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I am from the Education field, more specifically Special Education. My interest in Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT) came from studies in schools trying to understand inclusive education.

I started studying Vygotsky and his research on Defectology. This work focused on the subject and on the development of students with special educational needs (SEN). However, in order to understand the school as a whole, I felt it was necessary to investigate how the school's organization and schooling process affects students learning.

CHAT was also important for expanding the planning of teacher training and the planning research in the school context. The Change Laboratory methodology and the principles of formative interventions were fundamental for conducting training and research in schools, considering participants as protagonists of the process.

The concept of expansive learning became powerful for collectively facing contradictions and moving forward with transformation. It is powerful from an analytical and practical because allows the researcher to follow the process of transformation. And it is powerful from a practical because allows the researcher to support the process and, in the main, give theoretical tools to the participants to understand and guide their learning process.

Nowadays, my and my students CHAT-related research extends along two very interconnected directions:

1. Special Education and School Inclusion

Investigating the process of learning and development of SEN students in inclusive schools; the process of learning and development of the teachers who work with SEN students, supporting their formation and work on creating strategies that make learning accessible for everyone; and the school's organization to become inclusive.

2. Collaborative work to expansive learning

Working with school staff to develop collaborative work that promotes the inclusion of all students. Designing formative interventions grounded in collaborative work. Studying the collaboration between professionals from special education and regular education.

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