

Good Riddance: The Roots and Routes of an Indifferent Resident Alien of the US of A

Ravi Vatrapu

vatrapu@hawaii.edu

ABD, Communication and Information Sciences
University of Hawaii at Manoa

April 12, 2007

Outline of this Presentation

- ❑ Title Whimsicality
- ❑ Limitations
- ❑ Roots & Routes
- ❑ Place of Longing
- ❑ Heidegger: Building Dwelling Thinking
- ❑ Douglas: Home
- ❑ Comments

Title Whimsicality

YOUR THESIS TITLE

CONDENSING OVER HALF A DECADE OF YOUR LIFE IN ONE SENTENCE.

www.phdcomics.com
JORGE CHAM © 2006

the colon
Can't decide what to title your thesis? Use a colon!

a preposition
A good preposition tells your readers "hey, this is not just a futile exercise"

"Witty catch-phrase"

:

Length-enhanced superlative verbiage with prolixity

in/of/for

Obscure topic few people care about.

witty catchphrase
Makes people think you're hip and culturally relevant. Only marginally related to the actual thesis? No problem.

the boring stuff
Nothing says "academic rigor" like a long string of dry scientific-sounding terminology and fancy buzzwords.

obscure topic few people care about
Sad, but true.

©"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge; www.phdcomics.com.

Limitations

- ❑ First person experiential data
- ❑ Anecdotal Evidence
- ❑ Not an Heidegger expert, definitely not
- ❑ Lacks “professional vision”
- ❑ Cultural Studies

Roots and Routes

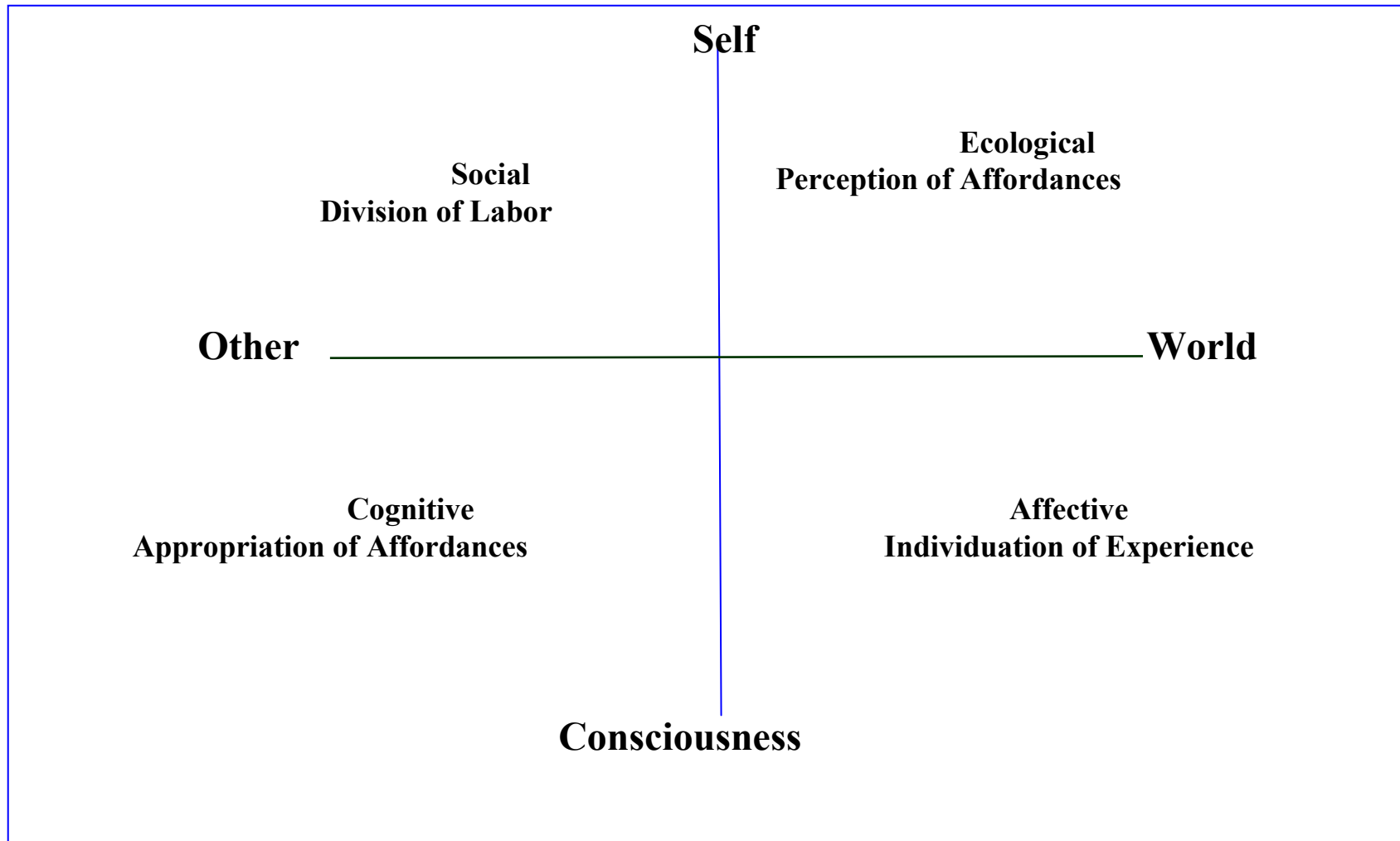
- ▶ ***Born and raised in India***
 - ▶ Between Town and Country
 - ▶ B. Tech in Computer Science
 - ▶ Wanted to be an Engineer not Told to be one 😊
 - ▶ English medium instruction (had to learn 3.5 languages)
 - ▶ Indian Educational Refinery and Pipelines
- ▶ ***Research life in the USA***
 - ▶ Interested in Human-Computer Interaction(HCI)
 - ▶ M.S from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
 - ▶ ABD, University of Hawaii at Manoa
 - ▶ Graduate Certificate in International Cultural Studies
 - ▶ Love the almost Hippy-ish subculture of computer science academe (some cool places)
- ▶ ***(Still Seeking Elusive Academic Bliss 😊)***

Place of Longing

- ▶ **Longing for a lost dwelling**
 - ▶ Space: Region
 - ▶ Time: Period
 - ▶ Identity and Subjectivity
 - ▶ Being & Becoming

- ▶ **To put it in (Indi-pop) cultural terms**
 - ▶ “Purani Jeans aur Guitar”
 - ▶ “Who Kajaz ki Kasthi”

“Multiple Realities”



Douglas: The Idea of a Home: A Kind of Space

- ▶ **Home**
 - ▶ *Embryonic community*
 - ▶ *Localizable idea*
 - ▶ *Kind of space and a structure of time*
 - ▶ *Organization of space over time*
 - ▶ *Memory machine*
 - ▶ *Problem of commons*
 - ▶ *Model for kinds of distributive justice*
 - ▶ *Coordination*
- ▶ **“Tyrannies of the home” over**
 - ▶ *Times*
 - ▶ *Tastes*
 - ▶ *Talks*

Heidegger: Building Dwelling Thinking

- ▶ “What is it to dwell?”
- ▶ “How does building belong to dwelling?”
 - ▶ **“We do not dwell because we have built, but we build and have built because we dwell, that is, because we are dwellers”**
- ▶ **Essence of being human**
 - ▶ *Dwelling*
 - ▶ *Mortality Orientation*
- ▶ **Longing as Cognitive & Affective Building**
- ▶ **Nostalgia trips as romanticized dwellings trying to “save” the past**
 - ▶ **“To save something really means to set something free into its own existence”**

Heidegger: Building Dwelling Thinking

- ▶ **Buildings of Longing**

- ▶ “Building thus characterized is a distinctive letting-dwell”
- ▶ “Only if we are capable of dwelling, only then can we build”

- ▶ **No “real/true” longing without lost ways of dwelling**

- ▶ **“The real dwelling plight lies in this, that mortals ever search anew for the essence of dwelling, that they *must ever learn to dwell*”**

- ▶ ***“This they accomplish when they build out of dwelling, and think for the sake of dwelling”***
- ▶ ***Roads and Buildings, SEZs***
- ▶ ***Gated Communities, Multiplexes and Shopping Malls***

Dwelling has a social reality to it not just material reality.

