

“Hybridity-types, role-sets and professional practice”

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This presentation is an extension of my current thinking on the interplay of discursal hybridity, role analysis and professional practice. Hybridity and hybridization are not simply linguistic (textual, semiotic, multimodal) processes which are made manifest through intertextuality and interdiscursivity; they also constitute communicative acts which are mediated by role-relationships in context-sensitive ways.

My first claim is that the notion of hybridity needs unpacking in order to recognise simple and complex forms of hybridity manifest at the discursal level. Next, the notion of role, especially role-set, can be mapped on to hybrid discourse types by revisiting some of the key discourse analytic studies of professional practice in a range of institutional settings: healthcare, social work, family mediation and the gatekeeping encounter. Professional practice, as I see it, is constituted in knowledge systems (scientific, experiential, organisational, technological, interactional) at both explicit and tacit levels, which is conducive to role analysis.

I then offer illustrative examples from professional practice to underscore the interrelationship between role-sets and discourse types in terms of hybridity. In conclusion, I suggest that role analysis, which accounts for different forms of hybridity, socio-historically and contingently, is adequately robust to examine professional practice in potentially impactful ways.

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