Publications:


3. The Unbearable Lightness of Meaning. In “Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture” Volume 22. *International Readings on Theory, History and Philosophy of Culture.* Published by the St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research. 2006

4. When Diverse Worlds Collide: An Experiment in Deep Democracy. L. Green, A. Cohen and H. Bai. *Radical Pedagogy,* has been accepted for publication in the 9 (2) issue

5. Are you a Believer. In Simon Fraser University’s Philosophers’ Café Newsletter 2006

Presentations:

1. Postmodernity as Trauma: Deconstructed Meaning and Shattered Assumptions. Third Biennial International Conference on Personal Meaning. Trinity Western University 2004

2. Reclaiming our Unacknowledged Unity. (Be)Longing: Art and Identity in the Age of Anxiety. May 5, 2006 Trinity Western University.


5. The Stranger Within. Along with Bea Donald, I was a discussant for a panel consisting of three speakers at the CSSE 2008 Conference at UBC.


8. The Joanne Brown Annual Symposium. Sponsored by Simon Fraser University’s Institute of the Humanities. I was an invited guest for nine consecutive years; the only attendee with that record.
The Relationship between the Prereflexive Self and the Reflective Mind: Keeping the Head and Heart Together

ABSTRACT

This dissertation addresses the following question: what is the optimal relationship between the prereflective self and the reflective mind? This question arises because of the waning influence of master narratives that provided guidelines for individual behaviour and social interactions. Because of the declining import of these grand narratives, received meanings have lost much of their efficacy. Consequently, the postmodern individual has to become more adept at meaning making.

The fundamental process for doing so, involves a shuttling back and forth between prereflective experience and reflective meaning. That is, one attempts to give conceptual, linguistic form to one’s prereflective experience by “trying on” various metaphors, symbols, and terms. One assesses the appropriateness of these verbal forms by refering them back to the implicit experience. Some forms “fit” better than others and those become the meanings that are adopted. This approach becomes necessary as the pace of cultural change accelerates and the appropriateness of “zombie categories” comes into question. “Zombie categories” are categories for organizing understanding that no longer fit the time in which we live. Prereflective consciousness is the means by which we attune to our current circumstances. It registers what is emerging. Reflective consciousness can then forge the terms that express the patterns that have been sensed by the prereflective. Those terms can then be employed to communicate regarding the shared situation in which we find ourselves.

This dissertation also suggests that through referencing the prereflective the ontological status of both the self and the world attains fullness. This is contrasted with the abstracted, ironical stance that is more characteristic of the reflective mind. The latter style results from the methodology of doubt, whereas the former embodies the impulse to affirm.

Finally, my methodology employs a narrative, that repeatedly circles around the phenomenon of the prereflective. Because the prereflective is non-conceptual, whereas a thesis is conceptual and reflexive, I use the latter to point at a consciousness that is nonrepresentational. Each conceptual iteration reveals the boundary beyond which it cannot go. The sum total of those iterations reveals the ‘shape’ of the prereflective.

Academic Record

Doctor of Philosophy – Curriculum, Theory and Implementation: Philosophy, Simon Fraser University

Dissertation – The Relationship between the Prereflective Self and the Reflective Mind: Keeping the Head and Heart Together

Master of Arts – Counselling Psychology, University of British Columbia

Thesis – The Developmental Aspects of Identity Formation and the Utilization of Those Processes in the Service of Therapeutic Change

Bachelor of Arts – Double Majors – English and Psychology, University of British Columbia

Awards

2009 Simon Fraser University Graduate Scholarship
2008 Simon Fraser University Graduate Fellowship

Other Education

Diploma in Counselling Psychology – University of British Columbia

Professional Association

BC Association of Clinical Counsellors
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Interests

Co-moderator Philosophers’ Café (Langley and Maple Ridge)
Coordinator of the Community Associates for the Institute of Humanities at Simon Fraser University
Chairperson of the Fort Langley Artists Group