## The Self and Transcendence of Emotion

#### Martin Gough

Lecturer in Higher Education and Academic Practice
Unit for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching
University of Kent
A.M.Gough@kent.ac.uk

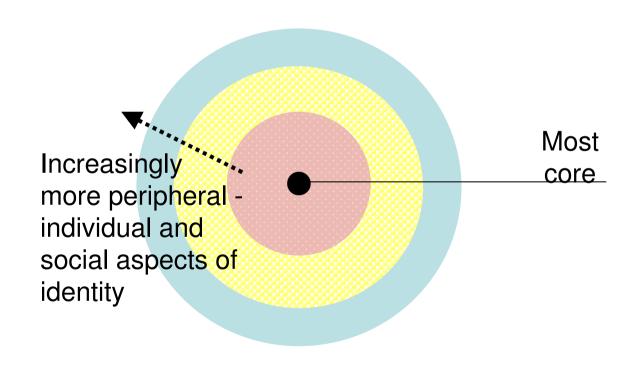
#### Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning

Early projects, biographical interviews:

- (1) "Learning and Social Cohesion: values, attitudes and civic participation"
- (2) "Managing transitions: learning and adaptation among parents with young children"

#### A typology of identity and identification

#### The Self:



#### The Self

Essentialism - false

Social Constructionism – if true, trivially so, so inadequate

Narrative Identity – can bring together the fairly core and the peripheral, individual and social, descriptions and values (a reference point for emotions)

#### The "Most Core" Self

Beyond even narrative

Self-Identity – immunity to error through misidentification

Sartre: non-positional consciousness, fundamental selfness

"Consciousness is not what it is and is what it is not"

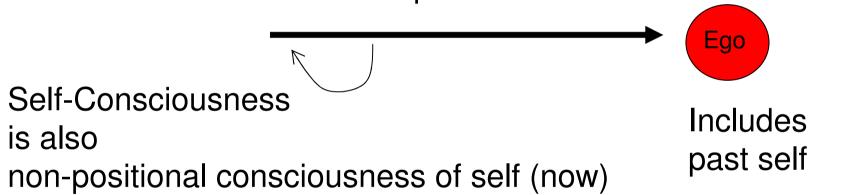
Intentionality:

Consciousness is consciousness of....



Object

Self-Consciousness is positional consciousness of....



Transcendence = outside consciousness, and having a breadth and depth of characteristics beyond current awareness

## Examples

matter of factness in narrations – why?

#### Sartre on Emotion

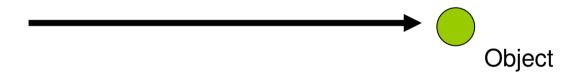
On James – physiology begs the question

On Janet – Behaviourism too incoherent

On Dembo – assumption of inferiority of emotional behaviour unwarranted

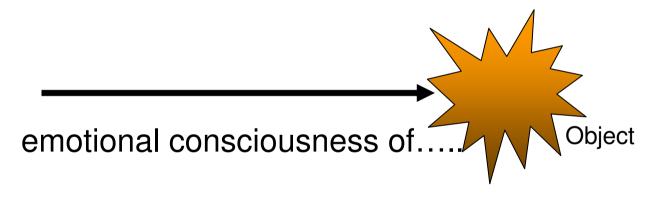
On Freud – the unconscious re-creates the same problem, the "censor" knows

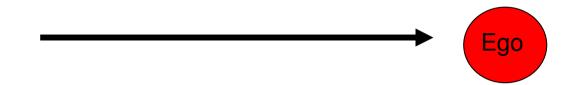
Consciousness is consciousness of....



## Sartre on Emotion

"magical transformation" as a project of consciousness





Past self narrated, with past episodes of emotion

- which assists in making self transcendent (creatively) but not itself magically transformed
- which also puts distance between narrator and narrated (emotional or otherwise)

# Questions and comments, please!