Using Media to Address Difficult Topics in the Classroom



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Using media to teach about sexual assault and intimate partner violence



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Course that I teach:

Sex Offenders

Victimology

Crime & Behavior

Criminological Theory

Use media as a tool in reading and creating

-Read comic books that deal with issue, discussion and assignments

-Students create media items as part of civic engagement project



Walking Dead comic issue #29 and #33 Use comic as form of media to read to discuss rape

Garland, T.S., Branch, K.A., & Grimes, M. (2015). Blurring the Lines: Reinforcing Rape Myths in Comic Books. *Feminist*

Criminology, 1–21.



Avengers #213

Intimate partner violence committed by Hank (Ant Man) against Janet (Wasp)



MEDIA ASSIGNMENT

First version

- -Students pick their own media
- -Analyze the portrayal of crime
- -Use supporting research
- -Discussion

Second version

- -Students pick media
- -Content analysis of media
- -Poster presentation



Students create media for civic engagement of rape and IPV

-Past created comic books, children's books, brochures and art





SPRING 2019 Media based civic engagement projects for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

- "What were you wearing?" exhibit on display at WGS Symposium, WGS offices and event on survivors at Bone Student Center







SPRING 2019 Media based civic engagement projects for Sexual Assault Awareness Month

-Partnership with YWCA Stepping Stones

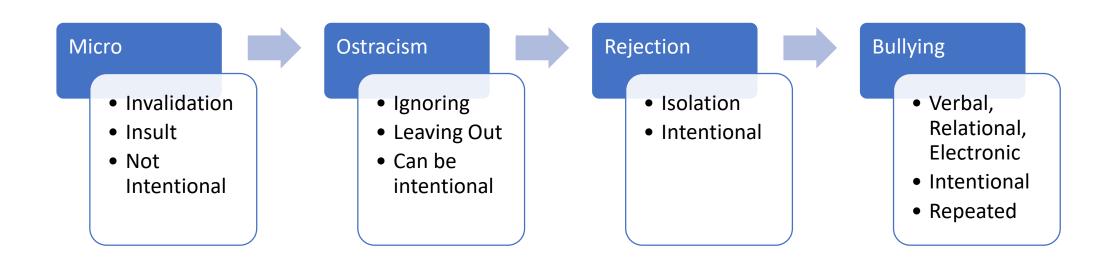
-Creating art with survivors of sexual assault for display

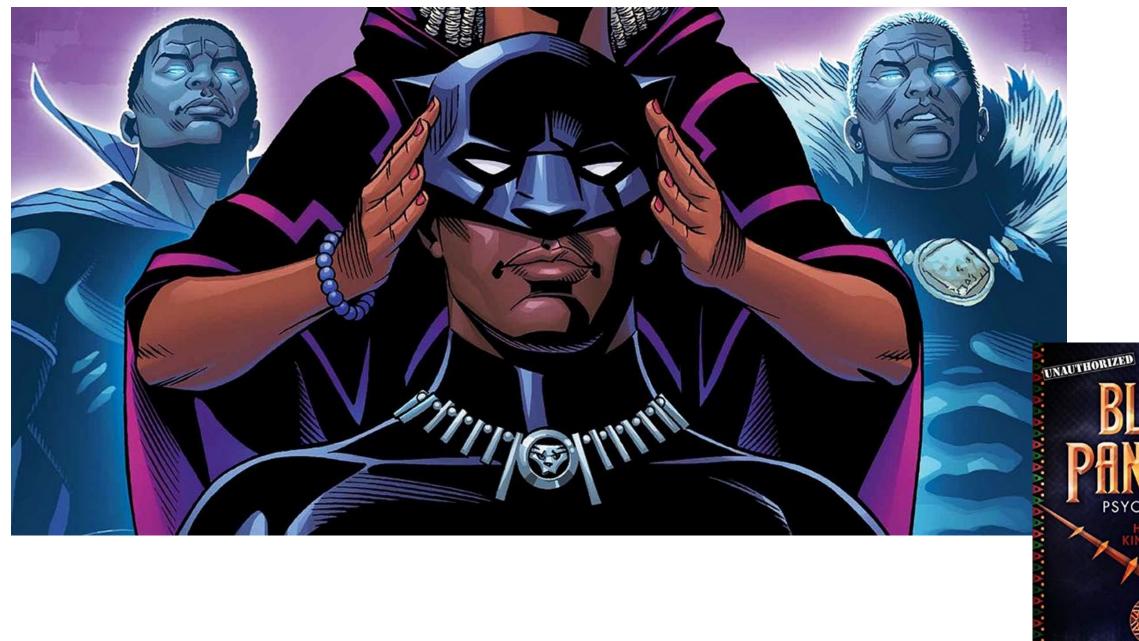
-Children's books for Bloomington Police Department





Micro to Macro Aggressions





BLACK PANTHER PSYCHOLOGY HIDDEN KINGDOMS



TRAVIS LANGLEY NO ALEX SIMMONS

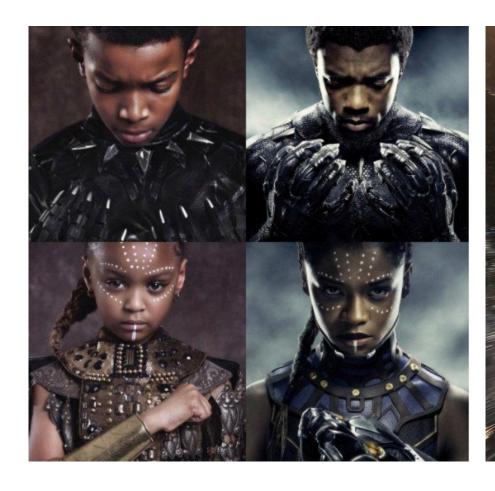
This book is an independent publication and is not associated with or authorized, licensed, spensored, or endorsed is any person or entity affiliated with the well-known block Patither characters, publications, TV shows or movies.

Micro





Ostracism





Rejection





Bullying





Other Examples

- Trauma
 - Fisher King
 - Monster
 - A Time to Kill
 - Stranger Things
- Bullying
 - Bullying Documentary
 - Reject
 - Mean Girls
 - Freaks and Geeks
 - Stranger Things

- Microaggression
 - This is Us
 - Mean Girls
 - Get Out

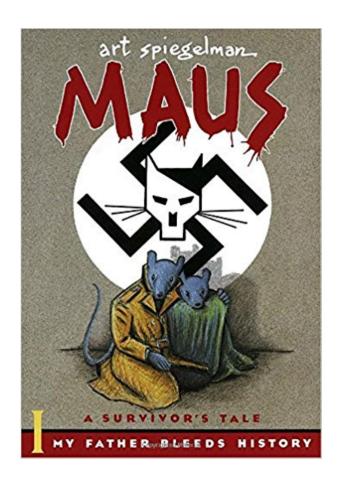
Prejudice, Dehumanization, and Genocide

Eric D. Wesselmann

Department of Psychology

Art Spiegleman















ANJA AND I DIDN'T HAVE WHERE TO GO.



Student Reactions

- Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar (N=9)
 - Added knowledge
 - Strength of visual medium
 - Personal detail → emotional involvement
 - Authenticity
 - "This novel seemed more personal than other holocaust books I've read. Other books are simply descriptions, or fiction, but this was real, this happened. It seems more real when it comes directly from a source and with pictures."

Student Reactions

• "...heart wrenching...This image made my stomach turn."

• "...strikingly cruel and graphic...extremly unsettling..."

• "This page is intensely graphic, so much so that I had to pause for a bit before I continued reading."

• "Maus caused me the most difficulty. Its surprisingly intimate account of Holocaust events drove me into intense introspection; my experience with this text definitely enabled new levels of personal growth in my life."

X-Men, Diversity, Prejudice







AUSCHWITZ.

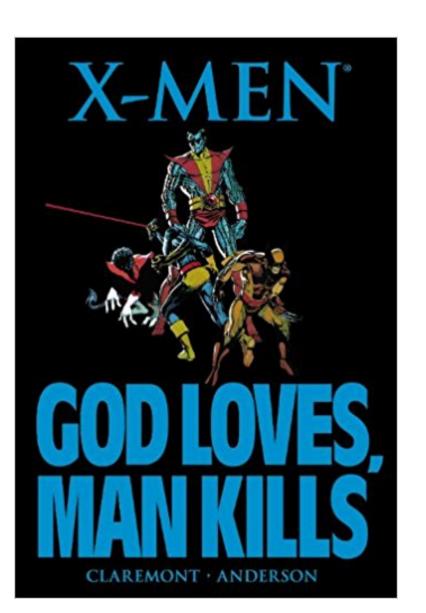
AND YOUR

X-Men, Diversity, Prejudice





X-Men, Diversity, Prejudice







What is Science in the Wild Narratives Framework?

• By describing persons as being nested within reality, versus on the other side of it, the Wild Narratives perspective conceptualizes organisms as embodiments of context.

• Such *embodiments of context* are naturally and necessarily *about* the contexts the embody.

• They do not need to process or detect information to be meaningful. Rather, they are inherently meaningful, and they modulate context, while context modulates them

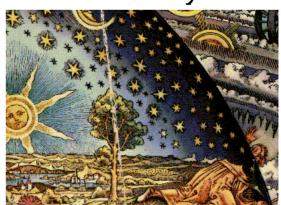
What is Science in the Wild Narratives Framework?

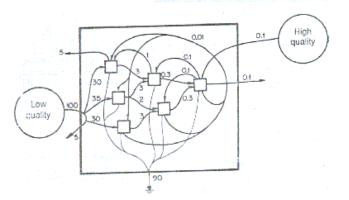
• The Science of Consciousness converts to the Science of Embodied Contexts.

• This science has actually been done by a host of different scholars, in a host of diverse disciplines over the past few centuries.

What is the Science of Embodied Contexts?

Nature as
a self-organizing
energy-transformation
hierarchy



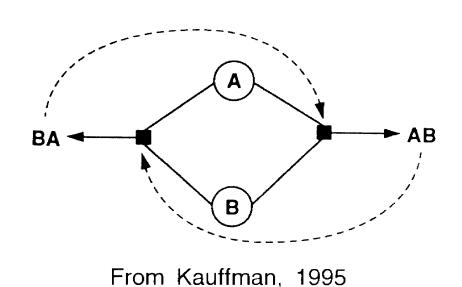


• Self-organizing

• Hierarchy

• Energy-transformers, not physical/mental systems

What is the Science of Embodied Contexts? Autocatalysis Sustainment Within a Transformation Hierarchy



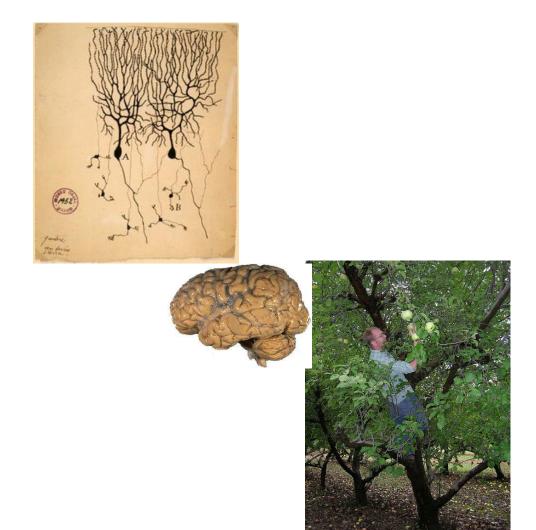
• Chemical interactions produce their own catalysts

• Living systems are self metabolizing systems

- The work produces products that actually sustain the work
- (self-sustaining work)

What is the Science of Embodied Contexts?

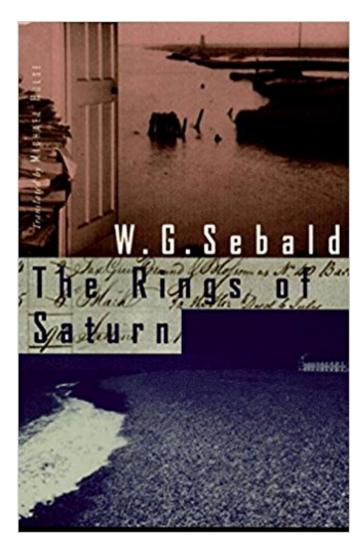
Emergent Systems are also Autocatalytic



- Neurons (Hebb, 1949)
- Brains (Edelman, 1989)
- Behaviors (Skinner, 1954)
- Recursion (Bickhard, 2001)
- Wild Systems Theory (Jordan, 2013)

Are there other narratives that are consistent with Wild Systems Theory and the idea we are Embodiments of Context?

• From the first smouldering taper to the elegant lanterns whose light reverberated around eighteenth-century courtyards and from the mild radiance of those lanterns to the unearthly glow of the sodium lamps that line the Belgian motorways, it has all been combustion. Combustion is the hidden principle behind every artefact we create. The making of a fish-hook, manufacture of a china cup, or production of a television programme, all depend on the same process of combustion. Like our bodies and like our desires, the machines we have devised are possessed of a heart which is slowly reduced to embers.



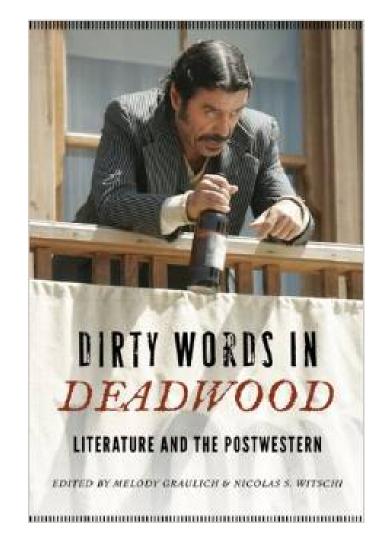
Are there other narratives that are consistent with Wild Systems Theory and the idea we are Embodiments of Context?

- The Inescapability of Nested Context
- The act of caring and working for change is cursed by infinite unintended consequences.
- These days, there are angry ghosts all around us dead from wars, sickness, starvation and nobody cares. So you say you're under a curse? So what? So's the whole damn world.



Are there other narratives that are consistent with Wild Systems Theory and the idea we are Embodiments of Context?

- Sustainment in Conflicting Contexts
- Navigating cultural transition from identity sustainment through eminence versus representation.
- In life you have to do a lot of things you don't ***** want to do. Many times, that's what the **** life is... one vile **** task after another.



Examples from Pop Culture

What are we?

If you were an android, would you dream of freedom?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjuQRCG_sUw

Conclusions

Perhaps we are witnessing a cultural-level resurgence of holism, in science, art, and culture in general.

Cultural narratives, including those in popular culture, breath lived life into our scientific narratives about what we are. By presenting my students examples of the dynamic, narrative-like structure of the lived-life portrayed in cultural narratives, they are able to transfer this understanding to the scientific narrative of Wild Systems theory.

As our lives become increasingly interconnected via the internet and media, the wild narrative of our status as *embodied context* becomes increasingly integrative.

As embodiments of context, we are inherently meaningful