

“Positional Standpoint Epistemology and the Subversion of the Objective”

March 5th. 2023

Presented at

The Independent Scholars' Evenings

www.qcinstitute.org

session titled: “Black voices, Authenticity and Lived Experience: Positional Standpoint Epistemology and the Subversion of the Objective.”

By

Andrushka Lareau, Independent Scholar.

-Notes on Positional Standpoint Epistemology (Standpoint Theory) and the Subversion of the Objective - Lecture 3 of Series 4

We learned about an instrument that the New Left uses to prioritize Critical Theory (neo-Marxism) over Traditional Theory (epistemology) and that this tool is the exoskeleton to their logic. This tool is called Positional Standpoint Epistemology.

Positional Standpoint Epistemology was coined by Sandra Harding, but that isn't very important right now. What is important is to understand that all the terms under the umbrella of Positional Standpoint Epistemology are terms that Critical Social Justice Ideology claims to have higher truth-value than do terms under the umbrella of epistemology (logic, reason, deduction, inference, validity, etc.). And that is the only problem here. If there isn't anything you understand about Positional Standpoint Epistemology, simply understand that, the Subversion of the Objective.

These terms include, Black Voices, Authenticity, Lived Experience, Knowledge(s), (T)heory, etc etc etc. These words are Marxist watchwords and your radar should be crimson red when you hear them.

Positional Standpoint Epistemology is the ultimate attempt to subvert objective reality because objective reality, they claim, is an overarching hegemonic force that normalizes the oppressive status-quo into the lives of people, this "normalizing" produces what Critical Social Justice acolytes and Marxists call "False Consciousness." Not to be discussed here. The philosophy behind all this is called Gramscian. That is also not of immediate importance. All Critical Social Justice ideology and scholarship is HEAVILY dependent on Michel Foucault's idea that knowledge is always culturally contingent and thus a function of power—indeed, identical to power (power-knowledge and biopower). That is, knowledge is something local to a particular people at a particular time, and it is just politics by a particular means. When you systemize these philosophical idea you have Positional Standpoint Epistemology.

Recognizing this attitude about knowledge is crucial for understanding the epistemic (truth) status of "lived experience" "black lives," "authenticity," etc. To get even more technical, but more to the point...

Critical Social Justice ideologues believe, either implicitly or explicitly (mostly explicitly), that the social imposition of your marginalized status (sex, weight, gender, race, disability, etc) creates a structurally determinate system in which the actual lived experience of such imposition becomes "essentialisable," real and tangible. If you are a Critical Race Theory advocate (for example) you are, much like a Nazi, a "Race Essentialist." Taking this fecal-ridden philosophy seriously means that "Being Black" has higher epistemological truth-value than does being a person who is black. Because you don't get to choose what immutable characteristics you have, the lived existence of them being imposed by the apparent oppressive hegemony of society, happens along a deterministic trajectory and in that sense have equal or higher epistemological truth-value than does traditional epistemological defaults (reason, logic, inference, deduction, validity, etc.). The lived experience of being black has a higher epistemological truth-value than does the clear statistics of black on black violence in the United States. Another example is, the lived experience of being trans has a higher epistemological truth-value than does the statistics of people born with gender dysphoria (very rare).

Some may call this Identity Politics incarnate. A good way to approach it is, they believe your group identity is primary and your individual identity is secondary. This has toxic and utter fatal consequences if you take this worldview seriously, which is what in English is called Tribalism. When I said that today's society is nothing but a zero-sum fatalistic, Hobbesian battleground of identity categories, this is what I meant. It is tribalism modernized - the person is not held primary, his immutable characteristics are. It is truly that simple.

This is important because taking this Foucauldian neo-Marxist philosophy to its extremes means disaster. O.J. Simpson, for example, was acquitted for malicious, cold-blooded murder because his legal team injected Positional Standpoint Epistemology into the legal proceedings, making things such as evidence and legal reasoning, secondary.

Critical Social Justice (Social Justice) was founded by Kimberlé Crenshaw and Derek Bell in 1989 at a magical meeting in Madison Wisconsin, which brought a blistering end to the wonders of the Civil Rights Movement pushed by Dr. King and the like. Kimberlé Crenshaw says, "We question the very foundations of the Liberal Order, including incrementalism, civil rights litigation, equality, legal reasoning, liberalism and neutral principles of constitutional law." When she said this, she was representing the entire mouthpiece of Critical Social Justice Ideology, as she is the Godmother, but also the death of the Civil Rights Movement. When did the Civil Rights Movement End? Yup, 1989. But do you notice where she says "legal reasoning?" Well, that is the call for the injection of Positional Standpoint Epistemology into the Legal System.

Five important points

1. Positional Standpoint Epistemology is the "logical-brain tool" used to completely subvert objective reality and the Liberal Order in terms of Critical Social Justice Scholarship and New-Left, Marcusean Cult Ideology.
2. Positional Standpoint Epistemology believes that your marginalized status (your neo-Marxist oppression marker) is essentialisable, real and tangible.
3. For this reason, Critical Social Justice acolytes believe that their group identity is held primarily on ALL dimensions of analysis and that their individual identity is immediately and always secondary.
4. For this reason, Critical Justice Ideology is, by definition (Oxford or otherwise), modernized tribalism.
5. Half of Positional Standpoint Epistemology is entirely reliant of Foucault and is for that reason alone completely and utterly postmodernist, anti-realist, anti-science, and anti-truth (epistemes). When power and dynamics is added to the mix, (the other half) you have the product of neo-Marxism (Marxism applied to culture and identity not class or the economic). Critical Social Justice dogma and it's "logical substrate" Positional Standpoint Epistemology can be summed up simply and holistically as "Neo-Marxist Postmodernism."

~*~