

# **Social Work Transformations: Mission, Education, and Service (MES)**

A Presentation by  
**Brij Mohan**

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Louisiana State University, Aug., 7, 2015  
Retired Social Workers Meeting, Baton Rouge

# A Point of View

- **Abstract:** *The End of Work* is no scientific fiction. A few simple algorithms have changed the world we live in. Forms of social interventions—policy choices and modes of practice —will morph into expedient technologies of existence. In his *Logic of Social Welfare*, (Mohan, 1988: Ch IV: 61-80), a rationale was proffered to re-baptizing Social Work as *Social Praxeology*. Mohan's oeuvre contains six trilogies towards the philosophy, methodology and ethics of this professional transformation. A *Social Practice* formulation is signified to unify the art and science of social praxis, human-social development and global welfare (Mohan, 1992; 1999; 2007). "Social work should be the end of itself," (Mohan, 1999). As a fulcrum of innovation, diversity and justice, we are professionally obligated to achieving this goal (Mohan, 2011; 2015).
- See *The Atlantic*, July/August 2015, 316, 1:50-61.

# CONTEXTS

- 'SOCIAL CONTRACT'
- 'CULTURE WAR'
- 'CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS'
- 'INSTITUTIONAL MELTDOWN'
- 'CRISIS OF HIGHER EDUCATION'
- 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION'
- 'PARADOX OF DEVELOPMENT'

# Dimensions of “Social” Transformation

## Mission

- **GOAL (Legitimacy of Purpose)**
- Objectives
- Rationale

## Education

- **KNOWLEDGE (Teaching-Learning of Truth)**
- Research (Values and methods of Inquiry)
- Training (Skills of Intervention) and Techniques

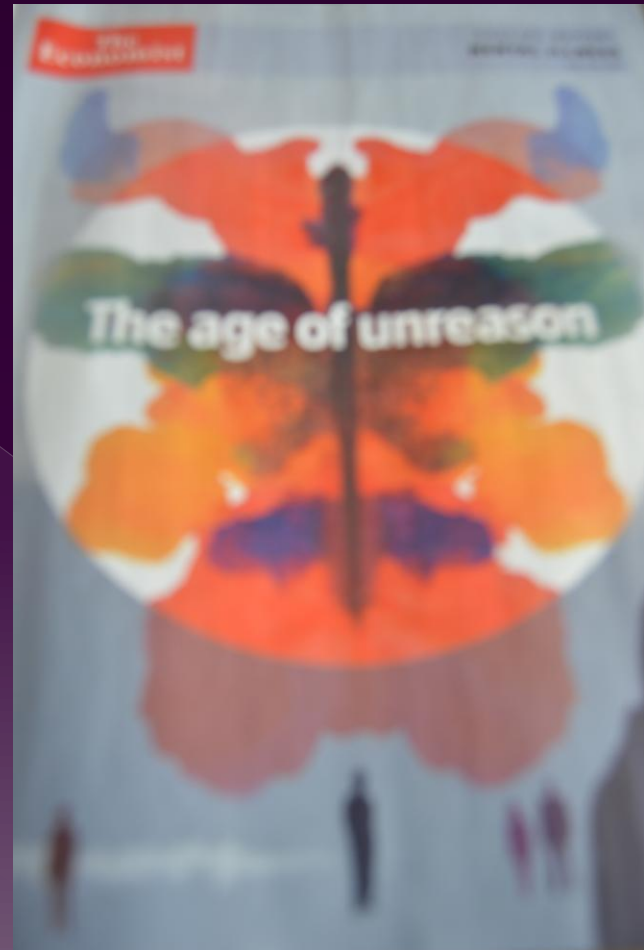
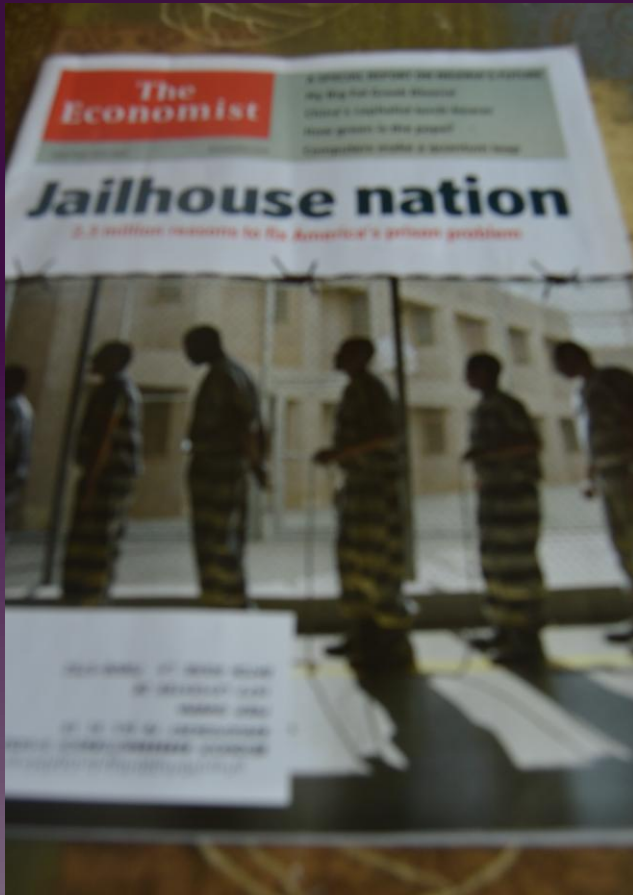
## Service

- **SAVING INDIVIDUALS FROM THEMSELVES!**
- Society (not ‘agency’ as a Lab; neither ‘clinical’ nor ‘non-clinical’)
- Employment/ Voluntary Service (NOT career)

# CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL WORK

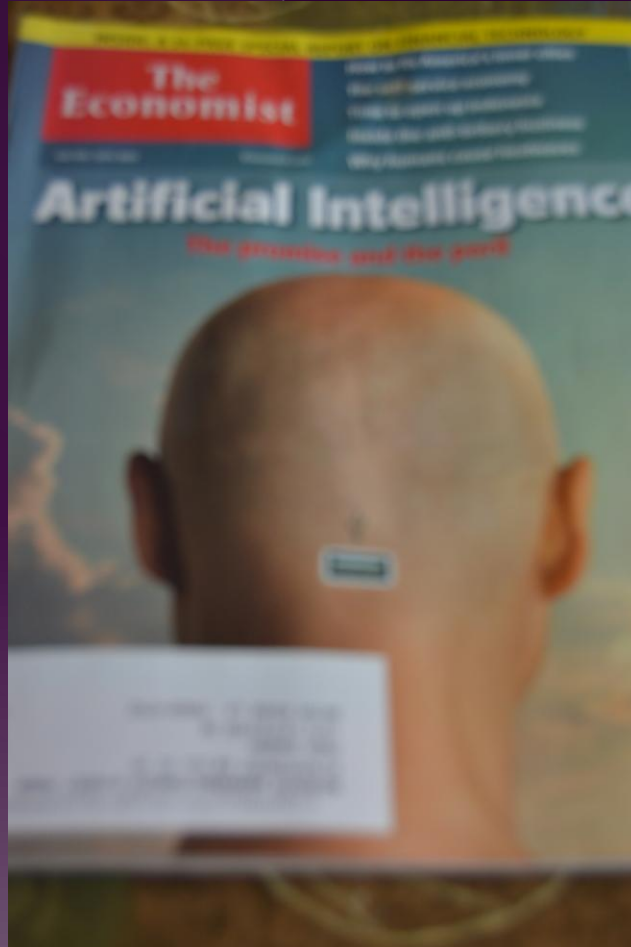
- ◉ Twentieth Century is HISTORY
- ◉ Present Reality & Future Uncertainty
  - Policy –Practice Hiatus
  - Demise of the Welfare State
  - Privatization, Globalization & “Clientization”
  - Changing Academia
  - Downsizing of Schools and Programs
  - Dysfunctional Bureaucracies
  - “A world without work”

# THE AGE OF UNREASON



8/7/2017

# “Artificial Intelligence will destroy human race,” **Stephen Hawking**





# NIHILISM: What Happened to the “Social”

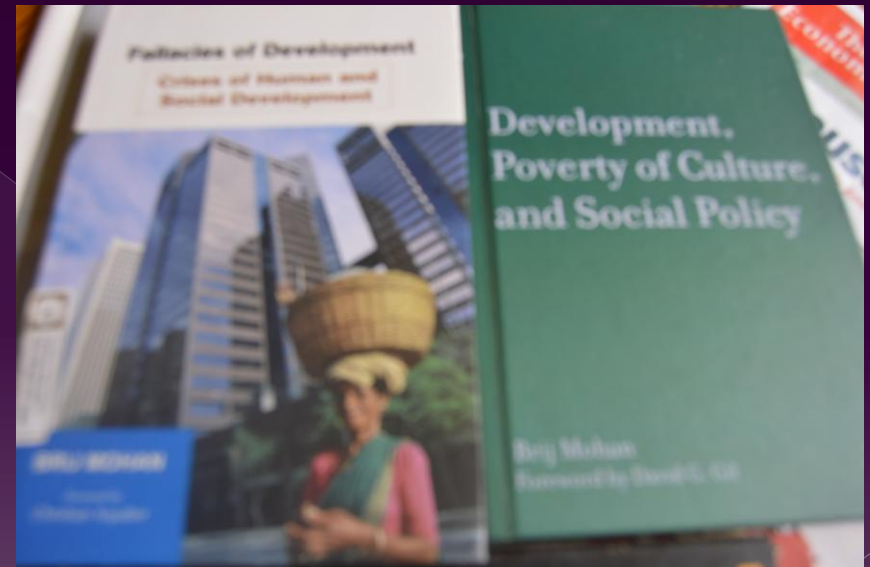
## ??????????????



- Age of UNREASON
- Artificial Intelligence
- JAILHOUSE NATION
- The DEATH of WORK



# From Social Psychiatry(1964-73) to Global Frontiers of Human Development (2015) : My Odyssey, My Life!!!

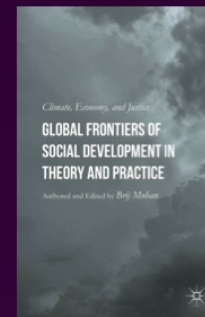


“BECAUSE OF THE LINK BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND MENTAL ILLNESS, THE COMING DECADES ARE LIKELY TO RESEMBLE AN AGE OF UNREASON”

THE ECONOMIST, JULY 11-17, 2015: 3-12

○ [http://www.amazon.com/Global-Frontiers-Social-Development-Practice-ebook/dp/B010O816M6/ref=dp\\_kinw\\_strp\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/Global-Frontiers-Social-Development-Practice-ebook/dp/B010O816M6/ref=dp_kinw_strp_1)

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July 2015

Brij Mohan, Professor and Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work, Louisiana State University, is author, most recently, of *Development, Poverty of Culture, and Social Policy* (2011), *Society and Social Justice* (2012) and *Death of an Elephant* (2013). He also is Founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Comparative Social Welfare and Environment and Social Psychology*.

## Global Frontiers of Social Development in Theory and Practice Climate, Economy, and Justice

Authored and Edited by Brij Mohan

Coming July 2015

"This is a provocative book that applies critical analysis and well-reasoned arguments to the complex phenomena involved in global social development. Professor Mohan is to be commended for his clear focus on climate, economy, and justice as well as his proposal for unifying social welfare, social policy and social work education."

- Susan P. Robbins, Professor, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, USA

"Prof Brij Mohan's book is an attempt to interpret what lies behind various attitudes, conflicts and agonising frustrations. He presents many of new insights into social relations, searching for transformational theory and practice, in human and social developments. This work cogently proves of value to all those interested in exploring the global frontier of social development and allied social sciences."

- M.K. Goudars, Chancellor, East-West University, the Netherlands

"Brij Mohan's masterfully elaborated theory of developmentally explains the variegated nature of counter-development that accounts for unmitigated horrors on the road to progress. Scholars, policy makers, and people, listen to this clarion call to sustain environmental justice and social equality."

- Peter Herrmann, Visiting Professor of Economics, Carusius University, Hungary

### About the book

This volume explodes myths about social welfare and development and offers a critical interface between "comparative social welfare" and "new social development." Brij Mohan has assembled a leading group of scholars and educators to reflect on climate change, economics, and social justice and together unfold the dynamics and dialectics at the variegated nexus of human-social development. In his own chapters, Mohan draws on his life's experience as a dedicated social work pioneer. His findings explore new dimensions of social practice, which enhance its relevance in a globalized culture that breeds social meltdowns, economic inequality, and global injustice.

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Foreword: Robert Kowalski

Prologue: Brij Mohan

Part One

I. Social Practice: Frontiers of Human and Social Development

I. Archeology of Social Practice: Brij Mohan

II. The Cultivation of Eco-Civilization: Brij Mohan

III. The Economic Illusions that Holdback Human Development: Roberts Kowalski

IV. Economic Growth as Social Problem: The Case of Climate Change: Max Koch

V. Dialectics of De-velopment: How Social Science Fails: Shweta Singh

VI. Environmental Justice: Brij Mohan

Part Two

Toward Comparative Social Development

VII. Comparative Social Welfare Revisited: Brij Mohan

VIII. Social Welfare for Transformative Practice: Brij Mohan

IX. Extending Baselines of Shifts in Governance beyond the West: China as a Mirror Testing

Ground of Governance: Sander Chan & Matthias Stepan

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XII. The Madness of Caste: Suryakant Waghmore and Quidia Contractor

XIII. Mission Lost: What Does Evidence Based and Standardization Mean for International

Social Work? Nairuti Jeni

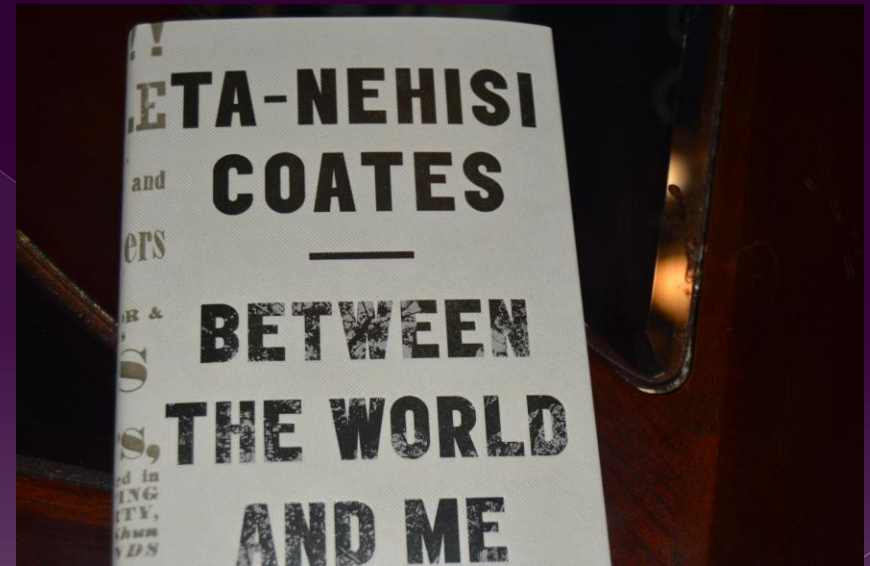
Epilogue: Mendacity of Development

Indices



# Between the World and Me: HOPE and DESPAIR

- RACISM AS A MENTAL DISORDER
- HUMAN PSYCHE & POLITICS & REALITY OF MENTAL ILLNESS
- TERRORISM
  - > Int'l & Domestic
  - > Back Churches on FIRE
  - > Ferguson to Charleston, SC
  - > Chattanooga Shooting



# Two Different World Views

- 1. The duality of LIFE is reflected in SWP
- Our Schizophrenic-professional IDENTITY
- Is hardly constructive
- DIVERSITY should not be divisive



# Re-Formulate SOCIAL PRACTICE

- ◎ SOCIAL PRACTICE: Basic Elements
  - > 1) Unification of facts and values; arts and science; discovery and innovation.
  - > 2) Reorganization of professional culture and climate (Abolish BSW; DSW and strengthen MSW like MD or JD; integrate CSWE and NASW; de-emphasize careerism).
  - > 3) Reconceptualization of curriculum logic.
  - > 4) Re-Definition of a “profession”.

# 3 D's of SOCIAL PRACTICE

- Development
  - Human, Social, & Political Dimensions

Video: The Animals of Chernobyl  
Biologist Timothy Mousseau has been studying the lasting...



- Democracy:
  - Equality
  - Justice
  - Freedom



- Dialectics:
  - Freedom-  
Oppression  
Dynamics

D



# Challenges Ahead

1. All politics is *Global* ( demise of community)
2. The myth of 'Objectivity' (Interests reign!)
3. Post-ideological delusions
4. INANITY of traditional specializations
5. Reinvention of higher education: Purpose, methods, governance, and resources
6. Internationalization of Social Practice (Social Work): Barriers; Limitations; and



# CONCLUSIONS:

- Obsolescence of a method is a call for innovation
- It's **SOCIAL PRACTICE** not **SOCIAL WORK**
- SP involves: Mission, Education, and Services. MES posits:
  - > A. Knowledge-based, Proactive and Progressive
  - > B. Social Problems will be increasingly complex
  - > C. Unification of Science, Values and Practice
  - >

# Social Work *ANGELES!*

- ◎ Are You *'Faithful'*?

- > Or

- > Unfaithful....?

- ◎ You decide!
- ◎

# THANK YOU.....!!!!!!!!!!!!

- ◎ Baton Rouge and LSU
- ◎ Social Work Angeles
- ◎ And the People!!
  
- ◎ and
- ◎ The Retired Social Workers Group

# *Freedom is a responsibility!*

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8/7/2017

# A lecture dedicated to the future of our children



8/7/2017