

Culture and Technology: Intercultural intersubjective webs of Indian international students

Ravi Vatrapu

PhD Candidate in Communication and Information Sciences

Laboratory for Interactive Learning Technologies

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Honolulu, HI, USA

vatrapu@hawaii.edu

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Research Questions, Design and Methods
- Theoretical Background
- Preliminary Results
- Future Work

Introduction

- Global Knowledge Economy
 - Intellectual Capital
 - Intellectual Labor
- Eastern Students in Western Institutions
 - International “Educational Pipeline”
- Indian International Students in the USA
 - Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
 - University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI

Research Question

Drawing upon “Technologies of Practical Reason”

(Foucault, 1988)

Rearticulates Max Weber’s yet satisfactorily
unanswered question:

“If one wants to behave rationally and regulate
one’s action according to true principles, what
part of one’s self should one renounce? ”

(Foucault:1998, p17)

Research Design

- Epistemology: First Person Ethnography
- Observations
- Theoretical Conjectures
- Empirical Verification
- Theory-World Fit Evaluation
- Theory Modification

Research Methods

- Reflection and Introspection
- Participation-Observation
- Interviews, Surveys and Questionnaires
- Statistical Analysis and Inference

Theoretical Background

- Foucault's Four Matrices of Practical Reason
 - Technologies of Production
 - Technologies of Sign Systems } "intercultural"
 - Technologies of Power
 - Technologies of Self } "intersubjective"
- **Liminality** (Victor Turner, 1964)
 - Separation ("border crossings")
 - Margin ("neophyte")
 - Aggregation ("archetype")

Intercultural Intersubjectivity



Praxis= Being }{ Thinking

| Intersubjective Axis: Ways of Being
— Intercultural Axis Ways of Thinking

Preliminary Results

Separation

- “International Educational Pipeline”
 - Psychological + Social Motivational Factors
 - Social Capital
 - Educational Loans
 - Graduate Funding
 - Employment Opportunities
- Passport, International Drivers License
- Online Application and Admission Process
 - College Search
 - Correspondence (Faculty, Friends)
 - Indian Student Association
 - International Student Services

Importance of Email, Learning of Netiquette, Performance of Online Identities

Preliminary Results (Liminality)

- International Student Services and Indian Student Associations

- Airport Pickup
- Temporary Accommodation
- Non-Immigrant Student Requirements
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

A number that is used to provide access to services, maintains historical record of activity and retrieves information

- State ID

Preliminary Results (Liminality)

- Technology
 - Email (work, personal)
 - Chat (Text, Audio, Video)
 - Telephone (Landline, Office, Cell, Internet Telephony)
 - WWW
- Private Ownership of Means of Production
 - Cell phone
 - Laptop/Desktop
 - TV/VCR/DVD
 - Car
- Credit Card

Preliminary Results (Liminality)

- “DESI” Lifestyle
 - BAAD (Budweiser, Advisor, Apartment, Department)
 - ABCD and DCBA
- Cultural Consumption
 - Cultural Shows at Indian Festivals
 - Indian Music (Raaga, Smashits, iPod)
 - Indian Movies (Net, Local Rental)
 - Indian News (Online Newspapers)
 - Indian Food (Home cooking, restaurants, shops)

On Liminality

- From “learner” to “earner” through the margins of “learner-earner”
 - Separation (“border crossings”)
 - Margin (“neophyte”= Desi Student)
 - Aggregation (“archetype” = NRI)
- Technological Mediation
- Technological Production

Future Work

- Complete Empirical Data Collection
- Incorporate Comments and Critiques
- Statistical Analysis
- Revisit Theoretical Framework
- Disseminate: Publish or Perish



Questions, Comments and Critiques