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Beyond Materialism & Reductionism

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Materialist & Reductionist Worldview

Today the mainstream social practices and the professions are based on strong materialist and reductionist assumptions.

Homo Materialis



Humans are material beings having solely material needs and desires and care about only their own material welfare.

„There are **more things in heaven and
earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in **your philosophy**”.**
Hamlet (1.5.167-8)

We need a **richer ontology and a **more
complex conception of humanity**
in social practices and the professions.**

Homo Spiritualis



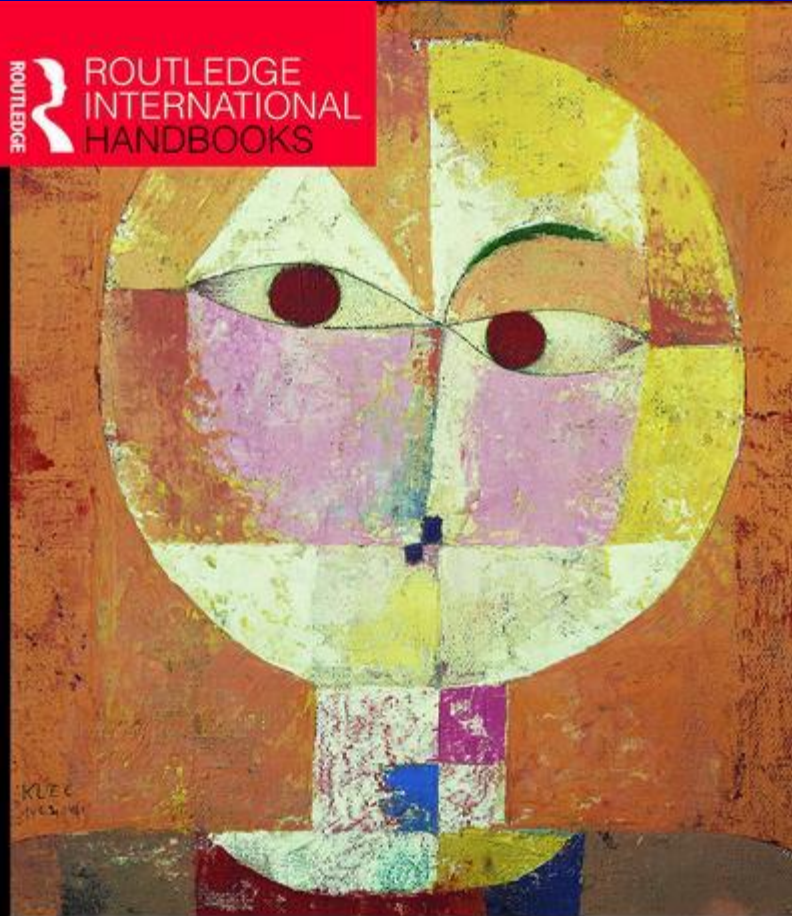
People are inherently related to nature, to other people, and to the transcendent.

They have intrinsic motivation to act and consider both the material and the non-material outcomes of their actions.

**Spiritually informed social practices
can lead to better and more satisfying
results than current practices based on
materialist and reductionist assumptions.**

ROUTLEDGE
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INTERNATIONAL
HANDBOOKS



The Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions

Edited by Laszlo Zsolnai and Bernadette Flanagan

Today's Professional Education

focuses on the **scientific/technical** aspect and neglects other important aspects (the **systemic/ecological**, the **interpersonal/social**, and the **existential/spiritual**).

What Can We Do?

- (i) **Experimental teaching** (using various experimental games and decision-making exercises)
- (ii) **Cross-cultural teaching** (always referring to the cultural biases of any given social practice)
- (iii) **Whole systems teaching** (exploring the wide range of stakeholders, including nature and future generations)

(iv) Critical teaching (making explicit the hidden assumptions of problem formulation)

(v) Existential teaching (defining professional problems in terms of self and identity)

(vi) Introducing new working models (that conjointly serve human flourishing and ecological regeneration)

(vii) Organizing meaningful, life-changing, extracurricular activities.

Living with the Homeless (Concordia, Montreal)

DANS LA RUE



Building a Solar School (Zangla, Ladakh)



Whole Person Education

Educating

the spirit, the mind, and the body.

Thank you!

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