

Die Vielfalt kritischer Psychologien im globalen Kontext

Teil 2: Internationale Ansätze

Thomas Teo
York University

Overview

- (A) Theoretical problems
- (B) Critical psychology around the world
- (C) Critical psychology and transdisciplinarity

(A)

Theoretical Problems

- *Critique of psychology versus critical psychology*
- Definition of critical psychology
- Variety of traditions
 - Insiders
 - Outsiders



The Hidden Roots of Critical Psychology

Michael Billig



Historical sources for critical psychology

- Billig (2008): Third Earl of Shaftesbury (1671-1713)?
- Kant's (1781) *Critique of Pure Reason*?
- Marx's (1845/1958) *Critique of the Latest German Philosophy* or *Critique of Political Economy*?
- Sigmund Freud?
- Max Horkheimer, Erich Fromm, Theodor W. Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Jürgen Habermas?
- Nietzsche? Foucault? Lacan?
- Eurocentric???

Phenomenology

- Critical psychology: North America, Europe (particularly Britain, Germany, Denmark, and Spain), Latin America, Africa (South Africa), Asia, and Oceania.
- Textbooks, monographs, histories, book series, journals, *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*, *Major works in Critical Psychology* (1760 pages, I. Parker).
- Other approaches

Metatheoretical Issues and Solutions:

Ontology

- Human nature and the subject matter of psychology
 - Mechanistic model vs. Societal nature (intersubjectivity, subjectivity, agency, dialogue)
 - Problem of “society”
- Psychological categories
- Unification of psychology

Metatheoretical Issues and Solutions:

Epistemology

- Critique
 - Psychology of variables; “what” versus “why”; methodologism; methodological theory of truth
- Primacy of problem
 - Social epistemologies
 - Emancipatory relevance
- Intersubjectivity
 - Feminism, social constructionism, power, reflexivity, violence

Metatheoretical Issues and Solutions: Ethics, Politics, and Praxis.

- Derive ought from is!
- Power – psychology as adaptive or non-adaptive
- Social justice
- Oppression, liberation, resistance, praxis
- Psychologization

Possibilities for critical psychologies

- Indigenous critical approaches
 - Indigenousness of all psychologies
- From old to new internationalization
- New interdisciplinary connections

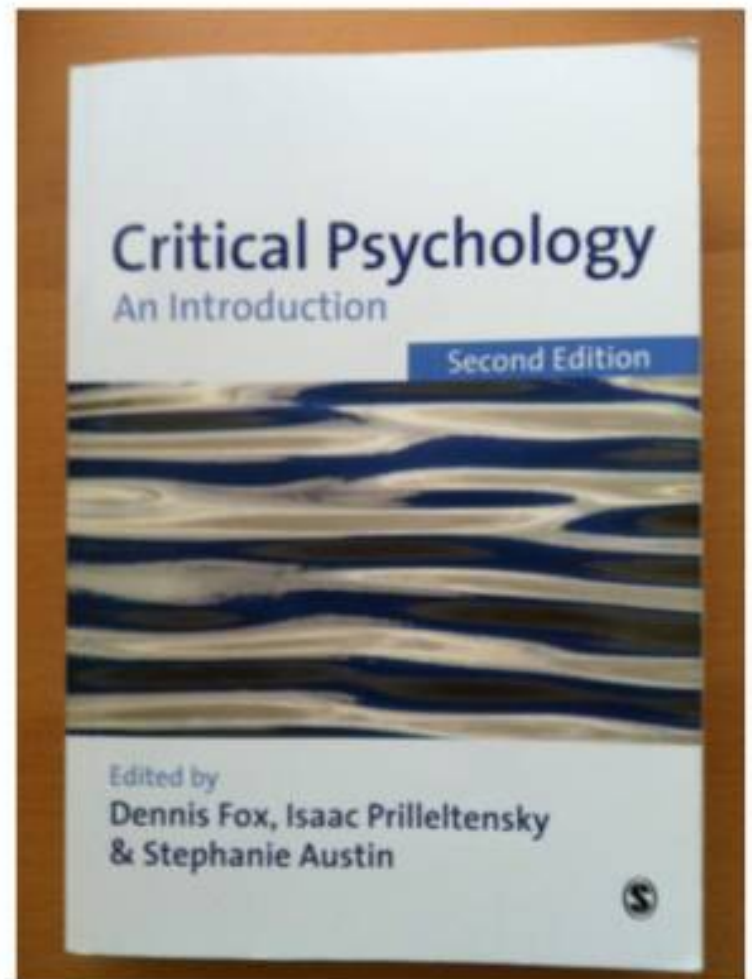
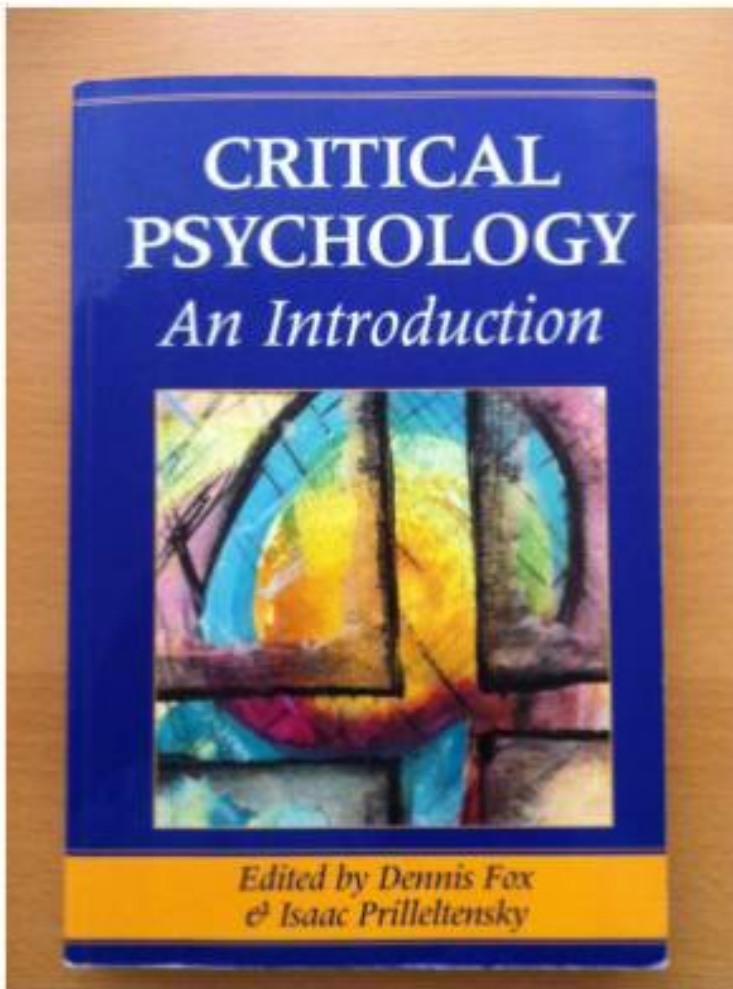
(B)

English-speaking North America

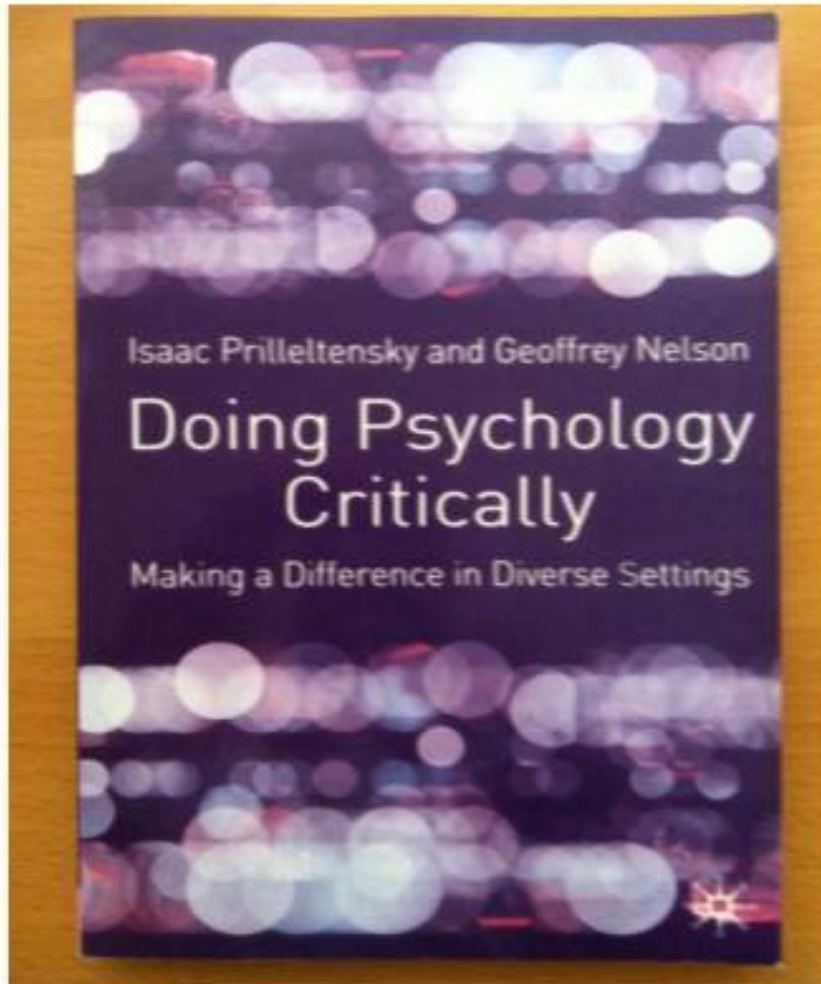


Textbook

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I., & Austin, S. (Eds.). (2009). *Critical psychology: An Introduction*. London, UK: Sage.

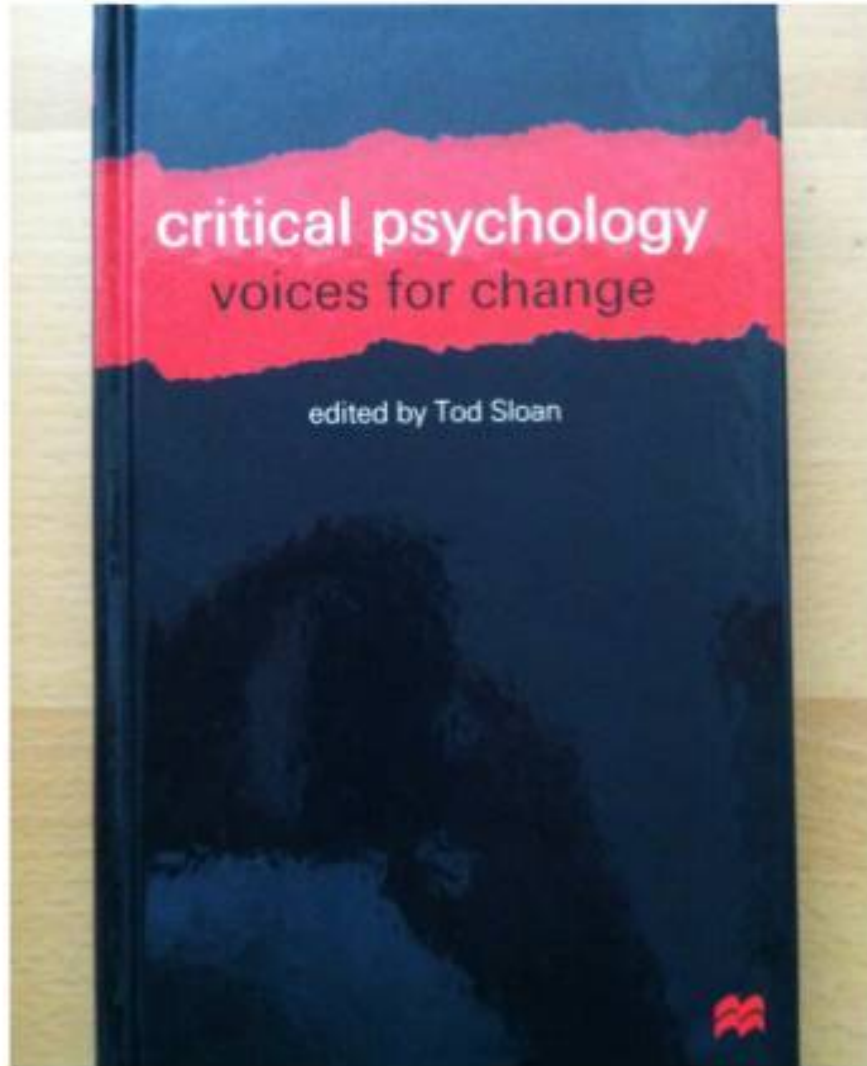


Community Psychology



Prilleltensky, I., & Nelson, G. (2002). *Doing psychology critically: Making a difference in diverse settings*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Perspectives



Sloan, T. (Ed.). (2000). *Critical psychology: Voices for change*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Programs



- Universities: Clark, CUNY, Miami, UCSC, York, WLU, ...
- CUNY – Critical social psychology
- E.g., Michelle Fine
- Cammarota, J. and Fine, M. (eds., 2008) Revolutionizing Education: Youth Participatory Action Research in Motion. New York: Routledge.
- Sirin, S. and Fine, M. (2007) Designated Others: Muslim American Youth Negotiating Identities Post 9-11. New York: New York University Press.
- Weis, L. and Fine, M. (2005) Beyond silenced voices (second edition) Albany: SUNY Press.
- Weis, L. and Fine, M. (2004) Working Method: Social justice and social research. New York: Routledge Publishers.
- Fine, M., Weis, L., Pruitt, L. and Burns, A. (2004) Off white: essays on race, power and resistance. New York: Routledge Publishers.
- Fine, M., Roberts, R., Torre, M. and Bloom, J., Burns, A., Chajet, L., Guishard, M. and Payne, Y. (2004) Echoes of Brown: Youth documenting and performing the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education. New York: Teachers College Press.

Participatory Action Research as Public Science

- “We believe social science can play an important role in the struggle for social justice. Participatory Action Research (PAR) provides a critical framework for making science – systematic inquiry and analysis – a public enterprise. Allied with feminist, critical race, and indigenous theory, PAR is an approach to research that values the significant knowledge people hold about their lives and experiences. PAR positions those most intimately impacted by research as leaders in shaping research questions, framing interpretations, and designing meaningful research products and actions. With these commitments, The Public Science Project collaborates with academics, community organizations, schools, prisons, and public institutions to design, conduct, and support research and practice aimed at interrupting injustice.”
- <http://www.publicscienceproject.org>

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Here you will find the online-first version of articles. For this reason, not all articles are available yet; but return frequently - the collection is **growing daily!**

Welcome to the homepage of the *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*, a comprehensive and systematic reference for critical psychologists from around the world.

The encyclopedia is the first English language reference work that comprehensively looks at psychological topics from *critical* points of view. Critical psychologists have argued for some time now that psychological concepts, theories, methods, and practices have historical, social and cultural dimensions, and that an understanding of the discipline and its applications requires careful reflexive analyses. Critical psychologists also understand the connection between power and psychological knowledge, the psychologization of society, and the export of Western psychological ideas, while providing alternative interpretations. On this background, critical psychology has developed using multifaceted approaches in theory and practice outside of the mainstream of psychology in many countries around the globe.

The encyclopedia features relevant entries organized in an easy-to-use A-Z format. The entries range from succinct summaries of traditional topics to detailed discussions of critical-psychological concepts, theories, and practices, and include a discussion of the social or political meaning of psychology. Varieties of psychology are explored, along with the problems, challenges, concerns, and issues that face psychologists today. The entries employ comparable units of description and analysis in order to facilitate use and comparison.

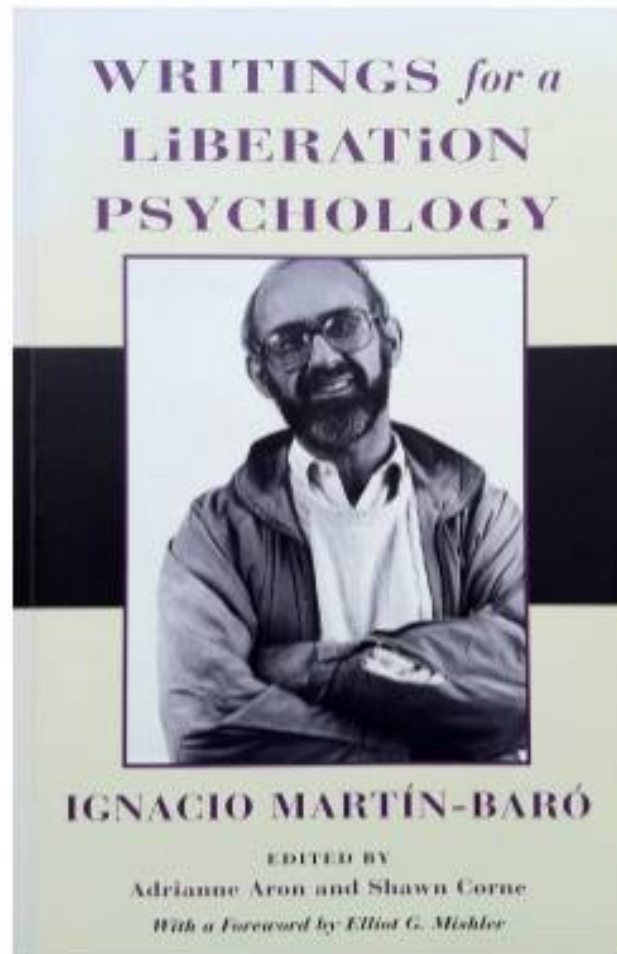
The *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology* is a significant starting point for those initiating their critical research careers in psychology as well as a source of detailed information for professionals and academics in the field.

Thomas Teo
(Editor in Chief)

South America



Ignacio Martín-Baró (1942-1989)



Liberation psychology

- “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24)
- Popular in Latin America.
- God speaks through the poor.
- Bible can be understood only when seen from the perspective of the poor.

Martín-Baró's liberation psychology

- "Affirmation that the object of Christian faith is a God of life and, therefore, that a Christian must accept the promotion of life as his or her primordial religious task."
- Poverty is a sin.
- "Christian faith calls for a preferential option for the poor."
- "True practice has primacy over true theory."

A new horizon

- Focus on Latin American realities.
- The objective need of the majority of the people of Latin America consists in their historical liberation from the social structures that oppress them.
- Psychology must focus its concern and energy on that issue.

A new epistemology

- Truth: Learning from the oppressed.
- Look at psychosocial processes from the perspective of the dominated, educational psychology from the perspective of the illiterate, industrial psychology from the perspective of the unemployed, clinical psychology from the perspective of the marginalized.
- What is mental health from the place of a tenant farmer, maturity from someone who lives in the town dump, motivation from a woman who sells on the street?

A new praxis

- Praxis: An activity of transforming reality that will let us know not only about what is but also about what is not, and by which we may try to orient ourselves toward what ought to be.
- Participatory action research.
- Taking an ethical stand while still maintaining objectivity.

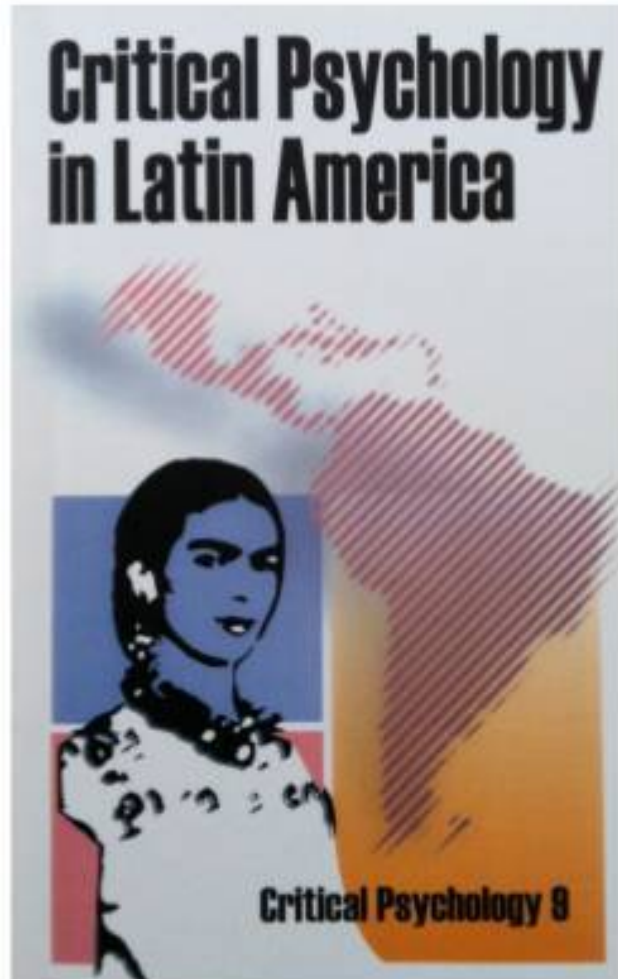
Liberation Psychology

- The role of theory:
- “It shouldn’ t be theories that define the problems of our situation, but rather the problems that demand, and so to speak, select, their own theorization.”
- Necessary critique of the individualism of British and American psychology.
- Emphasis on making suffering a social and shared thing, rather than secret distress.
- Analysis of the history of oppression and social analysis.

Liberation Psychology

- The role of praxis:
- Less emphasis on clinical tasks. Psychologists are a resource for the community regarding intervention and support in the fields of disability, mental health, and drug use but also for economic development and anti-poverty programs.
- Work with victims of state oppression (Latin American Institute of Mental Health and Human Rights).
- Resuming active social roles.
- Work with marginalized populations.

Current



Montero, M., &
Christlieb, P. F. (2003).
Critical Psychology in
Latin America. *Critical
Psychology: The
International Journal of
Critical Psychology*(9).

Current

2ND MARXISM & PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE



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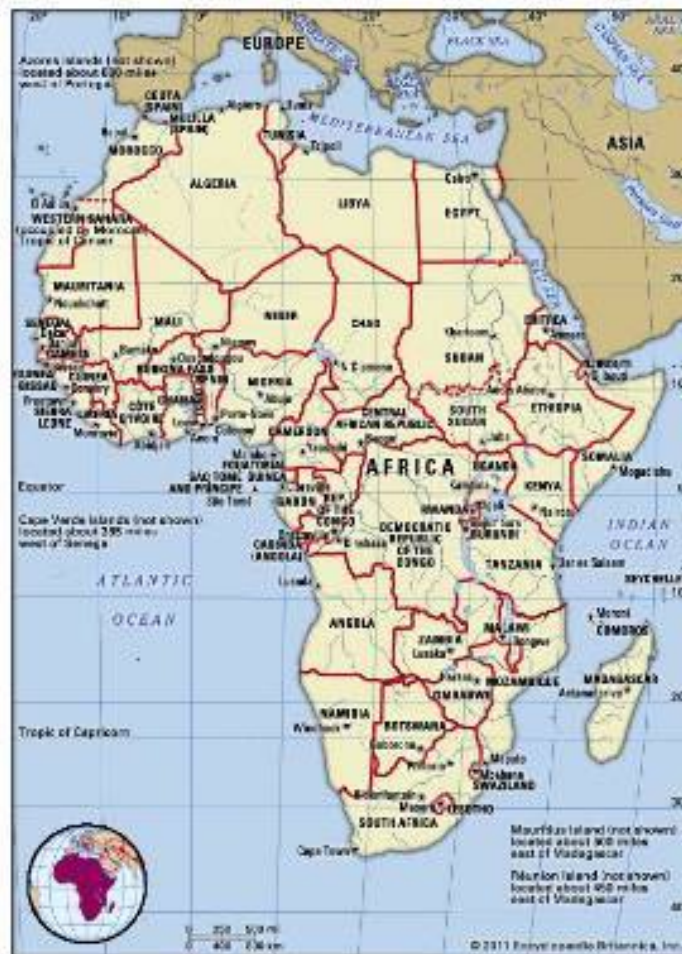
Key-speakers include:

Guillermo Delahanty
Anup Dhar
Fernando Gonzalez-Rey
Grahame Hayes
Lynne Layton
Raúl Páramo-Ortega
Lawrence Wilde

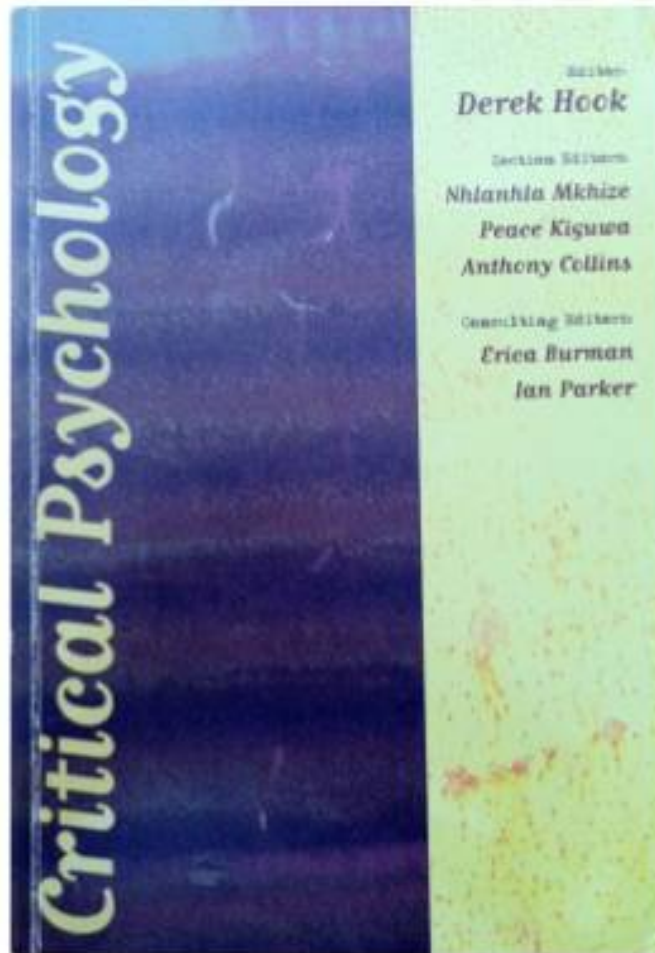
Other participants:

Raquel Guzzo
Lois Holzman
Gordana Jovanovic
Athanasios Marvakis
Hans Skott Myhre
Ian Parker

Africa



South Africa



Hook, D. (Ed.).
(2004). *Critical
psychology*.
Lansdowne, South
Africa: UCT Press.

Ubuntu

- UBUNTU in the Xhosa culture means: "I am, because we are."
- The holistic connection of the African self with others: "The concept of self as a vital force in participation with other vital forces" (Holdstock)
- Unable to define in purely theoretical terms, unable to translate directly.

ICP 2012

- **Mbatha Melusi (South Africa), Plaatjie Sebeka**, *Understanding critical psychology from decolonial epistemic perspective.*
- **Yadavendu Vijay Kumar (India)**, *Critical psychology and public health: Possibility of a mediating process.*
- **Liebert Rachel (USA)**, *Critical expertise, refusal, and possibility in women's accounts of bipolar*
- **SYMPOSIUM**, *Psychology, politics and subjectivity in South Africa and Brazil: Towards South-South dialogue in critical psychology.*
- **Pinto de Almeida Fernanda (South Africa)**, *Blackness beyond skin: Fanon and the crisis of racial legibility in South Africa.*
- *Etc.*

North Africa

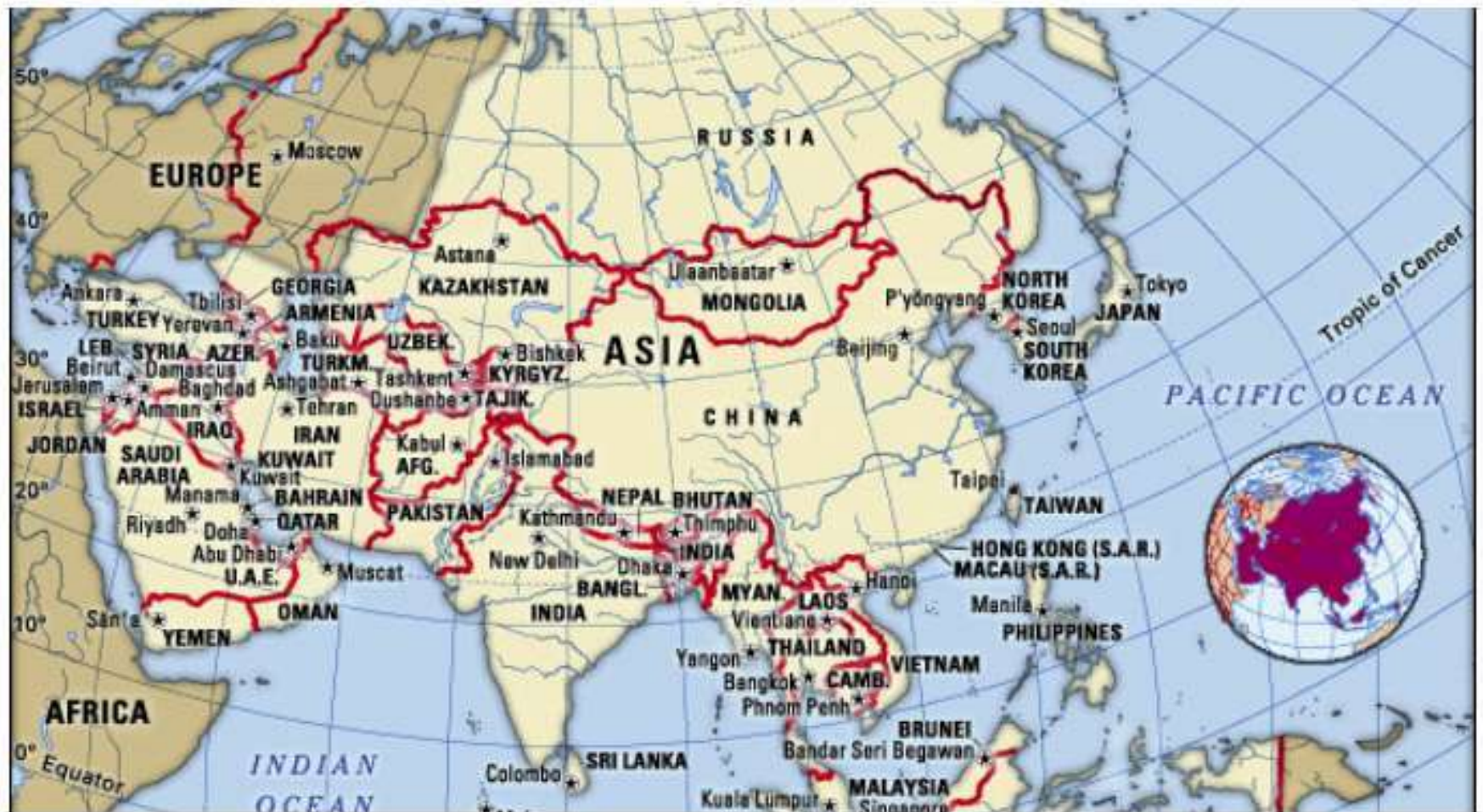


- Frantz Fanon (1925-1961)
- Fanon quoting Baruk:
- "the native of North Africa, whose superior and cortical activities are only slightly developed, is a primitive creature whose life, essentially vegetative and instinctive, is above all regulated by his diencephalon" (p. 300).
- Quotes Dr. Carothers, World Health Organisation: "The African makes very little use of his frontal lobes. All the particularities of African psychiatry can be put down to frontal laziness" (p. 302).
- Fanon understood that biological, medical, and neuroscientific explanations can be used to perpetuate racism and paternalism.
- He instead provided a political and economic explanation that could be used for a liberation psychology and an indigenous psychology.

Various indigenous approaches in Africa

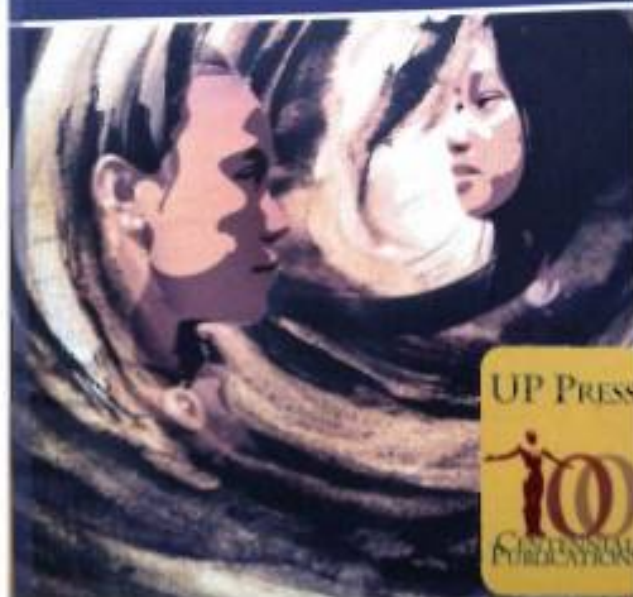
- Green Belt movement (Kenya)
- A. Bame Nsamenang (Cameroon)

Asia



Virgilio G. Enriquez

FROM COLONIAL
TO LIBERATION PSYCHOLOGY
THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE



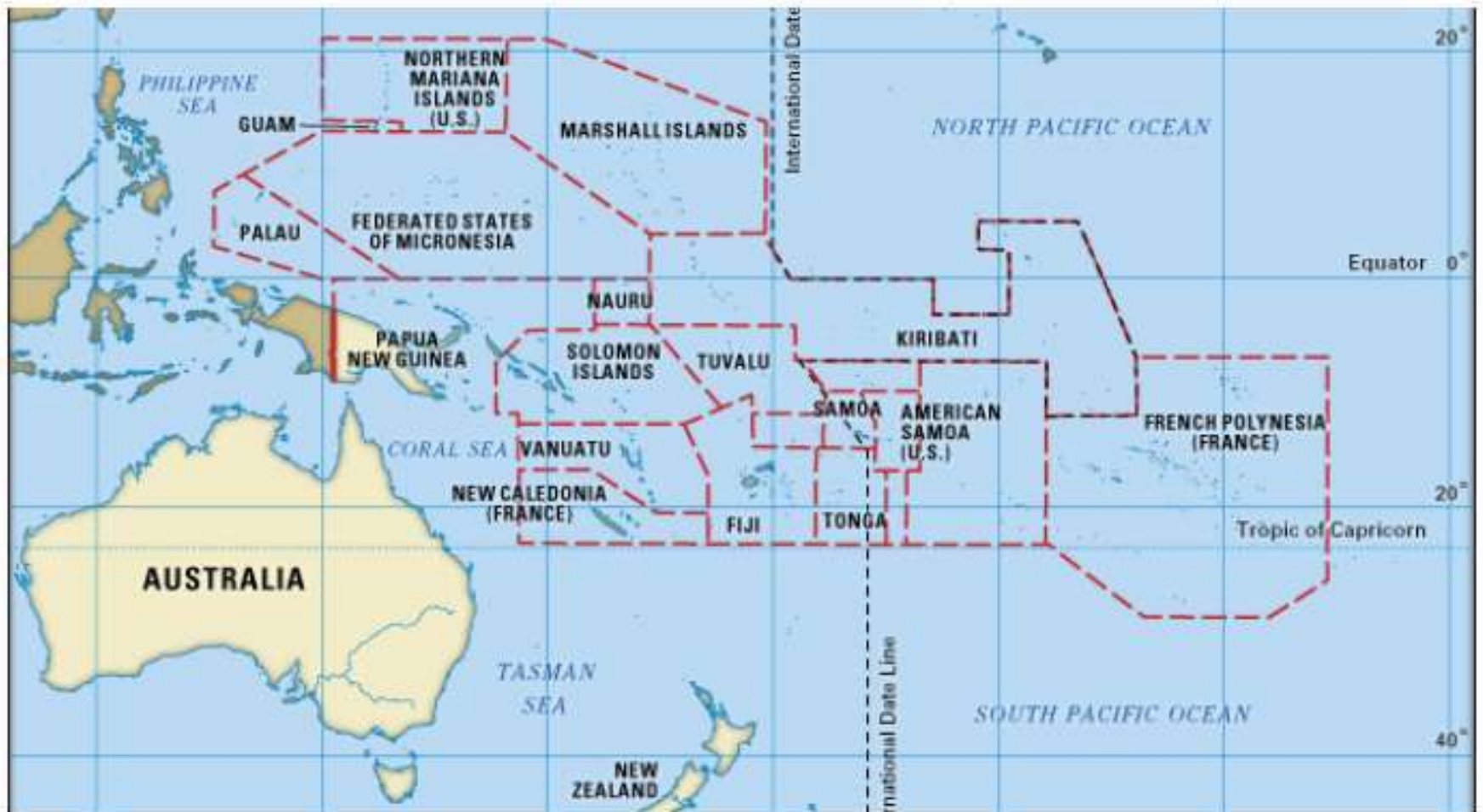
UP PRESS



Enriquez, V. G. (1992). *From colonial to liberation psychology: The Philippine experience*. Diliman, Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press.

- Western psychology has dominated the teaching and practice of Filipino psychology.
- Understand Filipino thought and experiences from a Filipino perspective / orientation.
- Participant observation; researchers need to embrace the culture of the group; pagdalaw-dalaw (frequent visits).
- “bahala na” - no exact English translation.
 - American psychologists: fatalism -- “this attitude is a defeatist withdrawal from an engagement or crisis or an avoidance from personal responsibility”
 - The indigenous perspective: when Filipinos express “bahala na!” they are not leaving their fate with God and giving up responsibility and remaining passive, rather, they are expressing to themselves that they are strong and that they are ready to encounter any obstacles that may come their way. It is a way that they inspire themselves to develop courage and strength (Marcelino & Pe-Pua, 2000, p. 56).

Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania

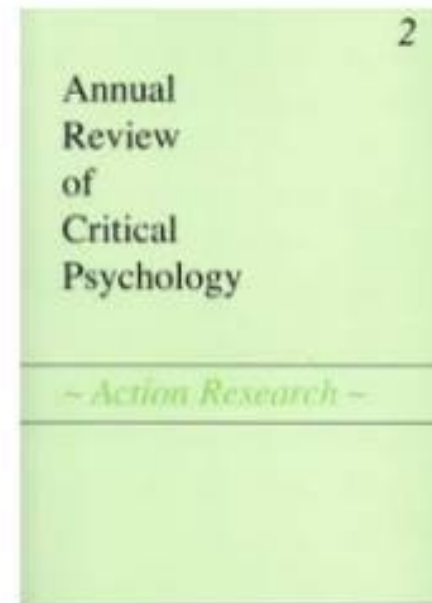


David Fryer

- Professor of Community Critical Psychology at Charles Sturt University in New South Wales , Australia.
- "I'm fundamentally a critical psychologist working on community-originating problems"
- "Critical psychology is one version of critical theory, and is concerned with knowledge and power, and the way in which certain forms of knowledge position people in ways that advantage them or disadvantage them. Critical psychology, in particular, is an approach that takes the discipline of psychology and asks questions of it, asks how it participates in the modern world in a way that is ideologically problematic. It is highly theoretical, very sophisticated intellectually, with some superb exquisite work, but it tends not to have a practical element, tends to be preoccupied with critique of psychology in general and social sciences in particular."
- "I'm constantly trying to unsettle things that are taken for granted too much; how is it that we know something? What will it need to be of assistance? Where is power?"
- "Community psychology and community critical psychologists would much rather redesign a job to make it less stressful than offer stress counselling to someone who has become stressed as a result of their job. We would much rather find a way to remove some of the community and social phenomenon that lead to distress and destruction than tackle the latter afterwards."

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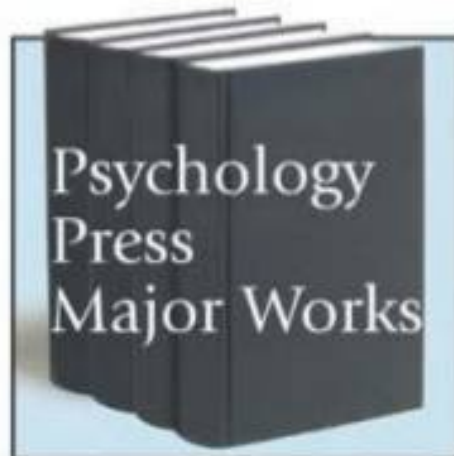
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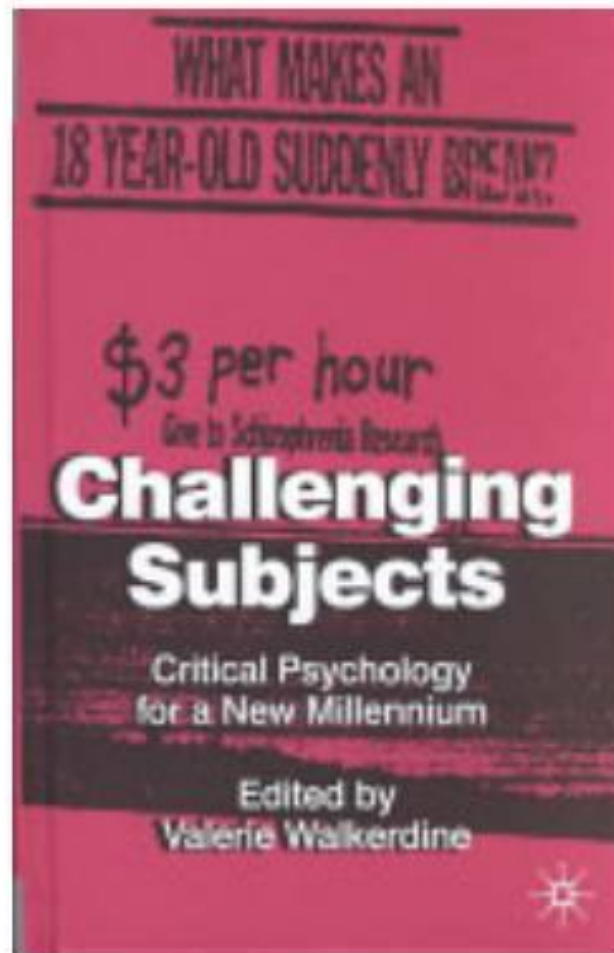
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Valerie Walkerdine



(C)

Transdisciplinarity

- Disciplinarity
 - Psychology: mental life
 - Sociology: social structure
- Interdisciplinarity
 - What does psychology say about subjectivity?
 - What does sociology say about subjectivity?
- Transdisciplinarity
 - Subjectivity – we use psychology, sociology, political theory, etc., and combinations thereof, to address the problem

Whiteness studies and Critical race studies

- A structural category that provides “White” people with unearned advantages in the educational, health, political, and legal systems (many people who enjoy the benefits are not aware of that).
- Institutional racism is pervasive in the dominant culture. Power structures are based on white privilege.



Critical disability studies

- Focusing on the roles of people with disabilities in history, literature, social policy, law and architecture.
- “we must demolish the false dividing line between ‘normal’ and ‘disabled’ and attack the whole concept of physical normality. We have to recognise that disablement is not merely the physical state of a small minority of people. It is the normal condition of humanity” (Sutherland, 1981).
- Goodley & Lawthom (2005) on mainstream psychology: “pathologising, voyeuristic, individualizing, impairment-obsessed discipline that has contributed to the exclusion of people with impairments.”
- “Suicide prevention for you, but suicide enhancement for us... Society wants the disabled community to have access to a dignified death when we want access to a dignified life” (Gregor Wolbring, n.d.)

Critical Pedagogy

- Paolo Freire (1921-1997)
- "Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral"



Others

- Postcolonial theories
- LGBT and queer theories
- Performativity theories