CONSUMER EXPERIENCE: CONSUMER CULTURE THEORY PERSPECTIVES

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DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING



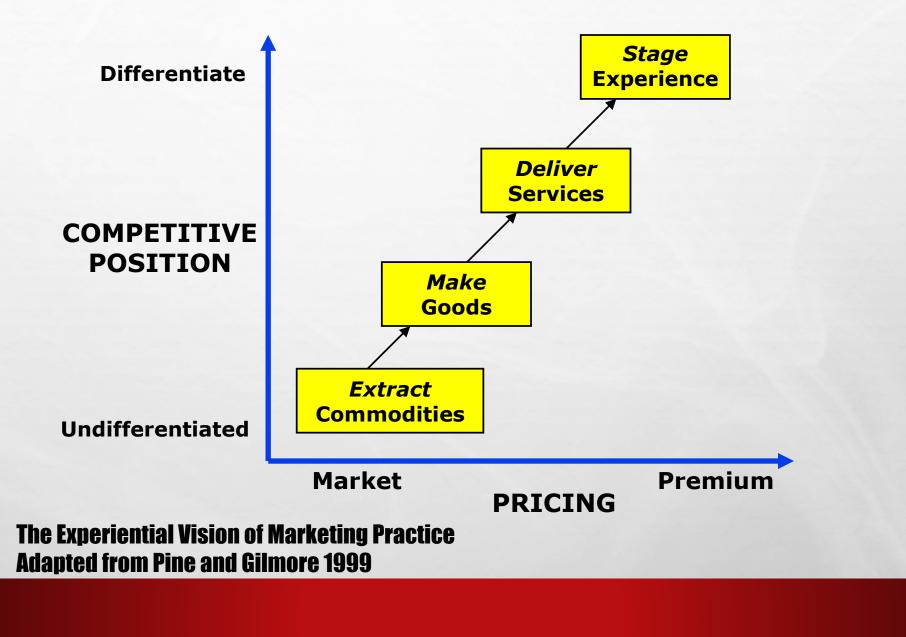
AXIOMS

- CONSUMPTION HAS PROGRESSIVELY DISENGAGED FROM ITS ESSENTIALLY UTILITARIAN CONCEPTION, ONE THAT WAS BASED ON PRODUCTS' AND SERVICES' USE VALUE.
- CONSUMPTION IS AN ACTIVITY THAT INVOLVES A PRODUCTION OF MEANING, AS WELL AS A FIELD OF SYMBOLIC EXCHANGES.
- CONSUMERS DO NOT CONSUME PRODUCTS OR SERVICES. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THEY CONSUME THE PRODUCTS' MEANINGS AND IMAGES, AND TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT AN OBJECT WILL FULFIL CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.
- CARU AND COVA

AXIOMS

- CONSUMERS SEEK SENSORIAL EXPERIENCES THEY DERIVE FROM THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOUND IN THE MARKETPLACE.
- THIS ENTAILS AN EMBODIMENT OF MEANINGS IN THE FORM OF EXPERIENCES.
- CONSUMERS HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN AN EXPERIENCE ECONOMY. CONSUMER RESEARCHERS HAVE JUST BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THE SENSUOUS NEGOTIATION THAT LIFE DEMANDS.
- CARU AND COVA; JOY AND SHERRY

BRIEF MARKETING ASIDE



THE BANALITY OF COMMERCIALLY MEDIATED EXPERIENCE





OUR CONSUMER EXPERIENCE JOURNEY

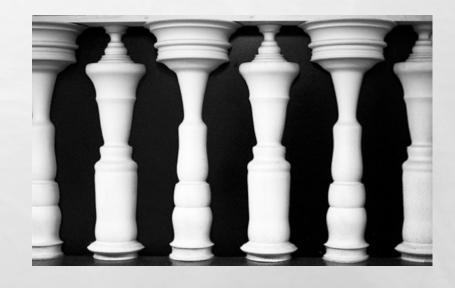
EXPERIENTIAL CONSUMPTION WAS INTRODUCED TO THE FIELD OF CONSUMER RESEARCH BY HOLBROOK AND HIRSCHMAN (1982)



Fantasies, feelings & fun

AN E-P APPROACH TO EXPERIENCE WAS FIRST OFFERED BY THOMPSON ET AL. (1989)

- THE ESSENCE OF OUR BEING IS THE PRE-REFLECTIVE (UNREFLECTED) EXPERIENCE OF BEING THROWN IN A SITUATION OF ACTING WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY OR NEED TO DISENGAGE AND FUNCTION AS DETACHED OBSERVERS.
- REFLECTION AND ABSTRACTION ARE IMPORTANT PHENOMENA, BUT ARE NOT THE BASIS FOR OUR EVERYDAY ACTION.



ARNOULD AND PRICE'S (1993) STUDY OF RIVER MAGIC ADDRESSED THE COMMERCIAL DIMENSION



Commerce can deliver authentic experience of "wilderness" and communitas

CELSI, ROSE AND LEIGH MOBILISE THE CONCEPT OF FLOW



Flow, the embodied unity of thought and action yields extraordinary experience

CARÙ AND COVA (2006) INTRODUCE MOMENTS OF IMMERSION AS THE CONCEPTUAL TOOL FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW CONSUMERS EXPERIENCE



Nesting, investigating, stamping

SPEAKING OF ART AS EMBODIED IMAGINATION: A MULTISENSORY APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE, JOY, & SHERRY

- FOCUS ON SOMATIC EXPERIENCE—NOT JUST THE PROCESS OF THINKING BODILY BUT HOW THE BODY INFORMS THE LOGIC OF THINKING ABOUT ART.
- AUTHORS CRITIQUE THE KANTIAN NOTION OF PRACTICAL REASON ARGUING THAT PERCEPTION AND IMAGINATION COEXIST AND ARE THOROUGHLY EMBODIED



SCOTT, CAYLA, COVA, SELLING PAIN TO THE SATURATED SELF





People seek not only pleasure but pain through consumption experience

Cosmopolitan urban selves seek reconnection with bodies through Tough Mudder

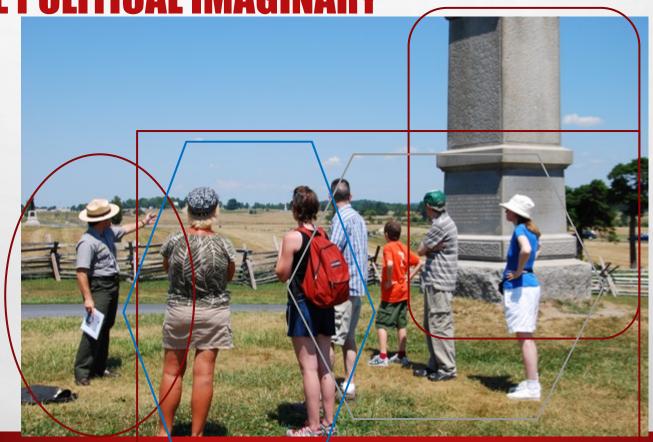
TUMBAT AND BELK, HEIGHTENED COMPETIVE EXPERIENCE



DEBENEDETTI, OPPEWAL & ARSEL; ROSENBAUM 3RD PLACES AND THE GIFT ECONOMY



CHRONIS, ARNOULD, HAMPTON EXPERIENCE AND THE POLITICAL IMAGINARY



Experience is a product of narrrative, material, social, and political imagination

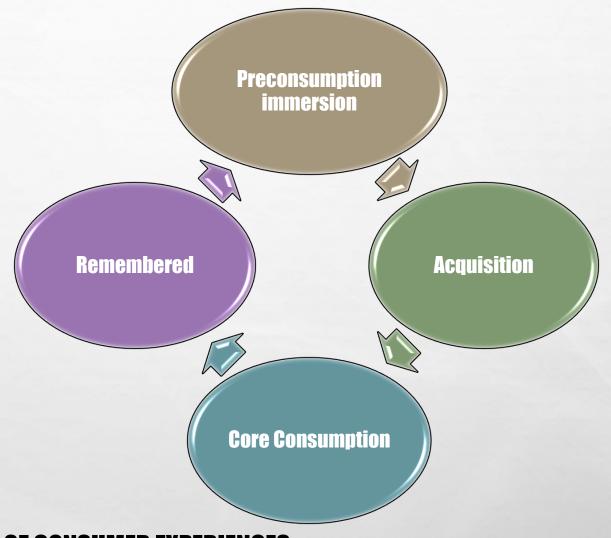
DIAMOND, SHERRY, MUÑIZ, MCGRATH, KOZINETS & BORGHINI, THE BRAND GESTALT AND THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER



The brand gestalt is co-produced and experiential

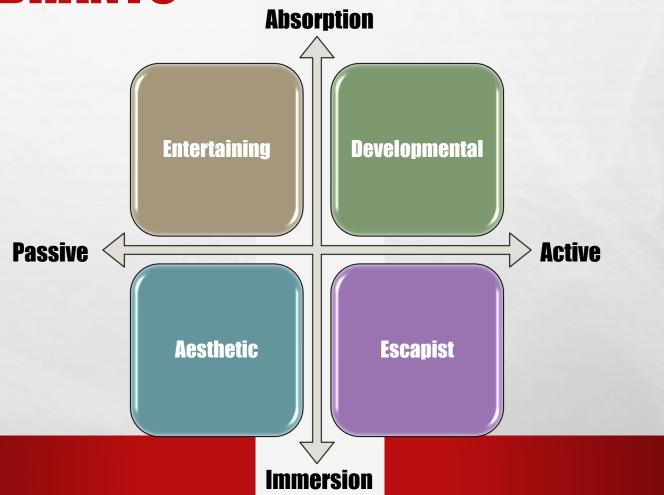


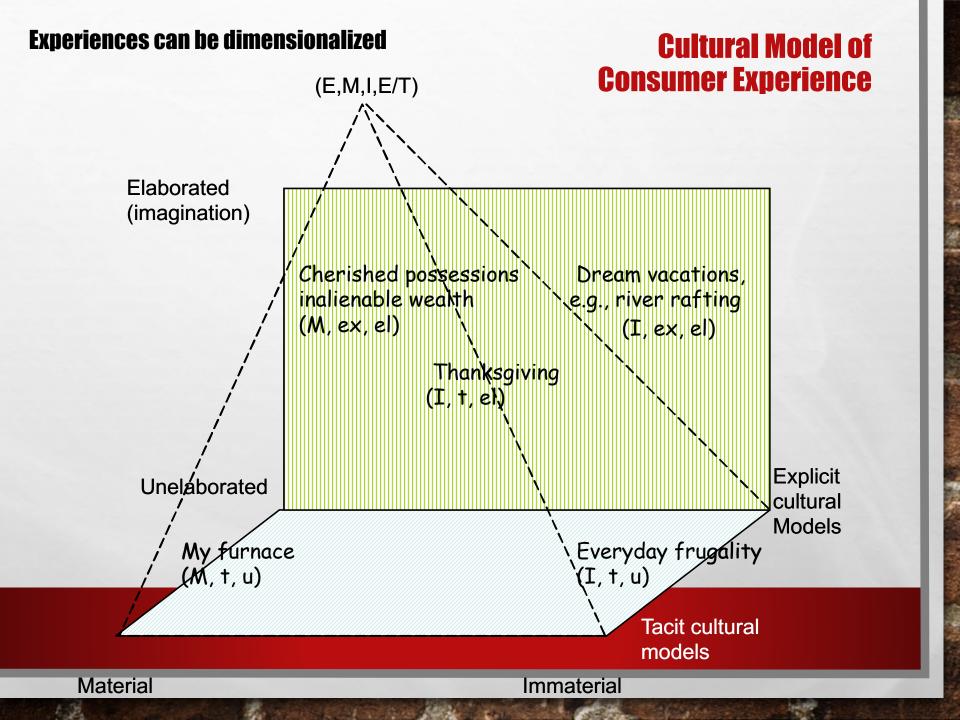
INTERPRETIVE SCHEMA FOR CONSUMER EXPERIENCE



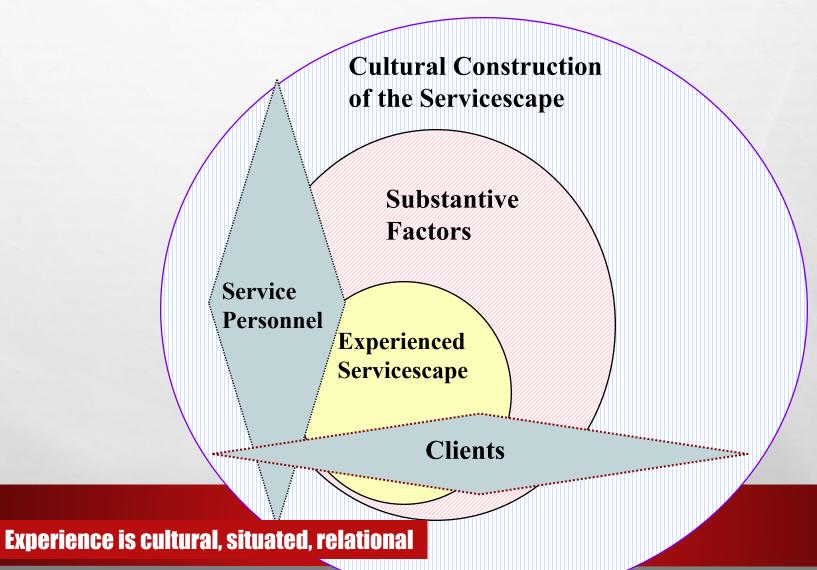
THE CYCLE OF CONSUMER EXPERIENCES

CONSUMER EXPERIENCE QUADRANTS

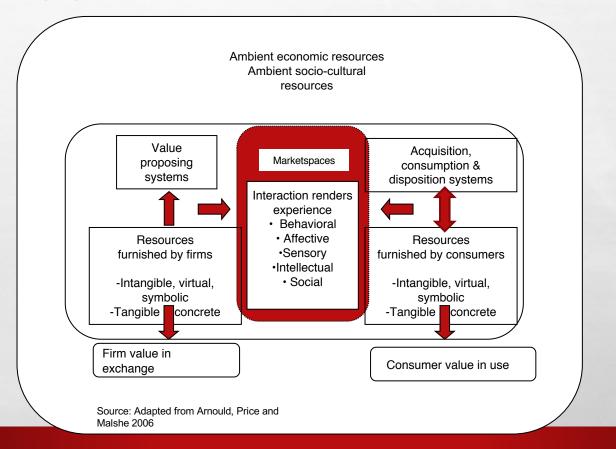




COMMUNICATIVE COMPONENTS OF THE COMMERCIAL SERVICES CAPE



FIRM AND CONSUMER RESOURCE INTERACTION PRODUCES EXPERIENCES



Combined commercial and consumer resources co-produce experiences

TO A LARGE EXTENT, CONSUMERS CONJURE UP COMPETENCIES TO BECOME THE MAIN BUILDERS AND CO-CREATORS OF THE CONSUMPTION EXPERIENCE (HOLT, 1995)

THANK YOU!

PLEASE SEE OUR VIDEOS ON THE RISE AND FALL OF DUBSTEP AND THE TOURIST GAZE IN THE DISPLAY AREA ERIC.ARNOULD@AALTO.FI

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