Collaboration in the psychiatric and mental handicap fields: Analysis of systemic contradictions in weekly team meetings

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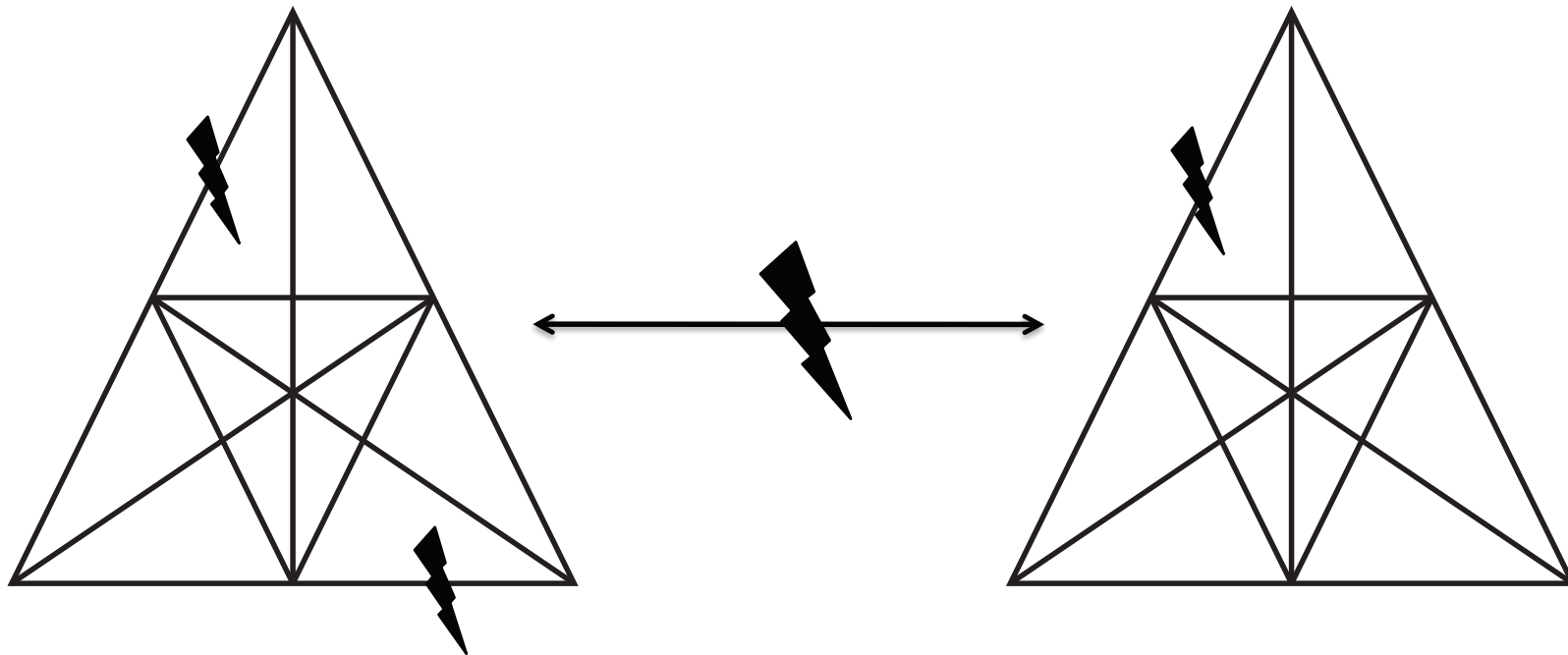
Research topic and theoretical framework

- Analysis of professional development in collaborative work

- Cultural-Historical Activity Theory

  And it's conceptualisation of work situations as *activity systems* (Engeström, 1987, 2008)
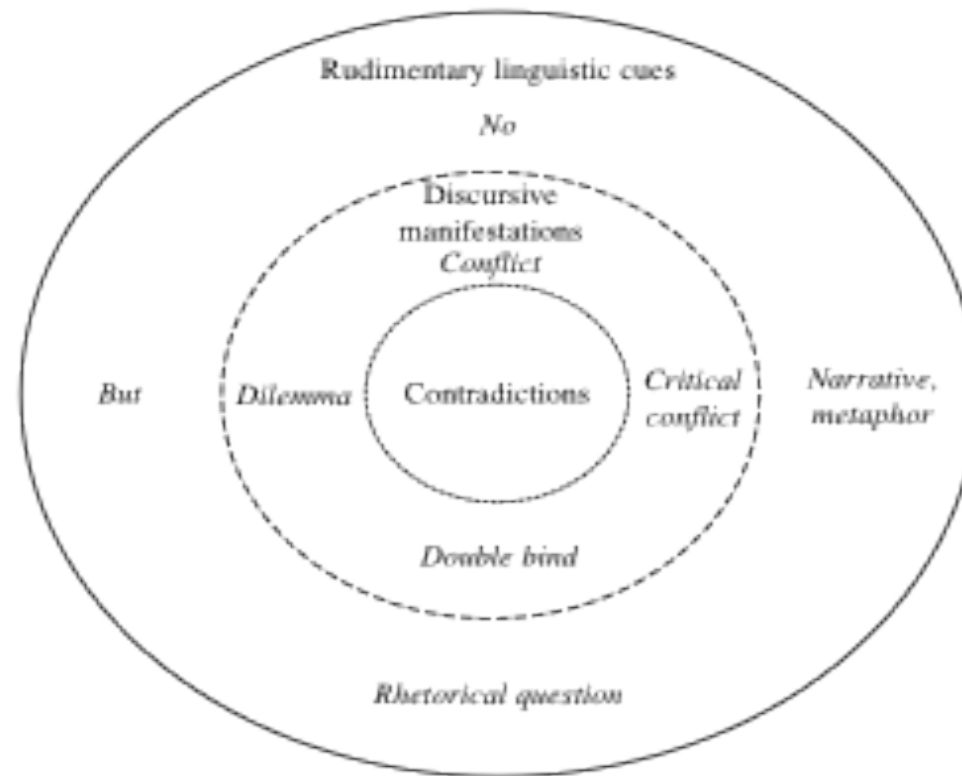
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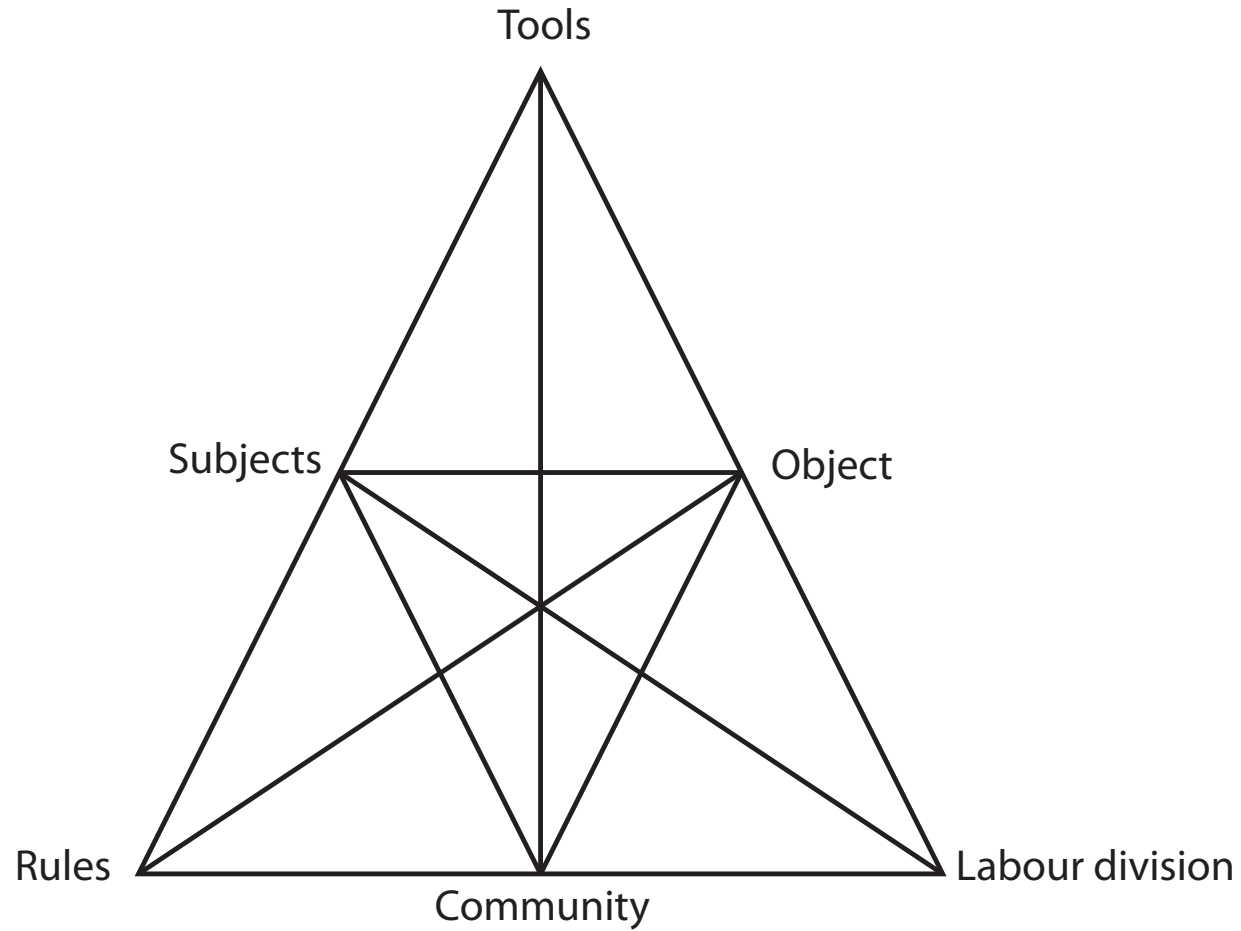
« Systemic contradictions » as a key concept to understand transformations and learning

"Methodological onion for analyzing contradictions in discourse data"

(Engeström & Sannino, 2011, p. 375)

Obstacles in weekly team meetings

- Team at the crossroad of socio-educative and psychiatric work

- Obstacles: accounts of complicated situations, questioning, doubts or difficulties

Research questions

- What are exactly these obstacles and from what types of contradictions do they result?

- How are these obstacles managed in teamwork?

- With what consequences for professional development?

Data

Transcripts of 18 hours of meetings videotaped
from April 2010 to June 2011

Method of analysis

- Three methods:
  - Cultural-Historical Activity Theory (Engeström and Sannino, 2011)
  - Interactionnist and dialogical approach to discourse (Linell, 2009 ; Marková et al. 2007).
  - Discursive analysis of "sensitive topics" (Kerbrat-Orecchioni, 2005)

Identification of the obstacles: the case of Mr. Saudan

«er this is a young man with a slight mental handicap: who has a pretty massive personality disorder, sort of a borderline type, who has a psychopathology not really clear to define everybody is brought up short with the diagnostic issues for this gentleman er: he has: sort of a bipolar disorder, but always rather on the maniac side,» (2010_05_17_1, 5, Prisca)

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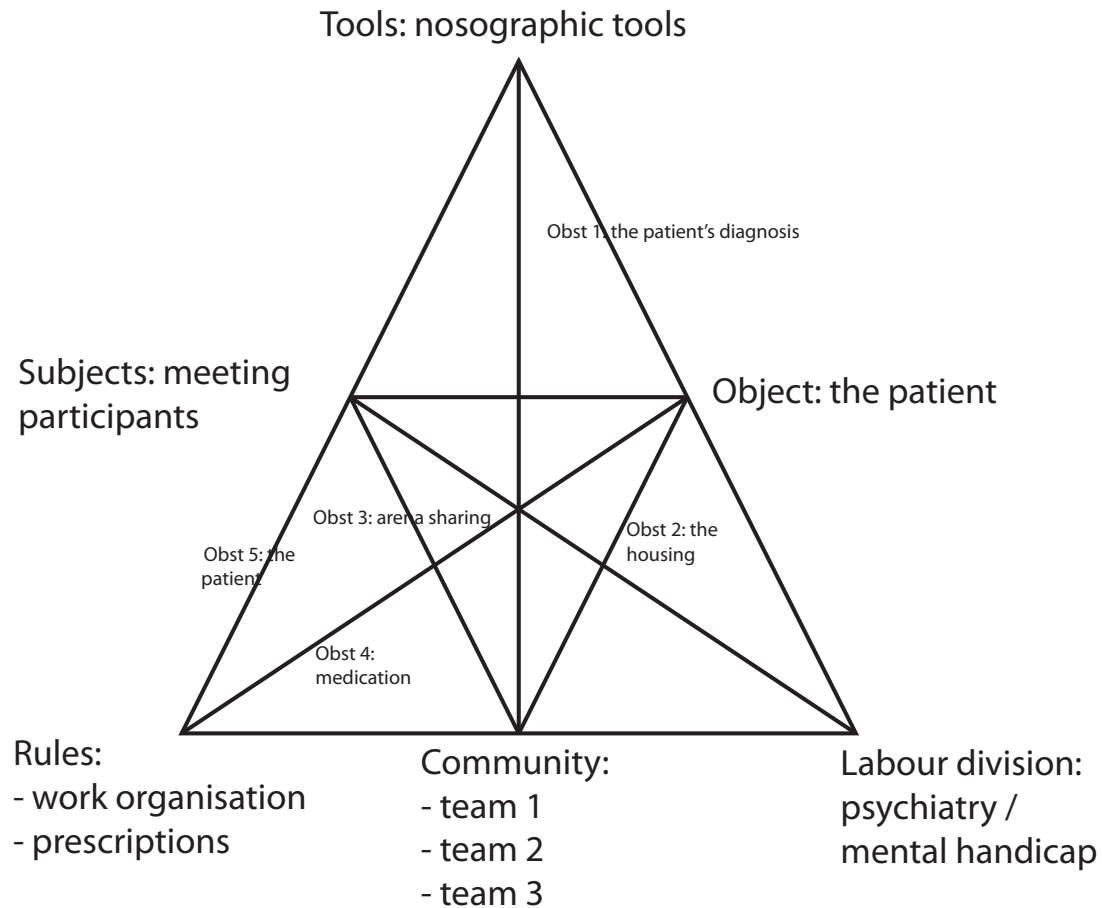
What are exactly these obstacles and from what types of contradictions do they result?

- Obstacle = patient's diagnosis

- Manifestation as a conflict

- Contradiction between nosographic categories (tools) and real case observation (the patient as activity object)

What are exactly these obstacles and from what types of contradictions do they result?

Tools: nosographic tools

Obst 1: the patient's diagnosis

Subjects: meeting participants

Object: the patient

Obst 3: arena sharing

Obst 2: the housing

Obst 5: the patient

Obst 4: medication

Rules:
- work organisation
- prescriptions

Community:
- team 1
- team 2
- team 3

Labour division:
psychiatry /
mental handicap

How are these obstacles managed in teamwork?

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by the way, I have to fill an incident report, because he- there were threats, by phone, (laugh) death threats against me

...

no but it's not really serious right, but we are going to write an incident report anyway, he was completely accelerated then completely decompensate.
(2010_05_17_1, 5, Prisca)

Switch in the enunciative positioning

by the way, I have to fill an incident report, because he-
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no but it's not really serious right, but we ((in French
"on")) are going to write an incident report anyway, he
was completely accelerated then completely
decompensate. (2010_05_17_1, 5, Prisca)

Minimisation

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Compromise

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Categorisation of the patient

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Conclusion: consequences for professional development?

- Negotiation of the professional's identity
  - Different facets of Prisca's identity
- Negotiation of the patient's identity
  - Goal oriented categorisation
- Negotiation of the rules
  - Formulation of compromise
- Redefinition of the obstacles
  - Minimisation

Thank you

References

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