WRITTEN IN THE STARS?
Shaping a new reality in our communities in the ‘autumn of modernity’ through restorative practices

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

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
THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION

SUMMER
- process of integration
- full force
- expansion

AUTUMN
- turning point:
  - picking the fruits
  - destruction of old forms

SPRING
- turning point:
  - exploration
  - renewal
  - fragile new life

WINTER
- process of disintegration
  - composting
  - turning to the inside
  - reflection

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Kortrijk, Belgium, 15-17 May 2019

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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-sovity
* Enlightenment: ‘reason’ as a cornerstone of the age of modernity

INTEGRATION
- ‘reason’ as cornerstone of modernity:
  - politics: parliamentary democracy
  - economy: civil capitalism
  - faith: separation between church and state

THREE PHASES IN NORMATIVITY:
- consensus
- dissensus
- assensus
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

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Autumn - winter of society
FALLING APART AND TRANSFORMATION OF MODERNITY

INTEGRATION
consensus-
society, 1800-

transformation
into a new era?
building the future

DISINTEGRATION
consensus-
society, 1970-

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

WELFARE STATE
phase 1

SECURITY STATE
phase 2

phase 3

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

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

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

CONSENSUS-
SOCIETY
1800 -

process of
INTEGRATION

DISSENSUS-
SOCIETY
1970 -

process of
DISINTEGRATION

ASSENSUS-
SOCIETY
2000 -

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
3 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, ... )

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

formal, heteronomous part of society
- institutions, professions
- organised society
- exchange value based economy
- world of 'rights'
- education: instrumental learning

informal, autonomous or vernacular part of society
- informal networks
- not organised society
- personal, existential life skills and ambitions
- practical value based economy
- world of 'freedom'
- education: existential learning

synergetic balance

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200 YEARS OF MODERNITY
three forms of normativity

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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, ...

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

'AIM' REVERSAL
- formal, heteronomous part of society
  - institutions, professions
  - organised society
  - exchange value based economy
  - world of 'rights'
  - education: instrumental learning

'MEAN' REVERSAL
- informal, autonomous or vernacular part of society
  - informal networks
  - not organised society
  - personal, existential life skills and ambitions
  - practical value based economy
  - 'freedom' as a key issue
  - education: existential learning

LOSS OF BALANCE AND SYNERGY
- REVERSAL OF 'AIM' AND 'MEANS'

ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS, TWO EXPRESSIONS

EXTERNALIST ETHICS
- self regulating ethical power
- EXISTENTIAL ETHICAL ROOTS

INTERNALIST ETHICS
A DOUBLE ANSWER TO CRIME AND CONFLICT

doing justice – restore freedom

**EXTERNALIST ETHICS**
- normative principle: **justice**
- autonomous life sphere
- **heteronomous life sphere**

**INTERNALIST ETHICS**
- normative principle: **freedom**
- material, emotional, existential

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

ONE EXISTENTIAL ETHICS, TWO EXPRESSIONS

two fields, methods and approaches

**EXTERNALIST ETHICS**
- doing justice
  - classical justice, applying the law, rules, regulations, deontological codes, human children's and women's rights, ...

**INTERNALIST ETHICS**
- restoring freedom
  - restorative justice and practices, mediation, conferences, circles, round tables, relational methods, ...

self regulating ethical power
**EXISTENTIAL ETHICAL ROOTS**

CYCLE OF MODERNITY: "OVERINSTITUTIONALIZATION"

autonomous and heteronomous life sphere (I. Illich) I

summer
- consensus society 1800-
- consensus society 1970-

phase 1
- delusus society
- delusus society

phase 2
- disensus society
- disensus society

phase 3
- intersensus society
- intersensus society

winter
- spring
- autumn

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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, ...

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 access 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

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

. from a moral object … … to a moral subject
. objective, externalist ethics . subjective, internalist ethics
. individual only as part of the collective . radical individualisation
. strong implicit consensus . everyone his own meaning: assensus
. rules are of central importance . front is often gone
. fear of punishment . punishment doesn't make impression any longer
. against experiences . experience based
. ethical consumerism . active construction through experiences
. vertical pattern, imposed . horizontal, dialogue and encounter
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 yourselves'

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
EXISTENTIAL ETHICS AS FOUNDATION

- internalist vs. 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

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THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION
AND DISINTEGRATION

- SUMMER
  - process of INTEGRATION
  - full force expansion
  - turning point: picking the fruits, destruction of old forms

- SPRING
  - process of DISINTEGRATION
  - composting, turning to the inside, reflection
  - renewal, fragile new life

- AUTUMN
  - turning point: exploration

- WINTER
  - turning point: reflection

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"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
  - Durkheim, 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"

"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
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

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MORE INFORMATION?
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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. docr. KU Leuven, Afd. Strafrecht,
Strafordering en Criminologie, Leuven, België.

from a perspective of the cycle of integration-disintegration". Doctoral thesis,
KU Leuven, Law Faculty, Department of Criminology, Leuven, Belgium

Thank you,