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## Editors' Introduction to the 7th Volume of the PTO Journal


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### Cover Page Footnote

Dr. Aaron Moore Ellis teaches theater and performance at Valencia College and at Pace University, serves on the Board of the National Queer Theater, and is part of the production team at Descolonizarte TEATRO. Their research focuses on intersections of embodiment and radical ethics. Contact email: aaronmooreellis@gmail.com. Patricia Freitas dos Santos is a Doctoral Candidate in the College of Philosophy, Letters, and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, with research focused on the Fairs of Opinion directed by Augusto Boal (1968-1977). Contact email: pfreitassantos@yahoo.com.br.



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## **Publishers, Writers, and Artists: We Are All Workers!**

Aaron Moore Ellis<sup>1</sup>

Patricia Freitas dos Santos<sup>2</sup>

*The dominant ideas in a society are the ideas of the dominant classes, but where do these ideas penetrate? Through the sovereign aesthetic channels of Word, Image and Sound, the country estate of the oppressors! It is also in these domains that we must engage ourselves in social and political struggles towards societies without oppressors and oppressed. A new world is possible: we have to invent it!*

Augusto Boal<sup>3</sup>

It is with great emotion and excitement that we publish PTO Journal Volume 7. As new Co-Editors of PTO Journal, we are proud to take up the mantle where Mark Weinberg left off; and we also faced our share of challenges as we took on this difficult and important task. We are grateful to the PTO Board, including former Editor, Mark Weinberg; PTO Journal Review Editor, Joschka Köck; and the PTO Journal Action Group, based in and outside the U.S., for supporting our vision for the journal, including moving toward publication in languages other than English. PTO Journal Vol. 7 is the first dual language PTO Journal

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<sup>3</sup> BOAL, Augusto. *A Estética do Oprimido*. Rio de Janeiro: Garamond, 2009, p. 15. Translated by Patricia Freitas dos Santos.

publication, with articles written in Portuguese and English published here in their original language, as well as translations into English and in Portuguese, respectively. The PTO Journal serves an important role in the PTO, and in global public and academic communities, by offering opportunities for publishing, and by sharing important work across disciplines and across fields of political engagement.

As we move forward, we see ourselves as Workers in the field of discourse, in a continuous and persistent effort to use language and communication as significant tools for social justice. As such, we see our work as Editors, above all, as a programmatic task, in which discourse is seen as a space to analyze and propose political programs; to articulate liberatory ideas and practices; and connect past, present, and future. This issue took form during the 100th anniversary of the birth of Paulo Freire and the 90th anniversary of the birth of Augusto Boal. These figures stand out as authors, theorists, and practitioners, whose legacies continue to inspire and encourage generations of thinkers and doers. We also know that their legacies are also the legacies of the social, political, and artistic movements and freedom fighters that came before, during, and after their work, across the globe; and that the work of liberationist pedagogy and theater cannot be distilled to single figures. We celebrate Boal and Freire as a celebration of all those who struggle for liberation in the past, present, and future. By celebrating their legacies, we hope to foreground the pressing political, social, and aesthetic challenges that these legacies call us to confront.

As we worked on editing this volume, we witnessed popular uprisings of women, girls, and others, in Iran, who still struggle under the banner “Women, Life, Freedom.” We publish this volume at the one-year anniversary of the most recent revolutionary movement in Iran. We witnessed Lula’s victory in the Brazilian Presidential Election of 2022, as well as a potential coup encouraged by then-President, Jair Bolsonaro. We witnessed, among other acts of aggression, Israeli incursions into Al Aqsa Mosque and military invasion of Jenin Refugee Camp. We witnessed an attempted insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. We also continue to witness the effects of the Climate Catastrophe in the form of wildfires, floods, and more, all over the world. We know that these are dire times, and yet we also know that we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors,

who dealt with unspeakable odds themselves, and we work together, struggle together, resist together, and create beautiful community through solidarity across lines that seek to divide us: race, class, gender, ethnicity, language, nationality, religion, and more.

Knowing that the pen is one of the most valuable weapons against oppression, we aim to challenge capitalist methodologies that encourage cultural and social inequality; the mechanical production and commodification of knowledge; and hierarchies in the production of knowledge, performance practice, pedagogy, and yes - academic, peer-reviewed publication. PTO Journals shed light on diverse voices, topics, and practices from around the world, now in English *and* in Portuguese. This is a strong step toward a more active collaboration between PTO communities in the U.S and in Latin America.

We celebrate, and invite you to participate, in contributing to our journal's efforts to produce alternative, community-based, epistemologies and practices. We encourage contributions in all forms of writing and multimedia for our annual Journal publication, including: non-academic writing; reports on practices, events, projects, performances, etc.; book reviews; as well as commentary, provocations, ideas and reflections, in our new Continuing the Conversation section.

At last, we want to express our gratitude to the members of the PTO Journal Action Group: Guaraí Pereira Machado, Jonathan Renan Souza, Rebecca Struch, Tyler Slamkowski, and Chetna Mehrotra; to our team of reviewers; Kelly Howe and Maria Teresa Schaedler-Luera, who translated some of the essays; the whole PTO board for giving us so much support in this challenging but wonderful journey as the new PTO Journal Editors; the authors who contributed to this volume; participants in our Spotlight Sessions; and everyone struggling for a better tomorrow. Thank you!