Gramsci and Foucault: Hegemony in the Global Episteme

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Antonio Gramsci
1891-1937
Italian Marxist theoretician spent much time in prison. Most of what we know is in ‘Prison Notebooks’

Michel Foucault
1926-1984
French poststructuralist philosopher and historian of ideas. Author of numerous books and academic lectures
Hegemony
Force and consent used by the dominant to rule more effectively than with force alone

Power/Knowledge
Power is not located in those who exercise it - relations of power are everywhere, especially within ‘knowledge’
Culture
Shifting alliances of different social groups vying for hegemony - more than just ‘economic necessity’

Discipline
Selves constituted by the institutions, languages and practices we grow up with.
**Dissonance**
Gramsci: power over - macropolitics - state and social classes
Foucault: power between - micropolitics - decentred individuals

**Consonance**
Foucauldian Gramsci: hegemony situated within discursive micropolitics
Gramscian Foucault: resistance is possible through the collective revolution of the self
Hegemony in the Global Episteme

Foucault: the historical *a priori* that grounds knowledge and its discourses and thus represents the condition of their possibility within a particular epoch.

Gill: transnational historic bloc

Hardt & Negri: Empire: (distributed/epistemic) neoliberal ascendancy
Hegemony in the Global Episteme

- Laclau & Mouffe: hegemony articulates (discursive) social identities
- Consumerised / financialised / virtualised social identities: a new transnational and distributed hegemonic governmentality
- Global episteme: hegemony and resistance: Google, Apple, Facebook, Monsanto, Nestle, TPP/TTIP vs Syriza, Podemos, Sanders and Corbyn.
Leadership

- Newspaper barons and private education vs ‘Social media’ mediated social movements

- ‘Social media’ belong to corporate interests – a site of resistance where hegemony is fought for at the interpersonal level – the collective revolution of the self

- Arab Spring – leaderless – US: Sanders, Greece: Tsipras UK: Corbyn etc – heads of social movements organised online
Gramsci and Foucault: A Reassessment

Edited by - David Kreps
Foreword - Stephen Gill - the Post-Modern Prince

Chapters
David Kreps - Introduction - three camps: Gramsci right, Foucault right, or the possibility of some benefit to using both
Alex Demirovic - Truth and power
Ngai-Ling Sum - Discourses of competitiveness
Marcus Schulzke - Power and resistance
Jean-Paul Gagnon - Education and democracy
Sonita Sarker - Subaltern positions without identity: Dalit and indigenous US
Jelle Verserien & Brecht de Smet - Religion, modernity, Catholic and Shia
Efe Gurcan & Onur Bakiner - Latin American revolutionary politics
Heather Brunskell-Evans - Western child psychology in post-invasion Iraq
David Kreps - Complexity theory: can hegemony emerge from micro politics?