Sociology Department Launches the Social Theory Forum
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The Social Theory Forum (STF) is a series of conference-workshops organized jointly by the Sociology Department and others to creatively explore, develop, promote, and publish cross-disciplinary social theory in an applied and liberating (critical) framework. The first gathering, held on April 7, drew a large audience from a wide range of faculty and graduate and undergraduate students from across academic departments, both on and off campus.

“Yesterday’s conference was truly stimulating! The morning presenters were excellent, and the discussion was particularly invigorating,” says Tony Nadler of the Office of Service-Learning and Community Outreach. “It really helped me see more aspects of the connection between service-learning and critical pedagogy.”

The 2004 event, “Liberating Social Theory: Inspirations from Paulo Freire for Learning, Teaching, and Advancing Social Theory in Applied Settings,” was composed of three panels moderated by Professors Tim Sieber of the Anthropology Department, Rajini Srikanth of the English Department, and Emmett Schaefer of the Sociology Department, and an audiovisual workshop presentation on Paulo Freire by GCOE professor Martha Montero-Sieburt. The opening address was presented by Professor Siamak Movahedi, chair of the Sociology Department.

“I had a great time. I found the discussions very interesting and true to the title of the conference. I think we liberated a lot of theory that day. I went home with a whole list of words to look up and a renewed interest in the study of social theory,” said conference attendee Donna Rafferty.

Panelists included undergraduate students Emily Margulies (SUNY Oneonta) and Haley Salinas (UMB); graduate students Bart Banikowsky (Duke University), Rika Yonemura (UC San Diego), Kelli Lynn Joseph (University of Virginia), Paul Khalil Saucier (Northeastern University); and Professors Samuel Zalanga (Bethel College, Minnesota), Jonathan Martin (Framingham College), Esther Kingston-Mann (UMB), Estelle Disch (UMB), Leor Alcalay (Quincy College), Milton Butts Jr. (UMB), and UMB sociology faculty and conference organizers Jorge Capetillo-Ponce, Glenn Jacobs, and M.H. (Behrooz) Tamdgidi.

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