Evolution of Consciousness & Paradigm Change

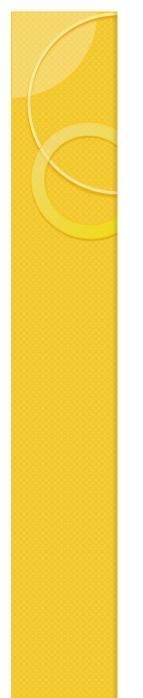
Dr. Jennifer M. Gidley President, World Futures Studies Federation

Le Nouveau Paradigme de la Co-evolution 20th Anniversary of the Club of Budapest

> Universite Integrale Paris, France, June 9, 2013

Overview

- 1. What are Megatrends of the Mind?
- 2. Evolution of Consciousness: Cultural History & Adult Development
- 3. Transversal Approaches: Cohering Complexity
- 4. Our Challenge for Tomorrow



What are
Megatrends of the Mind?

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- A Megatrends research in general has an external focus
- Any "megatrends of the mind" research has an internal focus
- ♦ Throughout the 20th century we can observe:
 - Evolution within scholarly disciplines
 - Evolution beyond disciplinary boundaries
 - Approaches that theorise paradigm change
 - Approaches that meta-cohere new knowledge

Gidley, J. M. (2010) Globally Scanning for "Megatrends of the Mind": Potential *Futures* of Futures-Thinking, *Futures: The journal of policy, planning and futures studies*, 42(10), pp. 1040-1048.

Evolution within Scholarly Disciplines

- Evolution beyond disciplinary boundaries
- Approaches that theorise paradigm change
- Approaches that meta-cohere new knowledge

Evolution within Scholarly Disciplines

Science:

 Newtonian building block physics > quantum possibilities & open systems, machine human to creative human

Philosophy:

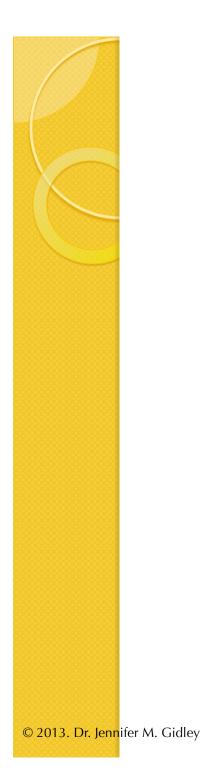
 Modern analytic philosophy > postmodern & poststructural, comparative & global, synthesising & integral

Education:

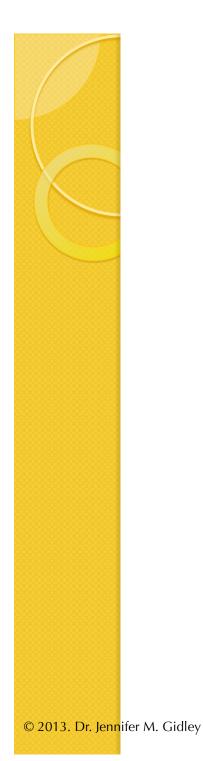
 Formal factory model education > Steiner, Montessori, Dewey, Aurobindo, 1970s alternatives & 2000s postformal pedagogies

Psychology:

 Mechanistic, behaviourist psychology > humanistic & person-centred, transpersonal & postformal psychology.

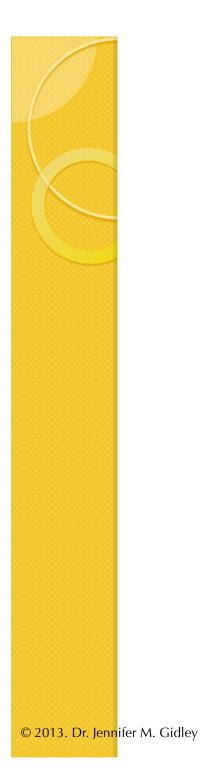


- Evolution within scholarly disciplines
- Evolution beyond disciplinary boundaries
- Approaches that theorise paradigm change
- Approaches that meta-cohere new knowledge



Evolution beyond Disciplinary Boundaries

- Expanding Disciplinary Boundaries:
 - Interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary & transdisciplinary research
- Expanding Concepts of Time:
 - Big history, macrohistory & futures studies
- Expanding Concepts of Space:
 - From outer space to inner space & planetary consciousness



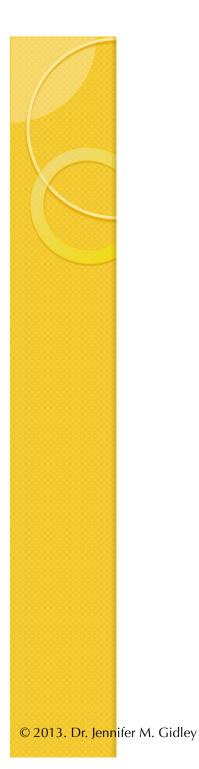
- Evolution within scholarly disciplines
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Approaches that Theorise Paradigm Change

- Adult Developmental Psychology
- Cultural History and Evolution
- Evolution of Consciousness

To be discussed in more detail in Section 2 to come



- Evolution within scholarly disciplines
- Evolution beyond disciplinary boundaries
- Approaches that theorise paradigm change
- Approaches that meta-cohere new knowledge

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1. Megatrends of the Mind

Approaches that Meta-cohere new Knowledge

- Postformal Psychology
- Integral Studies
- Planetary Consciousness

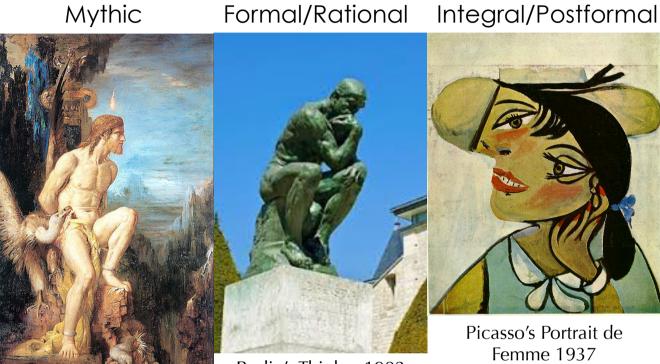
To be discussed in more detail in Section 3 to come

Summary 1. Megatrends of the Mind

- Knowledge is changing within scholarly disciplines
- Knowledge is leaking beyond disciplinary boundaries
- Paradigm change (or new consciousness) is being theorised in evolution of consciousness, cultural history and adult development
- New knowledge is being meta-cohered in several emerging fields: postformal, integral & planetary



2. Evolution of Consciousness:



Rodin's Thinker 1902

Gustave Moreau's Prometheus 1868

Cultural History & Adult Development



- ♦ 18th Century Europe:
- ♦ German idealists Goethe and Schelling conscious evolution
- ♦ 19th Century Europe:
- Darwin focused on biological evolution
- ♦ 20th Century Global:
- Europe: Rudolf Steiner 1904 & Teilhard de Chardin mid-20th century, Ervin Lazslo and others
- ♦ India: Sri Aurobindo was also writing on it from around 1914.
- ♦ USA: Integral theorists, adult developmental psychologists
- Australia: Futures researchers



Cultural History

Jean Gebser (1905-1973) 20th Century cultural historian, wrote: "The Ever-Present Origin"



- Archaic: Pre-history
- ♦ Magical Consciousness: Ice Age
- ♦ Mythic Consciousness: Agrarian to 500BCE
- ♦ Mental/Rational Mode: 500BCE 1,500CE
- Integral Consciousness: 1,500CE > the future



Adult Development – beyond Piaget

20th Century Swiss Psychologist Jean Piaget (1896-1980)



- Sensori-Motor (Infant)
- Pre-operational (2-6years)
- Concrete Operations (7-12years)
- Formal Operations (12-18 years)

Adult developmental psychologists in the USA since the 70s:

Postformal Reasoning (Mature Adult)



Mapping Relationships

Cultural Evolution Gebser & Integral Theorists



Archaic: Pre-history Magical: Ice Age Mythic: Agrarian to 500BCE Mental/Rational: 500BCE – 1,500CE

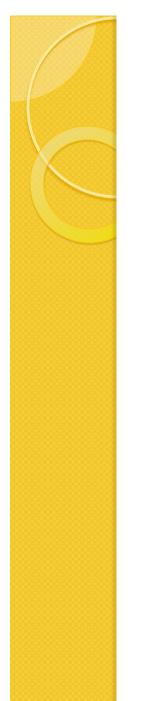
Present & Future >>> Integral: 1,500CE > the future Individual Development Piaget & Postformal Theorists



Sensor-Motor (Infant) Pre-operational (2-6years) Concrete Operations (7-12years) Formal Operations (12-18 years)

Adult Development Today >>>

Postformal Reasoning (Mature Adult)



What is Postformal Psychology?

Postformal reasoning is the most widely used psychological term to denote higher developmental stages beyond Piaget's *formal operations*.

Qualities of postformal reasoning include:

- ♦ complexity, creativity, dialogue,
- ♦ holism, imagination, intuition,
- ♦ paradox, pluralism, reflexivity,
- ♦ spirituality, values and wisdom

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3. Transversal Approaches: Cohering Complexity

3. Transversal Approaches: Cohering Complexity

Postformal Psychology

- Integral Studies
- Planetary Consciousness
- Postformal Psychology 40 years of empirical and theoretical research in the USA on higher stages of reasoning. It is focused on the evidence.

3. Transversal Approaches: Cohering Complexity

- Postformal Psychology
- Integral Studies
- Planetary Consciousness
- The Integral Studies literature tends to emphasise the crisis in worldview, the need for paradigm change, and to promote integral thinking both individually and culturally.

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3. Transversal Approaches: Cohering Complexity

- Postformal Psychology
- Integral Studies
- Planetary Consciousness
- The Planetary Consciousness literature emphasises the urgency of transnational collaboration around our planetary crises: ecological, politico-economic and socio-cultural.



SUMMARY 1, 2 & 3

- All scholarly disciplines are evolving
- Trans-disciplinarity is growing, concepts of time and space are expanding
- Paradigm change can be understood as part of evolution of consciousness, expressed through cultural history and adult development psychology (postformal psychology)
- New knowledge can be cohered through postformal, integral and planetary studies

4. Our Challenge for Tomorrow

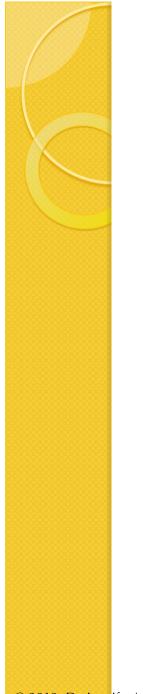
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Paris, France June 2013

4. Our Challenge for Tomorrow

- We know science & philosophy are evolving
- We know transdisciplinarity is growing
- We know consciousness is evolving
- We know about postformal, integral and planetary approaches

But what do we do to create paradigm change?



4. Our Challenge for Tomorrow

A role for the Club of Budapest?

A global research project to map activities informed by:

- postformal reasoning
- integral studies broadly interpreted
- planetary consciousness &
- long-term futures perspectives

Is anyone interested? How might we fund this research?

Further Contact

President: World Futures Studies Federation (UNESCO Partner) Visiting Professor: Philosophy Department, Palacky University, Czech Republic Adjunct Professor: California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco Fellow: Botin Platform for Innovation in Education, Santander, Spain Visiting Fellow: CERI, SciencesPo, Paris, France

www.jennifergidley.com

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