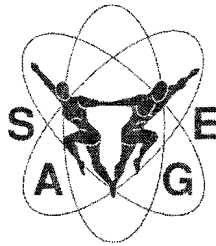


"Imagining the Way"

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

**19th Annual SAGE Conference
The Society for the Advancement of Gifted Education**



Conference Proceedings produced by
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Point-Counter Point

Piechowski and Tillier: Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration

Introduction by Sal Mendaglio

A great theory elicits passionate responses from those who have intimate knowledge of it. In the history of psychology, we have seen this with responses to Freud's theory of psychoanalysis and Piaget's theory of cognitive development. To these, I add Dabrowski's theory of positive disintegration. There is no doubt that his theory elicits rather strong reactions in those who first encounter it. In this new section of the Sage Proceedings, we include an exchange between two individuals, Michael Piechowski and William Tillier who have firsthand knowledge of the theory because of their work with Kazimierz Dabrowski: Piechowski, first as a student of the theory then a collaborator of Dabrowski; Tillier, first as Dabrowski's graduate student, later, as an archivist of the theory. While both Piechowski and Tillier are adherents of Dabrowski's theory, it is well known that they have significant differences in their interpretation of it. Another sign of a great theory: its ability to spark debate.