

Review of: "Significance and its role in the historical constitution and transformation of social reality. A conceptual approach from enactive cognition"

Rosemary Sage¹

¹ Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article discusses the collaborative processes in meaning construction, focusing on the role played by individual and collective efforts in shaping and interpreting social reality. The author presents social reality as an evolving process of configuration and reconfiguration, steered by engagement in co-enquiry, co-determination, and co-cognition. A defined pattern influences cognition, with transformative meaning possibilities.

This is a fresh approach to cognition, which has been recently guided by constructionist theories. The article is significant as it theoretically incorporates lived co-experiences involved in meaning construction. Thus, this adds value to social science theories, aligning with present trends of non-representationalism within cognitive studies.

Enactive cognition, as the central focus in this study of social meaning, offers a perspective on inter- and intrapersonal meaning negotiation to bring a broader view of the concept. The discussion outlines the challenges posed by reliance solely on internal symbolism for sustaining social structures. Along with *Embodied Mind Theory*, *Enactivism* and the *Extended Mind Hypothesis*, the article inclines toward *Dynamic Systems Theory*.

Cognition action is presented, showing the meaning-making mechanisms of mind and body and perception and action. This integrationist perspective strengthens the theoretical base of both social and human sciences. The social life of individuals involves being distinct from others while also being part of a community. Social equity is seen in communal access to information inputs and physiological mechanisms for processing, also involving manipulations from the power hierarchies in living structures. The author argues that the emphasis on intersubjectivity in social studies risks concealing the consistency of meaning construction against the context of historical social existence. The fluidity of meanings serves as the driving force for social co-existence, shown in various conventions, rituals, and symbolic activities, all aimed at legitimising knowledge.

The article is argued in detail, but some of the language is difficult to follow. For more general readers outside the social sciences, there needs to be more explanation of cognition as a neuroscientific process that has developed in humans due to the evolution of language. The World Thinking Studies (Kaczmarek et al.) show how cognition is declining in the way it has been traditionally described and measured, attributed to the rise of technology and preference for text over talk. Narrative language is vital to higher-level thinking, and studies show that the higher levels have rapidly declined over recent decades. This context is important to understand the interactive nature of thinking processes.

