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Experiencing Culture

personal experience with cultural perspective

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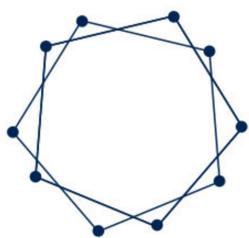
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Experiencing Culture

Personal experience with Cultural Perspective

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1. Psyche *in* cultural environments

- During the second half of 20th century, Socio-cultural approaches deeply changed the landscape of psychology
- *Social Representation Theory* (Moscovici, 1961; Jovchelovitch, 2007)
- *Activity Theory* (Leontiev, 1981; Rubinstein, 1973)
- *Social Constructivism* (Maturana & Varela, 1979; Vygotsky, 1978)

2. Persons *by* culture

- In order to avoid solipsism and rationalism, social communalities have been underscored
- But does cultural tools only *mediate* experience? Is there room for personal expressions?
- How could we recover personal, unique experiences as expressions of live, unfolding culture?

3. Personal Culture & Life-world

Personal Culture (Valsiner, 2007)

- Culture as semiotic tools allowing a meaningful organization of past, present and future experience
- Persons do not belong to culture; nor culture belong to person
- Rather, Culture belongs to the relating of particular persons and their environments [*Umwelt*]

Life-world [*Lebenswelt*] (Schütz, 1967)

- Not one, but many multi-layered social worlds
- Shared culture articulated through personal and communitarian stories and activities
- Culture as my/our own culture, based in the continuous flow of everyday life

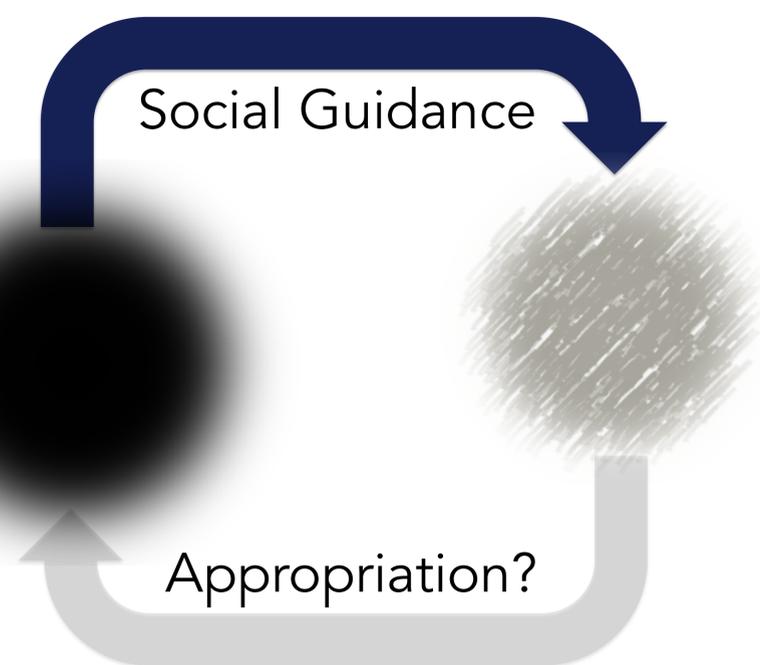


Fig 1. Person <> Culture: Beyond cultural mediation?

4. Discussion

- Has personal experiencing been absent of the main socio-cultural discussion?
- How could methodological thinking be complemented by a 'personal culture' approach?
- Does the notion of Life-world properly address power relations and social unrest periods?