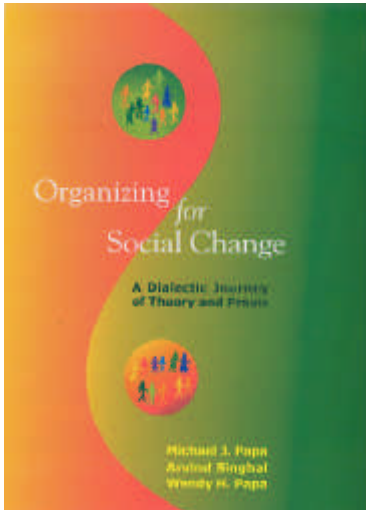




ORGANIZING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

A Dialectic Journey of Theory and Praxis

MICHAEL J PAPA, *Central Michigan University*
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2006 / 300 pages
Cloth: \$ 62.95 (0-7619-3434-0)
Paper: \$ 27.95 (0-7619-3435-9)

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Conventionally, analysts of social change perceive organizing initiatives in binary terms: projects are seen as being either top-down or bottom-up; local culture is seen as being either modern or traditional. Challenging this restrictive dualism, this important book argues that social change emerges in a non-linear, circuitous, and dialectic process of struggle. In support of their approach, the authors:

- identify four dialectic tensions as being central to the process of organizing for social change: control and emancipation, oppression and empowerment, dissemination and dialogue, and fragmentation and unity;
- argue for a dialectic approach which acknowledges that contradictory tensions can and do co-exist (for example, a project can control beneficiaries with tough conditionalities even as it emancipates them); and
- draw upon case studies set in various contexts—social justice, academic, corporate, artistic, and others—from both developing and developed countries.



The body of work this book represents is clearly important both theoretically and in terms of encouraging scholars and practitioners in continuing efforts of large-scale change and social justice. The cases considered are fascinating, and the authors' analyses of them are enlightening.

Katherine Miller, *Texas A&M University*

*In **Organizing for Social Change**, one rediscovers the value of dialectics within a theoretically complex story of empowerment and transformation that is told in a very personal tone with careful attention to detail.*

Patrice M Buzzanell, *Purdue University*

Scholars and practitioners will find this book theoretically sound, methodologically rigorous, and rich with poignant narratives. The book models engaged scholarship; it is truly refreshing to encounter scholarship that matters to various stakeholders, academic and otherwise.

Lynn M Harter, *Ohio University*



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