

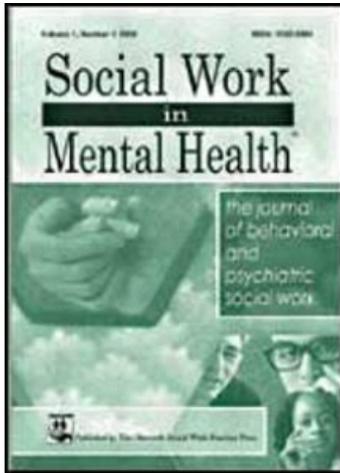
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Human Behavior and the Social Environment: Models, Metaphors, and Maps for Applying Theoretical Perspectives to Practice, by James A. Forte

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working with African-American individuals as well as Hispanics and Latinos. In summary, this book provides a rich and timely collection of chapters written by leading Black scholars in the field. As part of an independent course of study or as a supplement to the general HBSE course work provided in most graduate and undergraduate programs this book provides a consolidated and rich resource that clearly outlines many of the issues that minority individuals face.

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HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT: MODELS, METAPHORS, AND MAPS FOR APPLYING THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES TO PRACTICE. James A. Forte. *Thomson, Brooks/Cole, 2007, 634 pages (ISBN: 0-495-00659).*

Currently there are a number of quality human behavior texts for instructors and students in the social sciences to select from, so this review will focus primarily on what makes this one stand out. The author, James Forte, starts and ends with the explication of several different theoretical frameworks and through this understanding he focuses on practical applications in the context most social workers know best—the person in situation or person in environment.

The first three chapters of the book provide an overview of the importance of theory, how to use models and metaphors to increase understanding, and tools for translation such as theoretical and ecosystem maps. Forte urges social work professionals to recognize the multi-theory practice reality that surrounds us and the importance of using this knowledge to our professional advantage. He sees the role of the social worker as a theory translator and warns that as life situations evolve so does theory. He sees this relationship between theory and the practice environment as a dynamic one that is never static. He further outlines the importance of not focusing on one theory and warns that tunnel vision toward one approach can limit the breath and scope of the intervention provided.

Part two of the book focuses on providing an overview of several popular theoretical approaches to practice and provides application information and critical comments for further thought. The following approaches are outlined: Ecological Theory, Systems Theory, Psychodynamic Theory, Behaviorism, Symbolic Interactionism, Social Role Theory, Economic Theory, and Critical Theory. Each of these chapters discusses how the concepts are applied and how mapping can be used to further assist with problem interpretation, formulation, and assessment.

The last chapter of the book, which represents part three, seeks to provide integration for the reader helping to further the emphasis on multiple theoretical frameworks and the interpretations that can result. He also strongly encourages planned multi-theoretical dialogues that can serve as the bridges between supervisors and mentors, novice social work students, theoreticians, researchers, and practitioners. Clearly, what makes this text stand out is the emphasis on making the theoretical practice frameworks come alive, showing through application the depth and breath of each framework while emphasizing through mapping its usefulness as a professional tool.

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CRAZY IN AMERICA: THE HIDDEN TRAGEDY OF OUR CRIMINALIZED MENTALLY ILL. Mary Beth Pfeiffer. *New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 2007, 280 pages (ISBN 13: 978-0-78671-745-3), \$15.95 paperback*

This paperback book provides a thorough, in-depth, and comprehensive critique of the problems that can occur when mental illness, substance addiction, and other psychological disorders are misinterpreted or ignored within the criminal justice system. Pfeiffer builds her strongest argument for recognizing this abuse by presenting six case studies in which the outcome for all affected sadly bring the reader to the conclusion that this type of criminalization of the mentally ill will leave them even more vulnerable than they were before.