

2011DePaul Faculty Teaching and Learning Conference

Teaching as an Act of Body and Brain

Friday, May 6th, 10:40-11:50, DePaul Center 8012



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Neuroscience Perspective Regarding Teaching, Learning and Patterns of Thinking

Patterns of Thinking: Experiential Observation

International Management: Evolution during the last 40 years

IM is an interdisciplinary field of knowledge which relied on more established disciplines such as Anthropology, Linguistics, Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy. From these disciplines, IM adopted constructs and concepts such as Awareness, Consciousness, **Culture**, Mind/Body Relationships, Mindfulness, Sense of Self and Other, Thinking and Learning Processes. IM used these constructs as building blocks for its own models and theories.

Characteristics of Western and Asian (Chinese) Patterns of Thinking

Western Mind tends to be binary in nature.

- Cultural Value Dimensions (CVDs) tend to be Binary also. Ed Hall (High /Low Context), Hofstede (Individualism /Collectivism), GLOBE Project, etc.
- Assumptions: mutually exclusive events, self-reference criterion, universal application.
- Need for Conceptual Reassessment.

Eastern Mind tends to be holistic in nature.

Chinese Pattern of Thinking is Holistic. It is the **Yin & Yang**. In Chinese philosophy (Taoism), opposing values coexist in everything. They are considered two **different** but **complementary** concepts or forces. Everything has its own **interdependent** opposite, and **one cannot exist without the other**. The important thing in life is to strive towards a balance between the two.

Ascendance of Neuroscience

Related Disciplines: Evolution during the last 10 years

- Biology (Neuroimaging: MRI → fMRI)
- Better understanding to the Brain: (10 billion Neurons, with possible 10 thousand synaptic connections for each!) Mirror Neurons, Neuroplasticity
- Bridging the Western Eastern Gaps through **Cultural Neuroscience**

Pedagogical Considerations

***“Biologist have brought rigor to psychology, sociology and even economics.
Now they are turning their attention to the softest sciences of all: Management”.***

The Economist, *The Biology of Business: Homo Administrans*, September 25, 2010; p 99-101.

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Appendix 1: The Culturally Modified Brain, “Not only does the brain shape culture, culture shapes the brain”. **Neurons that fire together, wire together.**
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