

POLITICS, ETHICS, LEADERSHIP, AND PROFESSIONALISM

Or: Why should the leadership of music teacher education pay attention to the global crises of economy and climate?

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MAJOR CRISES

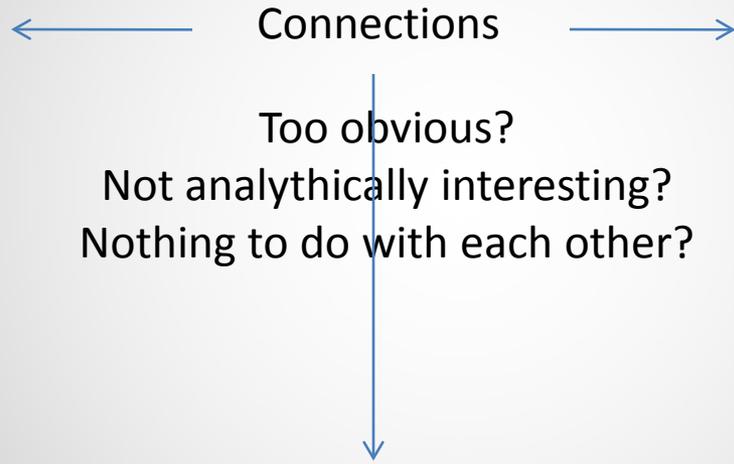
- The world economy
- The global climate
- The oil leak in the
- Mexican gulf

MUSIC EDUCATION

- Aestheticism or praxialism
- Non-musical or musical outcomes
- Formal or informal practices
- Impact of world music

MAJOR
CRISES

MUSIC
EDUCATION



VITAL CHALLENGES AND DILEMMAS OF MUSICAL LEADERSHIP
- political as well as ethical and professional sides

The environment of music education practices

The contemporary condition of society and culture:

Value relativism, multiculturalism, the democratization of knowledge dissemination

Explanatory theories of modernity



Reflexive modernity
(Beck, 1994; Luhmann, 1995)

Reflexive modernity

Luhmann (1995): A highly complex, ever changing, self driven dynamical network of social systems.

Beck (1994): Risk society:

- Economic crises
- Ecological crises
- States of emergency [by] great catastrophic accidents

“People today are being expected to live with a broad variety of different, mutually contradictory, global and personal risks” (ibid.: 7).

Forced to make selections

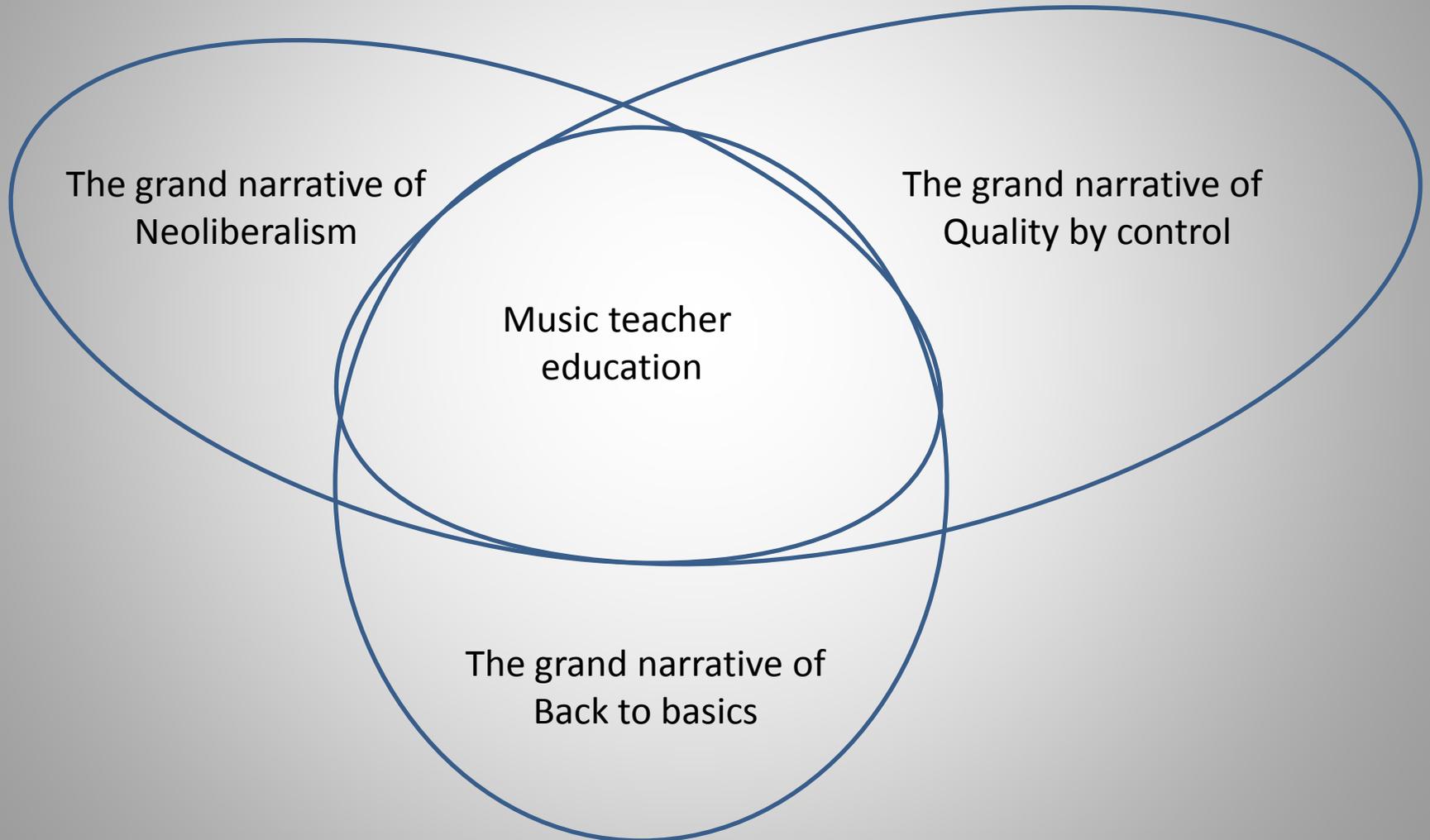
(Luhmann, 1995)

Construct grand narratives

(Lyotard, 2001)

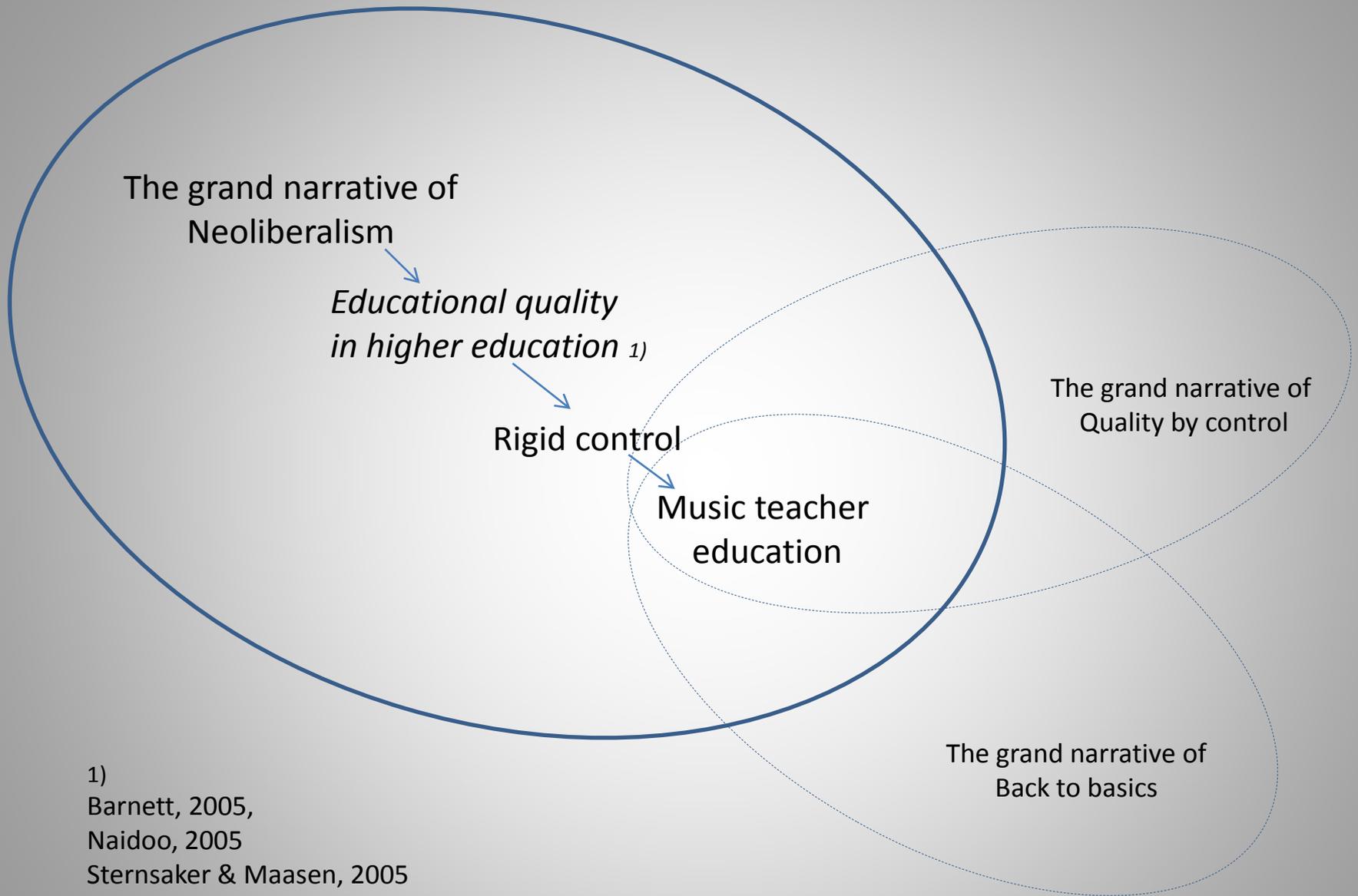
(Johansen, 2008)

Three grand narratives with interconnections and overlaps



The Neoliberalist grand narrative of education

- A vision of the free operation of a global market system as the primary means for solving social problems (Smith, 2003)
- Education: a business
- “aggressive attempts to commercialize the school environment” along with making schools “responsible to outcomes or product based measures” (ibid.).
- Precedence to “financial accounting procedures over actual pedagogical needs” (ibid.)
- Knowledge as a *commodity*, students and parents as *customers*; school authorities as *stake holders*; the educational institutions’ *accountability*.



1)
Barnett, 2005,
Naidoo, 2005
Sternsaker & Maasen, 2005

The mantra of control

- Industrial quality systems
 - e.g. “kaizen” and “Deming circle” (Stensaker & Maasen, 2005)



- Subject assessments
- Audits
- Other evaluations

Quality agencies

The mantra of control

Industrial quality systems' perfectness:

Withdrawal of cars – safety problems

Oil leak in the Mexican Gulf...

”High speed industrial dynamism sliding into a new society [in which] “progress can turn to self destruction”

(Beck, 1994: 2)

Higher education,
with music teacher education as one of its branches
maintains its belief in securing quality this way.

The obligations and challenges of leading music education

- Music teacher education: One of the areas where the shortcomings of the Neoliberal, control-oriented educational regime can be seen most clearly.
- A philosophical ground on which global crises and music teacher education meet.



Challenges for the leadership
of music teacher education

Challenges for the leadership of music teacher education

- Ethical
 - Responsibilities towards the subject, the professors, the cooperating teachers, the authorities, the student teachers and their future students and parents.
- Political
 - Differentiate between policy and politics and see their interrelations.
- Professional
 - Awareness of what it entails to belong to a profession, to be professional; and what professionalism means .
 - Leadership, music teacher education and their interrelations: keeping the identity narrative going (Giddens, 1991).

Dilemma 1

Obligations towards
the student music teachers' futures:
Compliance or agency?

- Maintain education with fidelity.
- Realize potential for student teachers' outcomes.



The principles of
the
existing regime



- Identify different ways of organizing education and society.
- Reveal and criticize Shortcomings.

Dilemma 2

Obligations towards
the leaders' own competence development:
Stability or change?

Cope with,
master,
excel
in



The principles of
the
existing regime



Criticise,
change,
see alternatives
to

Dilemma 3

Leaders' obligations
as knowledgeable citizens:
Playing the game or "blowing the whistle"?

Utilize
assets,
Minimize
shortcomings

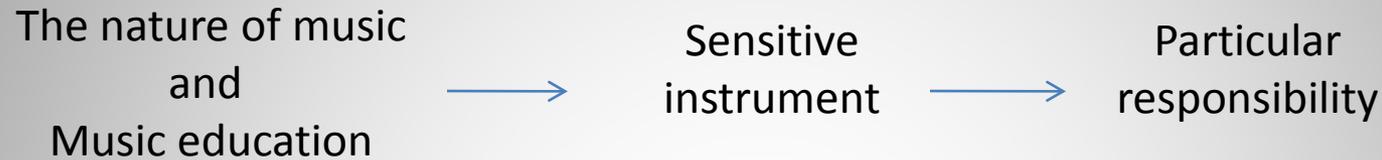


The principles of
the
existing regime



Point to shortcomings
Take part in the debate
on education
as well as
music education

Concluding remarks



Musical leadership
Surrounding environment
Challenges and shortcomings
Cultural, societal; and global challenges

Leadership – connections to politics, ethics and professionalism.

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