

Review of: "I is Another"

Beatriz Macías-Gómez-Estern¹

¹ Universidad Pablo de Olavide

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The smuggling (the author uses the word powerfully) of personal experience in snapshots inserted into an academic genre text gives the reading a dialogic tense that makes it more vivid, embodied and powerful. It combines introspective, reflective and academic styles to develop theoretical arguments and personal illustrations of what in other disciplines is called the *Dialogical Self* (Bakhtin, Hermans). The writing is fresh and honest, attempting to deploy "more than words" from the heart, in a poetic process that escapes the rational academic genre, convening feelings, contradictions, life trajectories. The idea of "building bridges" between different "knowledge systems" is something I have also experienced (as another "I" who has also lived between borders in different systems). It fascinates me and I have tried to develop it myself in academic writing, not without great difficulties. In this sense, I feel that sometimes the text does not succeed in what it tries to do, because the theoretical scope is clearly privileged and rationality (introspection is also rational) prevails, but still some ideas remain veiled. Personal narratives are used in the background and sometimes unrelated to the ideas. I understand that it's a terribly difficult goal, so my main reaction is to praise those who try and advance in placing the writing subject/person in the academic landscape.

On the academic side, I miss a clear theoretical position that has very fruitfully and transparently delved into the idea of the multiplicity of selves and the dialogical nature of identity. This is the Bakhtinian approach to identity (indeed 'smuggled' into psychology from literary studies) and the more contemporary development of the *Dialogical Self* (Hermans).