Conceptual and Practical Links Between Multicultural Education and Democratic Education



Heidi Biseth NOCIES conference March 24, 2015

Outline

Multicultural Education Democratic Education Conceptual and Practical Links – or interplay and implications Formation of citizens Justice and civic equality Living together Cosmopolitanism Closing remarks

Multicultural Education

As accommodating diversity...

- mother tongue/first language teaching and learning
- acquisition of the national language
- cultural and religious deviation ("others")

Transitioning from "deviation" to "normalcy"

Origin: The Civil Rights Movement (US)

Banks' (2009, p. 15) dimensions of ME

Content Integration

The extent to which teachers use examples and content from a variety of cultures in their teaching

An Equity Pedagogy

Exists when teachers modify their teaching in ways that will facilitate the academic achievement of students from diverse racial, cultural, gender, and social-class groups Multicultural Education (ME)

Knowledge Construction

Teachers help students to understand, investigate, and determine how the implicit cultural assumptions, frames of reference, perspectives, and biases within a discipline influence the ways in which knowledge is constructed

Prejudice Reduction

A focus on the characteristics of students' racial attitudes and how they can be modified by teaching methods and materials

An Empowering School Culture

Grouping and labeling practices, disproportionality in achievement, and the interaction of staff and students across ethnic and racial lines are examined to create a school culture that empowers students from diverse racial, ethnic, and gender groups

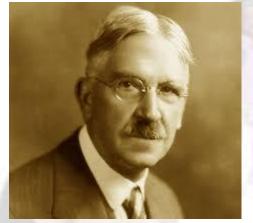
E pluribus unum

"Out of many, one"



Unity in diversity ↓

Democratic Education



From John Dewey to

the European



Democratic Education Community (EUDEC)



and «Den Demokratiske Skole» [The Democratic School] in Denmark?

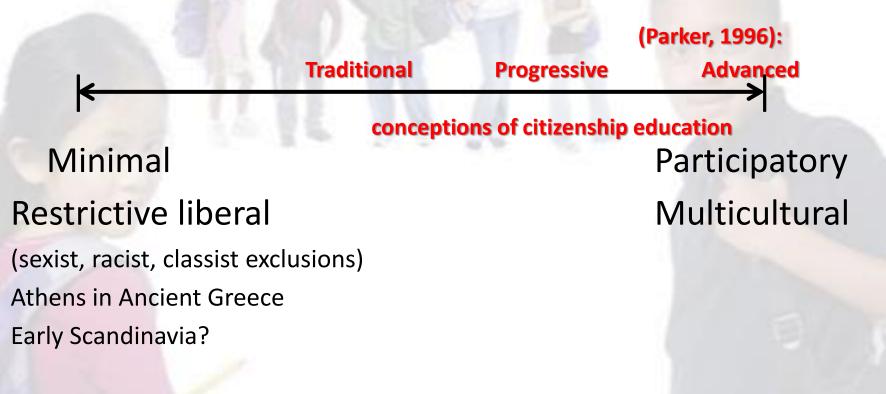
Democratic Education – cont.

Or... Democratic Citizenship Education

- Three conceptions of citizenship education (Parker, 1996):
 - Traditional
 - Progressive
 - Advanced

A continuum of democracy

(Levinson, 2011)



To what extent do we allow diversity in our democracies?

conceptual links - or interplay

Multicultural Education Democratic Education

practical links – or implications

Formation of citizens

- What kind of citizenship do we want to promote?
- What kind of democratic citizens do we need?
- How do we perceive a "good" citizen?
- More than a <u>political</u> dimension?
- Participation in civil society?





Formation of citizens – cont.

Learning Democracy in School and Society

(restance) in a state

Education, Lifelong Learning, and the Pulitics of Citizenship

Gert J.J. Biesta



(Biesta, 2011)

Civic learning as "socialisation" versus "subjectification"

Citizenship as an **individual trait** versus **individual-in-context**/ **individual-in-interaction**

Personally	Participatory citizen	Justice-oriented
responsible citizen	lisation	citizen Bieste subjectification
Biesta: socialisation Biesta: subjectification		
Sample action:		
Contributes to a food	Helps to organize a food	Explores why people are
drive	drive	hungry and <u>acts to solve</u>
		root causes
Core assumptions:		
To solve social problems	To solve social problems	To solve social problems
and improve society,	and improve society,	and improve society,
citizens must have good	citizens must <u>actively</u>	citizens must question ,
character; they must be	participate and take	debate, and change
honest, responsible, and	leadership positions within	established systems and
law-abiding members of	established systems and	structures that reproduce
the community.	community	patterns of injustice over
	structures.	time.

Source: Westeheimer & Kahne, 2004, p. 240

Justice and Civic Equality

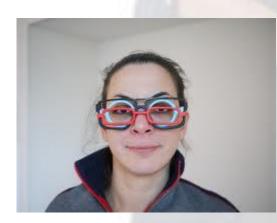
Fundamental principle in definitions of democracy: basic judicial rights are guaranteed <u>all</u> citizens

Multicultural education Civic equality

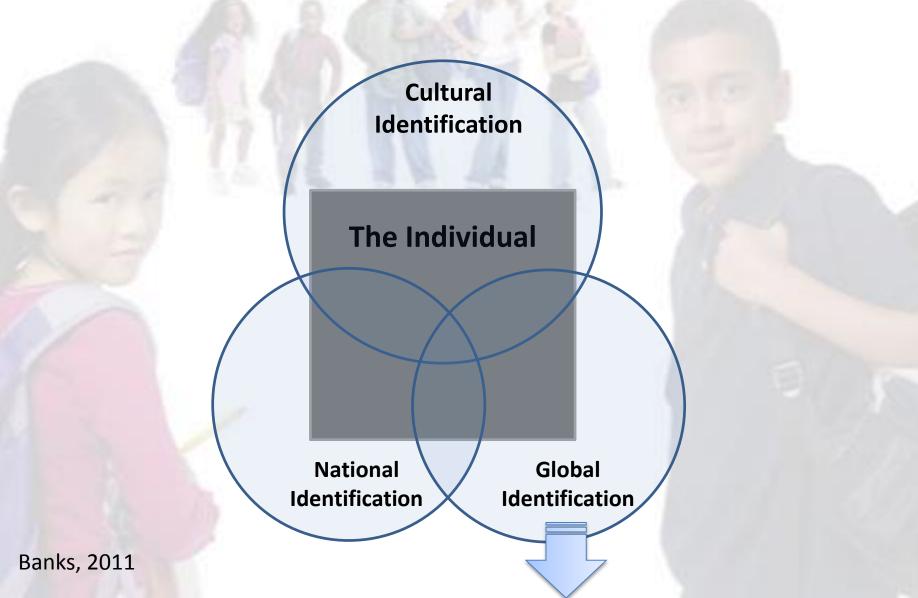
Living together

> How to live together in diversity? Socio-cultural learning theory > Multiple identifications: cultural, national, global





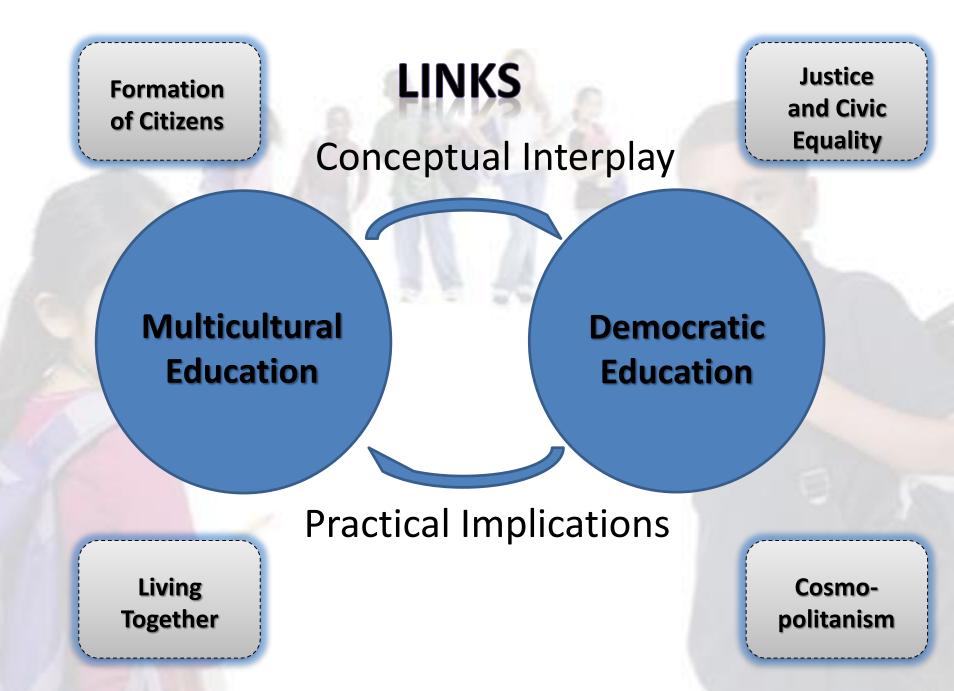
Multiple identifications



Cosmopolitanism

- 'Cosmopolite' "Citizen of the World"
- E.g., Anthony Kwame Appiah, Martha Nussbaum
- Ethical cosmopolitanism
- International human rights instruments







ALC: N

Democratic Education

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