

The Culture of Education

Jerome Bruner

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What we don't know about learning could fill a book—and it might be a schoolbook. In a masterly commentary on the possibilities of education, the eminent psychologist **Jerome Bruner** reveals how education can usher children into their culture, though it often fails to do so. Applying the newly emerging “cultural psychology” to education, Bruner proposes that the mind reaches its full potential only through participation in the culture—not just its more formal arts and sciences, but its ways of perceiving, thinking, feeling, and carrying out discourse. By examining both educational practice and educational theory, Bruner explores new and rich ways of approaching many of the classical problems that perplex educators.

Education, Bruner reminds us, cannot be reduced to mere information processing, sorting knowledge into categories. Its objective is to help learners construct meanings, not simply to manage information. Meaning making requires an understanding of the ways of one's culture—whether the subject in question is social studies, literature, or science. *The Culture of Education* makes a forceful case for the importance of narrative as an instrument of meaning making. An embodiment of culture, narrative permits us to understand the present, the past, and the humanly possible in a uniquely human way.

Going well beyond his earlier acclaimed books on education, Bruner looks past the issue of achieving individual competence to the question of how education equips individuals to participate in the culture on which life and livelihood depend. Educators, psychologists, and students of mind and culture will find in this volume an unsettling criticism that challenges our current conventional practices—as well as a wise vision that charts a direction for the future.

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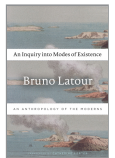
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In awarding Bruno Latour the 2021 Kyoto Prize for Arts and Philosophy, the Inamori Foundation said he has "revolutionized the conventional view of science" and "his philosophy re-examines 'modernity' based on the dualism of nature and society." Below is an excerpt from *An Inquiry into Modes of Existence: An Anthropology of the Moderns*. For more than twenty years, scientific and technological controversies have proliferated in number and scope, eventually reaching the climate itself. Since geologists are beginning to use the term "Anthropocene" to designate the era of Earth's history that follows the Holocene...



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