

# The Theory of Being

*Practices for Transforming Self and Communities across Difference*

**Edited by Sherry K. Watt, Duhita Mahatmya, Milad Mohebbi, and Charles R. Martin-Stanley II**

**Foreword by Parker J. Palmer**

“The dialogue process described in this book is rooted in real-life experience and sound theory, tested and proven in practice, and illustrated with compelling stories. It’s a process that works for individuals and groups, one that can help us find our way through the complex, conflicted, and high-stakes era in which we live and emerge more unified on the other side.

If you have been holding the question of how to conduct ‘constructive dialogue around the issues that drive us apart, both individually and collectively,’ now you are also holding a treasure trove of answers in your hands. We have much to learn from Sherry K. Watt and her colleagues, and much to learn from the great diversity of folks with whom we can walk while never losing sight of our shared ‘human being.’”—From the Foreword by **PARKER J. PALMER**, Founder and Senior Partner Emeritus of the Center of Courage and Renewal

“An important and innovative book that should be part of personal libraries, especially for those seeking new ways to work across difference via conversations hoping for self and institutional/community transformation. The ‘Theory of Being’ approach is oriented to a long-term process and practice design rather than the outcome-based models of more traditional dialogue efforts. *The Theory of Being* makes a significant contribution to the practice addressing difficult dialogue work.”—**NANCY “RUSTY” BARCELÓ**, Equity and Diversity Consultant; former President of Northern New Mexico College

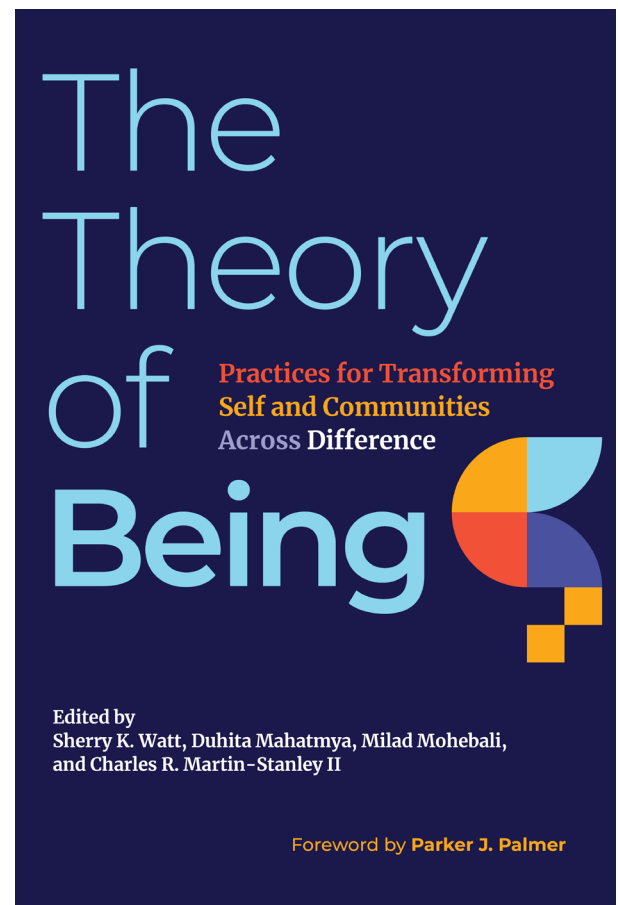
This book presents a state of the art — robust and adaptable process, the Theory of Being, that offers strategies for working across difference, and for embarking on constructive dialogue around the issues that drive us apart, both individually and collectively. Whether around racial, gender, and/or social class inequity, core beliefs, uses of power or other points of cultural conflict, this book offers a research-validated approach, developed and refined over twenty years, to engage in difficult dialogues.

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