CONCEPT FORMATION IN THE WILD

Concept formation is predominantly analyzed in classrooms and laboratory experiments, meaning that the collective formation of culturally novel concepts in practical activities "in the wild" has largely been neglected. However, understanding and influencing the complexity and contradictions of the present world demands powerful concepts that can make a difference in practice. Going beyond the understanding of concepts as individually acquired static labels, this book develops a dialectical theory of collective formation of novel concepts in the wild, in everyday activities. Drawing on cultural-historical activity theory (CHAT), concepts are seen as contested and future-oriented means for guiding activities and their transformations. Detailed real-life examples of germ cell concepts show how they can radically influence the course of development in different activities. Helping to identify and foster the formation of potentially powerful concepts in fields of practice, this book is essential reading for researchers, advanced students, and practitioners across human and social sciences.

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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

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477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316516706

DOI: 10.1017/9781009030021

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009030021

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
NAMES: Engeström, Yrjö, 1948– author.
TITLE: Concept formation in the wild / Yrjö Engeström, University of Helsinki.
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2023058120 (print) | LCCN 2023058121 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316516706 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009015998 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009030021 (epub)
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Concepts. | Knowledge, Theory of. | Learning, Psychology of.
CLASSIFICATION: LCC BF443 .E54 2024 (print) | LCC BF443 (ebook) | DDC 153.2/3–dc23/eng/20240119
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023058120
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023058121

ISBN 978-1-316-51670-6 Hardback

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