

University of Huddersfield Repository

Burr, Vivien

Society and communities in social constructionism and discourse analysis

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/13701/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Viv Burr
University of Huddersfield, UK
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Structure

Historical context
Discursive Psychology
- Interpretative repertoires (Potter et al)
- Dialogue (Gergen)
- The problem of power and inequality
Foucauldian Discourse Analysis
- The problem of agency
- Positioning
A research example
Conclusion
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Historical context

Wundt
Mead and Watson
The ‘crisis’ in social psychology
Critical psychology
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Social Constructionism

- The social world as socially constructed
- Discursive psychology: construction in interaction
- Foucauldian Discourse Analysis: the constitutive power of discourse
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Discursive psychology: situated accounts

Death and Furniture (Edwards et al. 1995)
‘Doing being’
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Potter and Reicher (1987)

‘Community’
St Paul’s riots (Bristol, UK)
Interpretative repertoire
  - Cohesive
  - Warm
  - Organic
But what about power, politics and inequalities?
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Structure

Historical context
Discursive Psychology
- Interpretative repertoires (Potter et al)
- Dialogue (Gergen)
- The problem of power and inequality
Foucauldian Discourse Analysis
- The problem of agency
- Positioning
A research example
Conclusion
Gergen: The ‘Saturated Self’

“A civil world beyond individual and community” (Gergen, 2001)

- Community as a social construction
- Focus on dialogic relationships
- ‘Transformative dialogue’
- ‘Appreciative enquiry’
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Self and Community in the New Floating Worlds (Gergen, 2002)

- Modern technology and the ‘corrosion’ of communities
- The demise of the family
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Foucauldian Discourse Analysis: power and materiality

‘Subjectivity’ v ‘self’
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

The problem of agency

Positioning

- Davies and Harré (1990)
- Drewery (2001)
  - ‘position calls’
  - ‘hailing’ (Althusser)
  - ‘exclusionary’ position calls
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Structure
  Historical context
  Discursive Psychology
  - Interpretative repertoires (Potter et al)
  - Dialogue (Gergen)
  - The problem of power and inequality
  Foucauldian Discourse Analysis
  - The problem of agency
  - Positioning
  A research example
  Conclusion
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Problems in practice: Lisa’s research
Experiences of domestic violence

- Produced through dominant discourses?
- Situated accounts built for specific purposes?
- What is the status of the events narrated in the interview?
- Do we risk constructing a homogenous ‘them’?
Society and Communities in Social Constructionism and Discourse Analysis

Conclusion

Discourse analysis
- Research FOR (rather than ON) people
- People as skilled social actors
- Emphasis on context (interaction, history, culture)

BUT
- ‘Voice’ is problematic
- The need to elaborate self and experience