

MODULE TITLE: Cultural Context of Architecture VII

MODULE CODE: ARC 731

HAND OUT No: 34 – *Leo Strauss*

Essential Reading:

Tanguay D, *Leo Strauss*, New Haven and London, Yale Uni Press, 2007

Damasio A R, *Looking for Spinoza*, London, Vintage, 2004

See also these web sites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Strauss

extract:- *"In Natural Right and History Strauss begins with a critique of the epistemology of Max Weber, follows with a brief engagement with the relativism of Martin Heidegger (who goes unnamed), and continues with a discussion of the evolution of natural rights in analyzing the thought of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. He concludes by critiquing Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Edmund Burke. At the heart of the book are excerpts of classical political philosophy, such as Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero."*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baruch_Spinoza

extract:- *"he is considered one of the great rationalists of 17th-century philosophy, laying the groundwork for the 18th century Enlightenment and modern biblical criticism. By virtue of his magnum opus, the posthumous Ethics, in which he opposed Descartes' mind-body dualism, Spinoza is considered to be one of Western philosophy's most important philosophers."*

One of the outcomes of following the 'Spinoza Trail' is to enter the world of cognitive science that seeks to remove the 'mind' and introduce 'feelings' in place of mind.

This is NOT a simple exchange nor does it remove rationality but it does question cause and effect determinism in simplistic terms and forces us to think in social and geographical ways about biochemical changes that we experience as feelings.

See Ryle

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_Ryle

"Gilbert Ryle (19 August 1900-6 October 1976), was a British philosopher, and a representative of the generation of British ordinary language philosophers influenced by Wittgenstein's insights into language, and is principally known for his critique of Cartesian dualism, for which he coined the phrase "the ghost in the machine". Some of his ideas in the philosophy of mind have been referred to as "behaviourist" (not to be confused with the psychological behaviourism of B. F. Skinner and John B. Watson)."

And Dennett

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Dennett

Daniel Clement Dennett (born March 28, 1942 in Boston, Massachusetts) is a prominent American philosopher whose research centers on philosophy of mind, philosophy of science and philosophy of biology, particularly as those fields relate to evolutionary biology and cognitive science.

The Brights movement is a social movement that aims to promote public understanding and acknowledgment of the naturalistic world view. It was co-founded by Paul Geisert and Mynga Futrell in 2003. The noun 'bright' was coined by Geisert as a positive-sounding umbrella term, and Futrell defined it as "an individual whose worldview is naturalistic (free from supernatural and mystical elements)".

This created the basis for a civic constituency to pursue the movement's three major aims:

- Promote public understanding and acknowledgment of the naturalistic worldview, which is free of supernatural and mystical elements.
- Gain public recognition that persons who hold such a worldview can bring principled actions to bear on matters of civic importance.
- Educate society toward accepting the full and equitable civic participation of all such people.

The brights movement has been formed as an Internet constituency of individuals. Its hub is The Brights' Net web site, but each individual has autonomy to speak for him/herself. The Brights' Net's tagline is now: "Illuminating and Elevating the Naturalistic Worldview".

There are also managerial excursions into emotion

Goleman D, Emotional Intelligence, Bloomsbury, 1996

"Goleman authored the internationally best-selling book, Emotional Intelligence (1995, Bantam Books), that spent more than one-and-a-half years on the New York Times Best Seller list. Goleman developed the argument that non-cognitive skills can matter as much as I.Q. for workplace success in "Working with Emotional Intelligence" (1998, Bantam Books), and for leadership effectiveness in "Primal Leadership" (2001, Harvard Business School Press). Goleman's most recent best-seller is Social Intelligence: The New Science of Human Relationships (2006, Bantam Books)."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-cultural_psychology

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_psychology

Ratner C, Cultural Psychology, New York and London et al, Kluwer Academic, 2002

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lev_Vygotsky

He wishes to ride a horse but cannot, so he picks up a stick and stands astride of it, thus pretending he is riding a horse. The stick is a pivot. "Action according to rules begins to be determined by ideas, not by objects..... It is terribly difficult for a child to sever thought (the meaning of a word) from object. Play is a transitional stage in this direction. At that critical moment when a stick – i.e., an object – becomes a pivot for severing the meaning of horse from a real horse, one of the basic psychological structures determining the child's relationship to reality is radically altered".

Context refers to the interrelated conditions of communication. It consists of everything that is not in the message, but on which the message relies in order to have its intended meaning. Ultimately, context includes the entire world, but usually refers to such salient factors as the following:

Physical milieu

Situational milieu, for example: classroom, battlefield, supermarket

Cultural and linguistic background of each participant, how similar? how different?

Emotional state and developmental stage of each participant

Social role enacted by each participant, for example: boss, employee, teacher, student, parent, child, spouse, friend, enemy, partner, competitor