



SPECIAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

PEDAGOGY AND THEATRE OF THE OPPRESSED JOURNAL

SPECIAL CALL – The pressures and opportunities of this historical moment demand that we devote additional resources to address questions about the role of liberatory educators and theatre makers in supporting movements challenging systemic oppression and demanding an end to anti-Black racist policies and practices. We need as well to examine the way in which PO and TO can and should function during the pandemic and concomitant quarantines. Therefore, *PTO Journal* is going to add two special sections to the Fall, 2020 issue.

The first Section, ***TO and PO during the Pandemic***, will include articles that focus on issues related to the necessity of working in ways that respond to COVID 19. Some of the questions authors might consider include:

- In places where online access is difficult or impossible:
 - How can we adapt TO and PO practices to local circumstances to build compassionate distancing practices that acknowledge the role of sociality for health and safety while also building collective knowledge about COVID and supporting movements for progressive change?
- For those working online or via other remote methodology:
 - Which techniques, games, exercises, pedagogical activities, etc. work online? Which do not? How might jokers and critical educators modify techniques so that they are efficacious online?
 - What issues need to be addressed and what other questions need to be raised to make PO and TO online possible and powerful?
- How can TO/PO activities address the disproportionate impact of COVID and state responses to the virus on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and poor communities? What projects can be shared, what plans have been made, what alliances can be created to assist each other and to best serve students, activists, and oppressed peoples?
- How might critical educators and TO practitioners in all circumstances prepare for a return to less restricted live interaction and to influence the power structures that have traditionally used educational and artistic institutions for hegemony and oppression?

The second Section, ***TO and PO, Anti-Racism and Protest*** might include articles focusing on the role of activist theatre and critical education to support movement building in the face of systemic racism, in the face of police, military, and institutional violence, in the face of mass incarceration as a tool of oppression, in the face of educational structures that distort history and stifle critical thinking. We welcome nuanced and thoughtful debate about policies and actions from an anti-racist and anti-oppression perspective. Questions that might be addressed in submissions include:

- How can an anti-oppressive, anti-racist structure and curriculum be implemented in public education now and in the future?
- What role might PO and TO play in solidarity with abolition as a praxis? (See the PTO Statement of Abolition Solidarity on ptoweb.org.)
- What can we do right now to advocate for changes that abolish state supported oppression of and violence against LGBTQI people and BIPOC.
- What is the most useful way for TO practitioners to participate in anti-racist and other anti-oppression protests and actions?
- What are the responsibilities of theatre-makers, educators, and activists as facilitators of public spaces and communities?

We will consider submissions of any type, length, and format – histories and descriptions, theoretical treatises, critical analyses, roundtable discussions, editorials, reports and recountings, manifestos, photo essays, videos, or any combination of these. We are not asking for safe or comfortable presentations – quite the contrary. We do ask, though, that all submitters be rigorous in examining their own implicit biases and be especially cognizant of inclusive language choices and of the diverse identities and situations of our readers.

The submission procedure for these sections will be the same as for the rest of the Journal. You can find instructions at <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pto/>. To give authors time to develop submissions to these sections, we are pushing the deadline for submissions back to August 1. If you have any questions, feel free to contact editor Mark Weinberg at ptojournaleditor@gmail.com.