Sociology of Culture & Cognition

Luca Carbone

30 January 2020

IMPORTANT NOTE: all the hyperlinks have been taken from Limo, so they work only when you are logged in with your university VPN. If they don't work, let me know and I'll send you directly the papers:)

The scaffolds of contemporary cognitive sociology can be found in DiMaggio (1997) and Zerubavel (1997). The cultural perspective promoted by Ann Swidler (1986), in which culture was not seen as aggregate of beliefs, values, and attitudes, but more as a toolkit that enables or constraints action, prompted new ways to theorize about social action and the interplay between culture and cognitive processes. The following, is a list of important papers in the field, selected by topic. One of the most updated and comprehensive sources of the field is offered by the Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology (2019, eds. Brekhus & Ignatow). Several of the entrances below come from this source.

General overview of the field

- Wayne Brekhus & Gabe Ignatow (2019) Cognitive Sociology and the Cultural Mind: debates, directions, and challenges;
- Brekhus (2015) Culture and Cognition: Patterns in the Social Construction of Reality;
- Piet Strydom (2007) Introduction: A Cartography of Contemporary Cognitive Social Theory;
- John Levi Martin (2010) Life's a beach but you're an ant, and other unwelcome news for the sociology of culture.

Automatic VS Deliberative cognition: dual-process models

- Stephen Vaisey (2009) Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action;
- Hana Shepherd (2011) The Cultural Context of Cognition: What the Implicit Association Test Tells Us About How Culture Works;
- Omar Lizardo et al. (2016) What Are Dual Process Models? Implications for Cultural Analysis in Sociology;
- Jacob Strandel (2019) Bridging the Vocabularies of Dual-Process Models of Culture and Cognition;
- Stephen Vaisey and Margaret Frye (2019) The Old One-Two: preserving analytical dualism in cognitive sociology:
- Vanina Leschziner (2019) Dual-Process Models in Sociology;
- Rick Moore (2017) Fast or Slow: Sociological Implications of Measuring Dual-Process Cognition.

Methodological perspectives

- Stephen Vaisey and Omar Lizardo (2010) Can Cultural Worldviews Influence Network Composition?;
- Andrei Boutyline (2017) Improving the Measurement of Shared Cultural Schemas with Correlational Class Analysis: Theory and Method;
- Andrew Miles et al. (2019) Measuring Automatic Cognition: Advancing Dual-Process Research in Sociology;
- Andrew Miles (2019) An Assessment of Methods for Measuring Automatic Cognition;
- M.B. Fallin Hunzaker and Lauren Valentino (2019) Mapping Cultural Schemas: From Theory to Method.

Declarative and non-declarative culture

- Karen Cerulo (2018) Scents and Sensibility: Olfaction, Sense-Making, and Meaning Attribution;
- Omar Lizardo (2017) Improving Cultural Analysis: Considering Personal Culture in its Declarative and Nondeclarative Modes.

Cognitive apporaches to culture

• Lizardo and Strand (2009) - Skills, toolkits, contexts and institutions: Clarifying the relationship between different approaches to cognition in cultural sociology.

Cultural approaches

- Stephen Vaisey (2010) What People Want: Rethinking Poverty, Culture, and Educational Attainment;
- Henri Santos et al. (2019) Class, Cognition, and Cultural Change in Social Class.

Bridging fields

- Lamont et al. (2017) Bridging cultural sociology and cognitive psychology in three contemporary research programmes;
- Kareno Cerulo (2009) Mining the intersections of cognitive sociology and neuroscience.

Additional resources

- Omar Lizardo's syllabus for the course Culture and Cognition at Notre Dame (Spring 2017);
- John Levi Martin's syllabus for the course Culture and Cognition at University of Wisconsin, Madison (Spring 2005);
- Omar Lizardo and Michael Strand (UCLA) have a blog called CultureCog in which they write posts about central concepts in this filed, such as that of habitus and embodiment. They adopt a Bourdieusian perspective, for which culture is not studied in its social representations (Durkheim) or interpersonal/micro situations (Goffman), but as incorporated in everyday practices (see, for example, Dieter Vandebroeck's (2016) book about how class divisions become inscribed in the body and how physical properties, in turn, contribute to naturalizing and legitimizing class divisions). The blog constitues a good companion to the papers to better grasp and reflect upon their main theoretical, methodological, and empirical findings.