

DABROWSKI RETREAT  
1994

THEORETICAL ISSUES

Is this a theory? If so, is it a psychological theory? If so, to what extent is it a psychological theory?

We need to go back and hear Dabrowski speak again in his own words. In order to go forward, we need to go back to the original Dabrowski. We need to be cautious about translating Dabrowski's language. Is it appropriate to try to translate Dabrowski's ideas into contemporary language?

How do we deal with the tension (ambiguity, contradictions) within the theory?

Who influenced Dabrowski?

What was the historical context of Dabrowski's work?

How can the theory grow in a way that would do least damage to the original concepts?

SPECIFIC INTERPRETIVE ISSUES

How does Dabrowski deal with the mind-body problem?

How does partial integration operate at all phases of development? How does partial integration interface with partial and global disintegration?

What makes higher better? What are the criteria for the value structures imbedded in the levels?

Are there three discrete levels within Level III? (therapeutic implications)

Can we more clearly distinguish between unilevel and multilevel disintegration?

Can we flesh out Level I?

Did Dabrowski consider Levels I and II closely connected rather than separate?

How do we differentiate developmental levels when no inner conflict is expressed?

How do we determine the approximate level of development of a client without assessment instruments?

What have we learned from rating questionnaires that could inform the theory?

Did Dabrowski have a hierarchy of overexcitabilities?

How was Dabrowski's view of introversion different from Jung's?

How does Dabrowski's theory fit within the frontiers of psychology today (Transpersonal Psychology)?

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THERAPEUTIC, SPIRITUAL, AND MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

How did Dabrowski feel about medication?

How did Dabrowski feel about surgery?

How did he interpret the manic phase?

When would re-integration at a lower level be an appropriate therapeutic goal for a client?

How do we help clients deal with superconscious energy and its intrusion in the disintegrative process?

When we're dealing with multilevel clients, how do spiritual issues differ from therapeutic ones?

What are the roles of transcendence, meditation, and nonreacting in the theory?

What are the spiritual and religious implications of the theory?

Why does this theory attract women?

Can we recognize the web of interconnectedness?

Is sensuality being relegated to a lesser position in the theory?

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

How can we improve communication within the Dabrowski community? How can we heal the rifts? How can we respect diverse opinions and interpretations?

Do we wish to meet again as a think tank? If so, how often?

Do we want to organize a conference with papers? If so, where and when? Who will take responsibility?

Would we be willing to mentor new devotees of the theory?

Do we want to create an introductory textbook on Dabrowski's theory?

Do we want to create a book of readings on the theory?

Can we develop a standard curriculum for a beginning course on the theory?

Can we develop a standard set of materials for such a course?

How shall we refer to the theory in the future? (Dabrowski's Theory, TPD, PDT, or.