things which affect their lives.

Community/Solidarity: Community/solidarity expresses the principle that people ought to cooperate with each other not simply because what they personally get out of it, but also out of a real commitment to the wellbeing of others.

Sustainability: Future generations should have access to the social and material means to live flourishing lives at least at the same level as the present generation.

3. Elaborations

II. DIAGNOSIS AND CRITIQUE

III. ALTERNATIVES

1. Key problem: limits of possibility – different from natural law limits

2. Alternatives that emerge endogenously and prefigure future realities

3. The conception of society as a “system” needed for the theorization of alternatives

- *Organic* system versus *Ecological* system – loosely coupled, open system

4. Evaluation triplet: desirability, viability, achievability

5. Viability: the problem of context and enabling conditions:

IV TRANSFORMATION

1. Why we need a theory of transformation

2. What kind of theoretical framework do we need? Paradigms, frameworks, agendas

3. Elements of a theory of transformation

A. SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

B. GAPS AND CONTRADICTIONS OF REPRODUCTION

C. THE UNDERLYING DYNAMICS AND TRAJECTORY OF UNINTENDED SOCIAL

D. STRATEGIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Three Models of Transformation: ruptural, interstitial, symbiotic

Vision of trajectory of systemic transformations beyond capitalism	Political Tradition most closely associated with logic of transformation	Pivotal collective actors for transformation	Strategic logic with respect to the state	Strategic logic with respect to the capitalist class	Metaphors of success
<i>Ruptural</i>	Revolutionary socialist/communist	Classes organized in political parties	Attack the state	Confront the bourgeoisie	War (victories and defeats)
<i>Interstitial metamorphosis</i>	Anarchist	Social movements	Build alternatives outside of the state	Ignore the bourgeoisie	Ecological competition
<i>Symbiotic metamorphosis</i>	Social democratic	Coalitions of social forces and labor	Use the state: struggle on the terrain of the state	Collaborate with the bourgeoisie	Evolutionary adaptations