Exploring communication, space and identity through habitus

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Overview of presentation

• Explore who & how we engage in *communication, space and identity*
• *Habitus* – what is it and its influence on communication
• Multiple dimensions of symbolic capital
• Spaces for structural interface and agency exchanges
• My entrepreneurial immigrant study underpinning these claims
• Revealing entrepreneurial cultural, human and social capital

*Habitus* strongly influences our identity, communication and engagement in the spaces we function in.
Immigrant interface: communication, space and identity

• Refugees

• Immigrants

• Symbolic capital resources
Habitus reflects upbringing

Schema of dispositions

Values
Family
Religion
Childhood
School
Community
Education
Work
Symbolic capital – used to communicate, explore space and identity. Synthesised framework Bourdieu & Csikszentmihalyi by JT Velikovsky 2012

Identifies interplay of agency & structure; cultural & social systems; habitus. Human capital omitted.
Structural interface for agency exchanges
eg hospitals, schools, tertiaries
Study: Structure 9 + 27 months Long Term Business Visa

Communication, space, identity

Situation: LTBV immigrant entrepreneurs

• An approved business plan
• 9 months to implement
• Must communicate & negotiate space & identity to succeed

• Require:
  • Human capital: business & market knowledge
  • Cultural capital – entrepreneurial & professional
  • Social capital – develop networks
Entrepreneurial cultural capital

1. Self confident
2. Passionate/energetic/enthusiastic
3. Problem solve/Seek improvements
4. Optimistic
5. Take calculated risks
6. Take action
7. Communicate
8. They take calculated risks
Human capital

Reconnoitre

• Business/market/specialist knowledge
• Identify potential market + barriers
• Seek mentors
• Identify professional organisations
Social capital

Networking to:

• Promote
• Gather information/feedback
• Identify new opportunities
Conclusion

*Habitus* strongly influences our identity, communication and engagement in the spaces we function in.

Our welcome to new immigrants is significantly influenced by habits and values imbued by our upbringing.

To change our habits we have to recognise & want to change.