Exploring Contemporary Experiences of Self: From Translational Research Scientists to Baby Boomer Rock’n’Roll Fans
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Strange Bedfellows?
Concepts

• Concepts are the building blocks of symbolic interactionist analysis.

• Concepts organize things (e.g., perceptions, events, people, experiences and ideas) into categories.
• Concepts thus allow us to see structural and processual similarities among items in the categories that would otherwise appear disparate.

• Concepts help us and the layperson simplify a complex social world (e.g., Herbert Blumer, Lou Zurcher, Dennis Waskul and Phillip Vannini).

• The self concept allows us to see ourselves in a unified field (e.g., George Herbert Mead).
The Proliferation of Self Concepts

• mutable self
• impaired self
• oceanic self
• dramatic self
• existential self
• looking-glass self
• social self
• postmodern self

• physical self
• artistic self
• reflective self
• situated self
• aesthetic self
• moral self
• mediated self
• primitive self
• Goal: To balance substantive concepts of self with processual concepts of self

• Concept: self adhesion

• In spite of rapid social and cultural change and individual mobility, the self has the tendency to adhere to strong (reliable, rewarding) sources of meaning (identities, biographies, experiences).
Translational Science

• Translational science research (TSR) is a growing scientific movement that aims to facilitate the efficient application of biomedical research to clinical services design and delivery (i.e., improving the “bench-to-bedside” process).
Traditional Scientist

• “Bench” scientist/basic researcher

• Curious

• Discovery for the sake of discovery

• “My Lab”
Translational Scientist: New Vocabulary for Self and Work

• technology transfer

• commercialization

• patents

• licensing
• start up

• venture capital

• equity

• one-page/"elevator" pitch

• “Scientist-as-businessperson”
• “Company people are as smart as you are.”

• “value inflection“ How much money it takes to move an idea along.
Adhesion to...

- Business as game
- Intellectual self
- Curiosity
- “Team” as barrier to threats to the self
- Being smart
Baby Boomers and the Situational Self of the ‘70s
Threats to/Pressures on the Traditional Self

• Growing up

• Work/career

• Strong significant others/spouse

• Disillusionment
Adhesion to... Rock’n’roll music/culture as a meaning resource for current situations

- E-Self
- Intimate Self
- Parental Self
- Timekeeper Self
References


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