

## **The Attraction of Bernstein's Sociology: Codes, Control and Consciousness**

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In this opening address I would like to offer my reading of Bernstein's impressive oeuvre. The challenge is how to present coherently forty years of productive thinking in thirty minutes, especially when so many of the implications remain to be discussed and elaborated. The strategy I will adopt is to identify three related concepts – *codes*, *control* and *consciousness* – the semantics of whose relationship permeate his oeuvre beginning with the 1950's Public Language and closing with 2000's Pedagogy, Symbolic Control and Identity. The principle of the relationship of codes, control and consciousness reaches out to answer the basic question of sociology that Bernstein's work raised: 'how does the outside become the inside and how does the inside reveal itself and shape the outside?' (Bernstein: 1990: 94).

### References:

- Basil Bernstein. 1959. A public language: some sociological implications of a linguistic form. *British Journal of Sociology*, ix. [repr. *Class, Codes and Control* 1: *Theoretical Studies towards a Sociology of Language*. London: RKP 1971].
- Basil Bernstein. 1990. Elaborated and restricted codes: overviews and criticism. In *The Structuring of Pedagogic Discourse, Volume IV: Class, Codes and Control*. London: Routledge.
- Basil Bernstein. 2000. *Pedagogy, Symbolic Control and Identity: Theory, Research, Critique*. [revised edition] Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield.