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## Educational Leadership: When Self-Perception Stymies Social Progress

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# Educational Leadership: When Self-Perception Stymies Social Progress

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**Abstract**

When we think about identity as the personal marker that defines us as individuals, it is impossible to divorce perception from its maker. As firm as identity is, its malleability is apparent within the context of interpersonal relations, both personally and professionally. Each of us perceives the world uniquely, using lenses that fit our individual values, ethical and moral codes. That perception is also colored by our individual histories, and those moments filled with emotional fervor. How we are perceived will often mirror what we choose to reveal in different social contexts. However, when we leak aspects of our personalities that conflict with one another, spaces where the rational and emotional clash, perception can become frail. We propose that this is due in large part to our self-perception. How we perceive ourselves is a product of both nature and nurture to some varying degrees. While our backgrounds and cultures will help shape our identities and tendencies to individualize, we are often socialized to adapt to the norms of our chosen environments. And although our social connections help define the rules by which social progress can occur, fixed self-perceptions that outlie those shared by the great majority can stymie change in ways that can be devastating. We will examine these ideas within the context of Educational Leadership, to understand how cemented, self-perceptions with power – perceived or actual – influence a majority group.

# Educational Leadership: When Self-Perception Stymies Social Progress

camille marie garcia & amanda claudia wager  
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community of scholars 2018





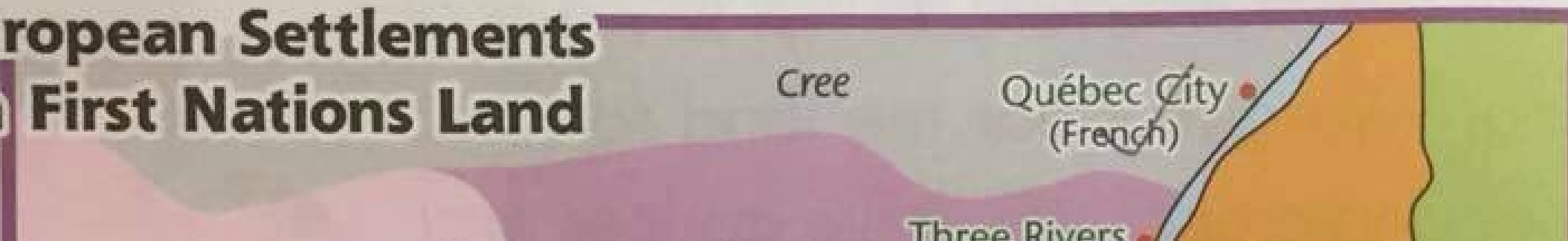


## Moving Out

When the European settlers arrived, they needed land to live on. The First Nations peoples agreed to move to different areas to make room for the new settlements.

A. Answer the questions with the help of the map.

### European Settlements on First Nations Land





DeMOCRACY

DICTATORSHIP

THE CHOICE  
IS YOURS

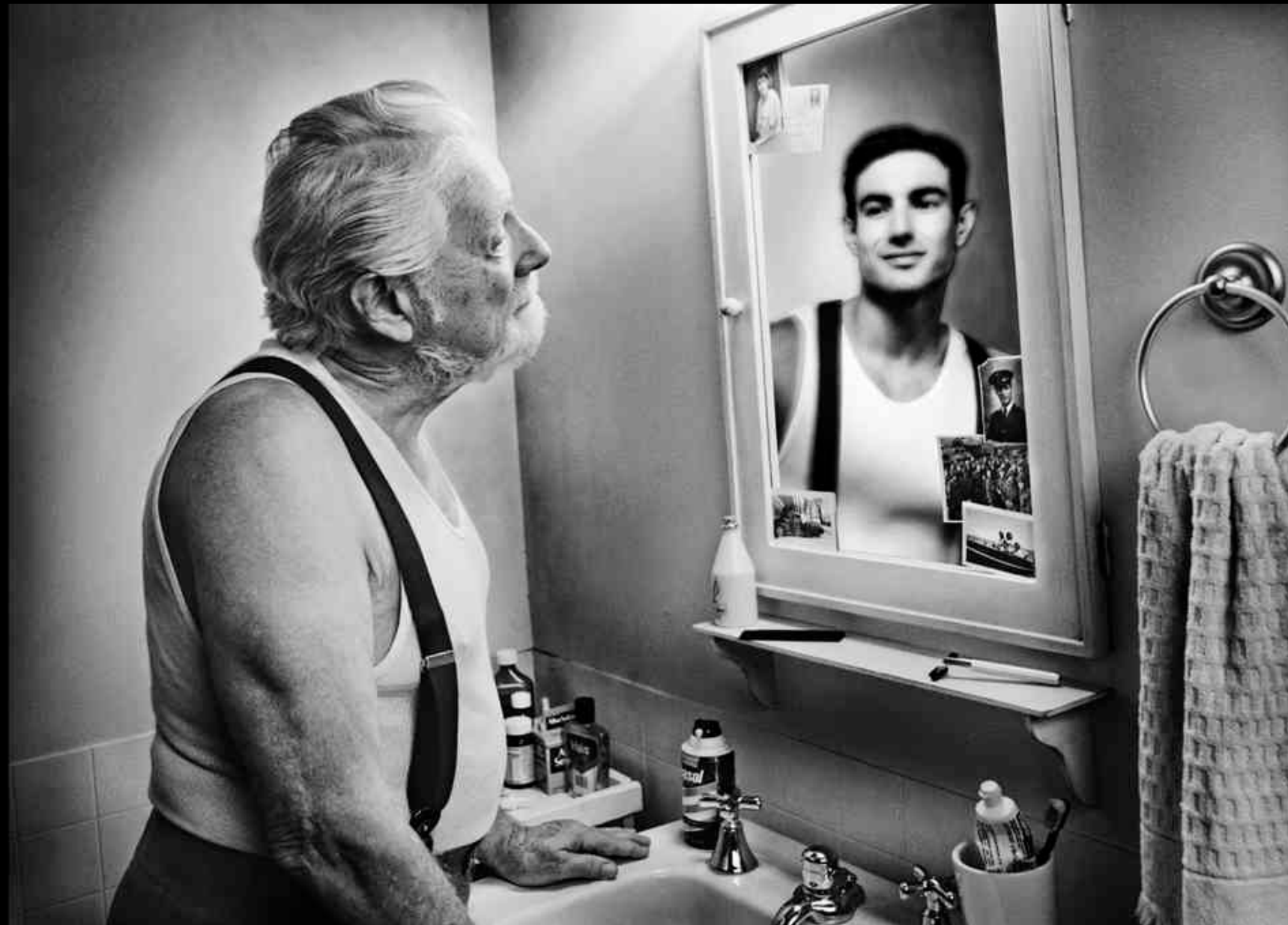
Peter Aronson

CAI/NYTS

- How we are **perceived** will often **mirror** what we choose to reveal in different social contexts. However, when we leak aspects of our personalities that are in **conflict** with one another, spaces where the rational and emotional clash, perception can become frail. **Fixed** self-perceptions that outlie those shared by the great majority can stymie change in ways that can be **devastating**. Hence, uncovering learning patterns that are either ingrained or pliable, and examining their gross impact on impending change is necessary.

# Philosophy

- While this troubling reality **persists** beyond the thinning walls of academia, it is within its foundation that we seek to **unveil** how educational leaders knowingly mask those whose perceived power permeates and colludes the context by which necessary **reform** must take place. A system run by individuals **risks** being controlled by them. If **individualism** precludes self-serving systemic organizations, then who decides who should have power? If a system threatens to devalue an individual in order to survive, is defined by the very individuals it threatens, then who has control?
- When **education** is no longer a viable tool for growing mindsets, and a fixed self-perception moves beyond an unalienable right – *that we mistake not imaginary for real happiness* - how do we disempower the eminent front?



What do you do when power impedes progress because of a leaders' self-perception?



# What are the implications of this global-social dilemma for Education?

- ✓ Administrators vs. Common Sense Politics
- ✓ Directors vs. Equitable Leadership
- ✓ Authority Figures vs. Supportive Environments
- ✓ Representatives vs. Civil Resolutions
- ✓ Teachers vs. Growth Mindset



Gracias. Bedankt. Thank you. תודה. Hay ch qa'.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CRITIQUE, CONCERNS, COLLABORATIONS:  
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