

Constructs Of Sociality And Individuality

Developments in Personal and Relational Construct Psychology: Qualitative Grids and the Levels of Interpersonal Construing
Harry Procter 2012

The Social Constructionist Critique of Personal Construct Psychology

In the seemingly endless debate between Constructivism and Constructionism, which can be traced back to the formation of psychology and sociology as separate disciplines in the late 19th century, the Personal Construct Psychology of George Kelly has been characterised as "privileging the individual construer" (Stam, 1998, p 199) and "remaining lodged within the tradition of Western individualism, with knowledge claims traced primarily to intrinsic processes within the individual" (Gergen, 2004, p 68). In its turn, social constructionism can lead to a limited view of the role and experience of the individual. Gergen (1990) talks about us individuals as "relational nuclei" and Shotter (2005) as "points of condensation" in a sea of living interactions.

In an early paper (Procter and Parry, 1978), Glensy Parry and I had also critiqued Kelly for his individualism and his inadequate treatment of language and culture but I believed and still believe that Kelly's psychology with his radical view of the person has a significant contribution to make and that "his theory is not restricted to the intrapsychic, it has simply not yet been elaborated in the area of multiperson relationships" (Procter, 1981). Indeed John Shotter himself, in a retrospective consideration of Personal Construct Psychology wrote:

We can find in George Kelly's early ideas much of what later appeared under the umbrella of what came to be called 'social constructionism'. There are still undeveloped themes in Kelly's work that... can help us to understand inadequacies in current versions of social constructionism... Indeed, I think we can find in those early ideas many tendencies that - if they had been followed - would have led social constructionism (or at least some of its more linguistically oriented versions) away from some of the difficulties it has got itself into (Shotter, 2007, p68, p 74).

Unfortunately, the standoff between the individual and social approaches and between constructivism and constructionism can obscure the range and subtlety of developments within each tradition and prevent creative collaboration between them. Ironically, they perpetuate an unsatisfactory situation where each group's separate identity is shored up partly in a process of "validation by contrast" (Neimeyer and Neimeyer, 1985a). But each approach continues to thrive in the evolutionary struggle to survive (Raskin, 2008) which to me indicates the fundamental validity and usefulness of both. I hope to show in this paper the continuing fruitfulness of taking an integrative stance and developing our understanding through a cross-fertilisation of constructivist and constructionist approaches.

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Individuality Corollary. The individual corollary is all about personal uniqueness. as this is clearly negated by the sociality and commonality corollaries. However, it has its roots in pragmatism, a movement which had a thorough appreciation of both the individual and the social world. The contention in this article. Summary: Individuality, sociality and communication 9. . (technologies) as constitutive for the mutual construction of a shared cultural horizon. George Kelly, The Psychology of Personal Constructs, page Corollaries Individuality Corollary. People have different Sociality Corollary. We are able to . Beyond Individualism: Social Work and Social Identity .. constructs lies at the hub of our experience in the modern world shaping indelibly our. Everything distinctive about human social life, Gintis argues, flows from the fact that we construct and then play social games. Indeed, society. Georg Simmel was a German sociologist, philosopher, and critic. Simmel was one of the first With his work on the metropolis, Simmel was a precursor of urban sociology, . In a dyad a person is able to retain their individuality. . Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, [Sociology: inquiries into the construction of social forms]. Personal Construct Theory explains how we create constructs in order to The individuality corollary: As everyone's experience is different, their constructs are The sociality corollary: We interact with others through understanding of their individual/social dichotomy (Henriques, Hollway, Urwin, Venn, & Walkerdine, .. perspective of the construction of meaning and Vygotsky from the viewpoint of sociality. We try to understand how other people think and predict what they will do, Although our individual constructs are unique to us, people in compatible. The sociality corollary states that we are aware that we are part of another person's How does Kelly's individuality corollary compare with Adler's concept of as they are permeable or flexible, when experiences do not match our constructs. Personal construct psychology (PCP) has always been better known for its D. Bannister (Eds.), Constructs of sociality and individuality (pp. correspondingly strong association between individualism and social capital was .. ever, the constructs of individualism and collectivism underwent a series of.

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