

THEORIES OF CONFLICT

Where Do the Theories Fit?

Individualist Focus

The Body

– *primary focus on the physical organism* Examples:
Genetics, Endocrine system, neurobiology, trauma

The Non-conscious Mind

– *primary focus on psychological factors outside our range of awareness*

Examples:

Displacement theory
System 1 / System 2 thinking
Social identity

The Strategic Mind

--*primary focus on psychological and emotional factors we can notice and about which we make conscious and strategic choices*

Examples:

Strategic choice and dual concerns model
(Learning theory)

Symbolic and Constructionist Focus

Language and symbols

– *primary focus on how we make, transmit, receive and interpret meaning*

Examples:

Communication theory
Relational theory

Co-creation of meaning

--*primary focus on how new meaning is generated or “co-created” through social interaction*

Examples:

Meaning making through discourse
Meaning making in broad social contexts

Social Structural Focus

Systems, structures and the conflict ecosystem

–*primary focus on how humans are embedded within physical, symbolic and social contexts*

Examples:

Systems, structures, social location