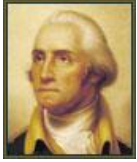


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Radical Constructivism - The Hidden Agenda. New Research Directions from Old Texts

Karl Muller

In the short contribution I would like to stress three major points. First, looking more closely on articles by Heinz von Foerster and BCL-research reports from the late sixties and early seventies one finds a general basic assumption which can be labelled as Radical Cognitive Holism (RCH). Moreover, RCH offers two interesting methodological corollaries, namely a de-constructivist heuristic device and a more constructivist one.

On the one hand, the de-constructivist device stresses the importance of the unity of cognitive processes and points to all sorts of semantic traps which result from taking different semantic notions as sufficient condition for basic differences in cognitive mechanisms and processes.

The constructivist device, on the other hand, emphasizes the necessity of a single cognitive mechanism plus appropriate recombinations and reconfigurations which in turn should be sufficient to account for seemingly different cognitive performances.

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