



# RICERCA E PROGETTAZIONE PER LE ARTI PERFORMATIVE

*prof. Fabrizio Deriu*

*CdS MediaArtiCulture - a.a. 2019-20*

## **A. Fondamenti di Performance Studies**

*Il comportamento recuperato*

# Restored Behaviour

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Any behaviour consciously separated  
from the person doing



# Restored Behaviour [1]

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Restored behavior is living behavior treated as a film director treats a strip of film. These strips of behavior can be rearranged or reconstructed; they are independent of the causal systems (social, psychological, technological) that brought them into existence. They have a life of their own. The original “truth” or “source” of the behavior may be lost, ignored, or contradicted – even when this truth or source is apparently being honored and observed. How the strip of behavior was made, found, or developed may be unknown or concealed; elaborated; distorted by myth and tradition.

## Restored Behaviour [2]

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Originating as a process, used in the process of rehearsal to make a new process, a performance, the strips of behavior are not themselves process but things, items, “materials”. Restored behavior can be of long duration as in some dramas and rituals or of a short duration as in some gestures, dances, and mantras. Restored behavior is used in all kinds of performances from shamanism and exorcism to trance, from ritual to aesthetic dance and theater, from initiation rites to social dramas, from psychoanalysis to psychodrama and transactional analysis.

## Restored Behaviour [3]

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The practitioners of all these arts, rites, and healings assume that some behaviors – organized sequence of events, scripted actions, known texts, scored movements – exist separate from the performers who “do” these behaviors. Because the behavior is separate from those who are behaving, the behavior can be stored, transmitted, manipulated, transformed.

## Restored Behaviour [4]

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The performers get in touch with, recover, remember, or even invent these strips of behavior and then rebehave according to these strips, either by being absorbed into them (playing the role, going into trance) or existing side by side (Brecht's *Verfremdungseffekt*). The work of restoration is carried on in rehearsals and/or in the transmission of behavior from master to novice. Restored behavior is “out there”, distant from “me”. It is separate and therefore can be “worked on”, changed, even though it has “already happened”.

## Restored Behaviour [5]

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Restored behavior is symbolic and reflexive: not empty but loaded behavior multivocally broadcasting significances. These difficult terms express a single principle: the self can act in/as another; the social or transindividual self is a role or set of roles. Symbolic and reflexive behavior is the hardening into theater of social, religious, aesthetic, medical, and educational process. Performance means: never for the first time. It means: for the second to the  $n$ th time. Performance is “twice-behaved-behavior”

# Is/As Performance

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What is the difference between “is” performance and “as” performance? Certain events are performances and other events less so. There are limits to what “is” performance. But just about anything can be studied “as” performance. Something is a performance when historical context, convention, usage, and tradition says it is. [...] One cannot determine what “is” performance without referring to specific cultural circumstances. There is nothing inherent in an action in itself that makes it a performance or disqualifies it from being a performance.

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## **A. Fondamenti di Performance Studies**

*Le funzioni della performance*

# Funzioni della performance (1)

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1. to entertain
2. to make something that is beautiful
3. to mark or change identity
4. to make or foster community
5. to heal
6. to teach, persuade, or convince
7. to deal with the sacred and/or the demonic



# Funzioni della performance (2)

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# Performance Deals With Transformation

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How people use performances to

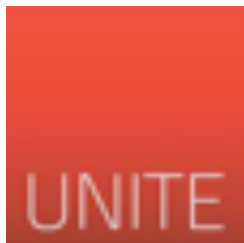
**experiment with**

**act out**

**ratify**

**change**





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## **A. Fondamenti di Performance Studies**

*Il continuum delle attività performative*

# The performance *continuum*

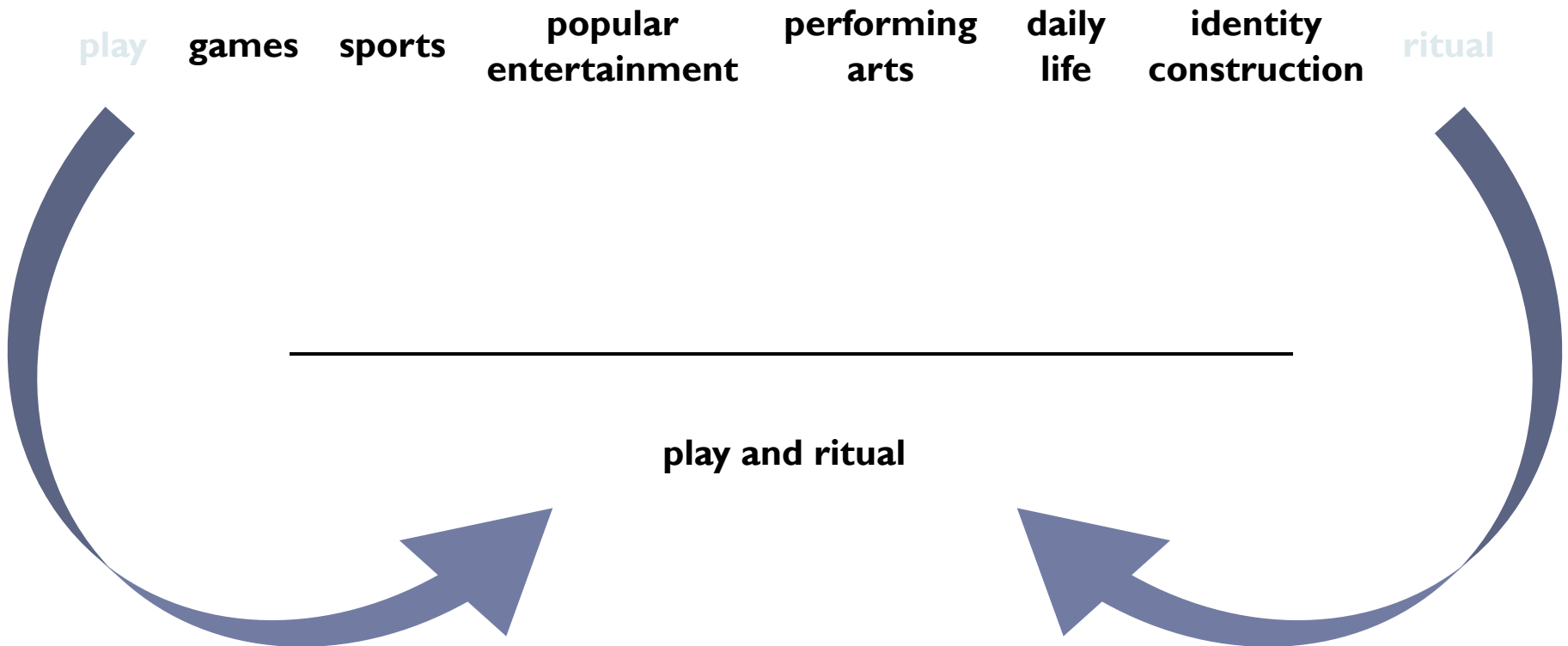
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play   games   sports   popular  
entertainment   performing  
arts   daily  
life   identity  
construction   ritual



# The performance *continuum*

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# The performance *continuum*

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**games    sports    popular  
entertainment    performing  
arts    daily  
life    identity  
construction**

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**play and ritual**

