

Components and Context of Role

Role I understand as a whole way of being a person has in response to and interactive with a specific context – which will include the frame of mind a person has in that context. Jacob Moreno wrote of role as “...the functioning form the individual assumes in the specific moment he reacts to a specific situation in which other persons or objects are involved.” Psychodrama First Volume p.iv

Moreno says there are three components of role that are Thinking Feeling and Action. It seems to me to include Values arising from Thinking and Feeling is useful. Values guide action to what is thought and felt to be the best for self and for society. Antony Williams in The Passionate Technique (Chapter 4 especially page 56) points up the importance of noticing the context of and the consequences arising from the particular role a person has.

Playing with these ideas using my graphics below you can take an interaction and choose a participant and then write some sentences or single words that describe or evoke a sense of the social context and scene. Then similar produce words indicating the thinking feeling values and actions of the person you focus on. Then think through what resulted. What was it that happened because of the role that is enacted. How does it impact on the other or others present. What roles are elicited from the others.

Fig. 1 Context of interactions

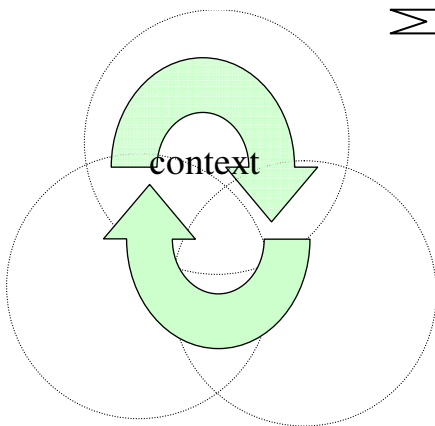


Fig. 2 A window on role

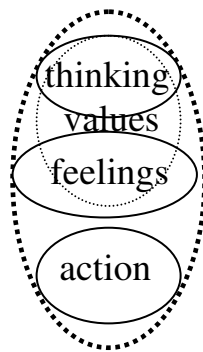


Fig. 3 Impact on social dynamics

