

“The Future of Self”
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Topic: “How have modernity and “identity-shock” created the project of the self? And why are personal strategies now necessary for confronting the future?”

Re-statement of topic/thesis: “In conditions of modern life the ‘self’ becomes a reflexively organized project.”

This statement presumes:

- that “modern” life is still a relevant consideration
 - that the “self” remains a valid category for reflection
 - that how we deal with the “self” has deep personal and social implications
1. “Identity shock”: “This is the emotional shock which we experience in modern life in the routine loss or displacement/replacement of personal contexts of relationship”
–An autobiographical note: “self” as a social reality
 2. Because of our experience of “identity shock” the self becomes a project—or more specifically, it becomes a reflexively organized project”

cf. Truett Anderson on “the Taliban;” cf. Anthony Giddens on the “disembedding mechanisms” of modern life; etc.
 3. Reflexivity is a central feature of modern life. “Postmodern” outlooks are frequently confused with the reflexivity of modern life.
Cf. Truett Anderson on “class”
 4. Example of Implications: e.g., The “project of the self” and relationships
 5. What is the significance of “Identity Shock” and the reflexive “project of the self” for Futures Studies” in general?

Walter Truett Anderson, *The Future of the Self: Inventing the Postmodern Person*, (New York: Penguin Putnam, Inc.) 1997.

Anthony Giddens, *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Late Moder Age* (Stanford: Stanford University Press) 1991.

_____. *The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press) 1991.