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From: Robert Prus <prus@uwaterloo.ca>

To: <jamesforte@mac.com>

Date: Fri Apr 28, 2006 01:05:04 PM PDT

Subject: Theories for Practice

Attachments:  RhetOutlineB32.doc  AugustTxt56 on GkRhet.doc

Dear James (if I may)

I just encountered your *Theories for Practice*. I had heard a few things about this book but hadn't had a chance to examine it until today.

It is quite an amazing piece of work! I can see that you put a great deal of thought, effort, and dedication into its production. Still, given the immensity of your project and the detail with which you have pursued your studies, I suspect that it just hadn't received the coverage or the credit that it deserves. Nevertheless, it is an exceptionally thoughtful text and speaks of your extended potential as a scholar.

I also couldn't help but note your dedication, "To the Jesuits." I have been doing quite a bit of work over the past few years tracing the development of Western social thought from the classical Greek era to the present time and have become much more appreciative of the role that various Christian figures played in the process (particularly Augustine, Aquinas, and then somewhat more recently, the Jesuits). I chuckled to myself somewhat, thinking that a Jesuit education, with its intellectual rigor, would certainly help prepare someone for a project of the sort you had produced.

Mindful of this, I've enclosed a chapter outline for a ms on on Rhetoric

and a chapter from Augustine that you might find of some interest. It's one of many subprojects and papers that the Greek project (as I call it) has spawned. Other things are in the areas of religion, poetics, ethnohistory, scholarship, friendship, and politics. Still, as you will likely quickly surmise in looking over the Augustine chapter, I've maintained the same basic Chicago-style interactionist emphasis that you are familiar with.

Incidentally, James, you might like to look at the book Scott Grills and I did on deviance (*The Deviant Mystique*). I think you may find a number of things of relevance to sociology and social work even though the text is analytic rather than remedial in its emphasis.

If I had known about your work earlier, I would have at least invited you to join us for a conference coming up in NFalls next month (May 16-18) --- <http://www.qualitative.ca/>
i think you might enjoy that. We might still be able to fit another paper into the program but that certainly wouldn't give you much time to make any adjustments.

Enough rambling on my part. I did however want to tell you that **that was quite the book you wrote and thank you for such a sustained contribution to scholarship!**

Best wishes!
Bob



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