

# The Transformative Mind

Expanding Vygotsky's Approach to  
Development and Education

Anna Stetsenko



## THE TRANSFORMATIVE MIND

The book suggests a transition from relational worldview premised on the sociopolitical ethos of adaptation toward transformative worldview premised on the ethos of solidarity and equality. Expansively developing Vygotsky's revolutionary project, the transformative activist stance integrates insights from a vast array of critical and sociocultural theories and pedagogies and moves beyond their impasses to address the crisis of inequality. This captures the dynamics of social transformation and agency in moving beyond theoretical and sociopolitical canons of the status quo. The focus is on the nexus of people co-creating history and society while being interactively co-created by their own transformative agency. Positing development and mind as agentic contributions to the "world-in-the-making" from an activist stance guided by a sought-after future, this approach culminates in implications for research with transformative agendas and a pedagogy of daring. Along the way, many key conceptions of mind, development, and education are challenged and radically reworked.

Anna Stetsenko is recognized for contributions to sociocultural and activity theories around the world. Rooted in Vygotsky's project, she has worked to advance it across several decades and international contexts bringing in experiences of teaching and researching in leading universities and research centers in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Russia. She is widely published in several languages. With her interdisciplinary expertise in psychology, philosophy, and education in an international background, her writing cuts across many fields and connects cutting-edge developments and insights from a variety of frameworks.



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DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

Anna Stetsenko

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No society has yet lived up to the principle that everybody matters ... Our defections are particularly scandalous, I think, because we *began* with the proposition that we're all created equal.

*Kwame Anthony Appiah, 2015*

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure ... Actually, who are you not to be? ... Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

*Nelson Mandela, 1994 (quoting Marianne Williamson)*



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