**November 29, 2017**

1. Use the Repertory Grid template on the back of this sheet to create a set of personal constructs. Begin by entering the initials of six people that you know well.

* To elicit the constructs, start with three of the six people and ask yourself the question, “In what way are two of these people similar to each other and in what way is the third different from the other two?” Write the description of the similarity between the two on the left and write the distinguishing characteristic of the third on the right.
* Enter a number from 1 to 7 under the initials of all six people, where 7 indicates the person is very well described by the similarity construct and poorly described by the difference construct. A 1 indicates the opposite - that the person is very well described by the difference construct and poorly described by the similarity construct. If neither construct seems to fit, you can enter an X.
* Repeat this process four or five times for additional sets of three people.
* You should now have five or six sets of bipolar constructs. Go back to each construct one at a time and give each of the unrated people in your list either a 1 or a 0 depending on whether you think they are more like the similarity construct or more like the difference construct. If neither construct seems to fit, enter an X.

Compare the list of constructs you created with the lists of others in your group. Discuss whether the technique seems to elicit constructs that make sense to you as ways that you typically construe your world. Does it reveal any interesting difference between the constructs you elicited and those of the others in your group? Do you think these differences are because of the people being rated or are they because of the people doing the rating? How would Butt hope you answer this last question? Why?

2. What does Butt mean when he says that the issue of “What constitutes one’s true self?” would not arise outside the late modern context? What is his rationale for taking this position? How is the issue relevant to the conception of self that he prefers?

3. Review Butt’s description of Schneider, the World War I veteran who lost the ability to locate himself in time and space (original description pp. 98/99). What point is Butt trying to make about the self by his reference to Schneider in relation to the concept of the existential self (pp. 130/131)?

4. Explain in what way the ideas presented by Damasio about emotion are consistent (or not) with Butt’s claim that “Our connection with others is primarily pre-reflective.” (p. 137)

5. Butt says that “what ‘having a self’ means is having a constructive relationship to the past and the future” (p. 137). Explain what you think this quotation means. Explain why you think he includes the word “constructive” in his description.

6. Butt says that Berger and Luckmann propose “a decentred self that makes history, but not in circumstances of its own making” p.126. Explain what you think this quotation means. Explain, in particular, what you think the word “decentred” refers to.

**Repertory Grid**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Similarity Construct | Initials  | Difference Construct |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |