

29th International Lab Meeting of the
European/International Joint Ph.D. in Social Representations and Communication
24th - 27th January 2016 Winter Session

"Advanced Training in the meta-theoretical analysis of the specialised literature on Social Representations and Communication"



European / International Joint Ph.D. in
Social Representation and Communication



Moscovici and the transdisciplinary thinking

Jorge Correia Jesuino, Portugal

ISCTE-IUL

CFCUL

Serge Moscovici 1925-2014

We are still mourning Serge

Interdisciplinarity

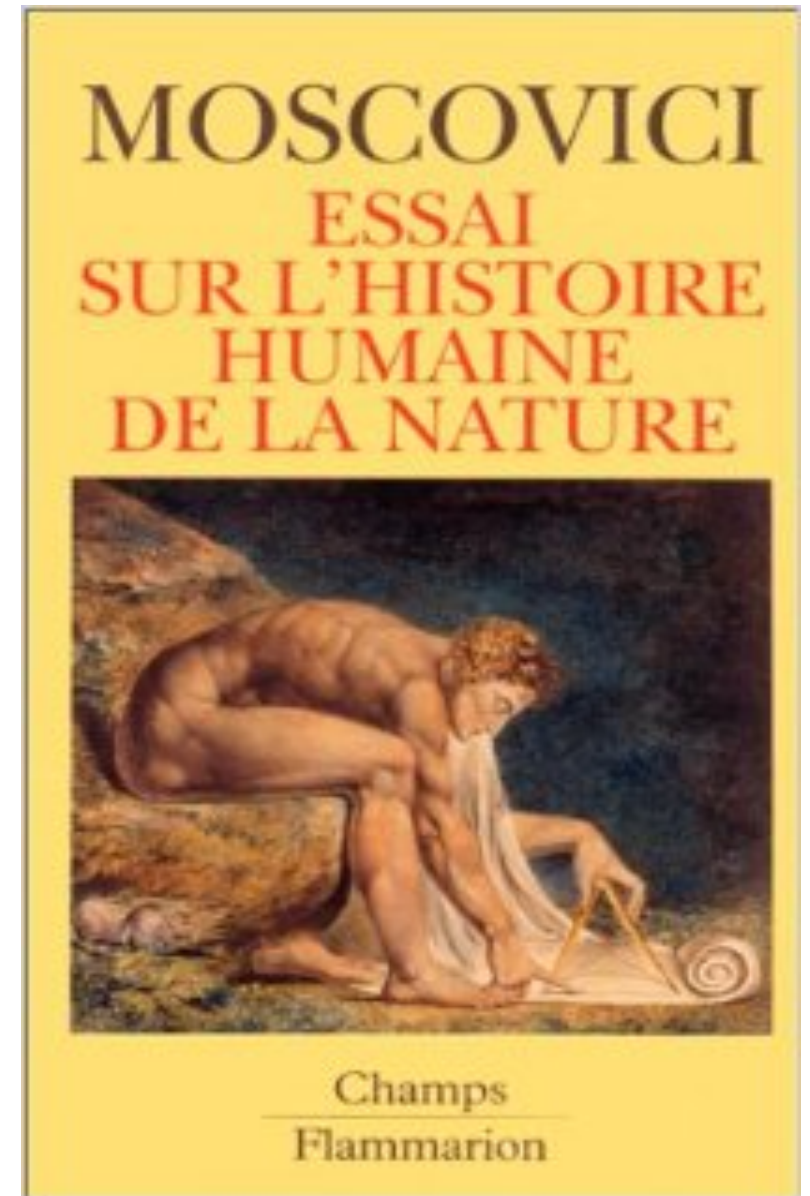
- **Social Psychology**
- **Sociology**
- **Anthropology**
- **Communication**
- **History and Philosophy of Sciences**
- **Ecologism**
- **Humanities**

BOOKS ON ECOLOGY

- **Essai sur l'Histoire Humaine de la Nature (1968)**
- **La Société Contre La Nature (1972/1994)**
- **Hommes Domestiques Hommes Sauvages (1974)**
- **De la Nature . Pour Penser l'Écologie (2002)**

Nature is the configuration of elements made to emerge by human labor and art, technical knowledge, and technology

We have to abandon the distinction between the history of human societies and the history of nature.



La Question Naturelle

- Humankind creates its own nature
- Humans are also the subject of nature
- The Natural Question challenges Humankind to participate in the “government of the natural order”
- But “Nature” is not the “non human world”
- Ecology as an epistemological movement (mouvement écologique)
- 18th century -The Political Question
- 19th century - The Social Question
- 20th century - The Natural Question

Stages of Nature

- Organic
- Mechanic
- Cybernetic

Organic societies each follow a historical path which converts original passions and interests into mythical form (Amalfi1989)

In the cybernetic stage humanity is obliged to take care of nature (Essay 1968)

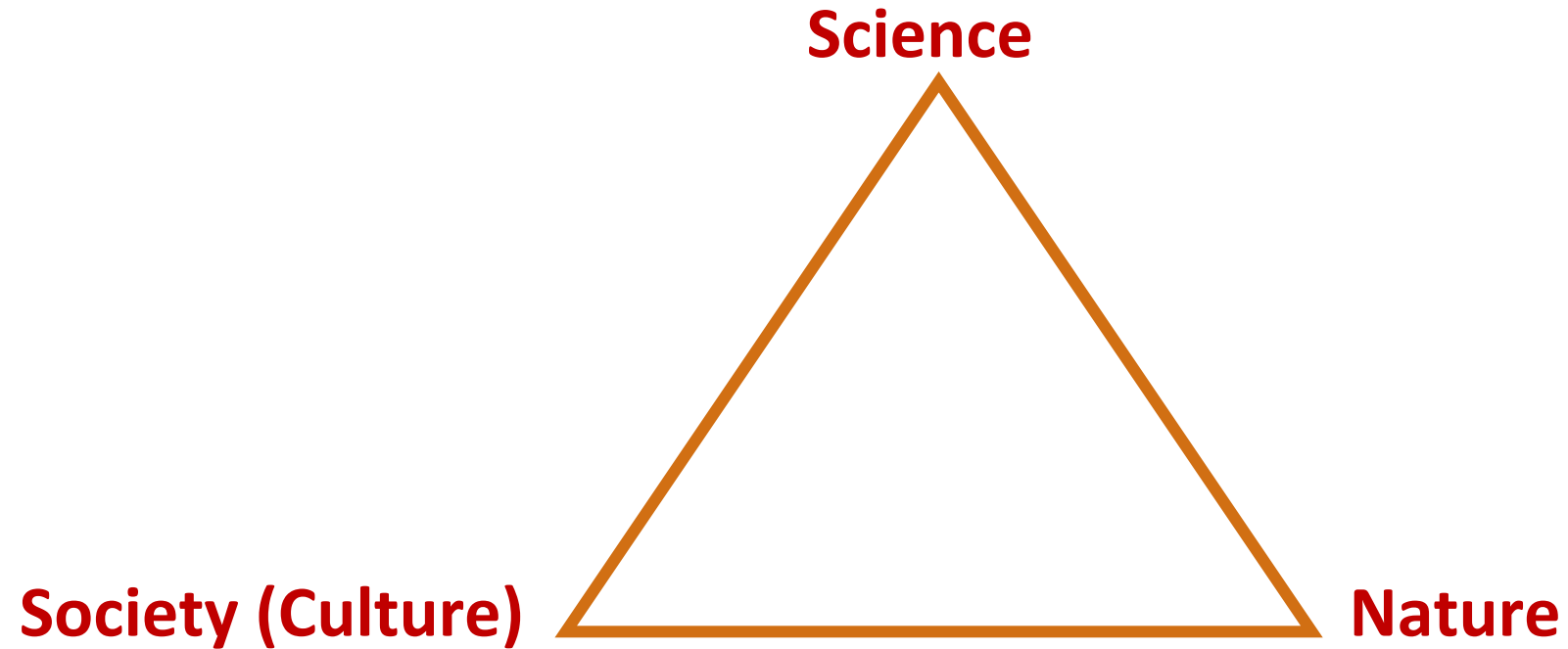
Approaches to Ecology

- English Centered Assumptions
 - Anthropocentric vs Ecocentric
- French non-centered Assumptions
 - S-O vs Ego-Alter-Object
- Moscovici
- Michel Serres 1990
- Bruno Latour 1999
- Edgar Morin 1977
- Andre Gorz 1975
- Alain Lipietz 1994
- Ecosocialism 1993

IMAGES OF NATURE

- Wilderness
- Landscapes
- Gardens
- Resources supply
- Homeostatic systems

Epistemic Triangle



Science and high technology mediate relations with society's surroundings

MITHS OF NATURE

Mary Douglas, 1996

Thought Styles

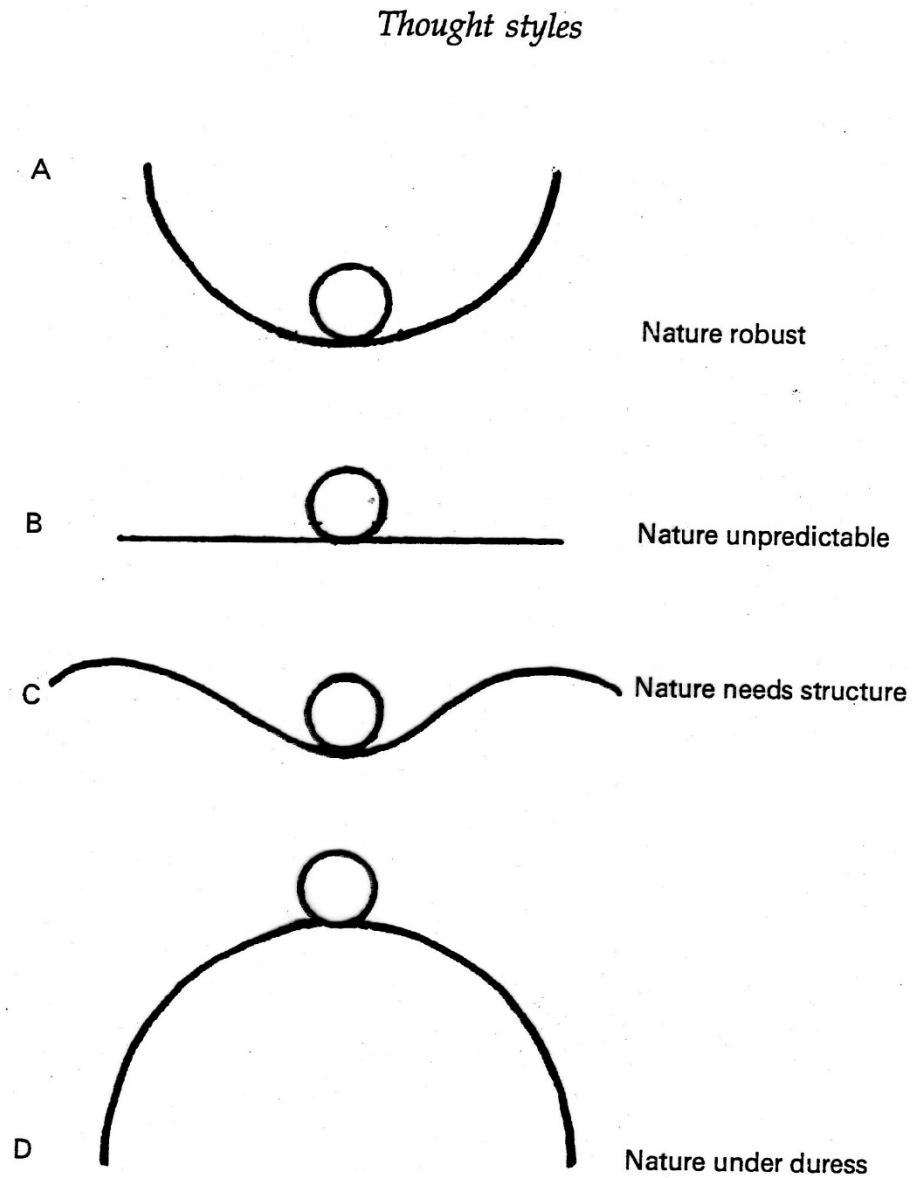


Figure 4.1 *Myths of nature* (Schwarz and Thompson, 1990)

PARADIGMS

- **Exceptionalism and Exemptionalism**
- **New Ecological Paradigm – Enlightened Anthropocentrism**
- **Evolution vs History**
- **History has started before and the evolution continues after the emergence of hominids**

Science-Nature

- **Centrality of Science**

- 1 Human production – Labor / Work**

- 2 Development of science**

- 3 Culture vs Nature**

“Science and technology have transformed us into one material force among others...nature has become the work of human beings. We are dealing with a new nature”

SOPHOCLES ANTIGONE

ODE I

CHORUS: [*Strophe 1*]

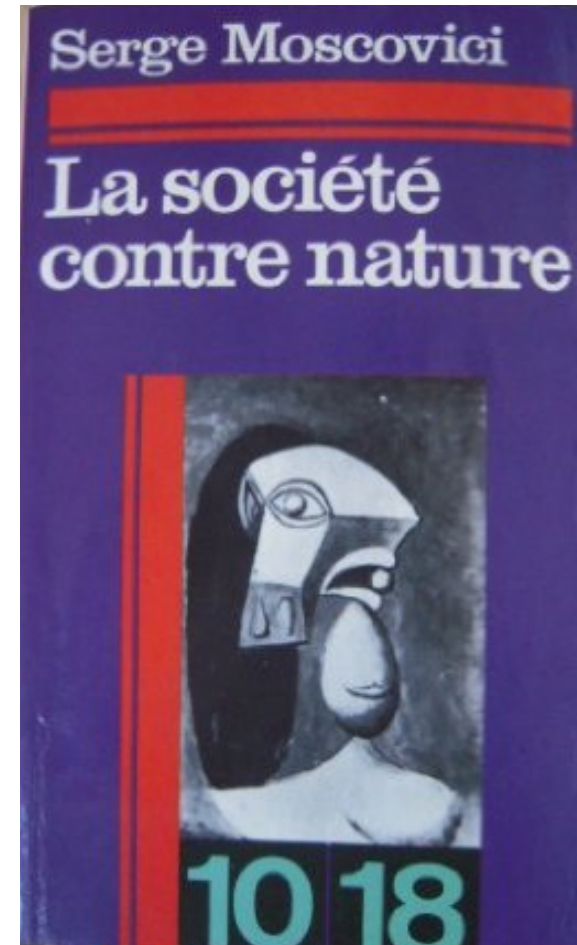
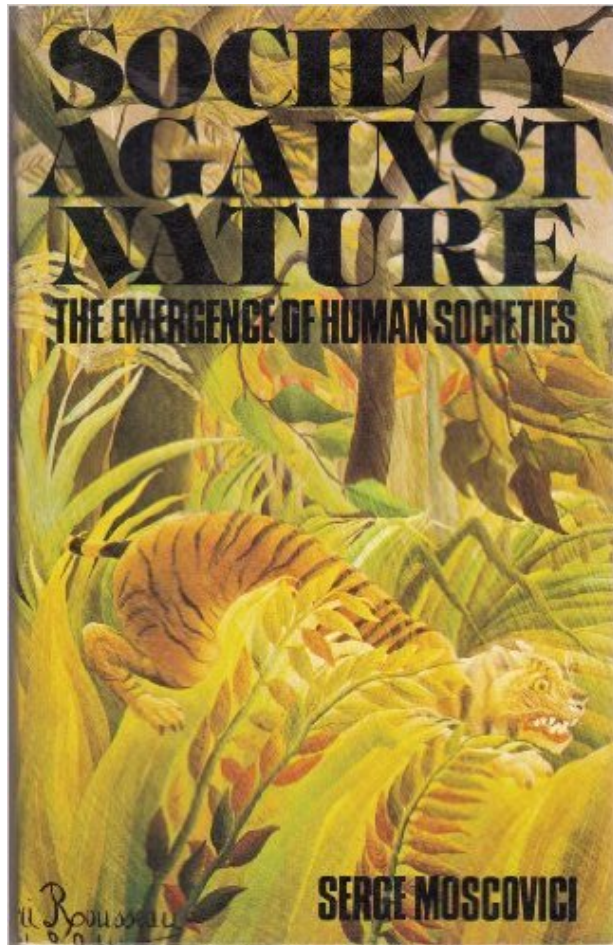
Numberless are the world's wonders, but none
More wonderful than man; the stormgray sea
Yields to his prows, the huge crests bear him high; 280

Earth, holy and inexhaustible, is graven
With shining furrows where his plows have gone
Year after year, the timeless labor of stallions.

[*Antistrophe 1*]

The lightboned birds and beasts that cling to cover, 285
The lithe fish lighting their reaches of dim water,
All are taken, tamed in the net of his mind;
The lion on the hill, the wild horse windy-maned,
Resign to him; and his blunt yoke has broken
The sultry shoulders of the mountain bull

From History of Science to Social Sciences



Social Conflicts

- **Ecopheminism**
- **Antigone**

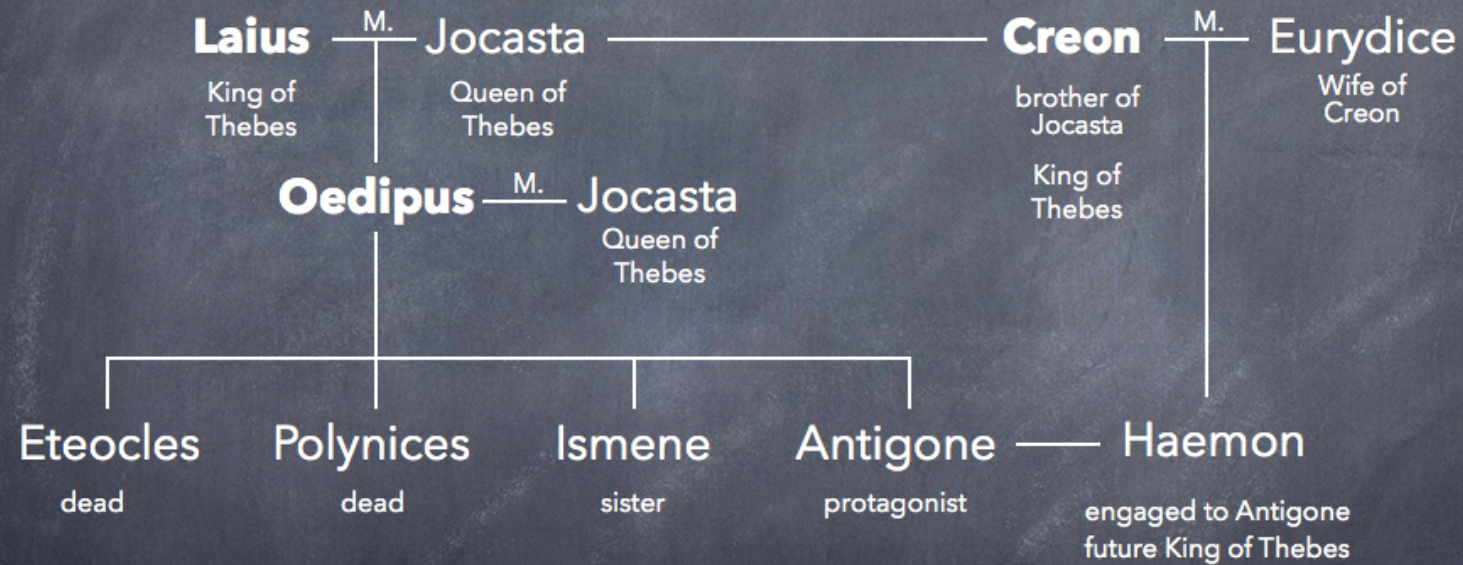
Man-Woman

Youth-Elderly

Alive –Dead

Divine Law-Human Law

THE FAMILY TREE



Antigone burying Polynices



Burying as symbolic union to the brother



Charles Garabedian, "Antigone and Polynices" (2014)

The voice of the chorus

Ode 1 (295)

.....

- O clear intelligence,force beyond all measure!
- O fate of man,working both good and evil!
- When the laws are kept,how proudly his city stands!
- When the laws are broken,what is the city then?
- Never may the anarchy man find rest at my hearth,
- Never be it said that my thoughts are his thoughts

The Art of Rebellion

We have to “wildering” (ensauvager) the world



Natural Divisions

- Productive societies “sacralize” meritocracy and technocracy
- Distinctions of income status and power are all bound together
In society’s system of “natural division”
- Intellectually productivity favors disciplinary divisions

Social psychological processes

- Active minorities
- Conversion
- Thêmata
- Social representations
- Dialogism

Minority Cultures

On a minority culture in the heart of the dominant culture issues and images are transferred from the former to the latter and gradually these new concerns will come to the fore, acting like droplets of water relentlessly falling on to institutional rocks of society

See the case of Human Rights

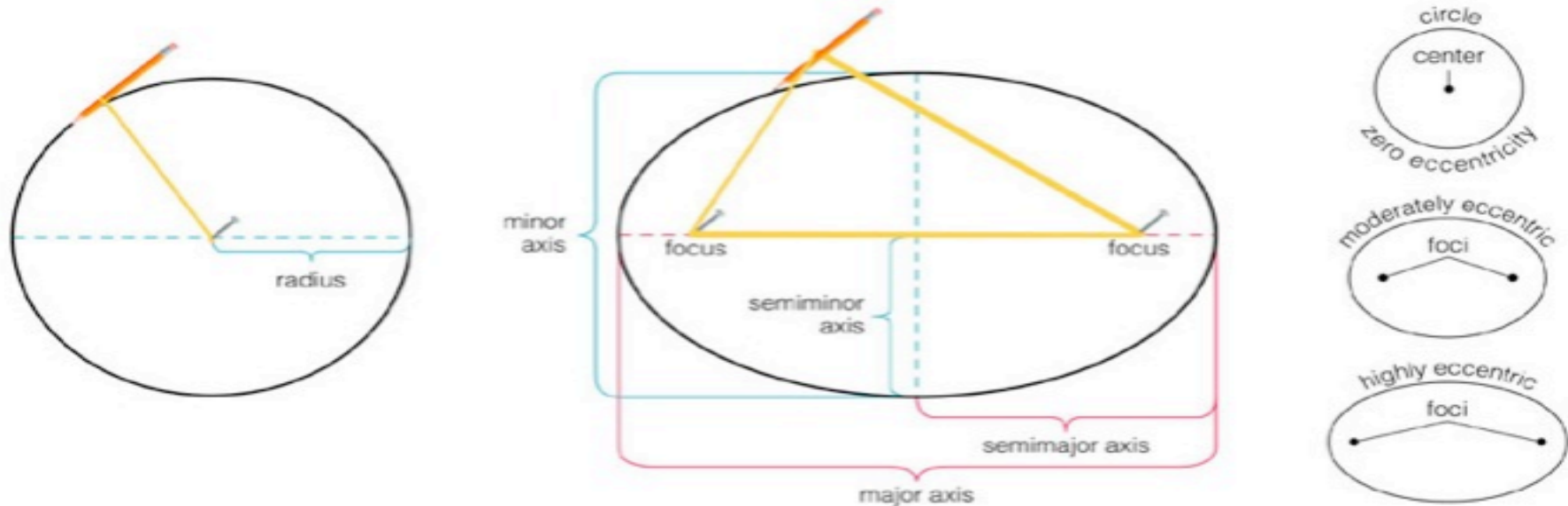
Amalfi conference 1989

THE KEPLER'S REVOLUTION

- The last chapter of the “Hommes domestiques” compares the wide acceptance of the “Copernican’s revolution” with other revolutions which only have displaced the locus of the observer who, although moving to a more distant point, does not alter his solipsistic status
- With Kepler one answers to the question of “why” - the sun performs the role of a motion principle giving rise to the revolution of the celestial bodies rather than the solitary star ruling and (en)lighting them from “up above and afar” (“du haut et de loin”)

Kepler Revolutions

An ellipse is the shape that is equidistant from two **foci**. The **eccentricity** of an ellipse depends on the ratio of the long and short axes. Half of the long axis is the **semimajor axis**, **a**.



An ellipse looks like an elongated circle. Indeed, a circle is a special case of an ellipse where the two foci overlap.

THÊMATA

- Imagination has a central role in science
- Why Galileo could not accept the Kepler's ellipses
- Scientists are not free of sharing the *idola tribus*

Biunic societies (1974 /2012)

- 1 Well informed observers seem to conspire in a sort of “coup d'état” métaphysique to justify a situation of exception

Hominisation as denaturalization/desanimalization

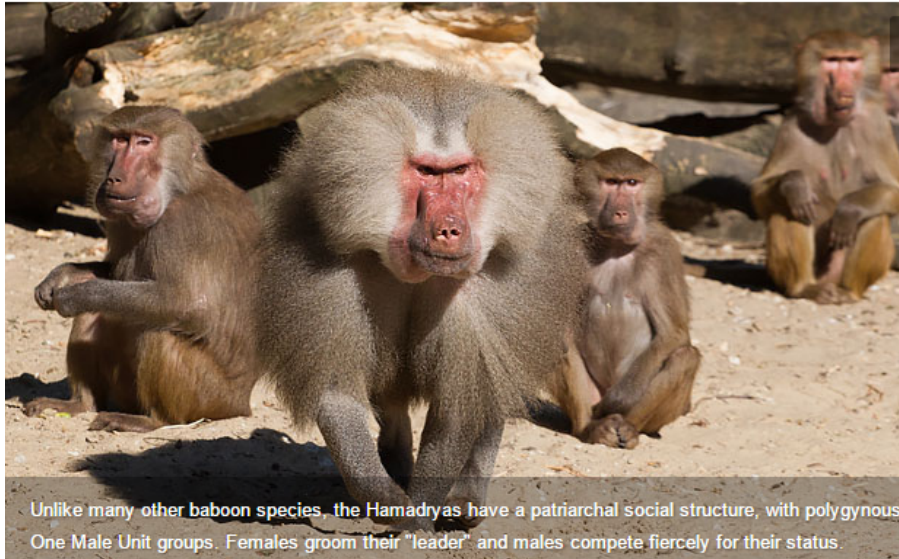
- 2 Societies never have a commence, they continue
- 3 Towards a new Utopia
- A multilinear and multidimensional constellation of societies

Transdisciplinarity

- Theory of Systems –Edgar Morin
- Transdisciplinarity as a rhizomatic entanglement of various disciplines rather the traditional hierarchy opposing the sciences of the center to sciences of the periphery

Hierarchies vs Heterarchies

Mammals | **HAMADRYAS BABOON**



Unlike many other baboon species, the Hamadryas have a patriarchal social structure, with polygynous One Male Unit groups. Females groom their "leader" and males compete fiercely for their status.

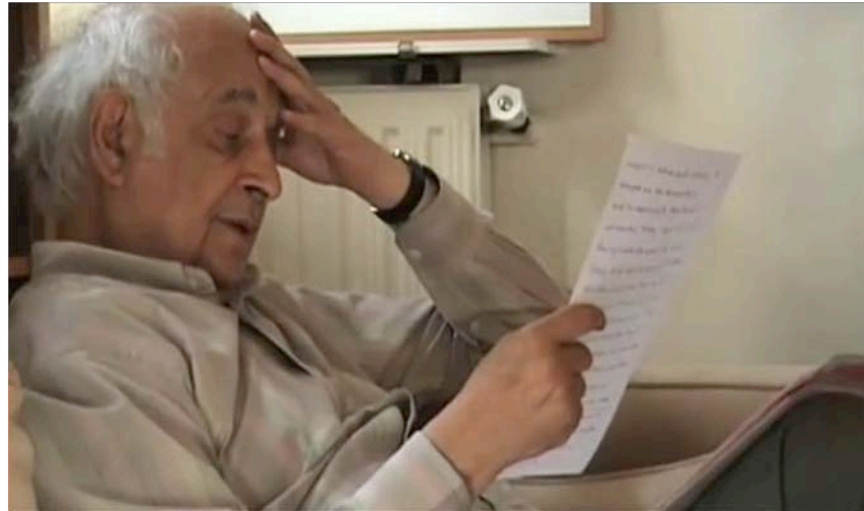
Hierarchic Hamadryas



Heterarchic Chimpanzees

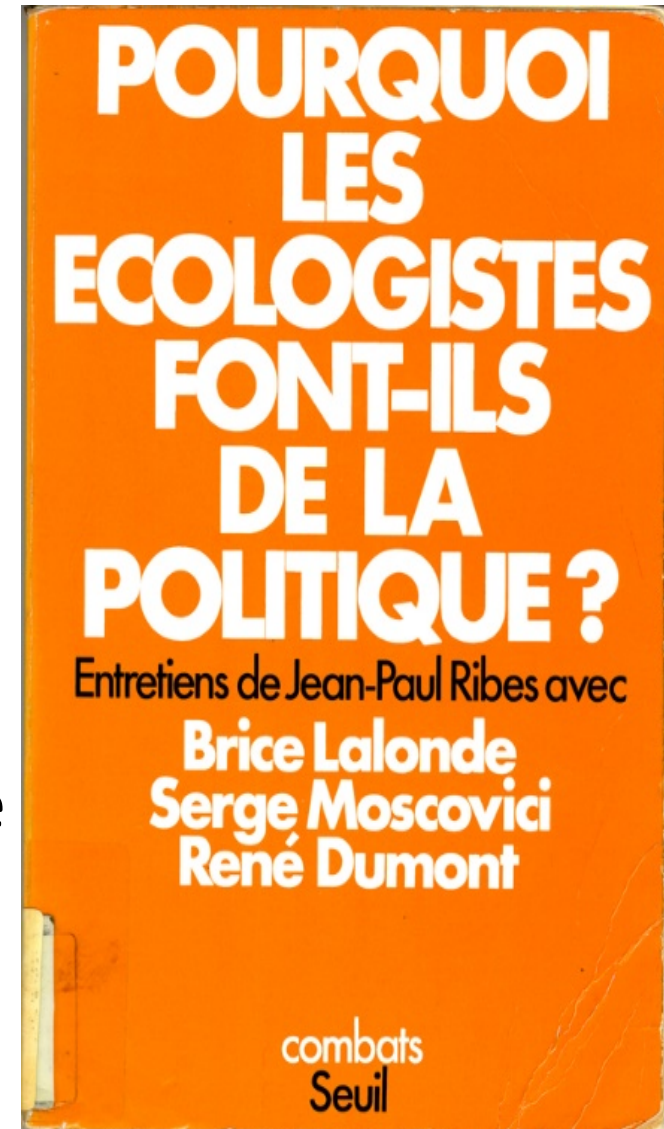
Hierarchic human societies of the "cliques" vs Heterarchic human societies of "companionship" (compagnonnage)

De la Nature Pour penser l'écologie (2002)



Militancy

- **Reasons for leaving the Green movement in 1991**
Le Pen; association with communists; pacifism
- **The Cervi prix 2000**
- **The Ravenna conference –"Ecology and Ecologism"**
Ecologism as the cause rather than the consequence of ecology



Nature vs Environment

There is no environment without experts

- Stockholm 1972
- Rio de Janeiro 1992

"the authorities in charge of our planet's destiny against decisions which are supported by pseudo-scientific arguments or false and non-relevant data. The greatest evils which stalk our Earth are ignorance and oppression, and not Science, Technology and Industry."

Heidelberg appeal

Ecological technocracy

- Iron cage (cage d'acier) (Weber)
- Concrete sarcophagus (sarcophage de béton)
- Techocratic voluptuosness (Weber)

Image of the Greens

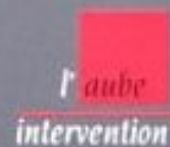
- No illusions
- Deeply inside everybody hopes that the problema goes away
- For the left our discourse lacks coherence, not enough scientific, not enough structured
- For the right our discourse is anarchic, finally we would be disguised leftists



SERGE MOSCOVICI

RÉENCHANTER LA NATURE

Entretiens avec Pascal Dibie



Pandora's hope

- **Curiosity**
- **Passion**

Questions for the 21st century

Against the division and hierarchy of sciences

A Science –Sun around which all the others turn

Against the proliferation of physical and biological sciences

Anthropology, Psychology, Economics-should become more permeable to one another, more attuned to the problems which arise within the historical context

The question of Nature. The fact is that we are dealing with a new Nature



MUITO OBRIGADO