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Andrä, Markus & Brody, David (2022). **“It wasn’t a romantic marriage”**: A metaphor analysis of male early childhood educators’ career narratives. Paper presented on the 30th EECERA Annual Conference, Glasgow/Scotland, 25.8.2022.

The goal of the study is to understand the meaning of career decisions for men in ECEC by analysing their metaphoric renditions of their narratives. Research on men’s career trajectories in ECEC has relied on interviews and observations (Brody, 2014; Jones & Aubrey, 2019), surveys (Jones, Hadley, & Johnstone, 2017), and storylines (Brody, Emilsen, Rohrmann, & Warin, 2020). The conceptual metaphor thesis forms the theoretical background of this study (Lakoff & Johnson, 1999). Examining men’s ECEC careers through their narratives is grounded in constructivist theory positing the individual’s active involvement in his career path (Bujold, 2004). The epistemological foundation is “embodied realism” which brings mind and body together by using of metaphors that connect the two (Lakoff & Johnson, 1999). The study employs metaphorical analysis that provides deep insight into men’s intentions and understanding of themselves, as expressed to others (Schmitt, 2017). Ethical permission was granted by the academic institution of one researcher. All ethical procedures were followed in data collection and reporting to ensure anonymity. We reemphasize the significance of the interplay between the societal context and individual agency in understanding how men manage to function within a female work territory. Their metaphors enable them to translate their corporeality into a deeply convincing reality. The intellectual gender discourse that typically accompanies investigations of men in ECEC is valuable in its own rite; however, the corporeal dimensions of this study balance those theoretical approaches, enlighten our understanding of men in ECEC and give promise to future research.

Keywords

men’s career decisions, metaphorical analysis, men in early childhood education, men’s career narratives, masculinities

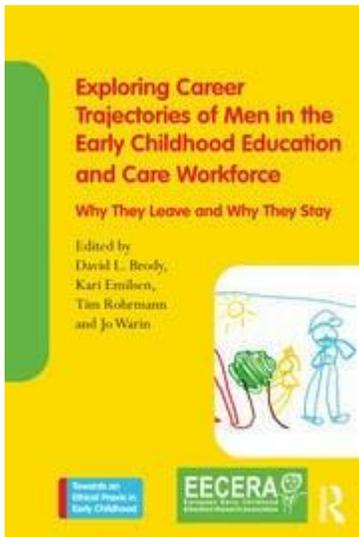
Presenters:

Markus Andrä, FH Dresden, Germany

David Brody, Efrata Teachers College, Israel

“It wasn’t a romantic marriage”: A metaphor analysis of male early childhood educators’ career narratives

Markus Andrae
David Brody



What you are going to hear today

- 2 monologues, Tzvika and Matthias
- Explanation of their metaphoric use
- Methodology
- Conclusions

- Tzvika's monologue
- Markus explains Tzvika's metaphors
- Matthias' monologue
- David explains Matthias' metaphors

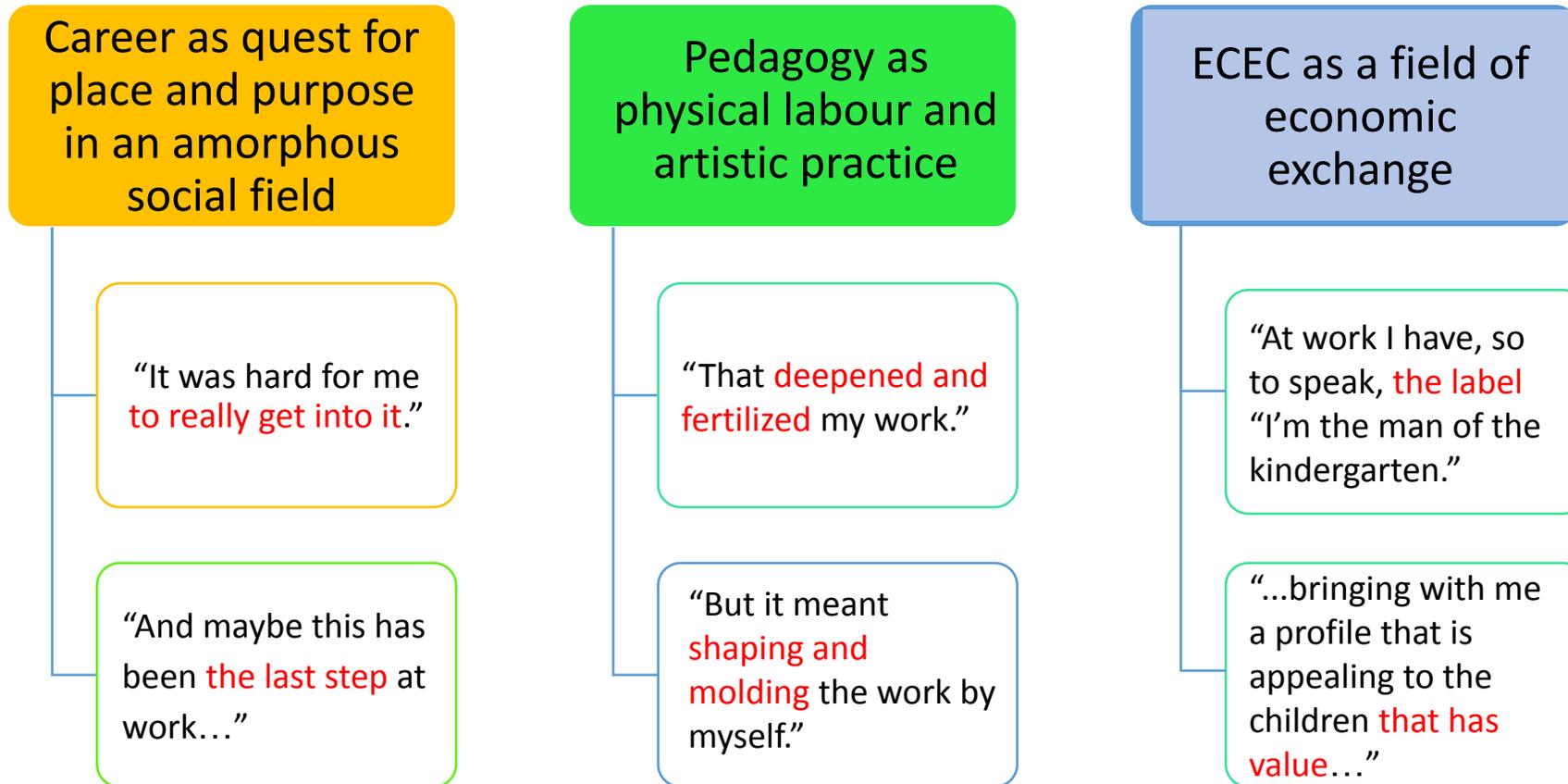


Tzvika's central message: Triumphant engagement in a struggle against evil power



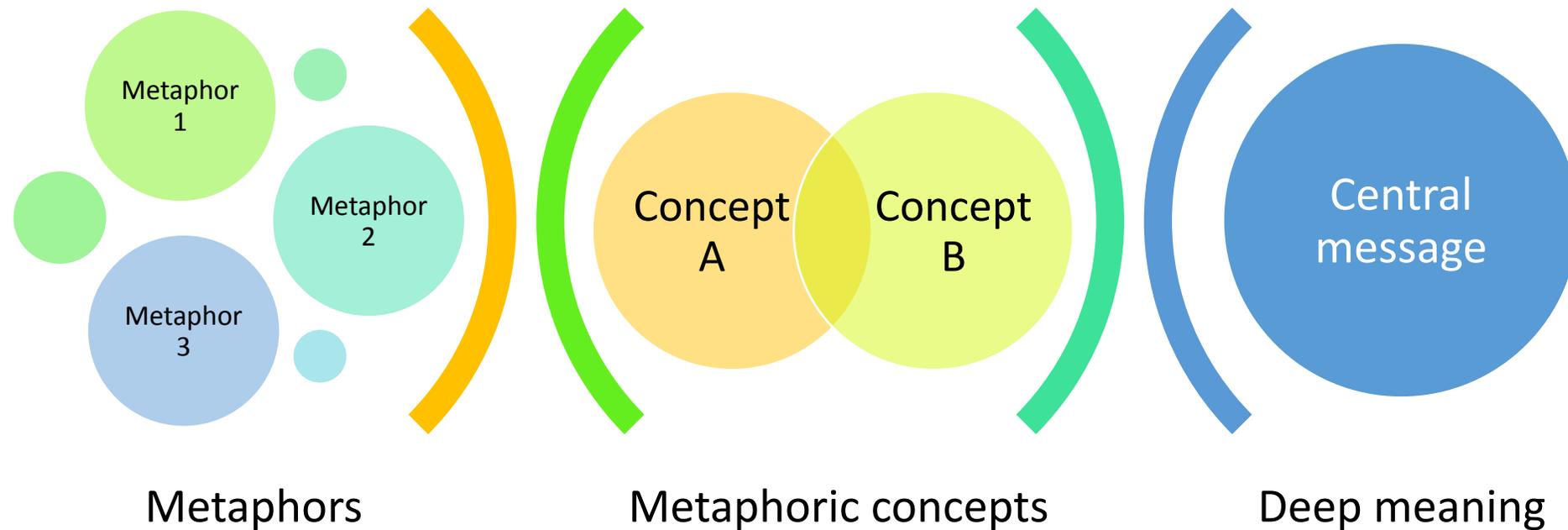


Matthias' central message: Cautious but constant answer to **a his** calling



Methodology and analysis:

Deconstructing the metaphors in the narrative to reveal the central meaning of ECEC career for the men



SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXT – TZVIKA

Counterculture USA, 1970's

1. Rejection of authoritarianism of the existing social order
2. Alienation from formal education
3. Revolutionizing society
4. Romanticizing the natural goodness of children



SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXT – MATTHIAS

Protestantism in socialist East Germany in the 1980s

1. Protestant Christians as a minority under societal pressure
2. Centrality of the idea of the “calling”
3. Many withdrew to an inner exile, others refused explicitly the expected obedience.
4. Truthfulness, righteousness and obedience to the Lutheran “calling” could each become an impetus for resistance.



Take aways

- Metaphor analysis can give access to deep understandings not normally tapped through narrative or semi-structured interviews
- Metaphor is an agentic resource for the men to express themselves and project their deeply held views about their professional and personal identities.
- The socio-cultural context is crucial to interpreting the metaphors used in the narrative as the metaphoric concepts derive from it.
- Our collaborative journey opened insight into each others' cultures and ways of thinking and challenged us as researchers to dig deeper.

Brody, D.L. & Andrae, M. (2022) “It wasn’t a romantic marriage”:
A metaphor analysis of male early childhood educators’ career
narratives, **Journal of Men’s Studies**.

David Brody davidb55@gmail.com

Markus Andrae markusandrae@posteo.de