

Clashes in Cyberspace II

Social issues and personal relationships

PART I (Lec-09)

- **Simulation**
- **Self**

PART II (Lec-10)

- Surveys & studies
- Net addiction
- Anonymity
- Personal relationships

Simulation

- We are a “culture of simulation”
 - Disneyland
 - shopping malls
- Other simulations we use as substitutes for in-real-life (IRL) experiences:

In Education

- How did hunter-gatherers teach their young?
- What about Colonial Americans?
- What about today?
- **Interesting quote.....**

In Communications

- How did early homo sapiens communicate?
 - Progression of tools ...?
 - Which seems the most “personal” or “real”? Why?
 - RH-11: Consider how some folks feel about email vs. writing or typing your feelings, ideas....
- *“We build our ideas about what is real and what is natural with the cultural materials available.”*
- Quote from a H. S. junior, 1996 ...
 - What might she have said back in the 1930s-40s?
- Advantages of simulation? (educ. & commun.)
 - Some dangers?
- Again: what does the term “virtual” mean?

E-communication

- What do you think the artist was trying to convey here?
- (*We'll revisit; but first....*)

The New Yorker



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

DIGRESSION

- Self and online persona

“Like a hammer, one’s *virtual* character can be a very important tool.” Ludlow

- What do you think Ludlow meant by that analogy? (*we’ll revisit this shortly...*)
- So--couldn’t one’s *virtual persona* feel just as real (or even more real) to a person as his/her RL self?
- Theory: “...even Real Life is *itself* a social construct...”

Case Study 1: Stewart

– RH-12: for your consideration

“Cyberspace as Psychological Space” (author unknown)

“Exploring Virtuality” (Castel)

“Is there a there in Cyberspace?” (Barlow)

“It’s a MUD, MUD, MUD, MUD World” (Parsons)

- How does the first article relate to Ludlow’s ideas?
- What does Castel say about the *virtual realm*? Is it the same as the *mental realm*? Why or why not?
- Barlow has some interesting ideas about virtual communities and “real” (physical) communities.
- An introduction to MUDs.

The New Yorker, revisited.....RH-13

The New Yorker

- What were John Locke's ideas about that notion?
- Discuss other of Locke's arguments slamming e-communications
- Discuss Champ's rebuttal.
 - Who is right? Why?



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

The Self

- Self and social saturation (TX-15)
 - Gergen says human relationships and our *sense of self* have changed with the introduction of new technologies. *Which technologies?*
 - What does he mean by “social saturation”?
 - How has it changed our sense of self?
 - How has it changed who we think we *should* be?
 - Drawbacks to so many interactions?
 - How might this theory relate to Ludlow’s *tool* idea?