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Abstract

The Greek term ἴδιωτης was used to indicate someone who looked after his or her own affairs without taking an interest in the management of the polis, and originally held none of the decidedly negative connotations we ascribe to it today. From the twentieth century onwards, various attempts have been made at identifying and measuring idiocy in the name of world sanitization, still a pervasive phenomenon at the present time, albeit with differing terminology. Following through from this, stories unravel of dramatic intolerance in the guise of research. Stories in which clinical and racist interests underlie the formulation of disturbing scientific hypotheses. Such accounts should not be considered simply in a historical context, as if such matters have now been superceded. They show, instead, that in one way or another those things that happened in the last century still take place today, although the modality may have changed. Coercion and authoritarianism, tenacity and instructions are iatrogenic. Due to a particular trait of the world of mental life, the reflective self, the mind may react in ways that are relentlessly paradoxical. Radically disobedient in the face of impositions, or, on the other hand, paradoxically understanding, able to drive the authoritarian principle to the most extreme consequences. The following work should be placed in the context of tendencies in research that have already produced interesting observations and noteworthy results (Carey, 2009; Carlson et al. 2010; Dale and Melling, 2006; Goodey, 2011; Johnson and Traustadóttir, 2005; McDonagh, 2009; Rapley, 2004; Wright, 2001).

Keywords

Racism; Intelligence; Measure; Psychiatry; Oligophrenia

Full Text:

PDF

References


To see an ancient spiritual guide to sex broken down into a pop-culture format, complete with clip-art and bullet-points, is kind of odd, but this actually works surprisingly well. By moving the Kama Sutra into the modern age, the book makes the text far more accessible, and moves the concept of the Kama Sutra from something dirty to a practical guide.


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