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### **Cultural Historical Activity Theory-related research**

My work is rooted in CHAT, which is centrally placed in dialogues with theories of the labour process as well as ethnomethodological and interactionist sociological traditions. I have typically applied the results of this dialogue to studies of work and work life. As regards the traditions of CHAT, I have been significantly influenced by the works of A.N. Leontiev, Yrjö Engeström, Anna Stetsenko and Wolff-Michael Roth. Against this theoretical backdrop, analytically I have maintained an ongoing interest in the study of subjectivity, human agency and individual variations in object-relatedness under the auspices of capitalist political economy. Societally relevant question of alienation and de-alienation are taken to be central to these interests. And, some time ago I began referring to this combination of theoretical traditions, interests and analytic concerns as a mind in political economy approach.

The bulk of my empirical work (all in the Canadian context) has used mix-methods research design to explore economic sectors, firms or occupations. I have typically drawn on in depth interviewing, oral history as well as survey methods and, occasionally, direct observation. The lengthier funded studies I have undertaken have explored manufacturing, welfare service work, and nursing.

Over the past decade, two areas of interest have emerged and have continued to occupy me. In many ways, these two areas of interest grew out of questions left unanswered in prior empirical studies. First, I have been attempting to add detail, depth and insight to the uses of specific traditions of dialectical materialist methodology in studies of human learning and development undertaken from a CHAT perspective. In this regard, I have published a series of articles and

book chapters seeking to demonstrate the value of understandings and application of a selected set of dialecticians for CHAT research. Second, and not unrelated, I have become increasingly interested studies of the work life course, oral history and the relations of theories of activity with theories of dramatic perezhivanie. This second area of interest has only begun to result in publication.

### **Selected Sources**

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