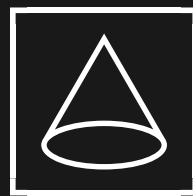


Education and the Challenge of Agency



Presented by Shreya Srigiri

Area of Focus



Development



Black Studies



Education

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How is agency enacted?

“If the ability to effect change in the world and in oneself is culturally and historically specific, then the meaning and sense of agency cannot be fixed in advance, but must emerge through an analysis of the particular concepts that enable specific modes of being, responsibility, and effectivity”(Mahmood 14). By keeping in mind the need to understand cultural context for various groups of communities, she highlights the need to recognize intersectionality amongst populations that have religious and cultural differences from perceived Western norms. This could only be established by moving away from a simple resistance/subordination binary (Mahmood 9).

When examining the pathway of power through individuals, Foucault investigates this definition to highlight the “right of seizure: of things, time, bodies, and ultimate life itself; it culminated in the privilege to seize hold of life in order to suppress it” (Foucault 136). When examining the hierarchical relationships human beings have with one another, it is important to inspect how power gets materialized throughout humanity. Due to the relationship agency and power have with each other, when one is supposedly attained through the access of the other, a double-bind is created when power is considered to be “exercised mainly as a means of deduction (prélèvement)” (Foucault 136).

METANARRATIVE

“Human Life is dependent on Black death for its existence and for its conceptual coherence. There is no World without Blacks, yet there are no Blacks who are in the World... Blackness and Slaveness are inextricably bound in such a way that whereas Slaveness can be disimbricated from Blackness, Blackness cannot exist as other than Slaveness”

(Wilderson)



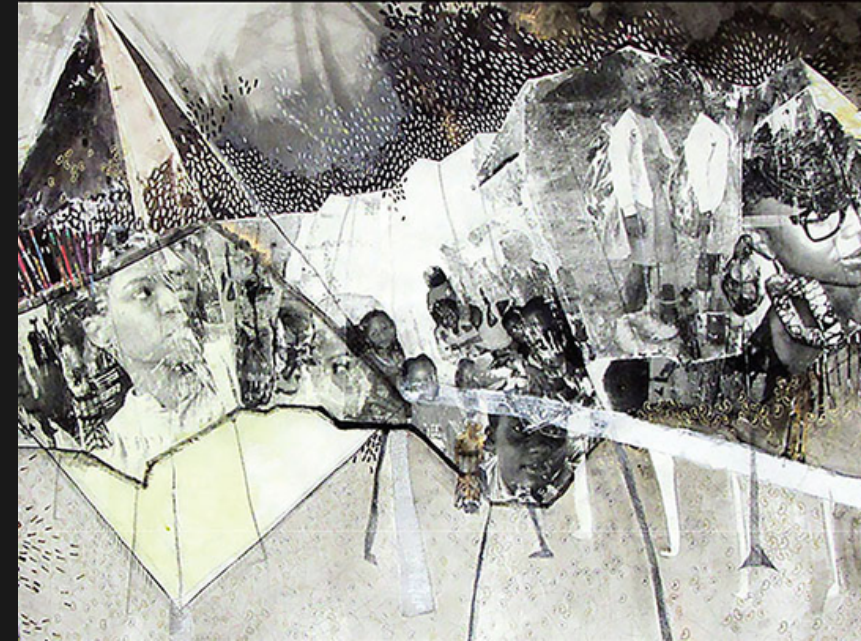
Development

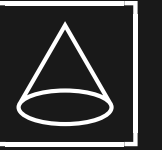
Often, development specialists tend to imply that investment towards... education is the silver bullet for producing better economic results, health, knowledge, and standard of living collectively (Bahous and Akleh). The advantages of prioritizing have been researched to bring about “evidence of high returns in other crucial areas—including improving children’s and women’s survival rates and health, reducing population growth, protecting children’s rights and delaying child marriage, empowering women in the home and in the workplace, and improving climate change adaptation... for their children, families, communities, and countries” (Sperling and Winthrop 17). It is also considered to be “one of the smartest investments a country can make and an important step in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty” (Sperling and Winthrop 17).



Savannah Shange

SAVANNAH SHANGE
**PROGRESSIVE
DYSTOPIA**
ABOLITION,
ANTIBLACKNESS,
+ SCHOOLING
IN SAN FRANCISCO

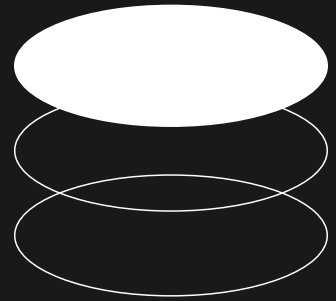




Is this the full story?

Does economic mobility mean one has access to agency within their lives?

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Future Goals

Extended ethnographic work in the city of St. Louis, MO
exploring the intersection of education and Black studies

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