

PERSPECTIVES ON CONCEPTUAL CHANGE AND ITS NEXUS WITH IDENTITY

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After a brief overview of the perspectives on Conceptual Change and about the history of this multi-disciplinary research field, the talk will explore a novel, yet theoretically and methodologically thorny, research issue: the intersection between the conceptual change and identity.

Conceptual change is traditionally thought of as an individual cognitive phenomenon whilst identity development has usually been conceived of as a social construct involving the relationship between groups and individuals. This aspect raises important questions for how these constructs can be articulated in such a way as to be mutually illuminating.

The talk will illustrate and discuss significant approaches to forging productive connections between the research agendas of conceptual change and identity development. To pursue this goal the approaches will be reviewed and compared through a framework that allows for pointing out both the divergences and their common theoretical structure. This structure is argued to be potentially fruitful for orienting a program of further rigorous investigations of the nexus between conceptual change and identity.

Acknowledgment

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