



An Introduction to Social Psychology
The Discursive Psychological Perspective

Narrator (vo):

The discursive approach to social psychology focuses on talk - how we use it to make things happen, to constitute our reality and to make constant shifts in our identity in relation to others.

Dr Bianca Raabe:

Talk is one of the key mediums we have for making sense and constructing meaning. So it's about the construction of meaning.

Prof Margaret Wetherell:

When we speak we're joining in with a long history of ways in which people have packaged up the world and made sense of it. We're joining in with loads of other people's voices in a kind of long conversation that's been going on for a long time.

Dr Bianca Raabe:

Because what we do as human beings is to communicate and to negotiate with each other our understandings, what goes on between us happens in this gap between us. It doesn't happen inside our heads.

Prof Margaret Wetherell:

If I use the example of falling in love. The way we talk about being in love, the way we make sense of it is really important to the experience. There's a lovely book that was written by Roland Barthes called *A Lover's Discourse* in which what he does is just sort of track through all his feelings and reactions and emotions around being in love and then what becomes apparent is that this is a particular way of telling a story that would have been very different in the Middle Ages, it might in 50 years be very different again, and that what constructs it, there's a particular kind of experience, the words, the stories, the discourses we have for making sense of these, these kinds of experiences.