Recovering Jane Addams: Ethics, Social Work, Social Justice and Peace

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Logic of presentation

1. Who is Jane Addams
2. Jane Addams & Social Work
3. Philosophy – Social Justice/Peace
4. Peace movements & SW
5. My Story
6. Positive Peace & Peaceweaving
Jane Addams’s Funeral
Steps of Hull House

1860 - 1935
Nobel Peace Prize
1931

Founder
Rockford Female Seminary

• Valedictorian
• Editor Newspaper
• President Debate Club
• President of Class
Leader Settlement Movement

1880s – 1920s

Problems of
Industrialization & Urbanization

Poverty
Health – Sanitation
Health – Industrial accidents

Education

Inspired by trip to England’s Toynbee Hall

Top Down model of reform
Hull House (Chicago)

Immigrant Community Lab – conflict resolution

Bottoms up model of reform

Hull House – Settlement Workers gathering 1920
Hull House Activities

drama classes,
day care programs,
coffee house/theater,
art and labor museum,
Sunday concerts,
choir,
over 25 clubs,
meeting rooms for organized labor,
cooperative apartments for young women
College Extension courses
Voter Registration
Speaker series....

first in Chicago to establish a public
bath,
gymnasium,
kitchen,
playground,
swimming pool.
“The Settlement, then is an experimental effort to aid in the solution of the social and industrial problems which are engendered by modern conditions of life in a great city.” (Addams, 1910, p. 125)
Active social reform

- Street Cleaning/garbage collection
- Water/Sewer
- Healthier workplace

- Child labor laws
- Playgrounds
- Juvenile Courts
Noted Speaker - Author

Jane Addams
My Friend, Julia Lathrop
HULL-HOUSE MAPS AND PAPERS
by the RESIDENTS OF HULL-HOUSE
A New Conscience and an Ancient Evil
The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets
Women at the Hague
The International Congress of Women and Its Results
Newer Ideals of Peace
The Long Road of Women's Memory
Forty Years at Hull-House
Social Ethics
Peace and Bread in Time of War
The Permanent Peace
Introduction by Harriet Hyman Alcorn
Introduction by Charles P. McVey
Introduction by Alan S. Carroll and Clinton E. Timm
1907
She nominated Progressive party presidential candidate.

Wilson nominated her for Nobel prize.

She and Hoover worked on post WWI humanitarian efforts.
Founder - Organizer

Civil Rights

NAACP
FORWARD

Civil Liberties

ACLU
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
Founder Classical American Pragmatism

John Dewey
George Herbert Mead
William James
W. E. B. Du Bois
Jane Addams

Feminist Pragmatism
Public Philosopher

Recover - Woman of Ideas
Hull House

Ideas emerged from
This feminine experience
Feminist Pragmatism

Immigrant Community
Labor/management disputes
Lab – conflict resolution

Democracy /ethics/peace
1915 Women’s Peace Conference   The Hague
Speech Carnegie Hall
Recovering Jane Addams

1889
Celebrated

1915
Demeaned
Traitor
Communist
Silly old woman

1935
DOJ Surveillance

Peace Activist
Humanitarian

Philosophy
Peace
Sociology
Public Administration
Addams Ethics

1. Social Claim
2. Tension between individual and social claims
3. Perplexity
4. Problem of rigid moralisms
5. Need sympathetic understanding
6. Critical Optimism
7. Evolutionary ethics – each generation new set of ethical challenges

1902
Clients -- Confusion --- Perplexity

Moving beyond rigid (moral) belief systems

Change
Jane Addams & Social Work
“Check Evils of Overlapping Relief”

“Notorious Professional Beggars”

Bring business efficiency... practice of local relief
Friendly Visitor

Focus on Individuals and Families

Mary Richmond
Maternalism

Moral Authority of Mother

Abolition
Prohibition
Women’s clubs
Women’s Sphere

Claim policy areas that affected women and children
Settlement Movement
Part of Maternalist tradition

Reaction to
COS orientation
• Sole Focus Social Work
• Social Work Education
• Focus on Case Work
• Professionalization of SW
• Not a reformer (against Suffrage)

• Non-profit (executive director)
• Focus on Social Reform
• Tradition of activism
• Focus on Peace
Philosophy – Social Justice/Peace
Paternalism

Man of integrity

Duty
Moral Absolutism
Social Claim
Municipal Housekeeping

City as Citadel

Valued soldiers
Devalued Children

Criticized outmoded model of city governance

Argued in favor of a more caring model of city government.

Women’s experience

Take women’s skills into a new sphere

Embrace a social claim

Women’s experience
Clean Streets
Clean Water
Safe Meat/Food
Safe Clothing
Care for children
Literature
Civic Housekeeping

1907

“Survival of Militarism in City Government” (chapter 1)

“Failure to Utilize Immigrants in City Government

“Utilization of Women in City Government”

Social claim linked to Women’s Experience

Natural Leader of Women’s Peace Movement
“Formerly it was believed that poverty was synonymous with vice and laziness, and that the prosperous man was the righteous man, charity was administered harshly with a good conscience for the charitable agent really blamed the individual for his poverty”

(Addams, 1902, p. 11)
Friendly visitor moves beyond narrow Family/private sphere.

Social Justice – move outside private sphere

Thrift, cleanliness, avoid vices, Avoid Laziness, save.
Charity Worker

- Tension between individual and social
- Perplexity
- Problem of rigid moralisms
- Need sympathetic understanding
- Evolutionary ethics – each generation new set of ethical challenges
Peace Movements (1890s – WWI)

Establish International Law and Order
Peace Good for Business

Elite -- Social conservative
National political Business leaders

Legal framework for peaceful settlement of disputes

Hague Peace Conferences
(1899-1907)
Women’ Peace Movement

• Maternalist
• Preserving the Social Fabric

Leader of Both
Maternal Instinct

• Women have an instinctive and rational opposition to war
• Women & Children suffer but not at table
• Need increase participation of women in politics.
• Linked to Suffrage Movement

Woman’s Peace Party established
– Jane Addams Leader

Aug. 1914

Carrie Chapman Catt

Women’s Peace March
International Peace Congress of Women at the Hague
April 1915
April 1915

Social Claim

International Peace Congress of Women at the Hague
Begin peace negotiations immediately
Organization “Society of Nations”
Acknowledge women’s suffering during war
Give women right to vote
Women participation in Peace Processes
Time had come when “some of us who deal with the social fabric” ... Engage international relations..

Lilian Wald
Preserving the Social Fabric

- Led by Social Workers
- Threat of war to domestic social programs
- Importance of conservation of society
- SW expertise at Social Relations - expanded to International Relations

Lillian Wald & Jane Addams

Henry Street Settlement
Close knit group of social work leaders ...launch a national movement and proclaim a bolder program than that of the old peace societies, a program that would challenge commercialism and commercial exploitation, denounce armaments, and “breathe the spirit of democracy.”

Marchand 227
During WWI
US Food Administration

Addams traveled across US

American Relief Administration

4 million tons of supplies
23 countries

Critical Optimism
Things can be bettered

Be Patriotic
sign your country’s pledge to save the food

Herbert Hoover
International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace

Becomes

UN Resolution 1325
on Women, Peace and Security

Increased participation of women in decision making related to, prevention, management and resolution of armed combat.
Recovering Jane Addams

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1935

DOJ Surveillance
Pragmatism/
Public Administration

Expeditionary mindset/
Peacekeeping
Nobel Peace Prize
1931

What was her idea Of Peace?

Could it be applied To Peacekeeping?
Addams – Peaceweaving
“Peace Research: Just the Study of War”*

Negative Definition of Peace

Problems with Negative Definition

1. Shifts focus from peace to violence.
2. Focuses on a short run end state.
3. Divorced from the dynamics of relationships.
4. Shifts attention away from underlying causes of violent conflict.
Positive Peace

• Nonviolent and creative conflict transformation.
• Uneven long run focus.
• The fabric of the kind of society to which we aspire.
• Integrity, wholeness and well-being that arise from justice.
• Humanity toward others.
• Openness to a widely conceived social claim.
PeaceWeaving

1. Relationships

Feminine sensibility
2. Avoid Rigid Moralisms

Friend/enemy

good/evil

Courage
3. Sympathetic Understanding

How build relationship
4. Community of Inquiry

1. Practical Problems
2. Scientific Attitude
3. Participatory Democracy
5. Lateral Progress

Duty toward the less fortunate – Social claim
PeaceWeaving

– building the fabric of peace by emphasizing relationships. These positive relationships are built by working on practical problems, engaging people widely with sympathetic understanding while recognizing that progress is measure by the welfare of the vulnerable. (Shields & Soeters, 2015)
True *peace* is not merely the absence of tension: It is the *presence of justice*

Without *justice* there can be no *peace*.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Both peace and justice are a process -- Jane Addams offers insights into these processes
Embrace Heritage

- Challenge of Social Ethics in 21st Century
- Recover idea of positive peace
- Integrate “positive peace” into practice – logical extension of social justice
Selected Bibliography


