

Hervé Talom

**BOOK REVIEW 2:
SOCIAL ANALYSIS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:
HOW FAITH BECOMES ACTION, MARIA CIMPERMAN**



**UR 510-NA/NOS:
URBAN THEOLOGY
SPRING 2023
JOSÉ CARLOS MONTES**

MARCH 8TH, 2023

a) Author's purpose for writing the book, including author's: w Main point and desired impact

This book is about hope and a way of hope for the world. However, before beginning the work of social analysis, consider the following questions:

As you look around at the world, what do you see? What do you hear? What are other people seeing and hearing? What are the unmet needs in the world today? What needs to be done?

Maria presents the essential tools of social analysis. She focuses on four specific case studies:

- 1- Immigration
- 2- Homeless
- 3- Environment
- 4- HIV/AIDS

b) Author's social analysis of the target urban context and its connection to the resulting theological reflection and formation

Maria suggests steps of social analysis.

- Social analysis
- Economic analysis
- Political analysis
- Cultural analysis, Environmental analysis, religious analysis.

c) Author's urban theological reflection and formation, including biblical themes & principles and theological framework (the focus of the paper)

The primary aim of good analysis is to discover the why of the what—the causes of the occurrences that we have described. —Peter Henriot, "Social Discernment and the Pastoral Circle"

d) Author's theological implementation approach and practice as it correlates to the stated urban theological reflection and formation

Three significant gaps include access to resources, power, and opportunities. Essential resources include significant areas of food, water, and shelter. These are primary resources for survival—not thriving but just surviving.

Maria highlights that Flexibility is also needed in planning action, as action and implementation require a continual willingness to adapt to changing situations and the signs of the times.

Maria introduced 21 worksheets to facilitate the integration and implementation of social transformation.

WORKSHEET #1: EXPERIENCE—CHOOSING A TOPIC

Choose a topic. Make use of narratives and data. Limit the topic. Give reasons for the choice. Name their experience. See who else / what additional information is needed at the discussion table.

WORKSHEET #2: THE FIVE WHYS OF EXPERIENCE

1. When I reflect on (the situation of) _____, I feel (write down the emotion) _____.
2. Why do I feel this way?

3. And why does that (answer to #2) make me feel this way?
4. And why does that (answer of #2) make me feel this way?
5. And why does that (answer to #4) make me feel this way?
6. And why does that (answer to #5) make me feel this way?

WORKSHEET #3: WHO ELSE IS NEEDED AT THE TABLE?

1. Whose perspective is missing? 2. Whose perspective would add information? 3. What expertise do you feel you still need for this project? 4. Whose experience is it necessary to hear? 5. Keep a journal or log of endless and unanswered questions and other needed information. 6. Pray for all involved in this issue. Ask for the grace of openness to know where you are called to work for these next weeks.

WORKSHEET #4: BEGINNING SOCIAL ANALYSIS WITH THE PASTORAL SPIRAL

1. What is the history of this situation? Was there a time without this injustice? 2. When did it begin? Where did this begin? Who was involved? 3. What structures were changed or used for this injustice to grow or flourish? 4. Was a bias at work making this injustice possible? In light of the history of the situation, what bias was at work? 5. Consider each of the biases of education, race, gender, social status/class, citizenship, income, and geography. What biases might you have concerning this issue? 6. What presumptions were or are being made about this issue? 7. Are there some blind spots in our nation on this issue? (Note that bias is usually a conscious process. Blind spots are unconscious; the holder is unaware of them.)

WORKSHEET #5: VALUES

WORKSHEET #6: WHO IS INVOLVED? HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED?

WORKSHEET #7: CHARTING AND ORGANIZING

WORKSHEET #8: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET #9: POLITICAL ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET #10: CULTURAL ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET #11: ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET #12: RELIGIOUS ANALYSIS—GENERAL

WORKSHEET #13: INSTITUTIONAL RELIGIOUS ANALYSIS

WORKSHEET #14: RELIGIOUS ANALYSIS—SCRIPTURE AND THEOLOGICAL RESOURCE GATHERING

WORKSHEET #15: UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES

WORKSHEET #16: FAITH REFLECTION

WORKSHEET #16C: COMMUNITY FAITH REFLECTION

WORKSHEET #17: PLANNING FOR ACTION.

WORKSHEET #18: SETTING PRIORITIES

WORKSHEET #19: TIMELINE

WORKSHEET #20: ACTION PLANS—GUIDING, CREATING, AND ORGANIZING

WORKSHEET #21: CREATE MODELS, EXPERIMENT, AND TURN THE PLAN INTO ACTION

For the implementation, I will focus on the question below for further analysis before implementation.

Questions for environmental analysis include, but are not limited to, the following:

How is the environment impacted (by the issue)?

How does the environment impact the issue? How is the health of the Earth community (all living creatures) impacted? What is flourishing? What is languishing or dying? What is burdened? What is the state of elements related to air? Water? Land? What responsibility for the environment does each actor have? How is that responsibility being fulfilled? How is beauty being impacted by

As a Christian leader maria I will focus on the religious action, creation, and organizing questions provided by Maria.

Religious Action:

Guiding questions:

- What role does religion play in your short-term plan?
- In your long-term plan?
- How is religion connected to the systemic change you seek to bring about?
- What faith values need to impact religious structures?
- Is there a particular form of action that flows from your group (e.g., a Franciscan- or Jesuit-run parish, an educational ministry, a healing ministry).

Creating questions

- What kind of system would you create if there were a blank slate for religious factors?
- How would you change the current religious structures to achieve a vision that more closely reflects your faith values?

Organizing questions

- Who is needed for this group?
- What skills are needed?
- Who has expertise? What are actors still needed?

Biography:

Cimperman, Maria. Social Analysis for the 21st Century. Orbis Books. Kindle Edition.