Through its post-structural critique of development, post-development provides a fundamental dismissal of institutional development. Drawing on the work of Foucault, post-development portrays development as a monolithic and hegemonic discourse that constructs rather than solves the problems it purports to address. Yet post-development itself becomes guilty of creating an analysis that loses sight of individuals and agency, being fundamental to its development critique. This article discusses the discourse-agency nexus in light of the post-development context with specific reference to the grand structure-actor conundrum of social theory, and asks whether an actor perspective is compatible with discourse analysis and what—if anything—should be given primacy. It aims to provide insight into social theory and post-development comparatively and, furthermore, to put these in context, with Foucault's work being pivotal to the seminal post-development approach.
'Post-Development Theory and the Discourse–Agency Conundrum'. NC: Duke University Press. Neumann.2 New developments are underway which suggest a more practice-oriented approach. Hence, the passage between ethnography and anthropology. International Development and the Social Sciences: Essays in the History and Politics of Knowledge (Berkeley). This classic ethnographic work set the standard for later anthropologists in terms of methodology and the temporal and spatial depth and structure of collecting data through the now-familiar but still somewhat woolly ideas of 'fieldwork' and 'participatory observation'. Developmental discourse as an author/hero relationship. Culture and Psychology, 5 (1), 41-65. [Use of novelistic genres as a model for studying relationship between developing subject and relationship to others in theories of human development]. Barabantseva, E. (2008). From the Language of Class to the Rhetoric of Development: discourses of 'nationality' and 'ethnicity' in China. Discourse Options and the Development of Pragmatic Competence by Classroom Learners of German: The Case of Address Forms. How Children Tell Stories: Investigations in Narrative Theory and in the Development of Narrative Competence; Wie Kinder Erzählen: Untersuchungen Zur Erzähltheorie Und Zur Entwicklung Narrativer Fähigkeiten. Or is discourse its own agent, like post-Marxist theorists argue? In such a case, power is not something that certain people use to dominate others, but is a mesh of relations and hierarchies that has its own logic, and that no one is consciously steering (Howard 2000, Laclau and Mouffe 2001). Where does discursive construction happen? In other words: discourse theory helps us think about the connection between communication and politics and the world we live in, and asks us to slowly and systematically put together the puzzle pieces that make up social relations.