OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

The XYZs of Deleuze’s Ideas in Education

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Introduction

When I think of Deleuzian philosophy in education, I think of a seemingly whacky kickball game my gym teacher created in middle school. You could tag the bases in any order, and there was no umpire to call the shots. It was player-directed—and if you wanted to stay on base, you could, as long as no other player shared it with you. While there were boundaries, they were naturally set based on where you played. It was acceptable, even encouraged, to think outside the box. Players had to strategize in real-time—just as curricula should “flow” in real-time to create itself. With that said, there is no “right” way to read this children’s e-book; there is no constructed order that needs to be followed. If you want to find “Y” because it is your favourite letter, start there, and if you want to skip around to “K” because your first name starts with K, that works, too. And if you want to end on “A” because it always gets to go first, venture onward and save it for last. Hopefully, no matter how you choose to explore these pages, you enjoy reading the XYZs of Deleuze’s ideas as they pertain to education.
C is for *Currere*, the active and unbridled flow of curricula
(also, Latin for “to run”)
**X** is for $x = x = \text{not } y$, which shows self-similarity and limits the potential for different ways of thinking (Wallin, 2010)
D is for Deleuze, a French philosopher with big ideas about difference, repetition, machines, and desire.
R is for Rhizome, with little offshoots of ideas that are alive and creating paths as thinking grows!
I is for **Interpretosis**, or the strange need to “discover” some deeper reality in every situation. Do your teachers notice if you created your own idea, or if you figured out *what they wanted you to think*?
T is for **Track**, which causes everyone to follow the *same* course in the *same* way; some schools do this with silly tests and classes based on how smart *they* think you are.
A is for Active Force of currere, which is apparent through art, music, and film. These activities in (and out) of school offer exploration of self-expression (Wallin, 2010)
H is for Harmony, which is actually not natural. It is okay to dance to the music of your own drum!
Z is for Zebra (isn’t it always?), as the epitome of binary oppositions. Its colors show us that they are not mutually exclusive, but necessary for the other one to exist.
E is for **Experimentation**, which disturbs the predetermined ideas of how life is “supposed” to go!
O is for Order Words, or language that is meant to be obeyed. They are often commands (but not always) and are transformative.
Y is for **YOU**, the only person to ever experience life in the ways you do. No one else has your exact perspective—how neat is that?
B is for **Becoming**, a process that is not predetermined, defined, or fixed; it is unique and transformative
S is for Schizophrenia: while we traditionally believe it is a (dis)ease, it offers a creative production of reality in which desire is free from the tight grip of social structures. Release your inner schizo every now and then to write up your version of the universe!
G is for *Guattari*, Deleuze’s bestie and intellectual *collaborator (partner in work)*. Who do you work well with in school?
J is for **Jump** into the unknown; your desire to control or understand it will ruin your experience. You might even enjoy it!
W is for Wonderland, where your brain might wander as you are forced to sit and learn about the speed of two trains running in opposite directions and where they’ll meet at some point in time. Take a step outside of the constructs of reality
M is for Machines, which instil order in our lives as we know (and embrace) them. How is “traditional” education like a machine?
F is for the **Fold** of the school system, with a student within a school, and the “real world” on the outside of the fold. Look at it as a fold of the “inside” school experience as it relates to how we use that experience “outside” of school. It is within the world, but a world within its own. Is it useful to you?
V is for **Virtual**, which is not actual but still real

What would virtual school be like?
K is for **Kindergarten**, which should include explorations of the chaosmos!
Q is for *Quizzes*, which are loaded with absolutes and binary oppositions. If you don’t “know,” you might as well guess!
N is for Nomad, who stands in opposition to laws and organization of societal structures, separating social, political, and cultural ties from location.
U is for the **Unknown**, which many students think is scary, but why not explore it when you have the chance? The unknown is not as common as you might think!
P is for **Potential**, in which you see yourself as the solution to a problem in order to imagine what you can achieve. Instead of going out and looking for solutions, try to go out and look for problems!

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**VARIABLES:**
- Socioeconomic status/strata
- Injustices in school
- Potential!
- Courage
- Gender norms

**EQUATION??**

**SOLUTION:**

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ME?!
I’m the solution?!
My math teacher has never said so!
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L is for **Language**, which acquires meaning as it goes along. Meaning is not in your words until they come out of your mouth or from your pencil! Meaning changes with every word before and after

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child
red

The man in the white house seemed quite mysterious, but I was anxious to meet him as my new neighbor. I knocked on the door...
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References

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