

# **ALIENATION, ANGST and ANGER:**

**A Diagnostic –Analytic Approach to Social  
Practice**

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By

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# Abstract

- A society on the cusp of radical social meltdowns is detrimental to peace, progress, and prosperity. Our collective failures to achieving universal civility is a monumental collapse of civilization. This presentation is a diagnostic critique of the contemporary culture that breeds *anxiety, anger and avarice* on the one hand and *globalized inequality, narcissistic philanthropy and commoditized services* on the contrary. The consequential human toxicity marked by social media, digital revolution and moral dissonance constitutes a unsustainable reality that endangers democracy, higher education, and professional ethics.

# Two Sides of Anger

## Positive

- [https://www.yahoo.com/news/united-passenger-dragged-off-plane-004400916.html?.tsrc=fau\\_xdal](https://www.yahoo.com/news/united-passenger-dragged-off-plane-004400916.html?.tsrc=fau_xdal)
- One should be angry to see outrageous injustice and inhumanity

## NEGATIVE

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/manhunt-intensifies-cleveland-murder-suspect-gonna-stop-custody/story?id=46840713>

Facebook Murderer's  
ANGER is both insane and  
criminal

# “In Time of Terror, Wage Beauty”

- Thoughts for Today:
- GROW WINGS, Use Them, Lend Them to Others:
- “Gravity is an illusion to we who are born of starlight and thermodynamics....This is why whenever possible, grow wings, even if you are the only one who can see them. For wings are a metaphysical metaphor for refusing to be held down in a world where there are so many stars to explore.” Mark Gonzales (2014; p.11). [Thinkdisupt.ca](http://Thinkdisupt.ca) ; [wagebeauty.com](http://wagebeauty.com)

# The Enlightenment

## Age of Reason

- Emergence of Science
- Demise of Age-old Superpositions
- Knowledge Transformation, Exchange and Innovations
- Rise of Professions (medicine, engineering, etc.)

## Age of Un-Reason, Anger & Fear

- Enlightenment leading to advancements and frustrations and , now, anger (see Pakaj Mishra, 2017)
- Enlightenment Paradox
- Enlightenment TWO!
  - Revivalism/Nativism
  - End of Ideology (no 'right or wrong,' 'left or right' (only 'we' and 'they'; 'open and closed.'
  - "The Givers" (David Callahan, 2017)?
  - Uberization
  - New Social Contract?

# Structure of Discourse

- **PART I : Madness and Meltdowns**
  - Anger as an evolutionary outcome
  - Institutional breakdown; **OBSOLESCENCE OF “SOCIAL CONTACT”**
  - Utopian-Dystopian Conflict and Chaos
- **PART II : Foundations of a Therapeutic Society (This section constitutes a sequel to this lecture)**
  - Devolution of Social Work
  - Notions of HELP is a Deep State
  - Robotic Society, Freedom and Possible Justice

# Problem Formulation: Basic Assumptions

- A social theory of “new alienation” does not apply to “American Carnage”
- Rise and fall—negativity and positivity, respectively—of democratic, institutional, and civil values and behaviors
- Altruism (benevolence) is a vehicle of human *evolution*, and PHILANTHROPY seldom works
- Social Contact breaks down when individual-societal relationships and arrangements meltdown.

# PART I: ANGER and the RISE & FALL of CIVILITY

- UTOPIAN VALUES
- DEMOCRACY
- GLOBALIZATION
- GOOD GOVERNANCE
- EQUALITY
- PEACE
- ALTRUISM
- CIVILITY
- DYSTOPINAN DISVALUES
- RISE of:
  1. Social Instability; Breakdown of public and social order; populism and nationalism (New Fascism???)
  2. Techno-Authoritarian “DEEP STATE”(techno-theocracy)
  3. Inequality and Injustice
  4. Terror, War, and Violence
  5. Narcissist Philanthropy
  6. DECIVILITY & CHAOS (Therapy & Its Limits)



# RESEGREGATION OF AMERICA

- “Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream”:
  1. Exclusionary HOUSING, EDUCATION, WELFARE, and DIVISIVE ECONOMIC & SOCIAL POLICIES
  2. RACE MATTERS; ETHNICITY PERSISTS; DIVERSITY THREATS
  3. Dissatisfaction Amidst Abundance (Poverty of Affluence) Cf. Mohan, B. “Poverty of Culture” (2011)

# Thoughts, Observations & Conclusions

Representative Steve King, the Iowa Republican, warned against trying to “restore our civilization with somebody else’s babies.”

- Discussions on equality are a nonsense. Empathy without SOCIAL ACTION is hypocrisy.
- Much of SOCIAL SCIENCE/WELFARE/WORK deal with alternate reality.
- Alienation is an unaffordable cost that a rapacious culture (civilization) pays for its own dysfunctionality.
- Institutional failure has dampened the spirit of American CREED! To some, it’s a Nightmare!!!!
- I call it Kafkaesque!

# Toward a New Social Practice: Sprit vs Method

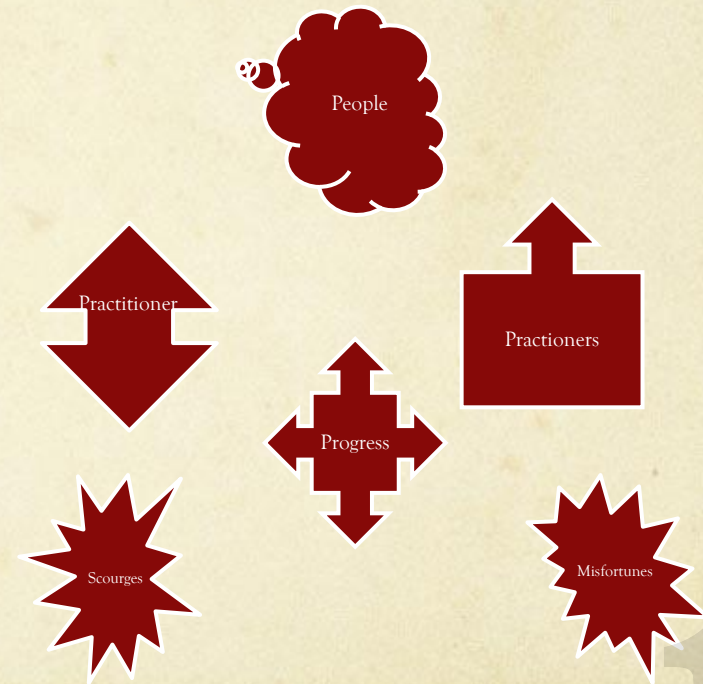
- Uberization of social services
- Challenges of a Robotic Society
- What's Beyond Social Welfare?
- Social Work's Continued Identity  
Crisis and Our Collective Response

# Tenets of New Social Practice

## Theory

- A non-dogmatic, inclusive, secular, transformative-deconstructive framework that does not “clientize” human beings! A non-alternate reality-reconstruction ought to be the goal.

## Practice



# “When breath becomes AIR” by

Paul Kalanithi

- WHEN YOU COME TO ONE OF THE MANY MOMENTS IN LIFE WHERE YOU MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF YOURSELF, PROVIDE A LEDGER OF WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN, AND DONE, AND MEANT TO THE WORLD, DO NOT, I PRAY, DISCOUNT THAT YOU FILLED A DYING MAN’S DAYS WITH A SATIATED JOY, A JOY UNKNOWN TO ME IN ALL MY PRIOR YEARS, A JOY THAT DOES NOT HUNGER FOR MORE AND MORE BUT RESTS, SATISFIED. IN THIS TIME, RIGHT NOW, THAT IS AN ENORMOUS THING.”
- PAUL KALANITHI (2016:199).

# Important current books

- *The Complacent Class: Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream.* By Tyler Cowen. St. Martin's, 2017
- *# Republic : Divided Democracy in the Age of Social Media.* By Cass Sunstein. Princeton University Press, 2017
- *The Age of Anger: A History of the Present.* By Pankaj Mishra. NY Farrar, Straus and Giroux : 2017.
- *The Givers: Wealth, Power, and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age.* NY: Knopf,.2017
- *In Times of Terror, Wage Beauty.* By Mark Gonzales. 2014 (Wagebeauty.com)
- *When Breath Becomes AIR.* By Paul Kalanithi. Random House, 2016
- *Being and Becoming an American: Continuing Crisis of White Men in America.* By Brij Mohan, 2017 ([https://www.academia.edu/31680417/Being\\_and\\_Becoming\\_American\\_Nietzsches\\_Ressentiment\\_1\\_Brij\\_Mohan2https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311900341\\_White\\_Trash\\_in\\_a\\_Basket\\_of\\_Deplorables\\_Continued\\_Crisis\\_of\\_Men\\_in\\_America](https://www.academia.edu/31680417/Being_and_Becoming_American_Nietzsches_Ressentiment_1_Brij_Mohan2https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311900341_White_Trash_in_a_Basket_of_Deplorables_Continued_Crisis_of_Men_in_America); accessed 03/20/2017)