

People Worth Knowing (About)

The people listed here are among the ones who have been most influential for my own thinking. Many of them are still active researchers, and meeting any of them is well worthwhile, but meeting their ideas is next best. I have been fortunate enough to know many of them personally.

Obviously any such list is incomplete and inconsistent in its criteria of selection, but I think a list is better than no list, especially for newcomers to these fields. Elsewhere on my website you will find lists of major theorists and recommended readings. This list is mainly about People.

Discourse Analysis

Charles BAZERMAN; genre theory, discourse analysis, written scientific discourse; University of California at Santa Barbara

Robert de BEAUGRANDE; discourse linguistics, critical theory; University of Vienna, English and American Linguistics.; deceased

Norman FAIRCLOUGH; critical discourse analysis; University of Lancaster (U.K.), retired

James GEE; applied functional linguistics, language and social issues; games and new media literacies; Arizona State University

Michael A.K. HALLIDAY; linguistic methods, functional and systemic grammar and semantics, register theory, stylistics, history of scientific language; University of Sydney (emeritus)

Ruqaiya HASAN; linguistic methods, cohesion theory, genre, semantic variation with social class; Macquarie University, Australia (emerita)

Gunther KRESS; language and ideology, social semiotics, media analysis; University of London, Institute of Education

Theo van LEEUWEN; linguistic and semiotics methods, visual media analysis, multimedia analysis; semiotics of music and film; University of Technology (Sydney)

James R. MARTIN; linguistic methods, genre teaching, discourse resources, attitudinal meaning; University of Sydney, Linguistics

Elinor OCHS; functional linguistics, discourse analysis, spoken scientific discourse, narrative analysis, conversational analysis; University of California at Los Angeles

Michael SILVERSTEIN; functional linguistics, metapragmatic theory, discourse semantics; University of Chicago, Linguistics

Ruth WODAK; critical discourse analysis, language and racism, organizational discourse, political language; Lancaster University (UK)

Language and Education Specialists

David BLOOME; language at home and school, ethnic diversity and language, literacy education; Ohio State University

Courtney CAZDEN; language development, classroom discourse, literacy education, language and cultural diversity in education; Harvard University, Education (emerita)

Judith GREENE; classroom discourse, language and cultural diversity; University of California at Santa Barbara

Shirley Brice HEATH; language of school and community, educational ethnography, language and social policy, social history of education; Stanford University

Gordon WELLS; classroom discourse, language and science learning; University of California, Santa Cruz

Michael COLE; social and cultural psychology of learning, CHAT theory; University of California, San Diego

Newer Research Programs

Wolf-Michael ROTH; language and semiotic resources in science education; CHAT and ANT theory; University of Victoria (Canada)

Kay O'HALLORAN; mathematical discourse and symbol systems in education; National University of Singapore

Glenn STILLAR; rhetoric and stylistics, communication linguistics, media analysis; Waterloo University (Canada)

Paul THIBAUT; systemic-functional linguistics, social semiotics, multimedia analysis; University of Hong Kong

Stanton WORTHAM; functional linguistic methods, educational discourse analysis, discourse and identity; University of Pennsylvania

Kevin LEANDER; new media literacies between home and school; Vanderbilt University

Rogers HALL; learning in space and time; Vanderbilt University

Reed STEVENS; learning in sociotechnical networks; Northwestern University

Other Relevant Theorists (deceased, except as indicated)

Mikhail BAKHTIN; heteroglossia, dialogism, carnival, ventriloquation, literary discourse; literary theorist, worked in Russia 1920s-1950s

Gregory BATESON; meta-discourse, meta-redundancy, meta-learning, schizogenesis, communication theory, double-bind theory; anthropologist, worked in U.S. and South Pacific

Basil BERNSTEIN; sociology of education, language and social class; worked in England since 1960s; University of London Institute of Education

Pierre BOURDIEU; habitus, symbolic power, political economy of language, sociology of education, general social theory; worked in France since 1960s.

Michel FOUCAULT; discursive formations, discourse and social history, discourse and power; worked in France in 1960s-80s.

Clifford GEERTZ; thick description, hermeneutic anthropology, social theory; has worked in U.S., Indonesia, Morocco since 1960s; Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

Bruno LATOUR; sociology of science and technology, postmodern social theory; has worked in France and U.S. since 1970s; Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po), Paris (active)

Niklas LUHMANN; social dynamics, discourse and social systems; worked in Germany since 1960s; University of Bielefeld

Ilya PRIGOGINE; statistical physics, non-linear dynamics, self-organization theory; has worked in Belgium since 1960s; Free University of Brussels

Lev S. VYGOTSKY; language and intellectual development, social learning theory; worked in Russia in 1920s-30s. Closely related work by A.N. Leontiev, A.R. Luria.