

Lecture 1, Sep 8, 2022

Worldview

- What is a worldview?
 - The lens through which we see the world
 - A set of assumptions we hold about the world
 - Implicit in almost every act, vital but invisible
 - Can be understood on the societal or individual level

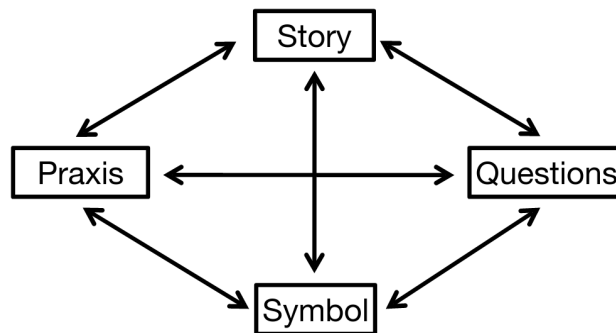


Figure 1: Wright's Model of World View

- Wright's Model of World View:
 - Questions
 - * Answers to questions are influenced by personal stories
 - Praxis
 - * The behaviour that plays out, influenced by the worldview
 - Symbol
 - * e.g. displayed certificates etc symbolizing values
- Confirmation bias: Our worldview inclines us towards motivated reasoning that seeks to confirm what we already believe
 - Positive bias: What can I believe? How can I affirm this position?
 - Negative bias: What must I believe? How can I reject this position?
- To reach a better world, we must face up to our challenges

Where is “Here”?

- Foundations of our era:
 - Secularism
 - Observable science
 - Colonialism
 - Industrialization
 - Capitalism
 - Consumerism
- After WWII, two competing ideologies appeared:
 - Keynesian Economics:
 - * Government mitigates the market, prevents it from crashing
 - * Government fills gaps in employment
 - * Social responsibility to the disadvantaged
 - Neoliberalism:
 - * Government frees the market by eliminating regulation
 - * Government spends less

- * Freed capital will “trickle down” to all
- * IMF and World Bank are highly influenced and then influenced others

Neoliberalism

- Beliefs of neoliberalism in the West:
 1. Progress is inevitable
 2. Value is defined in the marketplace
 3. Human potential rests with the individual
 4. Capital freed of regulation will find its own best way forward
- Neoliberalism has become the dominant ideology in the recent era
- The legacy of neoliberalism:
 1. Increased tax burden on the individual rather than corporation
 - Corporate tax has fallen, payroll tax has risen
 - Less sense of corporate responsibility
 2. Increased wealth disparity (between and within countries)
 - Growth used to be more on the poor, but now the rich experience more growth
 3. Increased pace of extraction, production, and waste
 4. Unsustainable dependency on nonrenewable energy
- As a result there is a growing disillusionment with neoliberalism

The Crises of the Age

- The crises of the age proposed by MacLaren:
 1. Sustainability crisis
 - We’re using resources too fast
 2. Equity crisis
 - Some of us are using far more resources are others
 3. Security crisis
 - People are radicalized by inequity
 4. Spiritual crisis
- How do we respond to them?