

**Sociology 621. Lecture 4. September 19, 2011 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. And two configurations of these mechanisms: Despotism 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. THE UNDERLYING DYNAMICS AND TRAJECTORY OF UNINTENDED SOCIAL

Duality generating trajectories:

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

D. STRATEGIES OF TRANSFORMATION