

THE TRANSFORMATIVE MIND

The book suggests a transition from relational worldview premised on the sociopolitical ethos of adaptation toward transformative worldview premised on the ethos of solidarity and equality. Expansively developing Vygotsky's revolutionary project, the transformative activist stance integrates insights from a vast array of critical and sociocultural theories and pedagogies and moves beyond their impasses to address the crisis of inequality. This captures the dynamics of social transformation and agency in moving beyond theoretical and sociopolitical canons of the status quo. The focus is on the nexus of people co-creating history and society while being interactively co-created by their own transformative agency. Positing development and mind as agentic contributions to the "world-in-the-making" from an activist stance guided by a sought-after future, this approach culminates in implications for research with transformative agendas and a pedagogy of daring. Along the way, many key conceptions of mind, development, and education are challenged and radically reworked.

Anna Stetsenko is recognized for contributions to sociocultural and activity theories around the world. Rooted in Vygotsky's project, she has worked to advance it across several decades and international contexts bringing in experiences of teaching and researching in leading universities and research centers in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Russia. She is widely published in several languages. With her interdisciplinary expertise in psychology, philosophy, and education in an international background, her writing cuts across many fields and connects cutting-edge developments and insights from a variety of frameworks.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-86558-6 — The Transformative Mind
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The Transformative Mind

EXPANDING VYGOTSKY'S APPROACH TO
DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Anna Stetsenko

The Graduate Center of The City University of New York



CAMBRIDGE
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One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521865586

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First published 2017

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Name: Stetsenko, Anna, author.

Title: The transformative mind : expanding Vygotsky's approach to development and education / Anna Stetsenko.

Description: New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016024243 | ISBN 9780521865586 (hardback : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Vygotskiĭ, L. S. (Lev Semenovich), 1896–1934. | Developmental psychology. | Critical theory. | Education—Philosophy.

Classification: LCC BF109.V95 S74 2016 | DDC 150.92—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016024243>

ISBN 978-0-521-86558-6 Hardback

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No society has yet lived up to the principle that everybody matters ...
Our defections are particularly scandalous, I think, because we *began*
with the proposition that we're all created equal.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, 2015

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is
that we are powerful beyond measure ... Actually, who are you not to
be? ... Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

Nelson Mandela, 1994 (quoting Marianne Williamson)

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[More Information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page ix</i>
Introduction: Setting the Stage. The Paradox of Continuity versus Change	1
PART I	
1 Charting the Agenda: From Adaptation to Transformation	23
2 Situating Theory: The Charges and Challenges of Theorizing Activism	41
PART II	
3 Vygotsky's Project: Methodology as the Philosophy of Method	95
4 Vygotsky's Project: Relational Ontology	115
5 Vygotsky's Project: From Relational Ontology to Transformative Worldview	156
PART III	
6 Transformative Activist Stance: Ontology and Epistemology	171
7 Transformative Activist Stance: Agency	206
8 Transformative Activist Stance: Encountering the Future through Commitment to Change	230

PART IV

- 9 The Mind That Matters 265
10 Illustration: Memory and Anticipation of the Future 303

PART V

- 11 Implications for Education: Teaching-Learning and
Development as Activist Projects 325
Concluding Remarks: Toward Democracy and a Pedagogy
of Daring 367
Bibliography 373
Name Index 411
Subject Index 415

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Given the emphasis on transformative agency and mind as facets of collaborative projects that are individual and collective at once, it is more than fitting to begin with acknowledgments of contributions by many colleagues, mentors, friends, and family members. The list is too long to mention each and every person who has played a role in the work presented here because it extended across several decades and encompassed several countries and many institutions around the globe. First of all, my gratitude is to my teachers from Vygotsky's project who have provided invaluable lessons of passion, commitment, and collaboration – especially Alexey A. Leontiev, Piotr Y. Galperin, Bluma V. Zeigarnik, and Vassily V. Davydov. The teachers from this generation of scholars, unmatched in their commitment to both rigorous science and deep humanity provided those who knew them with invaluable tools of being, knowing, and doing. Second, but no less importantly, my gratitude goes to my colleague, friend, interlocutor, addressee, and critic Igor Arievitch. We had started this book as a joint project, which was a natural inclination because we share so much in terms of our background, trajectory, and thinking. We later opted for splitting this project into two parts in view of how large each of our respective contributions has grown to be even though they remain compatible and complementary at many levels. Yet Igor's input is ever present in this book albeit that the ultimate responsibility for it is mine. This came about through many amicable and joyful dialogues even as these were coupled with unwavering confrontations and encounters because we disagree on almost as many points as we share. My infinite gratitude is to my parents, Ekaterina and Pavel Stetsenko, who have lived through turmoils and struggles that very few people can fathom and yet came to be an amazing inspiration, each in their own unique way, not just to me but to so many people that listing their names

would take more than the whole volume of this book. A surgeon-oncologist and a physics professor who grew up in abject poverty (and, by western standards, remained poor through their lives), they literally saved the lives of and educated thousands of people across several generations and from many parts of the world, and I can only hope to do justice in at least a very modest way to their legacy, knowledge, courage, and wisdom. Including the lesson they taught me that there is no such thing as “my” child or “my” book or “my” anything that belongs to one person only. The sisterly support from Oksana and Elena, who share the gifts of our parents and take them to their own new heights, and from their ever-growing beautiful families has been felt from across the borders and the oceans. My dear personal friends, also from all over the world, many of whom are friends-colleagues, you know who you are, your inspiration and friendship are forever with me.

My special thanks to those who saw the promise in what I was gradually attempting to develop and provided much-needed support and encouragement including, in many cases, even early in the process (here in no particular order): Alexey A. Leontiev, Vassily V. Davydov, Joachim Lompscher, Urie Bronfenbrenner, Vera John-Steiner, Jerome Bruner, Alfred Lang, Katherine Nelson, Ethel Tobach, Mariane Hedegaard, Eduardo Vianna, Chik Collins, Peter Jones, Robert Rieber, James Lantolf, Arne Raiethel, Bruce Dorval, William Cross Jr., Yehuda Elkana, Peter Sawchuk, Susan Kirch, Marilyn Fler, Mariolina Bartolini-Bussi, Ines Langemeyer, Gordon Wells, Bonnie Nardi, Pedro Pedraza, Michalis Kontopodis, Bernd Fichtner, Maria Benites, Alan Amory, Kenneth Tobin, Azwihangwisi Muthivhi, Jack Martin, Jeff Sugarman, Cathrene Connery, Jennifer Vadeboncoeur, Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, Jean Anyon, Ofelia Garcia, Michelle Fine, Geoffrey Lautenbach, Victor Kaptelinin, Irina Verenikina, Ritva Engeström, Jytte Bang, Sharada Gade, Kristiina Kumpulainen, Olga Bazhenova, Dmitry Leontiev, Maisha Winn, Cathrine Hasse, Cristiano Mattos, and Katerina Plakitsi. Many of you created zones of proximal development and spaces for teaching-learning in truly collaborative and productive ways.

My thanks also to those who have left their marks, if even (in some cases) we had only fleeting interactions and my wish is for more dialogue and collaboration – Barbara Rogoff, James Wetsch, Michael Cole, Yrjö Engeström, Lois Holzman, Vladislav Lektorsky, Harry Daniels, Jay Lemke, Lois Mol, Kris Gutiérrez, Kai Hakkarainen, Dimitris Papadopoulos, Peter McLaren, Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont, Morten Nissen, Sunil Bhatia, Anne Edwards, Karen Barad, Jean Lave, Dorothy Holland, Kenneth Gergen, Thomas Bidell, Thomas Teo, Mikael Leiman, Wolff-Michael Roth, Annalisa Sannino, Sarah

Acknowledgments

xi

Amsler, Alan Costall, Bernard Schneuwly, Manolis Dafermos, and Alex Levant.

In addition, my many colleagues at the State Lomonosov University and the Institute of Psychology and Pedagogy in Moscow, the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education in Berlin, the University of Bern, and now the City University of New York, who I worked with together in the past and continue to work with now, often in such a close proximity that it is hard to pause and connect at deeper levels, certainly count in many ways.

And those in the younger generation of scholars and students who I had the privilege to teach and learn from – in Moscow University, University of Bern, New York University, and the City University of New York – you have been and continue to be an incredible influence in my journeys and a joyful challenge that motivates and inspires. Last but certainly not least, this book is for my daughter Marusia who grew up in parallel with the writing of it (and one could safely say, also under the pressures of this process) to be an unwavering activist with a deep sense of solidarity and equality. You are teaching me about passion for social justice and commitment to the future in ways that only someone from your young generation, just entering the world stage in joining its struggles and definitely not prepared to settle with the status quo, ever could. You are making and will make an important contribution and will realize the future you are seeking, together with others.¹

¹ Note that many quotations from Vygotsky's works have been compared with the original texts (in Russian) and changes made in cases in which it was necessary to better convey the meaning and correct mistranslations.

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