

Where were you in 1981?
Reflections on the Digital
Revolution, Gender & Sexuality

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Historical review

- From Klaus Jensen's A Handbook of Communication and Media Research
- Media of first order: biologically based, socially formed resources – verbal language, song, musical expression, dance, etc. Socially interactive but limited to small groups.

- Media of second order: technically reproduced or enhanced forms of representation and interaction, transcending space and time. Print, photography & cinema, radio, TV, telephones. Usually unidirectional but with one important exception: the telephone. Mass media. Analogue reproduction.

- Media of third order: digitally processed forms of representation and interaction. Text, sounds, colors converted into numbers which can be “packed” for dissemination. Interactive, easy to re-represent.

Digital Revolution

- 1947: transistor opened way for digital computers.
- 1947-1960s: integrated circuits, Intel chip, mouse, floppy discs, Spacewars.
- 1969: Arpanet, predecessor of Internet.
- 1972: first email message.
- 1976: VHS, first modem.

First portable cellphone,
Motorola, 1 kg.



First laptop Gavilan (launched a few months before IBM)



Digital Revolution

- “Where were you on August 12, 1981?”
Era of personal computing. IBM PC Intel 8088, 16 K memory, 160K floppy disk drive, 11.5 in. black and white monitor for \$1565. 671,000 sold.
- 1980s: PCs, software, digital watches, first Personal Digital Assistant.
- 1990s: Internet and the World Wide Web. Cellphones, digital cameras and recorders. More PDAs. Amazon.com

Digital Revolution

- 21st century: Blogs, social networking sites. Globalization not just in terms of consumers. Developing countries involved in production (semiconductors, software, hardware, including clones), up to outsourcing for services (call centers, medical transcription, even X-ray readings).

Talking about spaces. . .



Digital ICTs in Asia: Range of Access

- Fixed phone lines per 100 inhabitants: 0.8 in Bangladesh to 62.3 in Taiwan.
- Mobile phones per 100 inhabitants: 11.6 in Nepal to 165.1 in Macau, China.
- % of households with computers: 1.9 in Bangladesh to 80 in S. Korea
- % of households with Internet: 1 in Nepal to 74 in Singapore.

Rapid growth in 21st century: Vietnam

- Fixed phone lines rose from 4.9 per 100 inhabitants in 2002 to 32.7 in 2007.
- Cellular phones rose from 19.6 per 100 inhabitants in 2002 to 58.9 in 2007.
- Households with computers from 2.6% in 2002 to 10% in 2007.
- Households with Internet from 0.6% in 2002 to 5% in 2007.

Attributes of Digital ICTs

- Reproducibility
- Portability, including ease of sharing and dissemination
- Flexibility (re-configurability)
- Accessibility
- Autonomy & decentralization
- Anonymity



BALWAN AND SANDA, TIMES AT PACT NG LIVING PAG-DEGG



Ang
Pagdakilang
ni **MARI**
at **OLIVEROS**
(THE DISCOVERY OF MARI'S ALIEN)

"Sweet as the garden, The BEST" - *Movie & TV Guide*

"The perfect choice for watch this movie." - *Movie & TV Guide*

"A masterpiece... fascinating... exciting. An extraordinary film." - *Movie & TV Guide*

"The movie is worth the time. It's a masterpiece. It's a masterpiece. It's a masterpiece." - *Movie & TV Guide*

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OPENS NOVEMBER 30
in theaters nationwide

Theoretical Frames

- Marshall McLuhan suggested “the medium is the message”. Technology’s attributes are shaped by society but can also reconstitute social relations (eg “watching the news” on TV different from “listening” on radio and reading in the newspaper) and, in the process, society itself (eg the idiot box, Fox TV and the dumbing of society).

Theoretical frames

- Benedict Anderson had similar insights on impact of printed word: the printed Bible facilitated the Reformation because households had their own copies and could reflect. Likewise in the 19th century, newspapers connected people across space and time, catalyzing the formation of “imagined communities” and nationalism in Europe.

Theoretical frames

- Marc Auge: in an age of super-modernity, non-places have become important: airport lounges, supermarkets Marc Auge identified airport lounges, hotels. . .

Digital spaces (socially constituted, socially constitutive)

- Libraries/archives.
- Recreational sites (amusement parks?)
- Socialization sites
- Social networking sites
 - Skype: 9 to 15 million users online
 - Planet Romeo: almost 1 million posts, including 260,000 from Asia (of which 133,000 were from the Philippines).

Digital spaces

- Marketplaces (books, sex toys, porn, Viagra and Cialis. . .sex work)
- Platforms for performance: imagined selves, imagined worlds (Appadurai 1996)
- Political arenas. Expression and contestation, talking back.
 - Note: Auge also wrote about hybrid, mestizo spaces. Marketplaces can also be sites of performance, political arenas.

A virtual break. . .

Politics of digital ICTs and spaces

- Adapted and expanded from Christine Hine (Virtual Ethnography):
- Extension of modern capitalism with its need for rationality and control. Maintaining if not amplifying status quo, with essentialized, medicalized, commodified sexuality? Propagating privileged male spaces.

Politics of digital ICTs and spaces

- Embodiments of postmodern (dis)organization, fragmentation of science, religion, self.
 - Variation 1: Expression of modernity and moral decay. Response is moral decay with stricter rules and laws.
 - Variation 2: Triumph of diversities, no minorities, no outlaws.

Politics of digital ICTs and spaces

- Spaces and tools for social change. Information itself is powerful, as is the space for exchanging this, and for “chatting” and talking back.

Pathology or progress? (hmm. . .)

- Hine suggests looking at the Internet as
 - cultural artifact (a product of culture and therefore telling us something about the culture-makers and culture-breakers) and
 - contextual space where culture is being formed and reformed.

Explorations

Representations: text, imagery, meanings (eg why “scandal” genre in X-rated films)

Network analysis

Discourse analysis

- Political economy: structures, political economy (who controls media, digital ICTs globally and locally, the digital divide). Real dangers of control of information flow, of the technologies (IBM anti-trust suits in 1932, 1952, Microsoft in recent years). Political economy of porn (Adam & Eve).

- Overarching effects of class, race, ethnicity with gender. Local and the global. Should include looking at processes, eg legal response like the ones to “sexting”. (Fritz in Manchester, 1999)

- Dilemmas of the State and other actors: wanting modernity but fearing it.

Links on Pro Life Philippines website

- **Pro Life America**
Weekly pro-life talk radio & TV, pro-life news, pro-life essays, pro-life arguments and an open forum for you to post comments and exchange ideas on the abortion pro-life debate.
www.prolifeamerica.com
- **Life Dynamics**
Pro-life facts on partial birth abortion, information on abortion procedures, abortion prolife videos and an online memorial to hundreds of women killed by 'safe, legal' abortion.
www.lifedynamics.com
- **Courage Apostolate**
Courage, an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church, ministers to those with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. We have been endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. From this website, you will learn about homosexuality and how by developing an interior life of chastity, the universal call to all Christians, one can move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete one in Christ.
www.couragerc.net

• **Abortion Injury, ALLiance for the FAMILY Foundation Phils., Inc. (ALFI), Planned Parenthood Exposed!, American Life League, Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines, Focus on Family, Heartbeat International,**

- Everyday life (De Certeau):
 - Intersections of moving bodies. Has there been a change in the terms of reference, terms for negotiations, terms of endearment?
 - Intersections of spaces (virtual and “real”). Including Internet cafes, call centers, places where DVDs are manufactured and sold. Why are DVDs of Pattaya transgender performances sold in Kunming, China?

So-what case study

- Filipino overseas workers. What do the digital ICTs mean for them? Is “being in touch”, including cybersex, sufficient? Is digital space also space for education, for advocacy? What new tensions emerge for self? (Is cybersex a sin?)

- The Catholic church has always been clear on what constitutes adultery. . . . To remove all murkiness, the church ruled recently that carnal e-mail and illicit online relationships are sins. "Virtual reality can be just as much a vice as a reality made up of facts and actions," said Reverend Antino Sciortino, editor of Famiglia Cristiana magazine. PC Magazine, 2001.

Is the WWW a site for VVV?

- If I get Chlamydia, blame MySpace (from *Six Word Memoirs on Love and Heartbreak*)

- Despite our fears and panics, the virtual interfacing with the real (viruses, cookies), the digital revolution is exciting in the way it feeds from, and feeds into the “explosion of intimate possibilities. . .” (Correa, Petchesky and Parker). . .wired and lived.

We are challenged. . .

- To map out spaces in an era where, according to Baudrillard, “the territory no longer precedes the map, nor survives it.”