

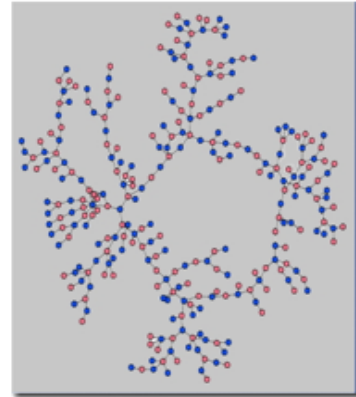


PSY 355 Psychology & Media in the Digital Age

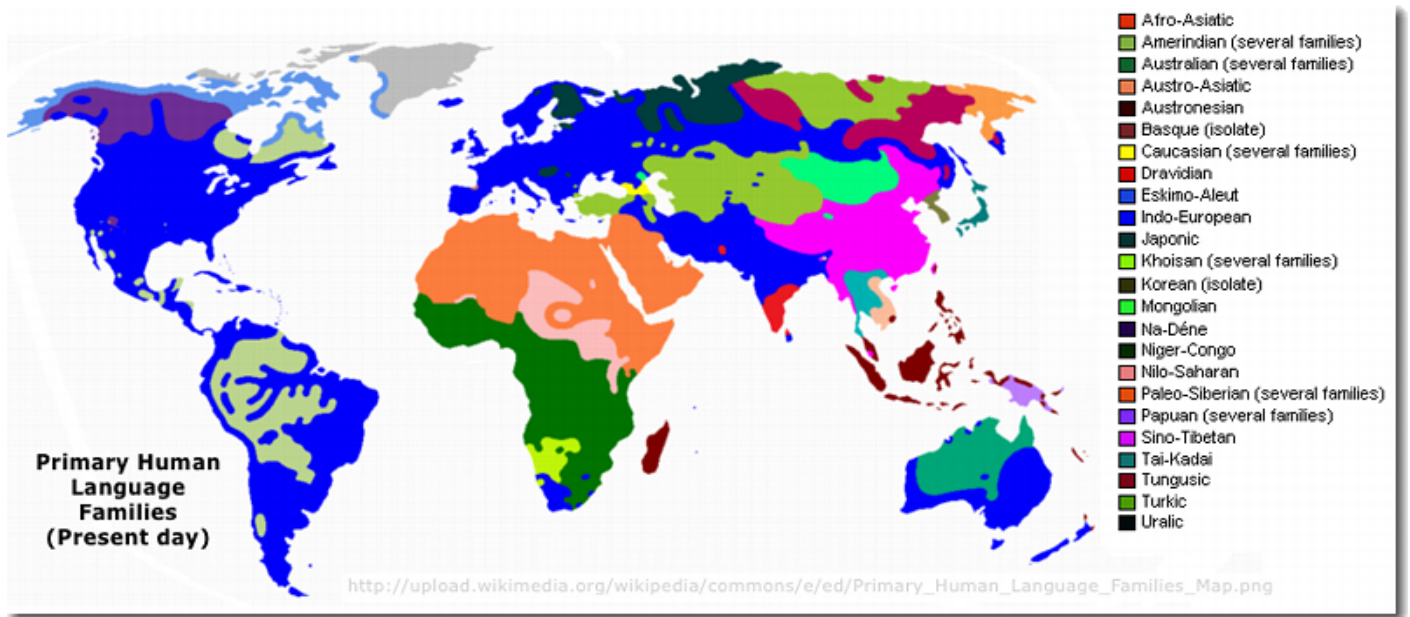
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The Human Person from the Perspective of Psychology & the Social Sciences

[The Connected Baby](#) (2011) • YouTube • 3'56"



High school dating networks. Based on data from Bearman, Moody, & Stovel (2004) & created by Prof. Mark Newman (U Mich)



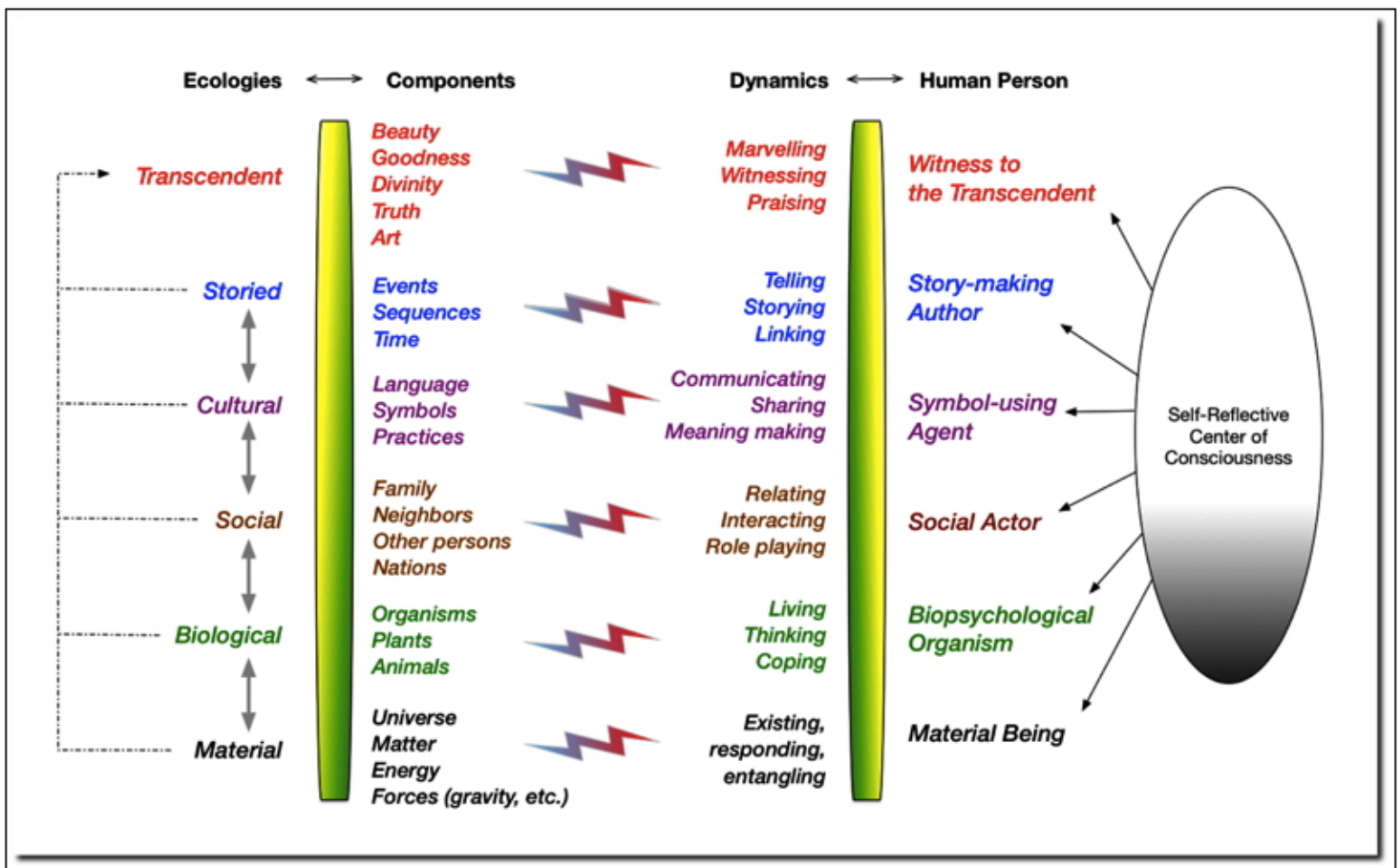
- How are you connected now?
- How have you been connected in the past?

- What do you expect will be your connections in the future?

Human Persons

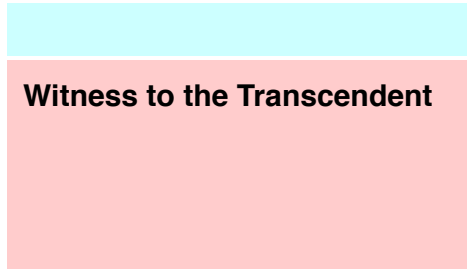
The fundamental way that I approach the notion of humanity posits that human persons are born into, develop, and live within a complex cosmos or world. This world comes before human beings are born (we are “thrown into” the world.) This cosmos consists of multiple, permeable, and interacting domains or ecologies which can be termed **material**, **biological**, **social**, **cultural**, **storied**, and **transcendent**. There is a parallel between these domains and human functioning. Hence, human persons can be characterized as **material beings**, **bio-psychological organisms**, **social actors**, **symbol-using agents**, **story-making authors**, and **witnesses to the transcendent**. These realities converge such that human persons ordinarily experience themselves as **conscious or self-reflective-centers of consciousness**.

- The world and human beings as **active** and **interactive**
- **Embeddedness within dynamic ecological systems** (ecology is more than just the biological)
 - Change, movement, unstable
- The biological for humans is really **biopsychological**, that is, as living organisms we cope with the world around us by using all of the psychological abilities that we were born with and develop across our lives. Thinking is, at root, the sum of all the activities we undertake to survive and thrive.
- The notion of the "**individual**" as divorced from or somehow independent of the world's ecologies is a Western **myth** that increasingly we know is false.



Characteristics of the Human Person related to Major Subfields of Psychology

Biopsychological	Biopsychology Neuropsychology Sensory & perceptual psychology Developmental psychology Learning
Social Actor	Social psychology Life-span psychology
Symbol-using Agent	Cognitive psychology Cultural & cross-cultural psychology Psychology of Language Psychology of Linguistics
Story-making Author	Personality psychology Narrative psychology Cultural & cross-cultural



psychology

Witness to the Transcendent

Psychology of Art, Creativity, & Aesthetics
Psychology of Religion and Spirituality
Positive psychology

Self-reflective Center of Consciousness

Personality psychology
Cognitive psychology
Biopsychology
Phenomenological psychology
Positive psychology

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