Critical Perspectives on Activity

The last two decades have seen an international explosion of interest in theories of mind, culture, and activity. This unique collection is the first to explicitly reach back to the tradition’s original critical impulse within which the writings of Karl Marx played such a central role. Each author pushes this impulse further to address leading contemporary questions. The contributors include a diverse array of international scholars working from the fields of education, psychology, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, communications, industrial relations, and business studies. The book is broken into three main sections – education, work, and everyday life. Each chapter builds from an analysis of practice and learning as social cultural participation and historical change in relation to the concepts of activity, contradiction, and struggle. This book offers insight into an important complex of overlapping practices and institutions to shed light on broader debates over such matters as the “knowledge economy” and “lifelong learning.”

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In memoriam,

Mario Golder & Joachim Lompscher