

The "Territory" of the Other

HEGEL and EXPRESSIVISM

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Writing is hard

- <http://kristincashore.blogspot.ca/2012/12/pictures-of-book-being-made.html>

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THE QUESTION

What do we REALLY mean when we say that EXPRESSIVISM is an "EXPRESSION OF THE SELF?"

What do we REALLY mean when we say "the SELF?"

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THE PLAN

We will:

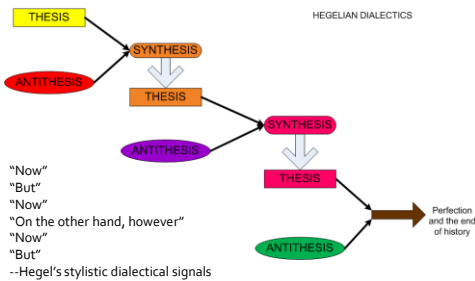
- LINK Hegel's model of SUBJECTIVITY to his theory of ART by exploring the following:
 - DIALECTICS
 - THE INDIVIDUAL VS THE SUBJECT
 - SELF/OTHER, MASTER/SLAVE DIALECTIC
 - "WORK"

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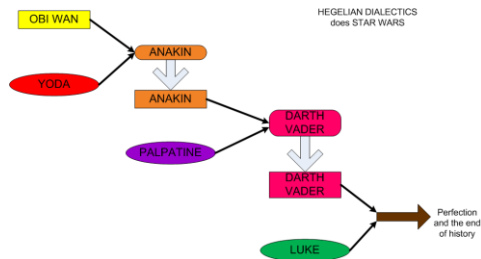
HEGELIAN DIALECTICS



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Hegel: Aristotle's Grandchild, Plato's Great-nephew once removed

- Hegelian Dialectics are
 - PROGRESSIVIST
 - IDEALIST
 - posit a state of perfection toward which history moves
 - PHENOMENOLOGICAL
 - posit a method of arriving at absolute essences through an analysis of lived and living experience

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KNOWING THE SELF

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO IMAGES?



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SPIRIT

SPIRIT:

- The human's ability to REFLECT on its OWN EXISTENCE

"...precisely because he *knows* he is an animal [the human being] ceases to be an animal and attains knowledge of himself as Spirit" (554/562).

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HOW DOES ONE KNOW THE SELF?



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CONSCIOUSNESS and ART



QUESTIONS:

HOW does one REFLECT on one's OWN EXISTENCE?

WHERE does consciousness come from?

By WHAT MECHANISM is it produced?

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CONSCIOUSNESS and ART

ANSWER:

- SUBJECTIVITY: SELF/OTHER
- ART: SELF/WORK



HOW DOES ONE KNOW THE SELF?



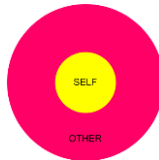
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DIALECTIC SELF: SELF/OTHER

"Self-consciousness exists in and for itself when, and by the fact that, it so exists for another; that is, it exists only in being acknowledged" (541/549).

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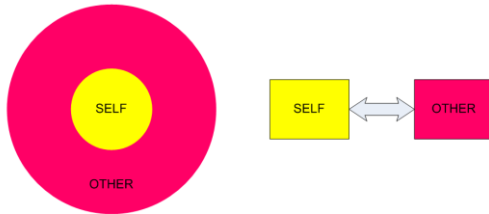
BY KNOWING THE NOT-SELF



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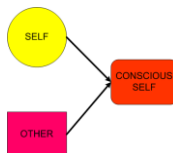
INTERCONSTITUTIVE SUBJECTIVITY

Hegel: The Self determined by the Other



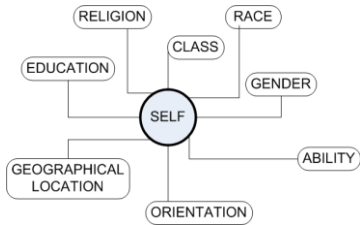
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THE DIALECTICAL SELF



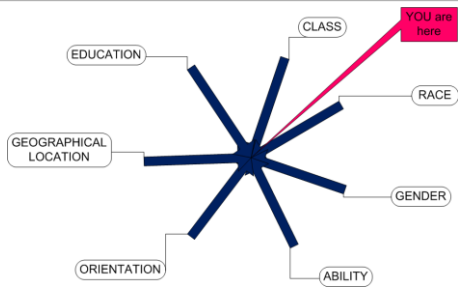
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THE HUMANIST INDIVIDUAL



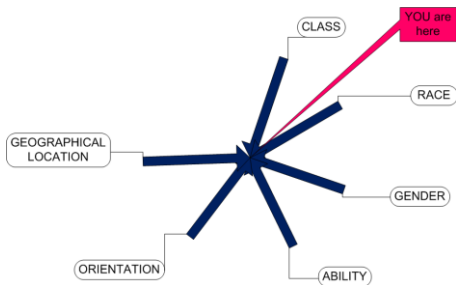
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



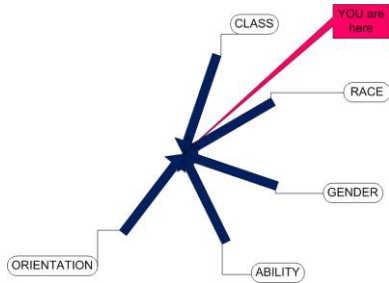
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



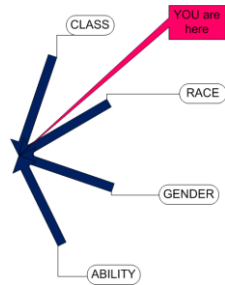
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



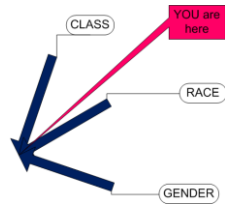
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



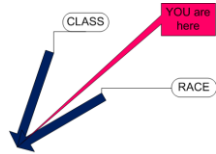
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



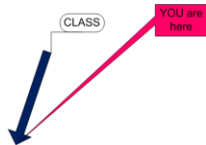
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



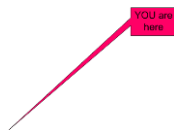
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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



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CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT



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SOCIAL CONTEXT and the CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT

- The CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT does not pre-exist the forces of society that constitute him or her.
- The CONSTRUCTIVIST SUBJECT is always constituted "in the territory of the Other."

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INDIVIDUAL vs SUBJECT

INDIVIDUAL

- The self construed as an AUTONOMOUS ENTITY that pre-exists social relations.
- I am myself alone.

SUBJECT

- The self construed as a DYNAMIC RELATION between Self and Other.
- I am because you are.

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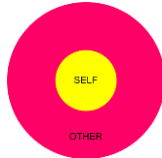
MASTER/SLAVE DIALECTIC



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PARADOX OF DIALECTICAL SELFHOOD

- the SELF is both MADE and LOST in the dialectical relation:
- If I can only know ME in reference to the OTHER, I am
 - DEPENDENT on the OTHER
 - NOT SEPARATE or INDIVIDUAL
- BAKHTIN would say:
 - The SELF is constituted IN THE TERRITORY of the OTHER.



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DEATH AND THE INDIVIDUAL

How does the "subject" become "an individual?" (I am myself alone.)

"[The subject's] essential being is present to it in the form of the "Other," [and therefore] it must rid itself of its self-externality" (543/551).

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HIDING THE BODY

To see itself as an AUTONOMOUS "I" the self must DISAVOW its DEPENDENCE on the Other.

SELF/OTHER →
SELF/OTHER

The other is "UNDER ERASURE."

"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!"



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OTHERING: Putting "Under Erasure"

- DAY/NIGHT → ▪ DAY/NIGHT
- INSIDE/OUTSIDE → ▪ INSIDE/OUTSIDE
- UP/DOWN → ▪ UP/DOWN
- WHITE/BLACK → ▪ WHITE/BLACK
- SUPERIOR/INFERIOR → ▪ SUPERIOR/INFERIOR
- GOOD/EVIL → ▪ GOOD/EVIL

- SELF/OTHER → ▪ SELF/OTHER

EFFECT: CENTERING The "Measuring Stick"

EG. Apartheid South Africa

- White
- Black
- Coloured

EG: Patriarchy

- "Man" = men and women

One term becomes the measure against which all others are defined. One is "centered" and the rest are "Othered."

CASE: AIDS INSURANCE

- 1980's: the medical "body model" used to study AIDS/HIV was male.
- Because of this definitional "measuring stick" that "others" women
 - Women BY DEFINITION did not get AIDS.
- Because women BY DEFINITION did not get AIDS
 - Women could not get insurance coverage;
 - Women often received improper or erroneous treatments that worsened rather than improved their medical condition.

MASTER/SLAVE DIALECTIC

- The INDIVIDUAL puts the Other UNDER ERASURE.
- This action makes the Other a SLAVE.
- The SLAVE cannot fully acknowledge the INDIVIDUAL because the SLAVE is just an extension of the self.

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What is the slave going to tell you?



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DELUSION OF AUTONOMY

The "AUTONOMOUS INDIVIDUAL" that can only exist by putting the Other under erasure is

NOT A REAL CONSCIOUSNESS

It is a DELUSION.



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APPLICATION in Literary Criticism

- FEMINIST, POST-COLONIAL, MARXIST and QUEER scholarship
 - privileges the SUBJECT over the INDIVIDUAL in order to expose and assert
 - the constitutive power of the Other;
 - the erasure of that power in narratives privileging the INDIVIDUAL'S ILLUSORY AUTONOMY.
- EG. In the novels of Ayn Rand

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WORK



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I AM YOUR OTHER

- SO, in order for the Other to really, truly acknowledge the Self in a CONSTITUTIVE WAY, the Other **cannot** be UNDER ERASURE.
 - Women cannot be "half-baked" men
 - People of colour cannot be "white people with dark skin"
- The Other must be a SELF, too.

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BECOMING A SELF: WORK

QUESTION:

HOW does the Slave become INDEPENDENT enough to be a CONSTITUTIVE OTHER?

ANSWER:

- WORK
- MODIFICATION OF THE WORLD
- EXPRESSION

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WORK: NOUN AND VERB

- WORK = both the PURPOSEFUL MODIFICATION of the external world and the PRODUCT of that labour.
- The bondsman WORKS and PRODUCES A WORK in order to
 "strip the external world of its inflexible foreignness and to enjoy in the shape of things only an external realization of himself" (550-51/558).

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SELF-REFLECTION

"... Man draws out of himself and puts *before himself* what he is and whatever else is" (546/558).



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CONSCIOUSNESS and ART

"It is in this way, therefore, that consciousness *qua* worker comes to see in the independent being [of the object] its *own* independence" (546/546).

I MADE THIS
THEREFORE I AM

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EXTERNALIZING SELF

WORK/THE WORK = ART

THINKING CONSCIOUSNESS = a being capable
of REFLECTING on its own existence and
consciousness.

ART = a means of EXTERNALIZING THE SELF
so that it may be REFLECTED UPON.

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ILLUSION vs SELF-REFLECTION

MASTER/SLAVE DIALECTIC



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HEGELIAN CONSCIOUSNESS



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DOUBLED HUMANITY

"... he sees himself, represents himself, thinks, and only on the strength of this active placing himself before himself is he spirit" (550/558).

HUMANITY is DUPLICATE: we ARE and we also REFLECT upon our existence through REPRESENTATIONS.

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EXPRESSIVISM

EXPRESSIVISM: the spirit of humanity realized in the purposeful modification of the external world such that the world becomes an EXPRESSION of the Self.

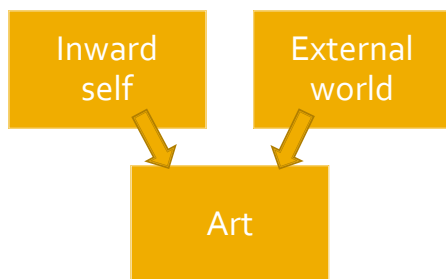
The SELF is not "individual" but a RELATIONSHIP with the WORLD.

Therefore, EXPRESSIVISM expresses the SELF in/as the culture, the "zeitgeist."

I MAKE THEREFORE I AM.

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Expressivism, a dialectical model



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