

Sociology 621. Lecture 5. September 17, 2013 outline
Transformation

I. Why we need a theory of transformation

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

III. Elements of a theory of transformation

A. SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

1. **Contrast: Passive reproduction vs active reproduction.**
2. **Tendency towards *functionalism***
3. **Fundamental proposition of social reproduction:**
Social structures and institutions that systematically impose harms on people require vigorous mechanisms of active social reproduction in order to be sustained over time.
4. **Contrast: Social Order vs transformation.**
5. **Substantive mechanisms**
 - Coercion
 - Institutional rules
 - Ideology
 - Interests
6. **Two configurations of these mechanisms:** Despotic configuration Hegemonic configuration:

B. GAPS AND CONTRADICTIONS OF REPRODUCTION

1. *Complexity and inconsistent requirement for social reproduction.*
2. *Strategic Intentionality and its ramifications.*
3. *Institutional rigidities and path dependency.*
4. *Contingency and unpredictability*

C. TWO PROCESSES UNDERLYING THE DYNAMICS AND TRAJECTORY OF UNINTENDED SOCIAL CHANGE

- cumulative *unintended by-products of the actions* of people operating under existing social relations
- cumulative *intended effects of conscious projects of social change* by people acting strategically to transform those social relations

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