Hegemony and "Accountability" in Schools and Universities

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Abstract

In this paper we will look specifically at the increased and increasing emphasis on accountability in schools and universities. Accountability has become the means of enforcement and control used by states and businesses. This is so since those who declare that schools and universities ought to be a certain way cannot themselves make schools and universities be that way. States and corporations can only demand that others remake schools and authority to carry out this mission is delegated, although not the authority to decide on the mission. The delegation takes the form of uniform outcome measures of productivity, e.g., scores on standardized tests or percentage of job placements, which provide evidence that the authority delegated to teachers or professors is being properly exercised. We will explore this hegemony of accountability, its origins, meanings, and consequences as it has developed in K-12 education and is spreading to higher education. We will conclude with two examples of counter-hegemonic accountability strategies.

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ISSN 1715-0094 Workplace

Hegemony, democracy, agonism and journalism: an interview with Chantal Mouffe. Article (Accepted version) (Refereed). Original citation: Carpentier, Nico and Cammaerts, Bart (2006) Hegemony, democracy, agonism and journalism: an interview with Chantal Mouffe. She was educated at the universities of Louvain, Paris, and Essex, and she has taught at different universities in Europe, North America and Latin America. Moreover, she has held research positions at Harvard, Cornell, the University of California, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. The actual breakthrough came with the publication of ‘Hegemony and Socialist Strategy’ (HSS), which she co-authored in 1985 with Ernesto Laclau. Democratic Accountability and the Use of Force in International Law. The United States: democracy, hegemony, and account Democratic Accountability and the Use of Force in International Law. Democratic Accountability and the Use of Force in International Law. Chapter. Chapter. By Michael J. Glennon, Professor of international law Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. Edited by Charlotte Ku, American Society of International Law, Washington DC, Harold K. Jacobson. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511494390.015. pp 323-346. Hegemony constitutes lived experience, “a sense of reality for most people in the society, a sense of absolute because experienced reality beyond which it is very difficult for most members of the society to move, in most areas of their lives” (100).

Hegemony exceeds ideology, “in its refusal to equate consciousness with the articulate formal system which can be and ordinarily abstracted as ‘ideology’” (109). Lived hegemony is a process, not a system or structure (though it can be schematized as such for the purposes of analysis). Hegemony is dynamic, “It