

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*



WRITTEN IN THE STARS?

Shaping a new reality in our communities
in the 'autumn of modernity' through
restorative practices

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*



0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY
2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY
3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (Illich)
4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS
5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

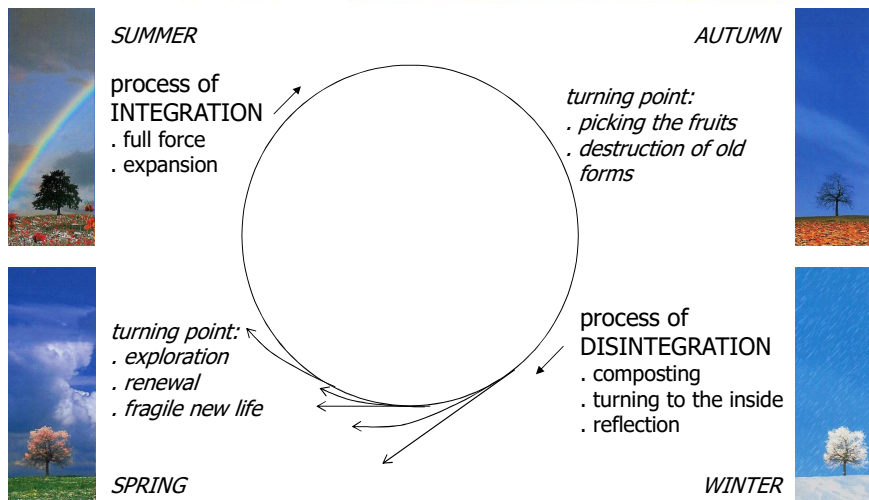
johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

INTRODUCTION

- Background: research since 1994 and phd of Criminology (2005), KU Leuven, Belgium
- Criminology:
 - *Belgium: independent training: master of 4 years*
 - *psychological and sociological approach*
- Specialisation: restorative justice and mediation
 - *European Master in Mediation , IUKB, Sion, Suisse (1999-2010)*
 - *Master en Médiation, Université du Luxembourg (2002- ...)*
- Own theoretical systemic-existential approach (Phd, 2005):
 - *'sys' – 'tem': 'under the same theme' : cyclic approach, "seasons"*
 - *existential: the deeper dimension of life*

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION



johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (Illich)

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

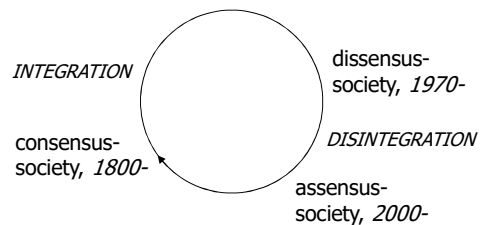
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF SOCIETY Autumn-winter of modernity

- * Western Europe: a history of 150-200 years, or from 'spring' until 'autumn'
- * from a consensus-, to a dissensus-, to an assensus-society
- * Enlightenment: 'reason' as a cornerstone of the age of modernity



SUMMER

AUTUMN



'REASON' AS CORNERSTONE OF MODERNITY:

- * *politics: parliamentary democracy*
- * *economy: civil capitalism*
- * *faith: separation between church and state*

THREE PHASES IN NORMATIVITY:

- * *consensus*
- * *dissensus*
- * *assensus*



SPRING

WINTER



johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

SOCIETY IN DISINTEGRATION

Autumn-winter of modernity

* *PERSONALLY:*

- . autumn-winter feeling
- . feeling of loss of control
- . feelings of fear and insecurity

* *SOCIETY:*

- . fragmentation of traditional structures
- . change, instability and unpredictability
- . future as threat
- . destruction of consensus and hierarchy
- . horizontalisation of relations
- . growing distances, rise of conflicts

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

Autumn - winter of society

FALLING APART AND TRANSFORMATION OF MODERNITY



SUMMER

AUTUMN



INTEGRATION

consensus-
society, 1800-

dissensus-
society, 1970-

DISINTEGRATION

**TRANSFORMATION
INTO A NEW ERA?
building the future**



SPRING

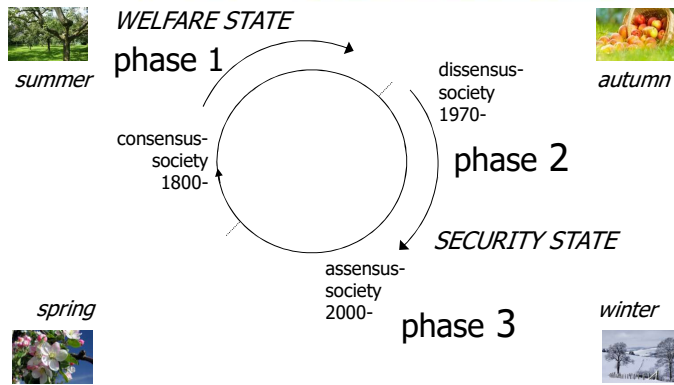
assensus-
society, 2000-

WINTER



johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

A SOCIETY IN DISTINTEGRATION from a welfare state to a security state



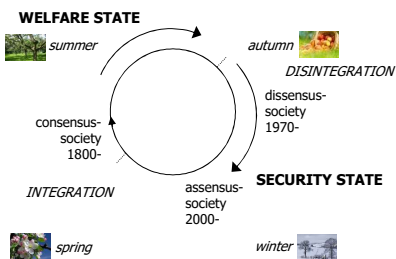
- * *welfare state:* (striving for) welfare as a dominant theme
- * *security state:* (striving for) security as a dominant theme

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

A SOCIETY IN DISTINTEGRATION from a welfare state to a security state

* *welfare state:*
(striving for) welfare as a dominant theme:

- . growth and expansion
- . integration as dynamics ('spring-summer')
- . climax: golden sixties
- . future as desire



* *security state:*
(striving for) security as a dominant theme:

- . recession and decrease
- . disintegration as dynamics ('autumn-winter')
- . crises as a continuous thread (and not as an exception)
- . future as a threat

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

OR: ... TOWARDS A SECURITY SOCIETY (1)

SECURITY:

- The rise of the "risk society" (U. Beck), the prevention and security discourse in politics, media and public opinion;
- Security obsession focused on petty crime in (semi-)public space;
- 'Existential Insecurity' (Z. Bauman) - 'Ontological Insecurity' (A. Giddens);
- Nuisance and intolerance

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

... AND A MEDIATION SOCIETY (2)

MEDIATION:

- loss of social bonds and hierarchy, horizontalisation of relations, growing distances, social disintegration
- from macro-conflicts towards an accumulation of micro-conflicts
- mediation: sign of a society in disintegration ('autumn- winter'), repeated in history
- the rise of restorative practices and mediation as a new tool in all fields of society: family, environment, work floor, school, neighbourhood, international, victim-offender mediation, ...
- conflict management in all domains of society

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

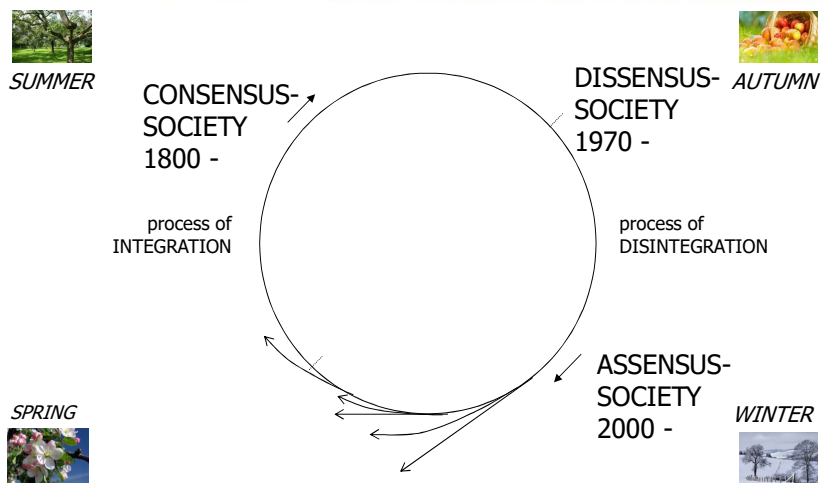
3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (Illich)

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

THREE PHASES IN 200 YEARS OF MODERNITY:
consensus – dissensus – assensus



johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

200 YEARS OF MODERNITY

three forms of normativity

- autumn-winter of modernity leads to shifts in power structures and normativity
- three normative 'eras': consensus -> dissensus -> assensus:
-> *three forms of normative power*
- winter of modernity: from an external normativity to an internal normativity:
-> *what is still functioning in the old tradition of power?*
-> *e.g.: justice (consensus ?), trade union (dissensus ?), education ("pupils don't listen anymore ...")*
- dialogue, encounter as an answer

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

200 YEARS OF MODERNITY

three forms of normativity

- * three normative 'stages': consensus -> dissensus -> assensus

. *consensus*: "... because I tell you !"

- . power relationship: *vertical*
- . compulsory, authoritarian
- . disciplining: norm is absolute and is not questioned

. *dissensus*: "... it is better because ..."

- . power relationship: *vertical*
- . involvement, participative
- . emancipatory: norm is relative, is motivated and adapted if needed

. *assensus*: "... I see it this way ..." – "... I see it that way ..."

- . power relationship: *horizontal*
- . **negotiation, mediation, restorative practices**
- . co-construction of the norm: dialogue on arguments and foundations

- * three 'types' of authority (e.g. educators, teachers, ...)

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

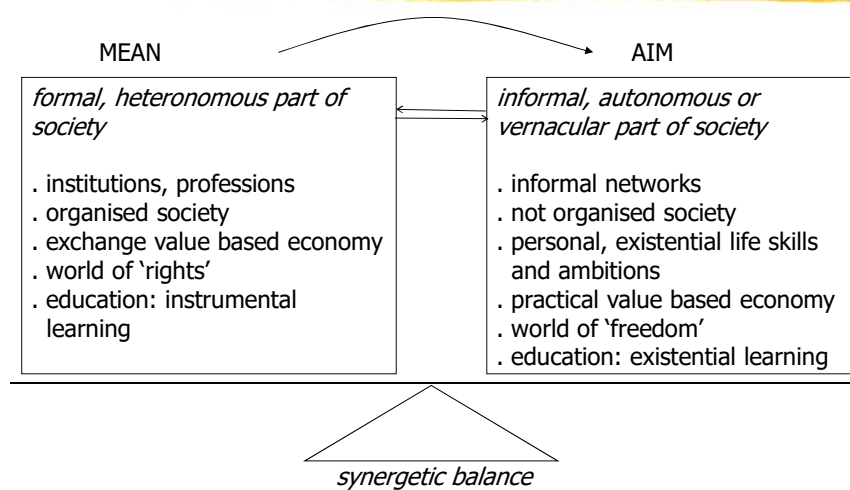
**3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE
(I. Illich)**

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

**HETERONOMOUS VS. AUTONOMOUS
LIFE SPHERE IN SOCIETY (I. Illich)**



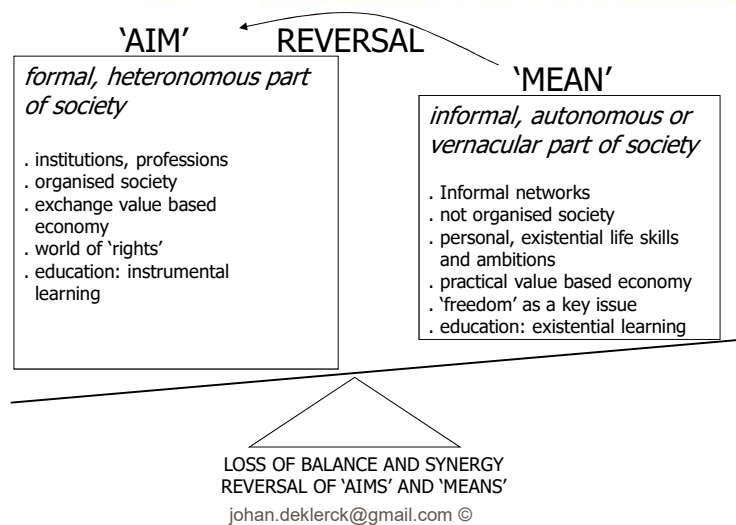
johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

TWO LIFE SPHERES IN SOCIETY

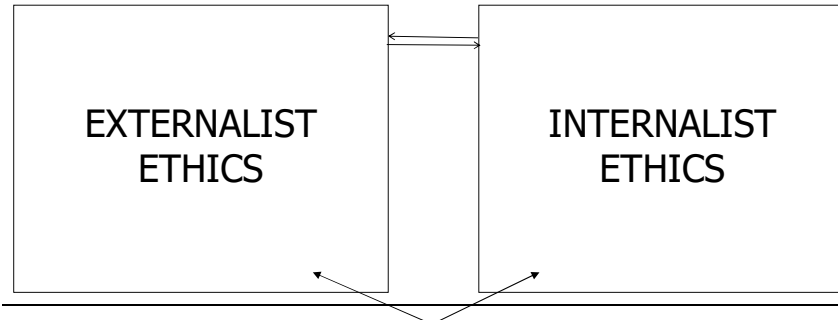
- every society consists of two life spheres
- these life spheres are complementary
- these life spheres cannot replace each other
- these life spheres are found back on the macro, meso, micro level, in daily life
- in our society there is a disproportion between these life spheres
- this disproportion is found within the justice system, education, ...

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

HETERONOMOUS VS. AUTONOMOUS PART OF WESTERN SOCIETY (I. Illich)



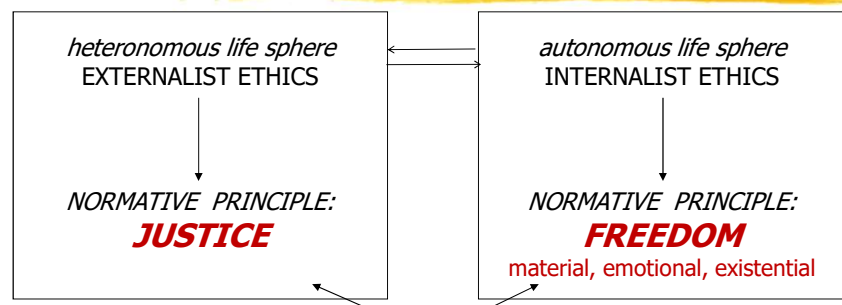
ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS, TWO EXPRESSIONS



self regulating ethical power
EXISTENTIAL ETHICAL ROOTS

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CRIME AND CONFLICT doing justice – restore freedom



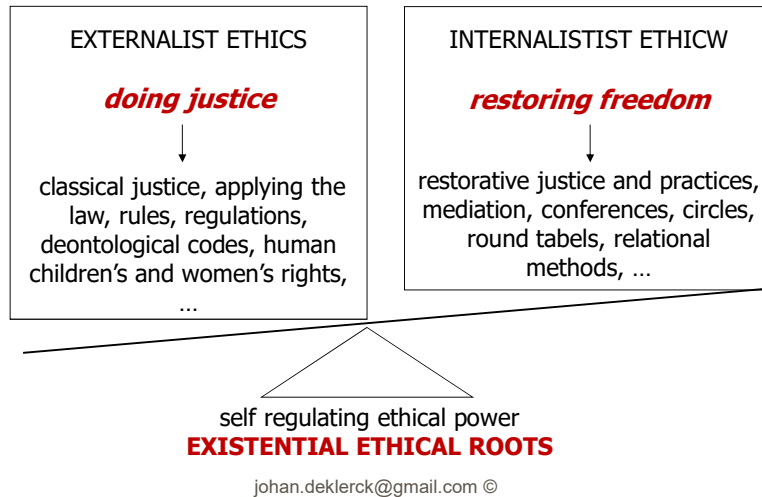
self regulating ethical power
EXISTENTIAL ETHICAL ROOTS

- *complementary relationship: different goal and result*
- *constitutional state guarantees the freedom of the citizen*
- *existential ethics as a foundation*

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

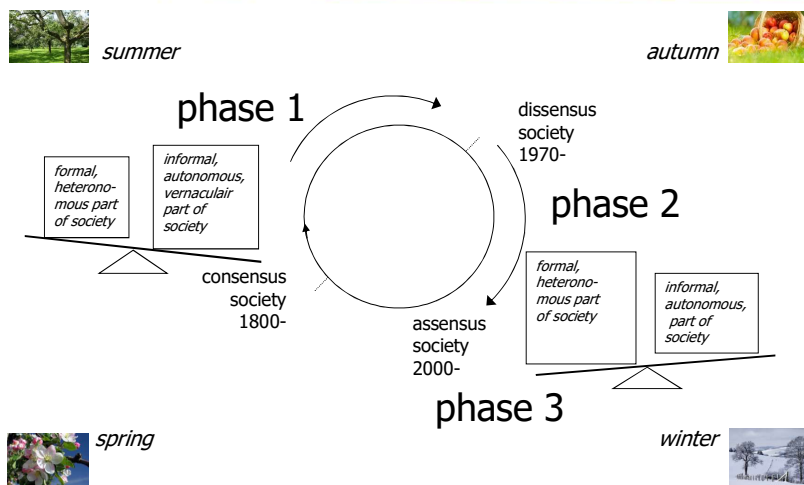
ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS, TWO EXPRESSIONS

two fields, methods and approaches

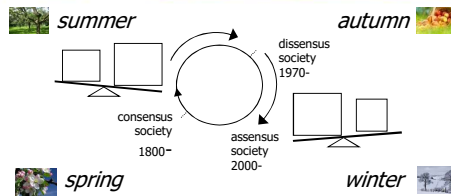


CYCLE OF MODERNITY: "OVERINSTITUTIONALIZATION"

autonomous and heteronomous life sphere (I. Illich) I



CYCLE OF MODERNITY: "OVERINSTITUTIONALIZATION" autonomous and heteronomous life sphere (I. Illich) II



- "spring": dominance of the autonomous life sphere
- turning point: 1900-1920, heteronomous life sphere becomes present
- "autumn": 1980-... : dominance of the heteronomous sphere: radical monopoly, over-institutionalization, ...
- now: rediscovery of the quality of the autonomous life sphere in mediation, restorative justice, restorative practices, horizontal methods of support, round tables, family conferencing, ...

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

AUTUMN/WINTER OF MODERNITY towards an ethics of mediation (1)

- . from an ethical *object* (doing what is imposed) towards an ethical *subject* (defining himself 'good' and 'bad')
- . disintegration of traditional ethical structures
- . radical individualisation of ethical experiences and opinions
- . existential orientation (ethical compass): internal, no longer external
- . experiences are steering, and less and less external frameworks
- . a multitude of stimuli confuse existential anchor:
 - . *kicks, flashes, boosts*
 - . *easy acces to drugs, alcohol, medication, sex, violence, games*
 - . *extremes become normal*
- . Permitted? Yes or now? Why (not)?
 - . *classic blame does not work (anymore)*
 - . *the ideal of a life without troubles, cf. idols, celebrities (normative belief)?*
 - . *(risk of) loss of orientation -> existential damage*

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

AUTUMN/WINTER OF MODERNITY towards an ethics of mediation (2)

PAST

from a moral object ...

- . objective, externalist ethics
- . individual only as part of the collective
- . strong implicit consensus
- . parents and teacher: one front
- . rules are of central importance
- . fear of punishment
- . against experiences
- . ethical consumerism
- . vertical pattern, imposed



CLASSICAL JUSTICE

NOW

... to a moral subject

- . subjective, internalist ethics
- . radical individualisation
- . everyone his own meaning: assensus
- . front is often gone
- . rules do not make impression any longer
- . punishment doesn't make impression
- . experience based
- . active construction through experiences
- . horizontal, dialogue and encounter



MEDIATION & RJ / RP

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

AUTUMN/WINTER OF MODERNITY towards an ethics of mediation (3)

consequences:

- . imposed rules are no longer connected with the experiences of younger generations
- . rules are accepted, but only superficially
- . young people become 'ethical yourselfers'

an existential ethics:

- . common source of internal and external ethics
- . source commune, beyond influence of culture, gender, etc.
- . accessible on is sensitive of a cultural relativity
- . accessible insofar as one is free on an existential level (flow of life)
- . becomes visible in extreme situations

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

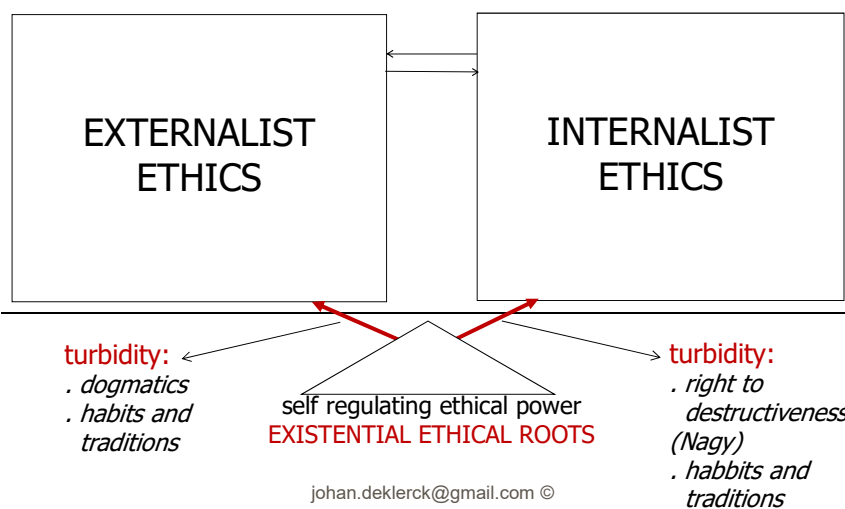
3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (Illich)

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS,
TWO EXPRESSIONS



EXISTENTIAL ETHICS AS FOUNDATION

- internalist en externalist ethics:
 - *changes in time and place (cultural assumptions)*
 - *relative:*
 - turbidity because of 'right to destructiveness' (eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth) -> internalist
 - turbidity because of customs and traditions -> externalist
- assensus society: rediscovery of an internalist ethics
- existential ethics: root or foundation:
 - *absolute character*
 - *"root", inner source beyond time and place*
 - *whole humanity*

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

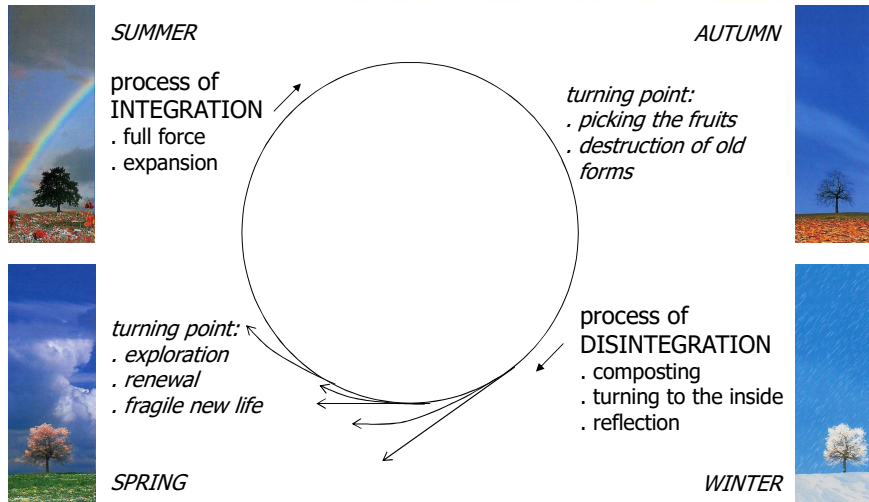
3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (I. Illich)

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

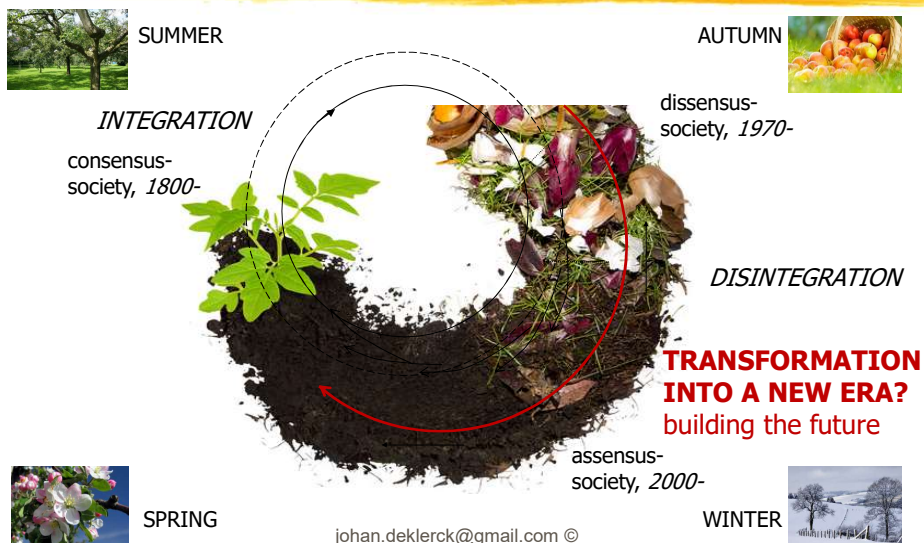
5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION



Autumn - winter of society FALLING APART AND TRANSFORMATION OF MODERNITY



"autumn-winter" of modernity THE CHANGE OF THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE



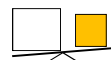
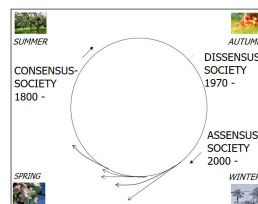
- "composting" 200 years of the cycle of modernity
- transformation of modernity and the falling apart of vertical, patriarchal sociological structures and patterns
- traditional structures of society falling apart, cf. class society
-> Durckheim, Talcott Parsons (functionalism), ...
- from a "three"-structure towards a "rhizomic" structure of society and social relationships -> Guattari & Deleuze, 'Rhizome'
- Enlightenment: 'reason' as a cornerstone and changes in society: what's new: emotions, ecology, women, sustainability, diversity, ...
-> "building the future"

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

"autumn-winter" of modernity ASSENSUS & THE AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE



- the emergence of assensus society:
 - *consensus -> dissensus -> assensus*
 - *horizontal methods an techniques*
 - *rediscovery of an internalist ethics*
- from verticality to horizontality in ethics
- rediscovery of the autonomous life sphere:
 - *field of the assensus qualities*
 - *field of horizontal methods*
 - *a correction to the over attention for the heteronomous life sphere*



johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

SHAPING A NEW REALITY for restorative practices



sociological developments of horizontalisation in relations ("rhizome")

+

the crumbling-away of verticality in normativity: **assensus**

+

rediscovery of the **autonomous life sphere**: biotope for RP and mediation (<-> over-institutionalization)

+

from an externalist ethics towards an **internalist ethics**

**= CORNER STONES FOR A FUTURE OF RJ & RP
in autumn – winter of modernity**

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

*IIRP World Conference
Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019*

0. INTRODUCTION

1. AUTUMN OF MODERNITY

2. ETHICAL CHANGES IN SOCIETY

3. HETERONOMOUS - AUTONOMOUS LIFE SPHERE (I. Illich)

4. EXISTENTIAL ETHICS

5. CORNERSTONES FOR A RP SOCIETY

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©

MORE INFORMATION?



- Johan.deklerck@gmail.com + 32 (0)473 853 473
- www.johandeklerck.be (coming soon)

If you use these projections of my presentation ©, please refer to the Doctoral thesis below. The projections are an excerpt:

Deklerck, J. (2005), *'Delinquentie en haar context bekeken vanuit een cyclisch model van 'integratie-desintegratie'. Diss. doct. KU Leuven, Afd. Strafrecht, Strafvordering en Criminologie*, Leuven, België.

English: Deklerck, J. (2005), *"An analysis of delinquency and its context from a perspective of the cycle of integration-disintegration"*. Doctoral thesis, KU Leuven, Law Faculty, Departement of Criminology, Leuven, Belgium

Thank you,

johan.deklerck@gmail.com ©