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Multiculturalism

Day 2



Rules for engaging in dialogue

- ▶ Everything you share within the context of this conversation is confidential, honored and respected.
- ▶ Always use “I” statements.
- ▶ Avoid critiquing the video or others' experiences; focus on your own experiences and feelings.
- ▶ Be honest and willing to share.
- ▶ Listen with curiosity.
- ▶ Be willing to learn and change.
- ▶ Resist the desire to interrupt.
- ▶ Build on others' stories when sharing in the larger group (make a connection with your own story or ask a follow up question).
- ▶ Suspend judgment.
- ▶ Be open to the kernel of wisdom in each person's story.



Objectives

- ▶ Understanding different worldviews
- ▶ Identify different Verbal and Non-verbal communication styles

Worldview

- ▶ An individual's or society's worldview is their basic cognitive perspective on the world.
- ▶ It comprises the totality of the individual's or society's knowledge and point of view, including norms, ethics, and morality.
- ▶ A worldview relates to ethical reasoning and therefore operates at a conscious level and is open to dialogue, as opposed to deep seated, unconscious assumptions.
- ▶ However, core worldview beliefs are often deeply rooted, so we seldom reflect on them. It is usually only in moments of conflict or dissonance that we consider them.
- ▶ The term "worldview" comes from the German, and the concept in German is basic to German philosophy and epistemology. In the English-speaking world, "worldview" has different definitions in different disciplines.

World view

Comparing Individualism with Collectivism

| Individualism—Focus on... | Collectivism—Focus on... |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Independence | Interdependence |
| Individual achievement | Group harmony |
| Self-direction | Group-direction |
| Universal values (rules, policies, laws) | Social obligation |
| Categories/categorical thinking | Relationship/relational thinking |
| Part to whole learning | Whole to part learning |
| Acting ON the environment | Adapting To the environment |
| Gesellschaft | Gemeinschaft |

EVERYTHING COVERED BUT HER EYES, WHAT A CRUEL MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE!



NOTHING COVERED BUT HER EYES, WHAT A CRUEL MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE!



EVANS



Verbal Communication Styles Activity--Background

Verbal Communication Styles, like our other cultural responses to the real world, relate to the socio-economic context of our lives.

INDIRECT— *Inclusive/communal*

- ▶ Indirect communicators take a collective approach to solving problems.
- ▶ They encourage participation from all members of the group.
- ▶ They are concerned with the feelings of all members of the group.
- ▶ Indirect communicators seek harmony. If this cannot be achieved in the
- ▶ large group or with senior participants, they work out solutions in subgroups and take these solutions back to the larger group for a decision.

ANECDOTAL— *Personal*

- ▶ Anecdotal communicators see themselves as contributors to a group in which there is no one leader.
- ▶ They tend to want to tell their own stories by way of contributing to solving the problem.
- ▶ Anecdotal communicators believe that decisions should be arrived at through negotiation and compromise or when, when this fails, one person takes a lead and prioritizes the information that the group has brought to the table.

DIRECT— *Impersonal/linear*

- ▶ Direct communicators define the problem. Then they begin the process of resolving the problem.
- ▶ Direct communicators preside over and dominate the group discussion, keeping members of the group “on track” as they brainstorm solutions.
- ▶ As time runs out, direct communicators tend to take control and make a decision(s) on behalf of the group.



Non-Verbal Communication Styles

- Eye Contact

 - Social Distance

 - Touching

- Volume of voice

 - Smell

COUNTER HEGEMONY

Although there is a strong hegemonic overtone in society, there are also many motions being taken to counteract the current cultural state. Many of these are taking place in the school systems in order to begin to reverse the future state of the socioeconomic system. It is difficult to monumentally reverse the pull of hegemony, but slowly but surely progress is being made.

Movement Away from Cultural Classifications
Many schools are promoting a more open minded perspective, attempting to remove racism, sexism and homophobic tendencies.

Educulturalism
Educulturalism allows students to develop their own cultural identities and skills in a positive and non-judgmental atmosphere.

Alternate Family Structure

The "normal" American family may not be today what it was even ten years ago. The system, however generally treats families in the same way as it did. According to Single Parent Magazine, a whole 21% of children in the United States are currently being raised by single parents. That is equivalent to 21.2 million children. In order to counteract the hegemonic tendencies, the system must be sensitive to all domestic possibilities.



INCONSISTENCY

A major hegemonic aspect is the fact that everyone is different, whether it be in a classroom or any other situation in life. Schools view this as a problem, so they track each individual and create points that ever person must reach. Not everyone is the same, but everyone should have the same opportunities.

Mechanisms of Power

Individualization
Regulation
Standardization
Surveillance
Totalization

AVAILABILITY

Like the individuals of an area, the areas themselves have their many differences. It is difficult to reach every area with the same consistency. A remote area may not necessarily have the same access to materials and technologies as an easy to reach one. Aspects such as internet use is not entirely global because it is not available to everyone.

Mechanisms of Power

Distribution
Exclusion

CLASSIFICATION

Socioeconomic differences drive a huge portion of hegemony in schools and society itself. A family with a low income has no way to compete with a well off family for societal portrayal. Different races are also treated in drastically different ways. Individuals are put into social groups from which it is nearly impossible to escape.

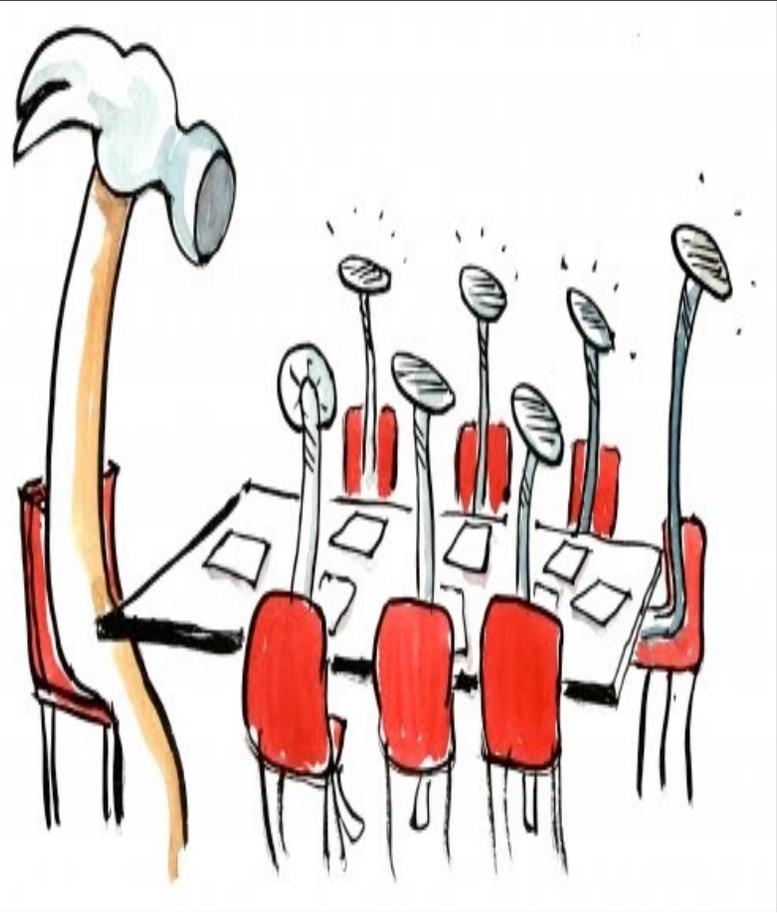
Mechanisms of Power

Classification
Categorization

HEGEMONY

The hegemonic process is being utilized in many aspects of society in order to sustain the cultural hierarchy placed over the population. Economic inequalities, distributional inconsistencies, and typical cultural classifications allow for these hegemonic ideologies to continue.

Standardization



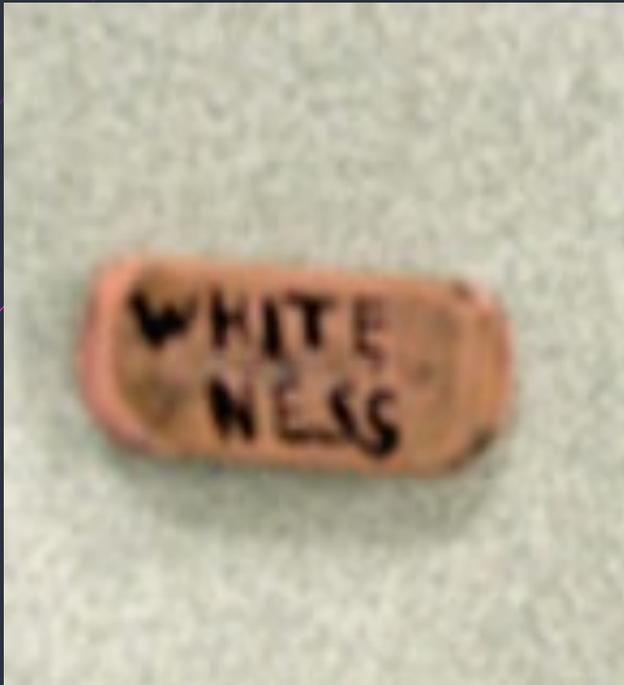
SURVEILLANCE

Which photo is the School?



How does school structure contribute to the social control of students in schools?





- ▶ **Whiteness in the Classroom Erases Diversity**



Questions about the field?

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