

Ecological Theory

Ecological Theory

- “Ecology” gains expression and form in two semantic fields:
- being able to be understood on the one hand, the part of biology that studies the relations of living beings and the environment in which they live as well as their reciprocal influences,
- on the other, the branch of sciences that studies the structure and development of human communities in their relations with the environment and its consequent adaptation to it.



Rosenberg- there are at least seven different levels of sociological analysis

→ the individual, the group, the organization, the ecological, the institutional, the cultural and the societal.

→ ROSENBERG, M. *Lógica da análise de levantamento de dados*. São Paulo : cultrix, 1976;



The ecological theory of human development studied by Bronfenbrenner

- ▶ with the goal of improving training and research in today's environments in which human beings live and develop. This is a new theoretical perspective on scientific research on human development.

- ▶ BRONFENBRENNER, U., A Ecologia do Desenvolvimento Humano : Experimentos Naturais e Planeamentos. Porto Alegre : Artes Médicas, 1996;

Human development:

- ▶ as a "lasting change in the way a person perceives and deals with their environment." This theoretical conception of the environment goes beyond the behaviors of the individuals and includes them in functional systems, within the diverse environments.
- ▶ Thus, "the ecological environment is conceived topologically as a fitting organization of concentric structures, each contained in the following.
- ▶ These structures are called micro-, meso-, exo- and macrosystem ".

intersected levels, from a microsystem to a macrosystem

- the children's activities and the face-to-face interactions they have with parents would be involved in the microsystem.
- The mesosystem would cover the different microsystems in which the children are involved.
- The exosystem, refers to that context in which the child does not participate directly, but of which it has a direct influence.

In the macrosystem :

- ▶ the cultural values, beliefs, institutions, and physical and social resources that are common in a group are more widely considered.
- ▶ Thus, we can have as examples of objects of study such as:
- ▶ the contact between mother and newborn, personality mismatches arising from creation, social attachment and developmental aspects of institutionalized children and family relationships.

human development ecology

- is located at a point of convergence between the disciplines of the biological, psychological and social sciences as they relate to the evolution of the individual in society "

development ecology

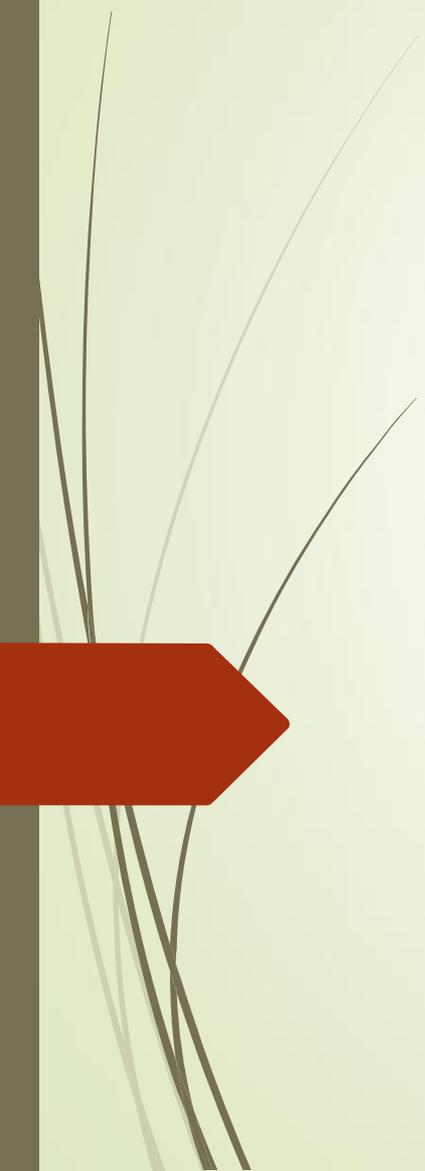
- is a relevant theory to understand how special educational needs arise, for it is during development that they gain proportion. The child when born is involved in various systems, growing within them and developing.
- Sometimes the failure or absence of one of these systems, as an example of the family, can provoke in the child a need that later will have repercussions.
- The special educational needs, as well as the learning difficulty, can originate from this failure or absence, since the previous development of the child was not made as a whole, with missing parts.



It is essential that its pedagogical action contemplate the pillars proposed in the Delors Report :

- ▶ learning to learn, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be.
- ▶ In this way, it is necessary to create educational opportunities that bring students with special educational needs to the appropriation of knowledge in a critical and reflexive way, that make possible the construction and development of the necessary competences for their autonomy
- ▶ and participation in society, from the stimulus and valuation of group work.

▶ DELORS, J. *Educação um tesouro a descobrir*. Brasília : UNESCO, 2000;



Eco-social Social Work
Eco-social Model

Challenges



Satisfaction of needs and creation of well-being for every world-citizen with maintaining 'natural capital'.

Requires:

- a just distribution of welfare
- a new vision on well-being

Means: transition into another society



Levels of Practice

- ▶ **Micro**
 - ▶ Direct practice with individuals and families
- ▶ **Mezzo**
 - ▶ Groups
- ▶ **Macro**
 - ▶ Organizations and communities
- ▶ Being able to work with a variety of issues
- ▶ Being able to work with diverse client systems
- ▶ Being able to influence change at multiple levels

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- **Environmental issues are linked to the basic questions of social work (living, equality, justice and survival of the vulnerable groups)**

(Gray. 2012; Besthorn & Meyer 2010; Hetherington & Boddy 2012).

- Need for a new ecological paradigm in social work, which emphasizes that environmental problems results from the same pressures that create social injustice.



Opens up new perspectives and opportunities to act according the principles of sustainable development.

- ▶ Taking environmental issues into account in social work's strategies and action
- ▶ Critical questioning of the conditions of global capitalism in the name of vulnerable people and vulnerable environment.

This search of new meaning lies in

- Human Rights
- Citizenship
- respect for the minorities
- preservation of life and nature
- liberty and responsibility

Enables Social Worker Intervention

- Promote social transformation/change
- Promote the empowerment of the individuals
- Meet and answer the challenges faced by social workers in a complex globalized world.



In the area of sustainability we also find the cross-debate between Transformation and Transition.

- Transformation, is a concept widely used by the Germanic Current (Transforming Social work Elsen,2011).

➤
Transition, a more global discussion concept on the paradigm of city, community transition (Hopkins, 2011) and as an ecosocial movement.

➤
Transition and transformation incorporate a strong normative and pragmatic character of the argument that addresses the political processes from the local level to the global level as well as practical models of change from different areas of human life.

The concept of transformative research

- ▶ used for the definition of a new paradigm, to discover innovation in the research that makes possible a new relationship between competition and new emerging market fields in the context of neoliberal policies.



Today transformative research can also be understood to describe the growing interdisciplinary and disciplinary community of researchers around the world who provide knowledge and seek solutions to humanity's pressing future challenges.

- ▶ (Mathies, 2016, Trevors et al., 2012).

The concept of Transition

- ▶ The natural sciences refer mainly to the ecological transition and to a large extent still focus on the biophysical dimensions, paying little attention to the social dimensions.

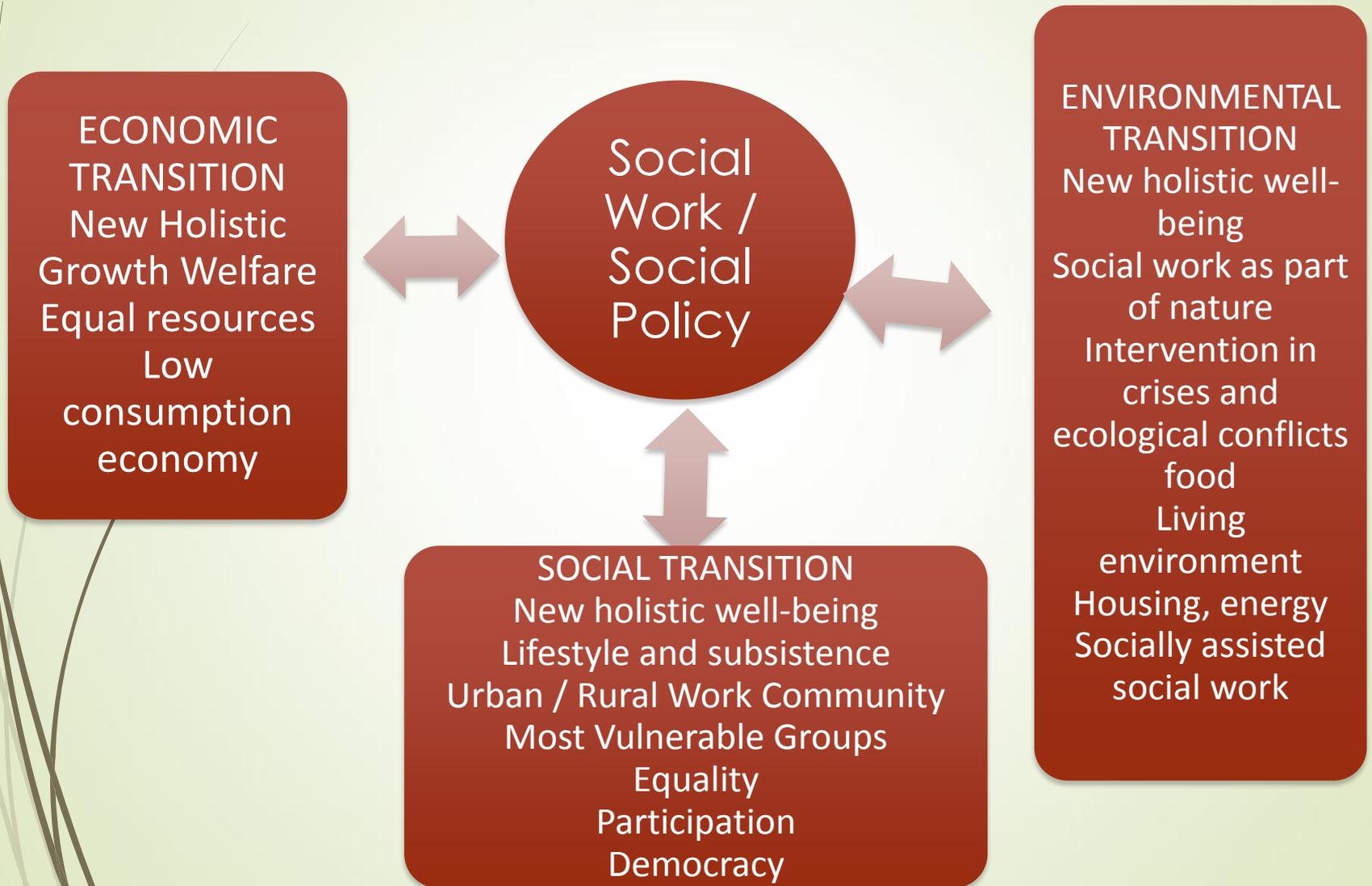


The ecosocial transition is mainly used in the social sciences and aims at integrating the ecological and social dimension. The socio - ecological transition is also used to cover biophysical and social changes, but this concept refers mainly to macro - level systemic processes.



Transition of sustainability or socio-ecological transition are also widely used implies that on Earth there are no pure ecological or social systems that are not influenced by others.

'Contribution of Social Work and Social Policy to the eco-social transition' (Mathies, 2016)





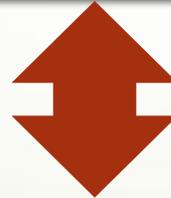
Sustainable Development



Interdisciplinary Approach



Global Ethical Challenges



economic, social, political, institutional, cultural, ecological, territorial, human

Modernity

Contemporarity

SOCIAL WORK

Historic Vision

Eco-Systemic Vision

Radical Feminism

Ethclassé

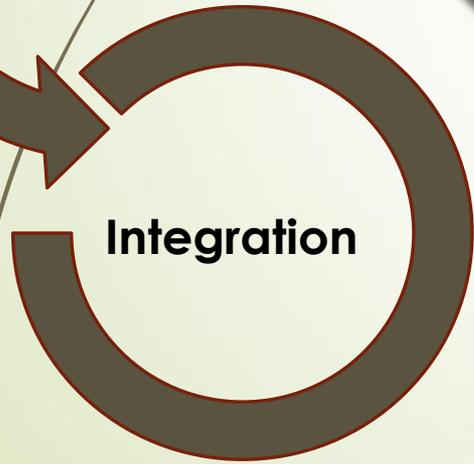
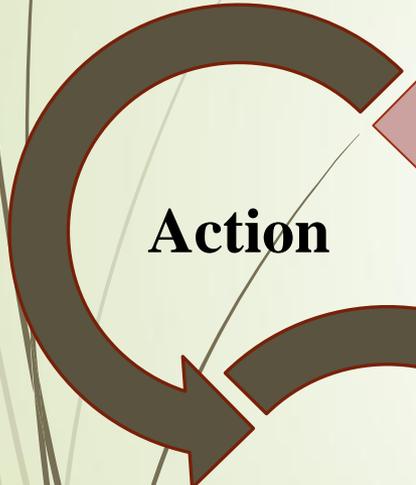
Cultural and Multicultural

Global and Local
Perspective

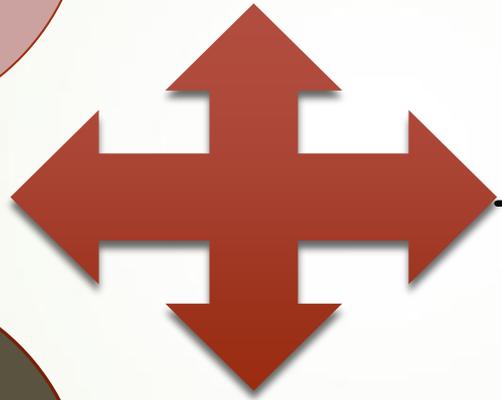
Critical Theory/reflexivity/
Prospective

Ecological Sustainability

Empowerment



**Theory
Research**



Practice

SW Principles and Ethical Values
 Human rights
 Social justice
 Equity, Empathy
 Critical Awareness

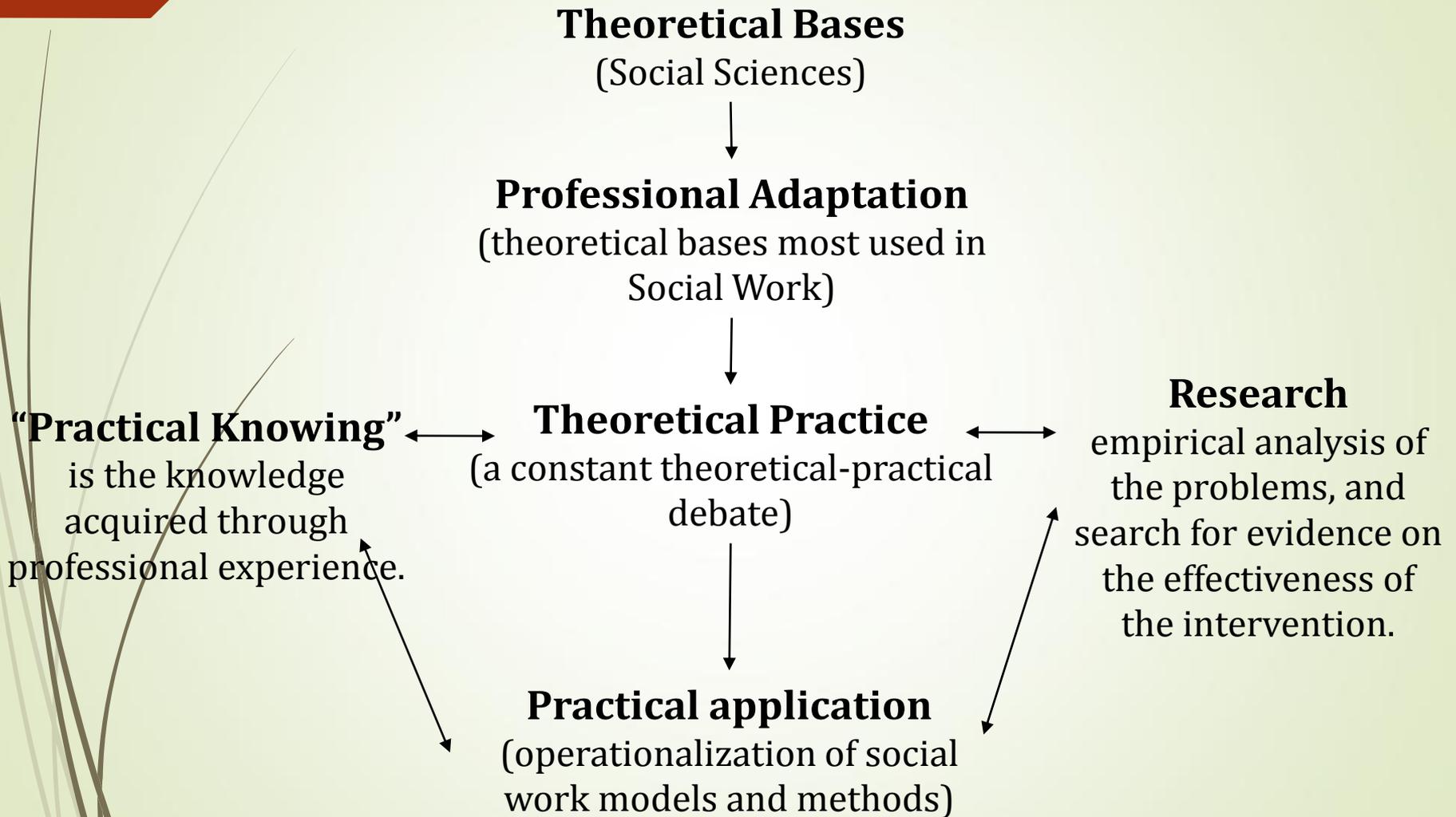
SW Practice
 Multifocal Vision (Lee, 2001)
 Inter/Multi/Trans/disciplinary
 Participated and networked
 intervention

SW Goal/Objectiv
 Empowerment
 Citizenship
 Ecological Sustainability and
 Social Development

Potentialities of an Eco-social model

- ▶ A combination of systems concepts and ecological framework
- ▶ Holistic view, focused on the interaction among and between the parts to make up a whole
- ▶ Theory that serve as a bridge between professionals from different fields and for the field practice and research
- ▶ The environmental issue analyzed in a context of sustainable development introduces significant changes in social and academic settings to the necessary interdisciplinary approach and critical process.
- ▶ Possibility of a never ending relation/connection

Practice Sustained in Theory



Ecological-Systemic

- According to the authors under the systemic-ecological model, the person needs, problems or problem situation are inserted in three interrelated areas:
 - The transitions that involve evolutionary changes, changes in roles and statutes and crises in the life cycle.
 - The insensitivity of social and physical means.
 - Difficulties of relation and communication in families or other primary groups.
 - In the initial phase of the intervention process, it is necessary to consider the following steps:
 - Cognitive and affective preparation (analysis of the data of intervention subjects).
 - Input (listen to the concerns of the intervention subjects).
 - Exploration (determine form of intervention).
 - Contract (participation of the subject in the definition and resolution of the problem).



THANK YOU

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