

FROM EDUCATION

(As a field of study founded on various academic disciplines)

TO PEDAGOGICS

(As an ontologically-anthropologically grounded autonomous science of educating, i.e., as a regional ontology¹)

George D. Yonge
School of Education
University of California, Davis

1. INTRODUCTION

In reading the literature on the foundations of education, I find that it is very inadequate if I am seeking fundamental insights into the nature of educating as guiding a child to adulthood and which usually includes schooling. As explicated below, the problems with this literature are long-standing and, for the most part, seem to have been inherited from the thinking of the founding fathers of the foundations of education in the early decades of the 20th Century.

After considering a few of these apparent voids and possible reasons for them, I turn to the results of some phenomenological studies of the reality of educating that seem to fill these voids through disclosing the essential structures of the activity of educating (i.e., essences, categories, concepts) that are inherent to this reality. These categories make a **genuine pedagogical perspective on educating**, as such, possible. The findings of pedagogical studies by the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria from the late 1960's to the early 1990's, e.g., show clearly that pedagogics is an autonomous science and this brings into question Hirst's (1966) classification of educational theorizing as "collections of knowledge used in the formulation of principles for practice" (p. 48), i.e., it is a practical theory that relies on the disciplines (forms) for justifying practical activities. Rather, from these phenomenological studies one can see that pedagogics meets all of Hirst's criteria for being a form (a discipline) of knowledge. Indeed, these studies show that pedagogics, the scientific (phenomenological) study of educating, with its **own** psychological, etc. moments, need not be prescribed to

by other disciplines but is an autonomous science on a par with and not subservient to them. That is, the findings of academic disciplines such as sociology, philosophy, etc. should not merely be applied to the study and practice of educating as foundational but first must be reinterpreted and evaluated in terms of the disclosed pedagogical **categories** that have ontological-anthropological status. Only then will the findings of these disciplines have the possibility of being of auxiliary or supplemental use to the science and practice of educating but not foundational of them.

2. THE LITERATURE ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

... Just as the Twig is bent, the Tree's inclin'd
Alexander Pope, *Moral Essays*. (Merriam-Webster, 1992, p. 114).

Why is the study of educating² generally not viewed as a legitimate academic discipline, what some would even call a human science? Why is it often considered to be a domain that **applies** the findings, concepts and theories of various disciplines and sciences relevant to but **external to** the phenomenon of educating, itself, such as philosophy, sociology, history, anthropology and psychology? In other words, why do those of us who study “educating” usually situate ourselves in points of views or perspectives **on** educating that are **founded** or rooted in something other than the phenomenon of interest? A plausible response is that, for a variety of reasons, we are blind to the essential nature of educating a child to adulthood. If this is true, two questions are how did we get here, and is there an alternative?

I suggest that this blindness to the essences of the lifeworld phenomenon of educating is one of the legacies we have inherited from those who created the approach to the study of educating called the “Foundations of Education” at Columbia University and elsewhere in the United States during the first half of the 20th Century. But there is more to the story.

In the English-speaking world in general, the study of educating lacks its own foundation, ironically, thanks mostly to the so-called “Foundations of Education”, and as a consequence, theorizing relies

primarily on other disciplines for its insights and fundamental concepts. Thus there is no genuine educational perspective, even though there are eclectic, haphazard perspectives on educating that use concepts and categories not rooted in the phenomenon of educating, as such. These deficiencies lead to the view that the study of educating is not and cannot be a full-fledged, autonomous academic discipline. Indeed, Noblit (2002) indicates that in its aim and organization the American Educational Studies Association perpetuates this view as does the Standards of the Learned Societies of Education (1986). For example, from the Standards we read:

The Foundations of Education refers to a broadly conceived field of study that derives its character and fundamental theories from a number of academic disciplines, combination of disciplines, and areas of study: history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, religion, political science, economics, psychology, comparative and international education, educational studies, and educational policy studies (p .3).

Further:

The Council of Learned Societies in Education takes the official position of supporting diversity of Foundations of Education arrangements in relation to academic, teacher-education, and community groups (p. 3).

And finally:

Foundational study of the interpretive, normative, and critical perspectives within education relies heavily on the resources and methodologies of the humanities, particularly history and philosophy, and the social and behavioral sciences. Its primary objective is to sharpen students' abilities to examine and explain educational proposals, arrangements, and practices and to develop a disciplined sense of policy-oriented educational responsibility. For foundational studies, focus and emphasis fall on education broadly defined and not merely on schools. They encourage knowledge and understanding of education historically and philosophically

and in view of its social, economic, and political relations (p. 5).

Missing is the precondition for accomplishing all of this: an educational perspective rooted in and descriptive of the essences of educating, as such (i.e., an ontological grounding of the being of educating—what educating essentially IS³). The development of this perspective is a precondition in the sense that a disclosure and description of these essentials are a necessary source of categories (concepts) and criteria unique to the reality of educating. These categories and criteria allow one to judge and select or reject the findings of other disciplines for their educative significance and validity from a **strictly educational perspective** (in contrast, say, to a psychological, philosophical or some other perspective). Without these categories/criteria, an educational perspective is not possible. In fact, largely because of the absence of such categories/criteria, the study of educating is not a full-fledged discipline as it has been and still is generally pursued in the English-speaking world. (See the discussion of Hirst’s position beginning on page 8 below).

This state of affairs is unfortunate because if the practice of “educating” were understood and studied as a discipline, as it has been elsewhere, particularly in South Africa (to be discussed below), it would give practitioners, not to mention theorists, a sense of identity as educationists, and, much more importantly, it would provide them with their **own perspective** founded on and respectful of the essentials of the reality of educating with which they are concerned. Then “educating” could be studied phenomenologically as a regional ontology (Also see Vandenberg, 1971; 1974).

However, the American educational foundations literature (social and other) provides no compelling evidence that it is being studied as a discipline, as a unitary, comprehensive totality—this, irrespective of claims to the contrary. For example, Washburn (1993, p. 72) notes “...there is a powerful tradition that characterizes the social foundations of education as an **integrated**·

· Throughout this paper, **bold** type has been added to quotations by G.D.Y.

multidisciplinary approach to the study of education...”. Also, in several places in their article on the history of the development of the social foundations, Tozer and McAninch (1986) refer to the necessity for integrating the various disciplinary perspectives within a foundations context. They note that the social foundations “is cross-disciplinary, an **integrated**—rather than a simply eclectic—course of study” (p. 10). Also see their mention of Butts’ insistence of this (p. 25). In the same article, they write:

Like their Teachers College predecessors, the Illinois group advocated helping teachers develop viewpoints toward the aims of education through **integrated**, cross-disciplinary, and critical studies that focus on the social setting of schools (p. 18).

With reference to Stanley, Smith, Benne, and Anderson’s 1956 selection of readings, *Social Foundations of Education*, Tozer and McAninch (1986) add:

... the use of key readings by major scholars in the education, philosophical, and the social science fields represents an effort to offer the best those fields had to offer. The selections are coherently arranged and **integrated** to promote worthwhile understanding (p. 19).

The question of the kind of integration being claimed, not only regarding the readings in this book but in the foundations of education literature generally, is not made explicit. See Tellings (2001) for some but not all forms of integration. At this point, a pressing issue that no longer can be avoided is what are the criteria for integrating the findings of the various disciplines? Tozer and McAninch (1986) provide an “answer”:

What makes the critical approach coherent and integrated, rather than random or eclectic, is the context in which alternative points of view are presented (p. 20).

And what are these contexts? They are:

... the sociological studies ... aimed at developing in the

students the best possible understanding of the nature of modern society in terms of its institutional structures and processes, and students are urged to assess educational theory⁴ within that social context. This explains the heavy concentration on sociological studies presented in this volume. In addition, the volume introduces students to the intellectual content and meanings of the ideals by which normative judgments about social realities are made (p. 21).

Some of these ideals are “democracy”, “liberty”, “community”, and “equality”. These ideals are philosophy of life matters and are not essentially related to or descriptive of the phenomenon of educating, as such. Relevant writings by Dewey and others were selected to clarify and shape these concepts for students so they could use their understanding of them “to judge social structures and processes...” (Tozer and McAninch, 1986, 21). In other words, these concepts, external to the phenomenon of educating a child, were used as criteria to judge social structures and processes—presumably including educating a child.

In developing some criteria for evaluating current textbooks, Tozer and McAninch indicate:

... such instruction should be rigorous, not superficial, and that it should be coherently **integrated**, not fragmented. As we pointed out earlier, the **integration** and coherence of foundations instruction depend importantly upon the point of view informing and shaping it (p. 24).

Whence this integrative point of view? Would it be some ideological perspective or possibly an eclectic compilation of such views? But then there would be as many variations of integration as there are points of view, indeed some even contradictory, and the foundations of each would reside in a point of view external to, not essential to, the reality of educating, as such. This would amount to imposing points of view on the reality of educating, and how valid is this approach for disclosing and describing the essential, the ontological foundation of educating?

It seems that there is a straightforward solution to this problem/dilemma. In itself, the reality of educating is a complex, unitary, integrated event with many inherent moments⁵ (and not merely contextual aspects) such as a psychological, philosophical, sociological, teaching one and more. In the lived event of educating these moments are intertwined and integrated, not intellectually (theoretically) so much as in the very activities of the concrete practice of educating. Indeed, in his book on John Dewey, Boisvert (1998) says of Dewey's model of education:

The greatest appeal of the home is the integrative nature of the formation that children there receive. Intellect, emotion, affection, manual skills, and moral development are woven together in the child's upbringing. Such an integrative approach runs counter, Dewey realizes, to the philosophical assumptions prominent in the West since the seventeenth century (p. 96).

The so-called foundations of education, as defined and demarcated currently and since the "founding fathers" at Columbia University, is a major barrier to establishing **the study of the activity of educating** as a unified science/discipline, that is, as a perspective that is derived from and is descriptive of the essential structures (categories) of the educative reality and that also grounds this phenomenon ontologically. As a consequence of such an ontological study, the resulting perspective is autonomous of other perspectives (e.g., a philosophical or psychological one) in that it is derived directly from and rooted in the reality of educating itself; of course, autonomous, in this sense, does not mean that it is uninfluenced by related perspectives and disciplines. Rather, it means that the findings of these related perspectives must be evaluated for their educative significance and relevance before they can be accepted as contributing to this perspective; that is, they must be evaluated not in terms of whether they are "good psychology", "best professional practice" and the like but in terms of whether they are valid in terms of strictly educative categories and criteria disclosed from an educative perspective.

I interpret the frequent reference to "integration" in the above quotations as a denial of the fragmented nature of this literature. It

is evident that “integration” is lacking and one cannot merely declare that it is there.

From a slightly different view, the foundations of education literature is characterized by a “centrifugal” style of thinking about educating where the focus is away from the reality/phenomenon of educating and is directed to and located in a variety of other, disparate disciplines/perspectives that then are applied to the political, social, philosophical and other contexts and dimensions that are correlated with or influence the reality of *schooling* a child more than of *educating* him. That is, this thinking too quickly reduces educating to schooling. This style of thinking is divisive and fragmenting because it has no center of gravity, no core focus on educating a child, as such. In my view, it has given rise to several symptoms expressed in students’ and others’ complaints about education courses (actually their contents) that simply cannot be argued away. Tom (1991) addresses four of these in the context of teacher education: the vapid; the impractical; the segmented; and the directionless nature of education courses. I claim that the segmented nature of these courses is a direct consequence of this style of thinking and that, at least, this contributes to their perceived directionless and impractical nature.

This centrifugal style of thinking blinds one to the essential structures of educating because the act of educating is not viewed for what it is in its own terms (concepts and categories) but through borrowed or imported concepts and categories. This blindness has been long-standing. For example, Dewey (1929) states:

... material drawn from *other* sciences furnishes the content of educational science when it is focused on the problems that arise in education (p. 36).

This reduces our understanding of educating to other perspectives. At the same time, this reduction blinds us to the nature, structures, and essences of educating as it is in and of itself. Years later Hirst (1966), in agreement with Dewey, but with no explicit reference to him, says:

It is but a confusion to regard the formation of practical

principles as parallel to an autonomous form of knowledge or thought when those principles stand or fall on nothing but knowledge contributed by other forms (p. 51). [“Other forms” means disciplines such as psychology—G.D.Y.].

And fifty years after Dewey, Broudy (1979) carries this pronouncement forward by saying:

As John Dewey [1929, 32-33] noted more than half a century ago, the findings of psychology, sociology, and other empirical sciences, as well as statistics, in order to become educational science have to be transmuted into ‘attitudes and habits of observation, judgment, and planning of those engaged in the educative act’ to render these more intelligent. In short, **there is no intrinsic educational science content**” (p. 6).

When thinkers as prominent as these are in such agreement, it is easy to assume that they are correct and to conclude that, indeed, if there is a science of education, its contents are to be found in other disciplines such as psychology, but which then have to be validated by educational practitioners (Hirst, 1966).

I suggest that this agreement among such diverse thinkers is an artifact arising from all of them too quickly and too uncritically focusing their thinking on *schooling* and not on the lifeworld phenomenon of *educating* as guiding a child to adulthood. As a consequence, these authors do not confront the reality of educating but rather they only see it as schooling—formally teaching to guide a child’s (and even an adult’s) learning. Also, these thinkers uncritically, and without justification, assume that the so-called human sciences such as psychology, sociology, political science, anthropology and the normative sciences such as philosophy, ethics, axiology are capable of providing a scientific justification for particular educative practices. They cannot, partly because each of these disciplines is not homogeneous (for example, there are many psychologies some of which mutually contradict each other) because they are rooted in different conceptions of what a human being is (different philosophical anthropologies) some of which are not

grounded in an accountable view of being human (See Van Zyl 1967/2006).

If one is not aware that there are alternatives, these ideas espoused by Dewey, Broudy and Hirst seem to be compelling. But they are fruitless for disclosing a valid foundation of “educating” and do not lead to real insights into its nature.

In this light, it is instructive to consider carefully the reasons that Hirst’s (1966) characterization of the nature of educational theorizing is untenable because, as one steeped in the style of thinking that permeates the educational foundations literature and explicated above, his effort is a clear example of the essence-blindness inherent in this style of thinking. Consequently, explicating his assumptions or model should highlight what precisely it is that prevents this approach from leading to a tenable and valid theoretical AND practical understanding and description of the reality of educating a child to adulthood.

Key to understanding Hirst’s (1966) position regarding educational theory is his three-fold typology of the structure or organization of knowledge.

In the first place all knowledge can be seen as necessarily structured into ... distinct ‘forms’. Secondly, knowledge can be organized into ... different ‘fields’ And thirdly, it can be organized into a variety of ‘practical theories’ (p. 42).

A form of knowledge is an autonomous discipline or science such as psychology, physics, mathematics, history, religion, sociology and philosophy. These forms can be

distinguished from each other in three interrelated ways. First, within the domain there are distinct types of concepts that characterize different types of knowledge. ... Secondly, these concepts occur within different networks, whose relationships determine what meaningful propositions can be made. ... Thirdly, the domains can be distinguished by the different types of test they involve for the truth or validity of propositions (p. 43).

Thus each form or discipline provides “unique understanding because of the uniqueness of its concepts, its conceptual structure and its criteria for validity” (Hirst, 1966, p. 44).

Fields of knowledge are

simply a collection of knowledge from various forms which has unity solely because this knowledge all relates to some object or interest. ... There are no concepts of a kind peculiar to the field. And the field is not concerned with the validation of distinctive statements according to unique criteria. It follows from this that whereas the advancement of a form of knowledge depends on the development of the relevant conceptual scheme and its wider application according to its own canons, the advancement of a field ... consists in the development and application of whatever forms of knowledge are considered valuable and relevant in coming to understand the selected topic (p. 47).

Practical theories are organizations of knowledge⁶

whose whole *raison d’etre* is their practical function. In these it is not the patterning of understanding that is of first importance but the determination of what ought to be done in some range of practical activities. This distinction between practical theories and forms and fields of knowledge is exactly ... a distinction between the theories of practical knowledge and those of theoretical knowledge.

In practical theories knowledge is collected from several different forms because of a particular interest, just as in the various fields mentioned above. The interest now, however, is a particular range of practical activities as, for example, in engineering, medicine or education. But whereas fields of knowledge are simply collections of knowledge from the forms, practical theories are collections of knowledge used in the formulation of principles for practice (p. 48).

I suspect that, at first glance, most students of the educational foundations might find Hirst's typology to be a clearly stated and obvious expression of what they are confident is the case. But let's see how his very narrow view of educational theory (and of educating) fits into his typology and what its implications are for the foundations.

For Hirst, *educational theory* qualifies as a practical theory that uses knowledge

to determine what should be done in educational practice. In the process the theory draws on all the knowledge within the various forms that is relevant to grappling with practical problems. ... [It] is concerned with using these kinds of knowledge to form rationally defensible principles ...(p. 48).

Hirst believes that this practical focus lends more unity to the collection of knowledge from the forms than is true of a field. Unfortunately a common focus does not necessarily unify or integrate disparate pieces of knowledge that generally do not have a common grounding. That the "knowledge from the forms provides the basis of justification for a series of educational principles"(p. 49) entails a unification is doubtful.

What Hirst refers to as "educational" theory is an extremely narrow focus on school practice—mostly on teaching and curriculum organization. This focus blinds him to the phenomenon of educating, as guiding a child to adulthood; not surprisingly, educating in this sense, or any sense except schooling is missing from his paper. The activities that constitute school practice and the principles guiding them may or may not be educative. What is more, for Hirst "principles" are mere hunches, opinions, hypotheses, convictions, etc. based on experience—indeed, they are anything the educator allows to inform his practice but that need to be justified. And this justification is precisely the task of his educational theory (really principles for practicing schooling because there is no theory/theorizing but only justifying). Since Hirst classifies his educational theory as a practical theory and not a form of knowledge, to him it has no inherent concepts of its own and thus no "educational" criteria by means of which principles or activities

can be justified. Hence, he has to turn to the concepts and principles of the forms of knowledge such as psychology and philosophy to find justification for his “educative” principles. As he says (Hirst, 1966):

Educational principles are ... justified simply by producing reasons for them of an empirical, philosophical, moral or other logical kind. Once it is understood that the validity of the principles turns on nothing ‘educational’ beyond these, it is clear that the only way to attack or defend them is by a critical examination of these reasons. The psychological reasons must be shown to stand according to the strictest canons of that science (p. 51).

And:

... educational principles stand or fall entirely on the validity of the relevant knowledge contributed from the various forms (p. 54).

One consequence of this is that the forms of knowledge serve as the foundations for any field of knowledge or practical theory. This is because, according to Hirst’s typology, forms of knowing are more grounded than fields or practical theories in that each form has its unique concepts, conceptual structure and criteria of validity while fields and practical theories do not. Another consequence is that educational theory cannot be an autonomous discipline because the principles it formulates and justifies are completely dependent on the knowledge contributed by the relevant forms rather than being grounded in the reality of educating itself.

As Vandenberg (1974) points out, Hirst’s educational theory is too amorphous because it lacks any criteria of coherence and relevance⁷

for selecting resources from psychology, philosophy, sociology, etc. Without explicit intersubjectively valid criteria of coherence and relevance, any educational principle can be ‘justified’ by any knowledge or theory whatsoever (p. 186).

When the practitioner’s pre-theoretical understanding is

rigorously explicated by an immanent reflection, i.e., by an interpretive hermeneutic, it becomes fundamental educational theory. ... It also retains the bond to practice that can furnish the criteria of coherence and relevance so obviously lacking in Hirst's view" (p. 190).

Although Vandenberg sees the phenomenon of educating as accompanying a child to adulthood and recognizes that there are criteria of coherence and relevance within the phenomenon itself, he seems not to notice that the activities of educating cannot be justified by any of the special disciplines (forms) external to it.

If educating occurs within a relationship between an adult and a child in need of help that is constituted as a distinctly pedagogic relation by the presence of nonauthoritarian authority, a number of things can occur to prevent the relation from being pedagogic and thus to end educating.

... When the child does not enter into the pedagogic relation freely and freely acknowledge the authoritativeness of the teacher, there is no educating. There may be schooling, training, and even learning, but not educating (p. 204).

Even so, Vandenberg is so focused on Hirst's notion of educational theory, as justifying "educational" principles via the particular forms, that he does not pursue this line of thought and consequently the urgently needed [phenomenological] study of educating as a regional ontology is not forthcoming.

3. AN ONTOLOGICALLY-ANTHROPOLOGICALLY GROUNDED STUDY OF EDUCATING⁸

Fortunately, educating has been studied as a regional ontology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa and it is very enlightening to see what has emerged—especially in regard to Hirst's typology of ways of knowing and the implications of this for the relationship between the science (phenomenology) of educating and the so-called special disciplines (e.g., psychology).

Pedagogics is the scientific (phenomenological) study of the pre-scientific activity of accompanying/guiding a child to adulthood with the aim of informing and improving the post-scientific practice of educating. In the words of Landman (1967/2001):

The area studied by Pedagogics ... is the phenomenon of educating itself as it arises in educative situations. ... The nature and structure of this phenomenon ... is systematically analyzed and thoroughly-reflectively described by Theoretical Pedagogics (i.e., Fundamental Pedagogics). Fathoming and understanding the phenomenon of educating which leads to theory forming, requires taking the phenomenon itself as the point of departure as it takes shape in situations of educating (p. 1).

Fundamental Pedagogics, as the nucleus of Pedagogics, as a scientific structure, is a theory built on the act of educating It is a theory resulting from a systematic reflection on the phenomenon of educating (bringing up, rearing). Pedagogics ... is both a theoretical and a practical science. Every act of educating includes reflection but it also is the educator's (pedagogue's) task to devise pedagogically acceptable procedures that will serve the purpose of educating a child (p. 10).

To say that fundamental pedagogics is the nucleus of pedagogics implies that **pedagogics involves more perspectives than a fundamental pedagogical one**. The reason pedagogics necessarily embraces several perspectives on educating is because the phenomenon, the reality of educating itself encompasses many moments that also need to be disclosed, described and understood from the different pedagogical sub-perspectives (e.g., psychopedagogical, didactic pedagogical, etc.). At this point it is very important to understand the pedagogical part-perspectives and their mutual relations. In this regard, Landman (1968/2004) asks and answers two questions:

1. What is the task of the pedagogical part-discipline usually called Theoretical Pedagogics, Fundamental Pedagogics or Philosophy of Education?

2. How must the mutual relations and interactions among the pedagogical part-disciplines be viewed?

As an answer to the first question ... [the task of] Theoretical Pedagogics is the search for, grounding or founding and description of fundamental structures. It is for this reason, among others, that ... this pedagogical part-discipline must be called Fundamental Pedagogics. Fundamental Pedagogics is a founding/grounding pedagogics because it has as a particular task the grounding of the Pedagogical in reality.

With this, one arrives at the second question regarding their pedagogical interactions. ... It is clear that each pedagogical perspective on life reality must proceed from its unique question and must itself acquire clarity regarding what this question is but it is very clear that these questions are embedded in the pedagogical question such as constructed, asked, reflected on and expressed by Fundamental Pedagogics. This fundamental pedagogical question can provisionally be formulated as follows: How must the knowing educator, as authoritative, trusting person and representative of the norm-image of adulthood, support the child through his association and encounter with the authority-seeking child who is possibility-in-becoming, who wants to be someone himself, and who is entrusted to him, so that the child progressively can be considered as an adult?

From this general question, Fundamental Pedagogics calls into existence pedagogical categories. **The various pedagogical part-disciplines with their own questions thus allow their own categories to be disclosed.** More precisely ... each pedagogical part-discipline, with its own perspective on life reality, grounds itself and arrives at its own categories. ...

Fundamental Pedagogics ACCOMPANIES the other pedagogical part-disciplines in the design and grounding of their own categories in light of their own questions as embedded in the pedagogical question, thus the pedagogical situation (pp. 7-9).

The following pedagogical part-disciplines are distinguished:

Psychological Pedagogy, Sociological Pedagogy (Socio-pedagogy), Didactic Pedagogy, Vocational Pedagogy, Historical Pedagogy, Orthopedagogy and Fundamental Pedagogy ... (p. 13).

Elsewhere Landman (1979/2005) writes:

Stated differently, because the **Psychopedagogical**, the **Didactic Pedagogical**, the **Fundamental Pedagogical**, etc. all are **Pedagogical** (perspectives), their area of study is the reality of educating **but** each has a different aim. This means that each pedagogical perspective has a different **FUNCTION** as far as its area of study of the Pedagogical is concerned. Each perspective has its own way of contributing to disclosing the **sense** of the total reality of educating The psychopedagogical perspective discloses those meaningful ways of living in the reality of educating that are or can be relevant to the **psychic life** of a child-in-education and that are or can be actualized in practice. By using the pedagogical perspective in its own ways the Didactic Pedagogical discloses the **ways of living with significance for teaching**. The function of the Fundamental Pedagogical perspective is to disclose **fundamental** ways of educative living that are preconditions for actualizing all other ways of educative living. With this a **first function** of the Fundamental Pedagogical (perspective) is revealed: disclose the **preconditions** of all meaningful ways of educative living in the form of psychic, didactic, vocational orientation, physical ways of living and living-with-deficiencies of a child-in-educative-distress (p. 4).

Gerber (1972/2009) adds the following comments:

Pedagogics, as a reflection on and fathoming of the educative event, interrogates this ontological-anthropological reality **from** an autonomous pedagogical perspective that is a phenomenological perspective. In doing so pedagogical being-structures (relationship-, sequence-, aim-, categorical-, and criterial-structures) are illuminated. As a result of this

illumination pedagogics becomes ontologically-anthropologically grounded (p. 46).

And further:

Pedagogical essences are the **verbalized essences** of the pedagogical itself. This means that pedagogical categories are not only real essences of particular anthropological categories but indeed are real essences, thus essential structures of life reality as it shows itself in the form of the reality of educating. **Thus, pedagogical categories have ontological-anthropological status because they are rooted in the life reality as it is verbalized by the [ontological] category “being-in-the-world” and the anthropological categories that have ontological status** (p. 47).

My English translations of the following pedagogical studies of educating from different part-perspectives and some of their findings are accessible on line at <http://www.georgeyonge.net>: An example of a fundamental pedagogical study is Landman, Roos and Liebenberg (1975/2011); a tabulation of fundamental pedagogical categories, structures, relationships, and criteria appears as Appendix A in Gerber (1972/2009); a study of the psychic life of a child-in-education (psychopedagogical perspective) and the resulting categories is that by Crous (1984/1997); the categories disclosed by a didactic pedagogical (i.e., an educative teaching) perspective on the phenomenon of educating appear specifically in chapter 3 of Van der Stoep and Louw (1979/2005). Examples of how the different part-perspectives function as an integrated unity, and where theory and practice merge, is in designing and presenting a lesson (Van der Stoep, et al., 1973/2018; Basson, et al., 1985/2018) and in the practice of orthopedagogics, including pedotherapy (i.e., educational therapy in contrast to psychotherapy), are Crous (1979/2002) and Van Niekerk (1980/2001).

As indicated by Roos (1973/2010, pp. 51-63) the various pedagogical categories (psycho-, fundamental-, didactic-categories, etc.) are all ontologically-anthropologically grounded and thus each

of the part-perspectives of pedagogics and pedagogics itself meet all three of Hirst's requirements for being a form of knowledge; that is, pedagogics as a whole and its distinguishable but inseparable part-disciplines all have their own categories (concepts that express the essences of educating), their own structures of interconnected categories and their own criteria for determining the degree of adequacy of actualizing the various essences and their relationships. In this latter respect see Van Niekerk, (1984/2002) as well as Symposium, (1979/2006).

Viewed from Hirst's typology, the fact that pedagogics is a form of knowledge rather than a practical theory has profound implications for our foundations of education thinking/theorizing. As an autonomous human (anthropological) science whose categories are ontologically-anthropologically grounded, pedagogics cannot and need not have a foundation in psychology, sociology, philosophy, theology, anthropology or any other human science even though it shows inherently psychological and other moments. Pedagogics is another human science perspective on being human and, as such, psychology or any of the other human sciences cannot be a foundation of it—any more than psychology can be a foundation of philosophy, etc. However, a problem is that not all philosophies, psychologies, etc. are ontologically-anthropologically grounded in human being-in-the-world and the various ways of being human (In this respect see Gerber, 1972/2009, section 1.5. Being unscientific and categories). Consequently, for their findings to be pedagogically relevant **they have to be reinterpreted or evaluated in light of the ontologically-anthropologically grounded pedagogical categories and criteria**, to the extent that this is possible (See Yonge, 1985; Yonge, 1991(a)). And even then these findings/pronouncements are not foundational but at best provide supplemental or auxiliary insights into being in an educative situation. This is possible because a human being always exists as a totality even though it is obvious that some moments of being human are more prominent and explicit while others are implicit and tacit in any given activity. That is, all perspectives on being human need to be allowed to complement, nuance and expand any purely pedagogical findings—to the extent that they are

shown to be relevant by means of the pedagogical criteria derived from the pedagogical categories.

In viewing educating phenomenologically, none of Hirst's characterizations of educational theory are supported. For example, it is not a practical theory but a theory of a practice, it does have its own categories (concepts) and it is an autonomous discipline or science. Consequently, the function or purpose of Hirst's "educational" theory is superfluous.

In pedagogics, theory means scientifically (phenomenologically) disclosing and describing the essences and structures of the reality of educating (its **universal** FORM). As a science, pedagogics is essence disclosing and describing. Practice, as a post-scientific matter, requires the implementation of these essences after they have been enlivened and enriched by **particular** ideological or philosophy of life CONTENTS. It is here that Hirst's educational theory, as justifying principles of practice is located. His is a post-scientific, ideological activity and not a scientific one. What is more, when Hirst refers to "philosophy of education" he means one or another philosophy FOR educating in the sense of Landman (Landman, Swanepoel and Bodenstein, 1982; Yonge, 2003) such as idealism, pragmatism, a view of life, etc. that are required to enliven or give particular contents and nuances to these latently viable essences and structures. An additional point about the disclosed categories (i.e., the pedagogical findings of **all** of the part-perspectives) is that they were disclosed while the investigators were temporarily bracketing/suspending (not eliminating) any ideologies or philosophies of life (especially their own); thus it is not surprising that the disclosed categories do not imply or implicate any particular philosophy of life, to the extent that the bracketing has been successful.

Notably, at the University of Pretoria educating was studied as an autonomous, integrated discipline or science in that all Departments of the Faculty of Education took the situation of upbringing/educating as their point of departure and all were grounded in the same philosophical anthropology. Thus, the entire faculty took a truly educational perspective on **all** of the various moments of the phenomenon, such as the fundamental-, psycho-

and didactic-pedagogical moments because none of these part-perspectives, **including fundamental pedagogics**, can stand alone but implicate and imply each other within the whole of pedagogics. Thus in their thinking and observing, they used their disclosed categories of educating for illuminating, disclosing and describing additional essences of the essences, their meanings, how they are actualized, their coherences, etc. (See Landman et al., 1975/2010). Categories of educating are a precondition for the possibility of an educational perspective, as such. A genuine educational perspective is virtually absent from our (U.S.A.) literature because these categories more often than not occur only implicitly, haphazardly or not at all.

It is not surprising, then, why there is a void at the very core of the literature of the foundations of education. This largely is because the question of what education/educating IS seldom is asked. Instead, typically, “educating” is taken for granted or summarily equated with schooling. To be sure, once in awhile this question is asked but usually rhetorically to provide a definition of education. But the issue is not a definition of the phenomenon but rather an ontological (essential) *description* of it; the quest is for the essences, the structures of educating, as guiding a child to adulthood; a search for the necessary preconditions—possibilities (and limitations)—that have to be operative for educating to be. As already noted, this ontological focus requires nothing short of a phenomenological study of educating (See Heidegger, 1953/1996, 31; Roos, 1973/2010, pp. 34-35). At the same time, the danger of falling into a methodological monism must be avoided (Landman, no date/2004b).

But indeed, so-called “phenomenological” studies are not absent from our foundations literature, and yet they have done little to fill the noted void. Why? Almost all studies claiming to be phenomenologies of educating more accurately are studies that **apply** phenomenological philosophical results to educating or use existential phenomenological categories in place of educational ones; that is, they do not turn to “the thing itself”. **They are not radical (fundamental) enough to qualify as essence analyses or regional ontological studies of “educating”** (See Landman, 1975/2010). For example, Chamberlin (1981), after

explicating the serious confusions about what the phenomenon of educating is, opts for the phenomenon of “helping-learning” that includes educating but also much else that muddles his descriptions. In his chapter “What is the Educating Act?” Wilshire (1990, p. 22) begins with a questionable dictionary entry: “*educare* - to lead out, or draw out”. Strictly speaking, this is the meaning of *educere*; *educare* means to bring up, rear⁹. Consequently, Wilshire’s fine phenomenological analysis is of leading out or drawing out students in a university teaching-learning context. Yet another study (Scudder and Mickunas, 1985) claiming to be a “phenomenological philosophy of education” also fails to return to the phenomenon of educating, itself. Rather, they view educating in terms of their excellent phenomenology of dialogue as well as in terms of categories such as enculturation, justice and language. A fourth study is that of Vandenberg (1971) that, although subtitled “an essay in existential phenomenology”, strictly speaking is not a sustained phenomenological study of the phenomenon of educating so much as it is an extremely valuable presentation of some of the ideas of major Continental phenomenological thinkers of educating such as Mohr, Guardini, Langeveld and Bollnow. Thus, in these works cited, Chamberlin, Wilshire, Scudder and Mickunas, as well as Vandenberg, do not engage in a phenomenological study of the phenomenon of educating as a **regional ontology**. In saying this in no way do I intend to minimize their excellent efforts and valuable contributions to our literature in the foundations of education; and after all, a regional ontology was not their aim. My immediate point is that these authors have not faced the phenomenon of educating, as guiding a child to adulthood, as squarely and directly as is required in order to provide us with a study of educating that can fill the void resulting from a lack of categories grounded in educating.

In the Anglo-American literature on the foundations of education there is rarely even a hint of the possibility of a science of the phenomenon “educating” as a phenomenological disclosure and description of the essential structures or preconditions necessary for educating to be. Consequently, it is not surprising that the important distinction (but not separation) between the **form** and **contents** of educating is not in the foreground and that they often are conflated.

For example, it is beyond question that every concrete act of educating explicitly or tacitly implicates some ideology and/or philosophy of life. Indeed, an ideology or a philosophy of life is required to enliven and particularize the contents of any educative act. Consequently, should not a foundational study of educating focus on one or a combination of the various ideologies (such as idealism, pragmatism, existentialism¹⁰) that shape the possibilities, limitations and directions of the activity of “educating” so that a prospective or even a practicing educator can formulate his own ideological (eclectic or not) justifications for his acts of guiding a child to adulthood? Yes, ideologies should be focused on but also in light of the categories/criteria reflective of the essences of educating.

Indeed, in a typical “foundations” course [especially one in educational philosophy], it is not uncommon to ask students to study one or several ideologies and then formulate and justify their own philosophy **for** educating [mistakenly viewed as a philosophy **of** educating]. Presumably the purpose of such an exercise is to encourage the students to think critically and eclectically about these ideologies, one or more of which can become “foundational” to their own educative practice.

Unfortunately, without the mentioned categories/criteria this strategy avoids thinking about the nature or structure of educating and amounts to little more than an exercise in ideological thinking. The reason is that educating is viewed through the lens of one or another ideology and not in terms of its own essential structures. Consequently, the ideological lens or lenses chosen conceal or at best distort the essential structures of educating. This approach actually undermines or prevents an educational perspective on educating from emerging; it prevents the study of educating as a discipline from arising that is rooted in the nature of educating itself. Furthermore, if one founds one’s philosophy for educating on one ideology or another, the basis for justifying one’s educative actions can be none other than the ideology itself. In other words, an ideology blinds one to the essences of educating and, within this blindness, one is led to view educating through the ideology (e.g., pragmatism or existentialism) and not in its own terms and in this

light, form and content easily become conflated. Indeed, without a science of educating, as essence revealing and describing, this “problem” very likely will not even be noticed.

4. CONCLUSION

In this paper I have argued that the inadequate state of the foundations of education, to a considerable degree, is attributable to the direction taken by our founding fathers. Does all of this negate their contributions or our long tradition of foundational thinking about educating? It does not, but it does demand that this long tradition and its valuable findings be viewed and reinterpreted in terms of educational categories and criteria (i.e., essences and structures of educating) and these essences and structures only are accessible if one’s primary focus is on the phenomenon of educating as upbringing and not on schooling, teaching, learning or any other point of departure. Only then can the study of education qualify as an autonomous science or discipline as this has been explicated in the present study.

To my knowledge, the only place where educating has been studied as a multifaceted but unitary science/discipline was in the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria during the 1960’s through the early 1990’s. At Pretoria, the study of education began by following the Anglo-American approach still expressed in our foundation literature. Thus, it might be instructive to see how that Faculty struggled to and succeeded in breaking away from the approach to the foundations of educating that we are still embedded in and how they arrived at studying educating as a regional ontology.

NOTES

1. To study “educating” as a regional ontology is to disclose and describe the essences, the categories, that make it possible for this region of reality called “educating” to be what it **is** and that distinguish it from other regions such as the psychological (See Stewart and Mickunas, 1990, pp. 42-43); at Pretoria a regional ontology also tries to verify via the phenomenological, dialectic and hermeneutic **methods** the essence-status (ontological-status) of these categories (See Landman (no date/2004a,b). It is concerned with the **FORM** of the activities of educating in contrast to its **CONTENTS**; even so, it must be kept in mind that form and contents not only imply but require each other. Also, please note:

- the terms “anthropology” and “anthropological” are used copiously throughout this paper and they refer to philosophical anthropology and not to the social science of that name.
2. I use the gerundive form of “to educate” [i.e., educating] to emphasize that essentially it is an activity and not a substantive, fixed thing. Even so, this activity has an essential structure that is accessible to phenomenological disclosure and description.
 3. IS = *esse* (Latin) = essence = to be.
 4. In this context, what is the source of an “educational theory”; indeed, what is meant here by “educational theory”?
 5. As developed in phenomenological thought, a “moment” is a distinguishable but inseparable part of a whole (See Sokolowski, 2000, p. 23).
 6. In Hirst’s typology, in fact, fields of knowledge and practical theories show the same organization of knowledge with the former approaching knowledge theoretically and the latter practically.
 7. I take Vandenberg’s “criteria of coherence and relevance” to be synonymous with the categories (essences/preconditions) and criteria of fundamental pedagogics. That is, as an activity, educating cannot come into being unless an educator and child successfully engage in particular activities together. And knowing what these mutual activities are (the essences) allows one to transform them into criteria by asking whether they are being actualized and to what extent (Landman, no date/2004(a)).
 8. The interested reader is invited to visit the web site honoring the achievements and life of W. A. Landman at <http://www.Landmanwa.co.za>
 9. As I have indicated elsewhere (Yonge, 1991(b)), the word “education” is derived from the Latin **educare** that refers to the phenomenon or event of bringing up or rearing a child to adulthood. It is not derived from the Latin **educere** meaning to draw or lead out (as in *educere*) even though many authors effortlessly play on this meaning as a metaphor for educating; however, in doing so, often unknowingly, they mistake this meaning for the phenomenon of educating and this tends to obscure and distort that phenomenon.
 10. There is a fundamental difference between “existentialism” and a “philosophy of existence”. Existential**ism**, as an ideology, when applied to the educative event, is a philosophy **for** educating: a philosophy of existence, as an existential phenomenological [philosophical] anthropology and ontology, when focused on guiding a child to adulthood, provides the foundation for a philosophy **of** educating in contrast to a philosophy **for** educating. For an explication of the distinction between a philosophy **of** and a philosophy **for** educating, see Yonge (1991b).

REFERENCES

- Basson, N. J. S., W. L. Oosthuizen, D. C. Duvenage and J. A. Slabbert 1985/2018. *Designing a Lesson*. Johannesburg: Juta & Kie. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/93>.
- Boisvert, Raymond 1998. *John Dewey: Rethinking our time*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Broudy, Harry S. 1979. *What do professors of education profess?* (DeGarmo Lecture). Cape Girardeau, MO: Society of Professors of Education.
- Chamberlin, J. Gordon 1981. *The educating act: A phenomenological view*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.
- Council of Learned Societies in Education 1986. *Standards for academic and professional instruction in the foundations of educational studies and policy studies*. Ann Arbor, MI: Prakken.
- Crous, S. F. M. 1979/2002. Pedotherapeutic guidance of the affectively disturbed child. Unpublished D. Ed. dissertation, University of Pretoria. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/10>.

- Crous, S. F. M. 1984/1997. Personal actualization: Psychopedagogics for student teachers. Unpublished manuscript. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/56>.
- Dewey, John 1929. *The sources of a science of education*. New York: Liveright.
- Gerber, A. E. 1972/2009. The category “being-in-the-world” and its significance for pedagogical thinking: A study in fundamental pedagogics. *Pedagogiekstudies/Pedagogic Studies No. 71*: 1-100. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/106>.
- Heidegger, M. 1953/1996. *Being and time* 7th German ed. Trans. Joan Stambaugh. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Hirst, Paul H. 1966. Educational theory. In *The study of education*, ed. J. W. Tibble 29-58. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Landman, W. A. 1967/2001. Modern pedagogics as a form of science. *South African Journal of Pedagogy 1*: 2-10. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/16>.
- Landman, W. A. 1968/2004. Pedagogical part-disciplines: Their basis and mutual relations. *South African Journal of Pedagogy 2*: 67-77. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/36>.
- Landman, W. A. 1975/2011. Pedagogics as a science of education and doctrines for educating: A text for beginners. Chapters One through Five in W. A. Landman, S. G. Roos and C. R. Liebenberg. *Opvoedkunde en opvoedingsleer vir beginners*. Stellenbosch: University Publishers and Booksellers. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/119>.
- Landman, W. A. 1979/2005. The functions of fundamental pedagogics. Chapter 1 in W. A. Landman, S. G. Roos and N. J. Mentz. *Fundamentele pedagogiek: Leerwyses en vakonderrig*. Durban: Butterworths. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/90>.
- Landman, W. A. no date/2004 (a). A simplified description of the concept category’. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/91>.
- Landman, W. A. no date/2004 (b). Dialectic method: A particular triad. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/31>.
- Landman, W. A., M. E. J. van Zyl and S. G. Roos 1975/2001. Introduction and chapters one through four in *Fundamental pedagogical essences: Their appearance, actualization and giving them content*. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/14>.
- Landman, W. A., C. J. G. Kilian, E. M. Swanepoel and H. C. A. Boedenstein. 1982. *An introductory reader in fundamental pedagogics for the student and the teacher*. Cape Town: Juta.
- Merriam-Webster 1992. *The Merriam-Webster dictionary of quotations*. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster.
- Noblit, George W. 2002. The Walls of Jericho: The struggle for an American Educational Studies Association. (2000 American Educational Studies Association presidential address). *Educational Studies 33*: 6-23.
- Roos, S. G. 1973/2010. The relationships among philosophical anthropology, fundamental pedagogics and pedagogy. Chapter 1 in Landman, W. A. and S. G. Roos. *Fundamentele pedagogiek en die opvoedingswerklikheid*. Durban: Butterworths. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/113>.
- Scudder, John R. and Algis Mickunas 1985. *Meaning, dialogue and enculturation: Phenomenological philosophy of education*. Lanham, MD: The Center for Advanced Research in Phenomenology and University Press of America.
- Sokolowski, Robert 2000. *Introduction to phenomenology*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Stewart, David and Algis Mickunas 1990. *Exploring phenomenology: A guide to the field and its literature*, 2nd ed. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.
- Symposium on the Unity of pedagogics 1979/2006. *South African Journal of Pedagogy* Vol. 13, No. 1, 159-196. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/62>.
- Tellings, Agnes 2001. Eclecticism and integration in educational theories: A metatheoretical analysis. *Educational Theory* 51: 277-292.
- Tom, Alan R. 1991. Restructuring teacher education. *PDK Fastback Series 325*. Bloomington, IN: Phi Delta Kappa Education Foundation.
- Tozer, Steve and Stewart McAninch 1986. Social foundations of education in historical perspective. *Educational Foundations 1*: 5-32.
- Van der Stoep, F. and W. J. Louw 1979/2005. *Introduction to didactic pedagogics*. Pretoria: Academica. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/4>.
- Van der Stoep, F., C. J. van Dyk, W. J. Louw and a. Swart 1973/2018. *The lesson structure*. Johannesburg: McGraw-Hill. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/43>.
- Vandenberg, Donald 1971. *Being and education: An essay in existential phenomenology*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall.
- Vandenberg, Donald 1974. Phenomenology and educational research. In *Existentialism and phenomenology in education*, ed. David E. Denton 183-220. New York: Teachers College Press.
- Van Niekerk, P. A. 1980/2001. Orthopedagogics as a practically directed pedagogical Perspective. *Nuwe Reeks No. 147*. University of Pretoria. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/132>
- Van Niekerk, P. A. 1984/2002. The expertise and skillfulness of the orthopedagogue. *Pedagogiekjoernaal 5*: 142-155. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/66>.
- Van Zyl, P. 1967/2006. The rise of a 20th Century philosophical anthropology. *South African Journal of Pedagogy 1*: 61-73. Trans. George D. Yonge. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/39>.
- Washburn, David E. 1993. Reinventing the social foundations of education: A reply to Steve Tozer. *Educational Foundations 1*:71-76.
- Wilshire, Bruce 1990. *The moral collapse of the university: Professionalism, purity and alienation*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Yonge, G. D. 1985. Psychopedagogics and learning: the questionable relevance of three psychological theories of learning. Chapter 1 *Learning: A psychopedagogical perspective*. M. C.H. Sonnekus (Ed.) 1-44. Stellenbosch: University Publishers and Booksellers.
- Yonge, George D. 1991(a). Educare: . A neglected dimension in educational thought. *Pedagogiekjoernaal, 12(1) 118-136*.
- Yonge, George D. 1991(b). Fundamental pedagogics: A philosophy OF or FOR education? *Educational Foundations 5*: 87-99.
- Yonge, George D. 2013. Three situations of relevance to teacher educators: The sources of and the connection between theory and practice. Modified version of an Individual Paper presented at the American Educational Studies Association Convention, Kansas City, Missouri, October 26 1991. Available on line at: <http://www.georgeyonge.net/node/116>.

Draft: December, 2010; edited April, 2019