

The Blog and the Public Sphere:

Future Media and Emerging Research Topics

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Structure

- Blogs and traditional media
- Social life of communication
- Transformation of the public sphere
- New media, new society?
- Discussion on emerging research issues

Weblogs are...

- " ...often-updated sites that point to articles elsewhere on the web, often with comments, and to on-site articles. A weblog is kind of a continual tour, with a human guide who you get to know. There are many guides to choose from, each develops an audience, and there's also comraderie and politics between the people who run weblogs, they point to each other, in all kinds of structures, graphs, loops, etc."
- " Today, there are hundreds of thousands of weblog sites, and the market for tools for managing such sites is growing quickly."

source: Dave Winer: <http://newhome.weblogs.com/historyOfWeblogs>

A Blog is...

Weblogs.Com

Recently Changed Weblogs

Updated: 5/30/2002; 10:10:05 AM Pacific.

Welcome to the meeting place for blogging excellence on the Internet. Any weblog can participate. See the [FAQ](#) page for more information.

1. [Seeing Red](#) 10:09 AM
2. [The Ends of the Earth](#) 10:08 AM
3. [trytry](#) 10:08 AM
4. [Lunch](#) 10:08 AM
5. [Michael Wilson's Radio Weblog](#) 10:08 AM
6. [bakabaka](#) 10:07 AM
7. [Will Rodriguez's HotBlog](#) 10:07 AM
8. [Z o r b l o g](#) 10:07 AM
9. [Caveat Lector](#) 10:07 AM
10. [SlashDot.Org](#) 10:07 AM
11. [Terebi II](#) 10:06 AM
12. [xtof, un blogue ou un weblog](#) 10:06 AM

...the list continues...

549.	mesh on MX	7:16 AM
550.	Community	7:16 AM
551.	Emulating Blogger in Manila	7:16 AM
552.	Curiouser and curiouser!	7:16 AM
553.	benry blog	7:15 AM
554.	La scrivania	7:15 AM
555.	Philos Tagebuch	7:15 AM
556.	O-R Online Off the record	7:14 AM
557.	WebReference.com	7:14 AM
558.	WebSeitz WikiWeblog	7:14 AM
559.	American Invisible, Inc.	7:13 AM
560.	Nick Browne's Commonplace Book	7:13 AM
561.	ScottAhrens.Net	7:13 AM
562.	stinkfoot.org	7:13 AM
563.	Jenna's Radio Weblog	7:13 AM
564.	journal / barbara fletcher	7:10 AM
565.	Rhino News Network	7:09 AM

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

"Digitally Laminating This Day In History With News, Humor, Links and Pics"

Thursday, May 30, 2002

Tax Man

A Maryland man filed his tax returns in Indiana - 164 times - netting him \$372,909 in refunds. Hey, it could have just been an honest mistake, right? I mean, those forms are kind of confusing.

posted by Jimmy Olsen [11:54 AM](#) [Comments \[0\]](#)

...

Tuesday, May 28, 2002

Fred Durst Reduced to a Pathetic, Grovelling Shell - Yeah!

Fred "Sucks" Durst has sunk so low he's now *begging* former *Limp Bizkit* guitarist Wes Borland to return. In the immortal words of Nelson, Springfield bully and social commentator: "Ha, ha!"

posted by Jimmy Olsen [10:08 PM](#) [Comments \[0\]](#)

...

World's First Computer Bug (Literally)

Found in 1947, by IBM.

posted by Jimmy Olsen [1:37 PM](#) [Comments \[0\]](#)

[lilies](#)
something out of
the ordinary

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Slashdot

News for Nerds. Stuff that matters.



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Your Rights Online: EU to Require Opt-In for Commercial Email

Posted by [michael](#) on Thursday May 30, @12:41PM
from the [all-things-dull-and-ugly](#) dept.

D4C5CE writes "*EuroCAUCE (Usenet message below) and Heise (in German) report that the European Parliament has voted to ban spam by adopting the "opt-in" system for unsolicited commercial email, finally freeing the way for the entry into force of a "European Parliament and Council directive concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector". The news of the parliamentary U-turn comes after a recommendation by the "Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs" to permit "opt-out" marketing had received [critical coverage](#), causing countless spam victims [world-wide](#) to alert the Members of the European Parliament to the big mistake they were about to make, and it is hoped to become the useful precedent of a workable approach for US lawmakers currently evaluating means to regulate spam as well.*" The Parliament's [daily notebook](#) has an overview. Individual EU countries still have to implement this with legislation before it is effective.



([Read More...](#) | [2528 bytes in body](#) | [63 of 94](#) comments | [Your Rights Online](#))

New GNU Hurd Kernel Released

Posted by [michael](#) on Thursday May 30, @11:49AM
from the [not-just-chewing-their-cud](#) dept.

[Anonymous Coward](#) writes "*I don't know if there is much interest out there, but [GNU Mach Kernel 1.3](#) was just released a couple days ago. (May 28).*" Looking forward to that [2002 release](#)...



([Read More...](#) | [53 of 126](#) comments)

Book Reviews: SSH, The Secure Shell

Posted by [timothy](#) on Thursday May 30 @10:45AM

Ask Slashdot

- [Overcoming the Network Effects?](#)
- [Hotels with Broadband?](#)
- [Computer Vision Applications and Linux?](#)
- [Funding for Non-Traditional Comp. Sci Students?](#)
- [Subversive Gifts for New College Students?](#)
- [Home Networking with a One Way Cable Modem?](#)
- [Improving Unix Mail Storage?](#)
- [Convincing Management to Migrate to WiFi?](#)
- [ESound Client Implementation for MS Windows?](#)
- [X11 Alternatives?](#)

Older Stuff

- ### Wednesday May 29
- [Busy Signals for Deep Space Experiments](#) (119)
 - [DARPA Project Babylon: Universal Translator](#) (304)
 - [EFF Releases "The Tinseltown Club"](#) (170)
 - [Supreme Court Overturns Festo Decision](#) (122)
 - [Subversive Gifts for New College Students?](#) (1128)
 - [George Lucas May Be Completely Evil](#) (991)

Seeing Red

description
Kitsch 'n giggles for the ROKENROL scene

latest

May 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

bygone eras

[May 2002](#)
[April 2002](#)
[March 2002](#)
[February 2002](#)

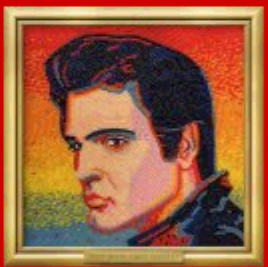
get notified

agit pop

May 30, 2002

JellyBelly Elvis

The King as rendered in [jellybeans](#), alongside other historical figures like American presidents. Now all they need is Stalin, Lenin, and Pootie Poot...



Posted by [Michelle](#) at [01:08 PM](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Mail this entry](#)

Seeing Red Margaritas [Tabasco](#) must love my site, because they named a drink after it! Well, ok, not really. But those of you of the proper age might enjoy this recipe anyway. (And while you're at it, visit their [e-post cards](#) collection. They've got some interesting rip-offs of famous artworks.)

- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- 1/3 cup tequila
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons superfine sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon [TABASCO](#) brand Pepper Sauce
- 2 cups ice cubes

New Additions

- [...online](#)
...inions and Photography
...its | [general](#) | [United States](#) | [english](#) | | [dead?](#)
- [...andom Thoughts on America Today](#) by [David C. Parker](#)
...ays and thoughts on America today
...its | [general](#) | [United States](#) | [english](#) | | [dead?](#)
- [...am](#) by [Lamar Henderson](#)
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- [...ily Cassandra](#) by [Cassandra](#)
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- [...an Latino](#) by [LAT_CHAMAN](#)
...an Latino - Juegos Online
...its | [Entertainment](#) | [Argentina](#) | [spanish](#) | | [dead?](#)
- [...orvete de Casquinho::](#) by [Nathalia D.](#)
...its | [personal](#) | [Brazil](#) | [portuguese](#) | | [dead?](#)
- [...ppy Blog](#) by [Glenn 'gopper' Simms](#)
...e amusing journal of my Goppy world
...its | [journal](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [english](#) | | [dead?](#)
- [...amakate](#) by [Kate](#)
...itting, general craftiness and all things me-ish.

News & Updates

just finished this month's updates, any changes you've requested should be done. i've also cleared a lot of the dead weblogs. thanks to all who took the time to notify me. 5/27/2002 03:43:06 PM

there's a bug in the add weblog page. if you're having trouble adding your weblog, make sure there are no quotation marks. 'single quotes' work fine, but "double quotes" will fail.
5/10/2002 10:41:51 AM

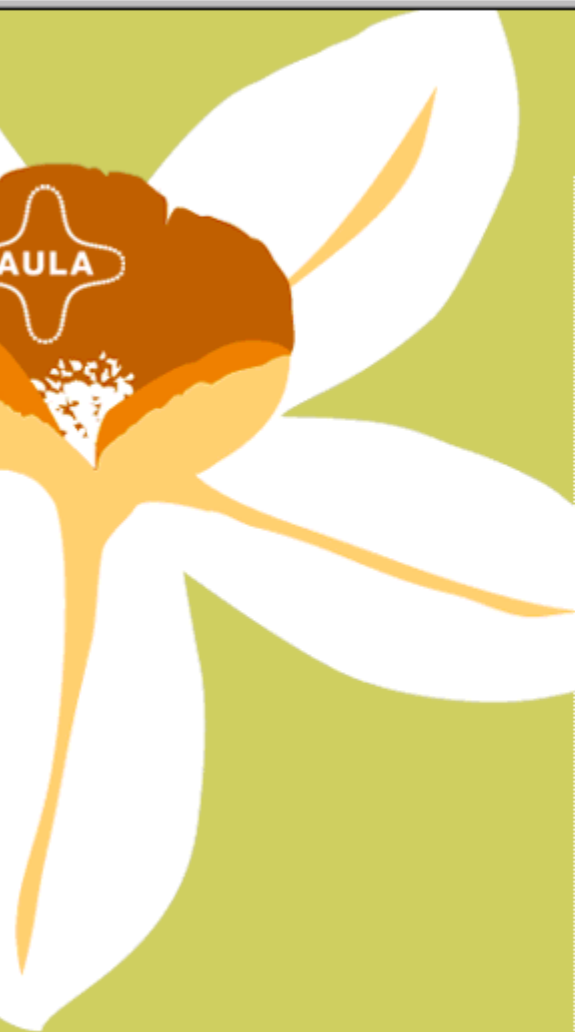
i just did an update for all the changes that have been submitted since the end of march. so, if you've been anxiously waiting for your change to go through, it should be made. btw, if you submit a suggestion for a new category, include your weblog name so that i have something to put in the new category.
4/17/2002 11:23:41 AM

[blogKomm: comments no popups](#) is a new comment system for blogger weblogs. you need to have php4 on your server tho. 3/11/2002 09:39:45 AM

Categories

- [anime](#) [23]
- [art](#) [74]
- [autos](#) [3]
- [children](#) [3]
- [colombia, us foreign policy](#) [2]
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Blogs are, for example, about:



WEBLOG Write!

Toukokuun 30. 2002

17 years after she appeared on a National Geographic cover, "The Afgan Girl", Sharbat Gula, tells her story and reveals her face **roosa**
If you read French, some serious héhkutus in Le Monde on **Kaurismäki roosa**

Toukokuun 29. 2002

A good piece on the structure of the current IPR regime (The Guardian) **marko**

Toukokuun 28. 2002

Amnesty on **Finland marko**
On "**therapeutic**" cloning (Atlantic Monthly) **marko**
Bono and O'Neill in Africa (CSM) **marko**
A memorial and a **future** for Manhattan (FT) **marko**
Reconstructing the Wright Brothers **marko**
What is **archive-worthy?** (WP) **marko**

Toukokuun 27. 2002

Small pieces, loosely joined - on Weinberger's new book (FT) **marko**
Finnish start - on the nuclear power vote (FT) **marko**
The Hollywood - Silicon Valley Digital **Divide** (FT) **marko**
Indigenous media (Wired) **marko**
Supporting Community and Building **Social Capital** (Communication of the ACM - April 2002) **marko**



Hunaja project

Aula feature in Kohkoku

Story of Aula (pdf)

People, space & technology seminar

- » Tilan vuokraus
- » Aulan ystävät
- » Aulan hallitus
- » Ota yhteyttä

An example of a multiauthor blog

Mass Communication According to Thompson

- Institutionalized production and diffusion of symbolic goods
 - Instituted break between production and reception
 - Extension of availability in time-space
 - Public circulation of symbolic forms
-
- Communication is about circulation of information and "symbolic goods" in "arenas of circulation"

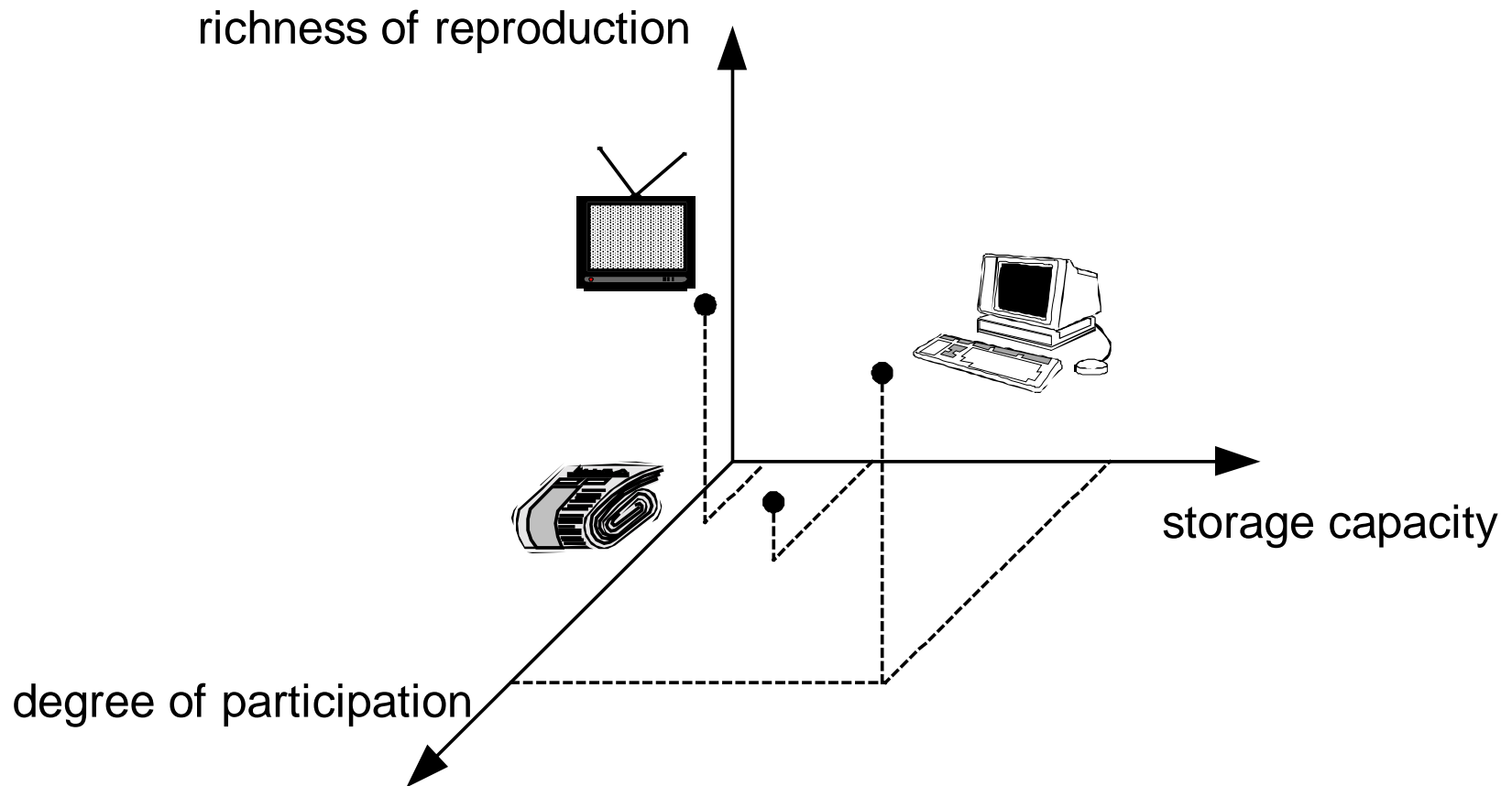
Assumptions of the Old Media

- producer and consumer are separate
- only the end product is visible
- production is an industry
- content reflects reality

...and blogs

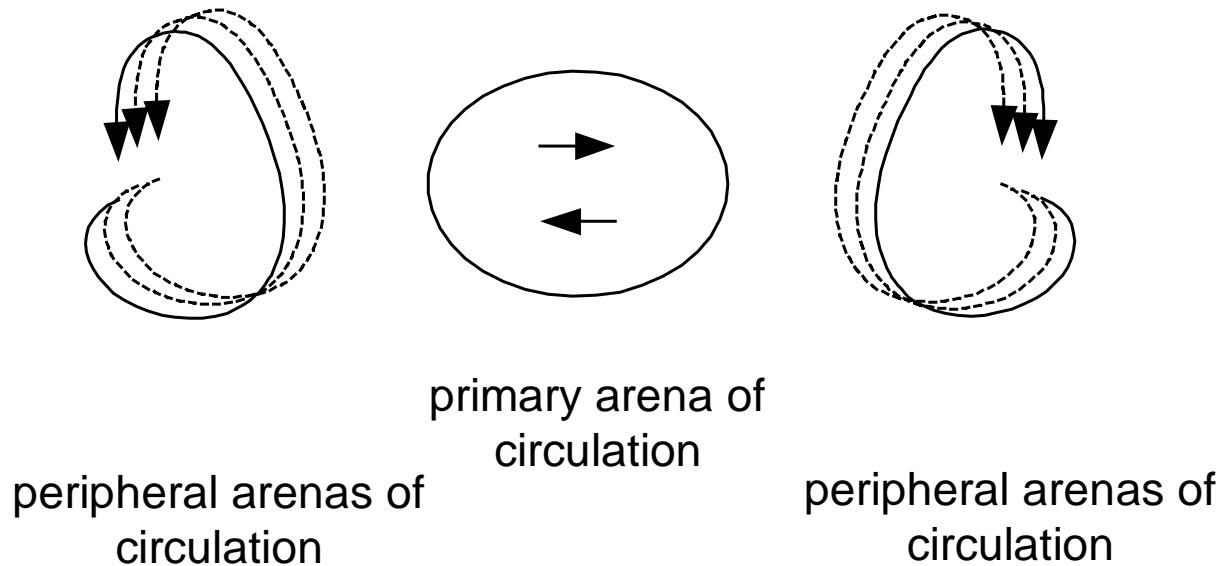
- user is the producer
- backstage is the frontstage
- production is expression
- content reflects interpretation
- implicit narrative

Technical Medium of Cultural Transmission



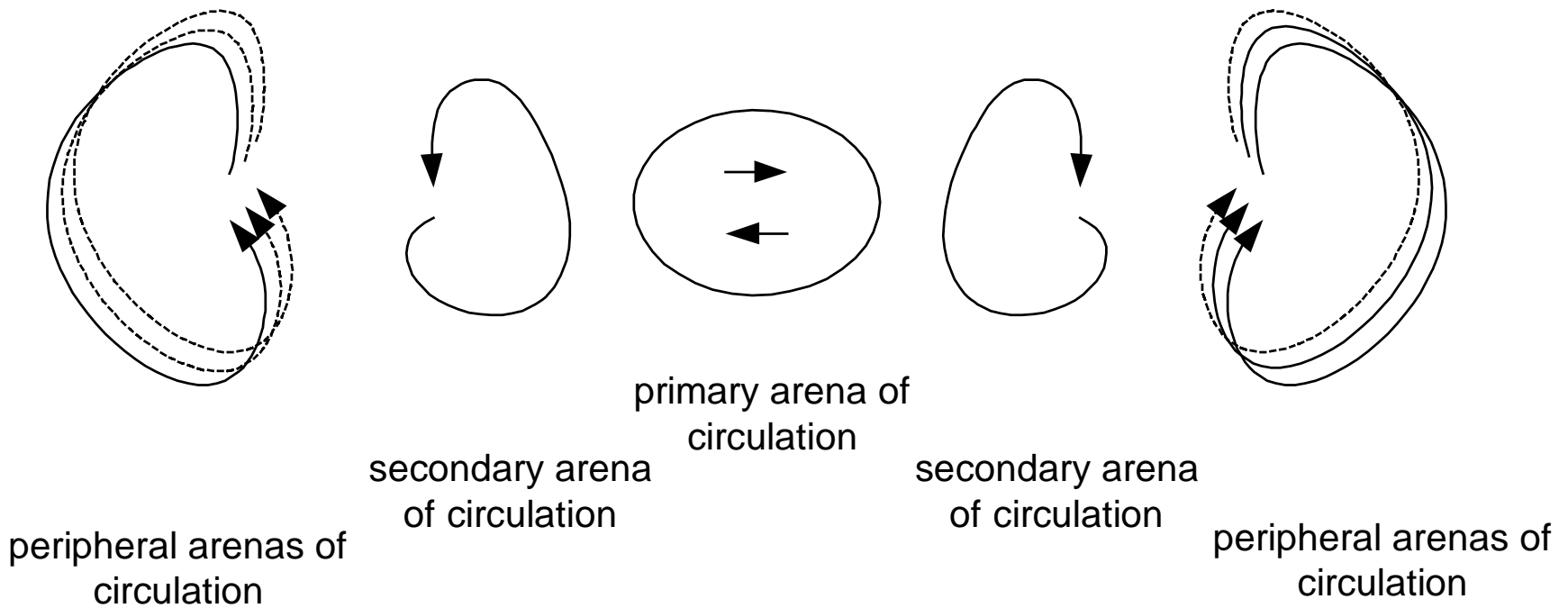
Arenas of Meaning Circulation: Face-to-Face

a) Face-to-face interaction



communicators share a time-space reference system

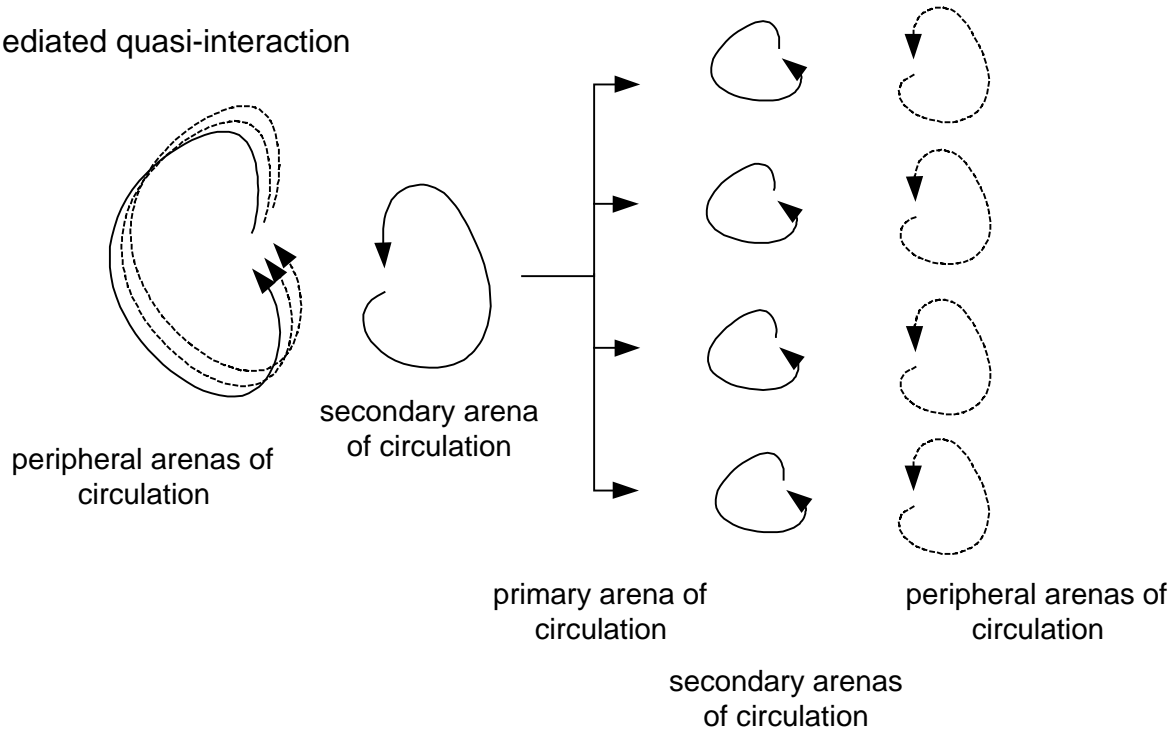
Technically Mediated Interaction



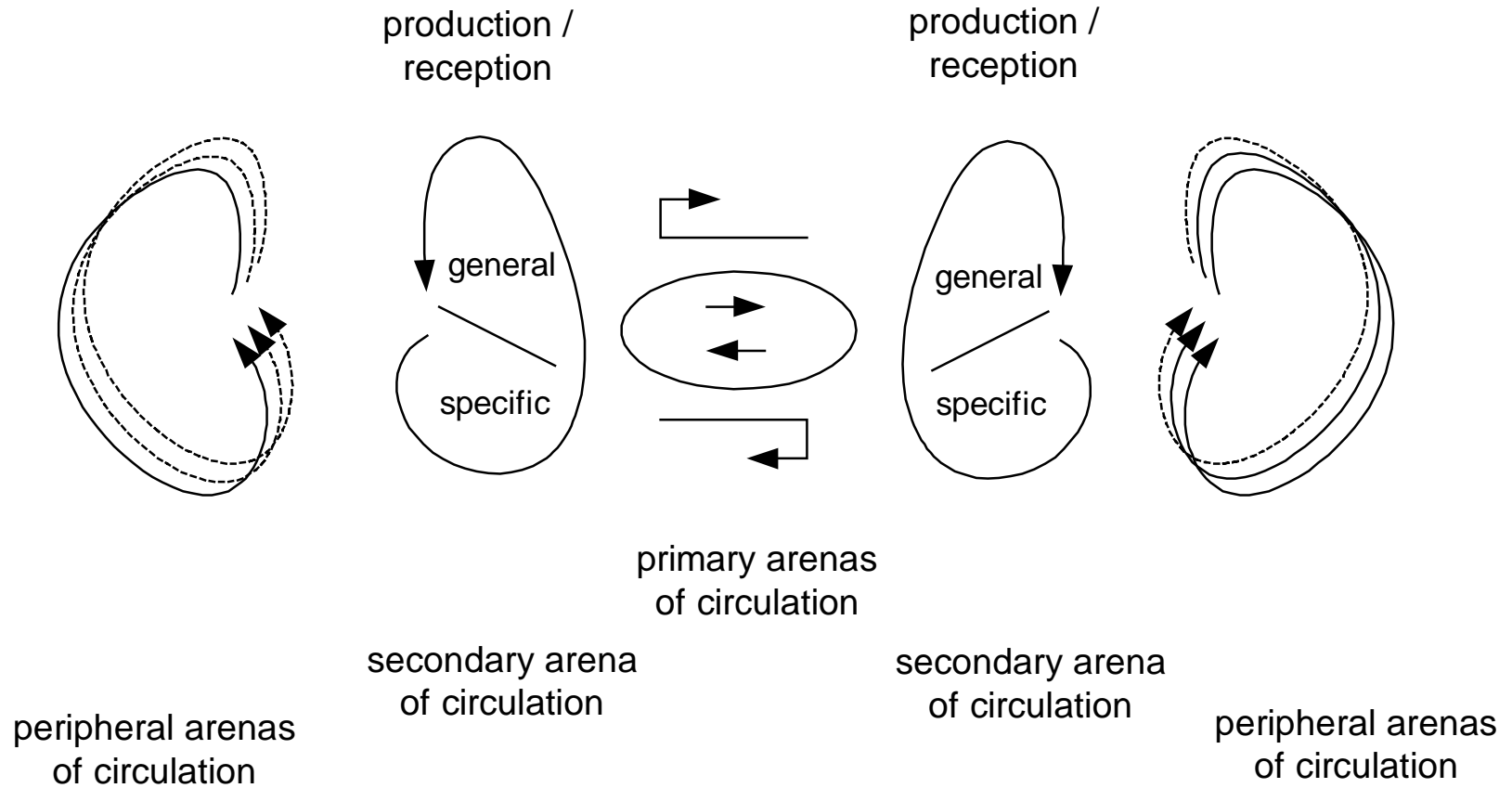
separation of the contexts of
production and reception

Mediated Quasi-Interaction

b) Mediated quasi-interaction



The Internet



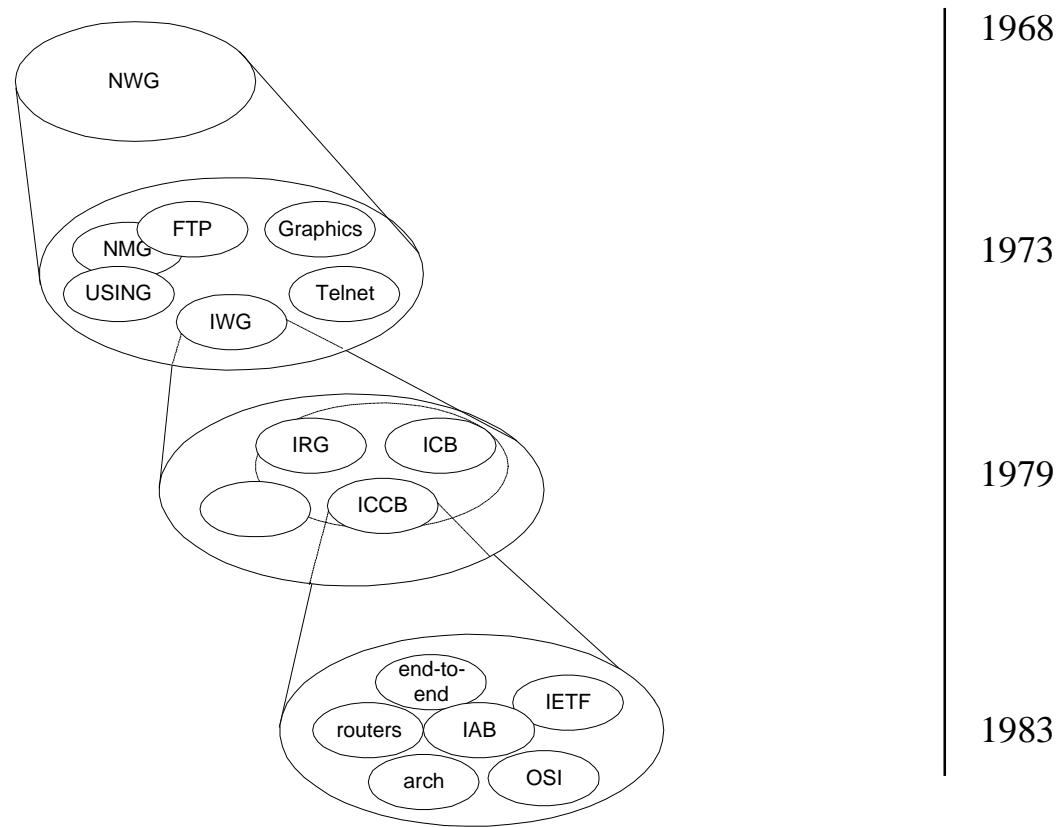
Communication is a Side-Effect of Social Interaction

- Communicators are not without social context but people who are members of various communities that generate motives and activity
- Some of this activity can be characterized as "communication"
- so, what do we know about communities and their communication?

Ilkka Tuomi:

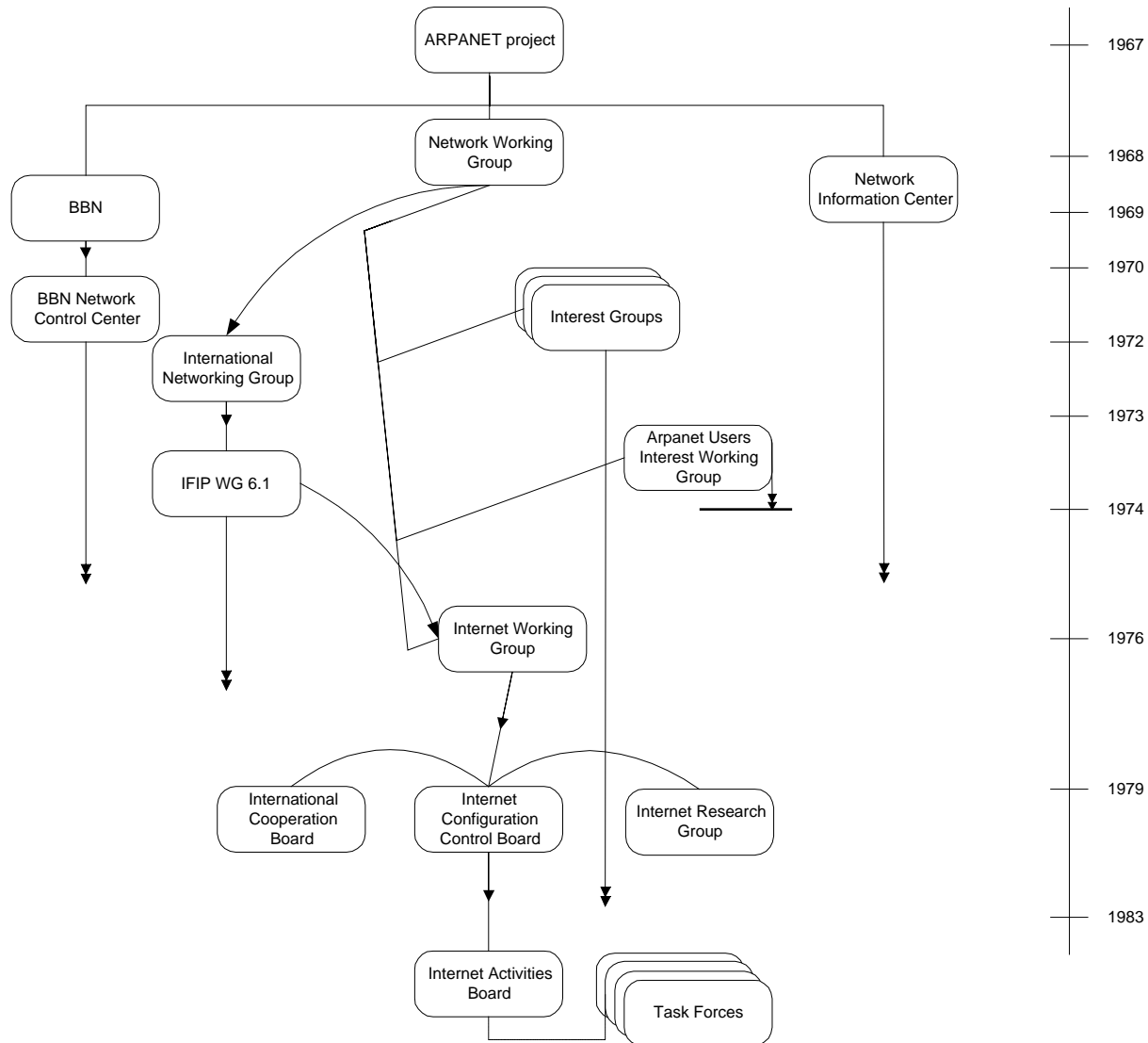
in my personal opinion, Maturana and Varela have perhaps the most insightful analysis of the concept of communication; Luhmann follows these guys. Luhmann's problem, however, is that he doesn't connect communication with other types of pragmatic activity, c.f. Tuomi, I. (1999) Corporate Knowledge: Theory and Practice of Intelligent Organizations.

Evolutionary Communities and Division of Labor



“fractal organization in time”

Internet Communities of Practice

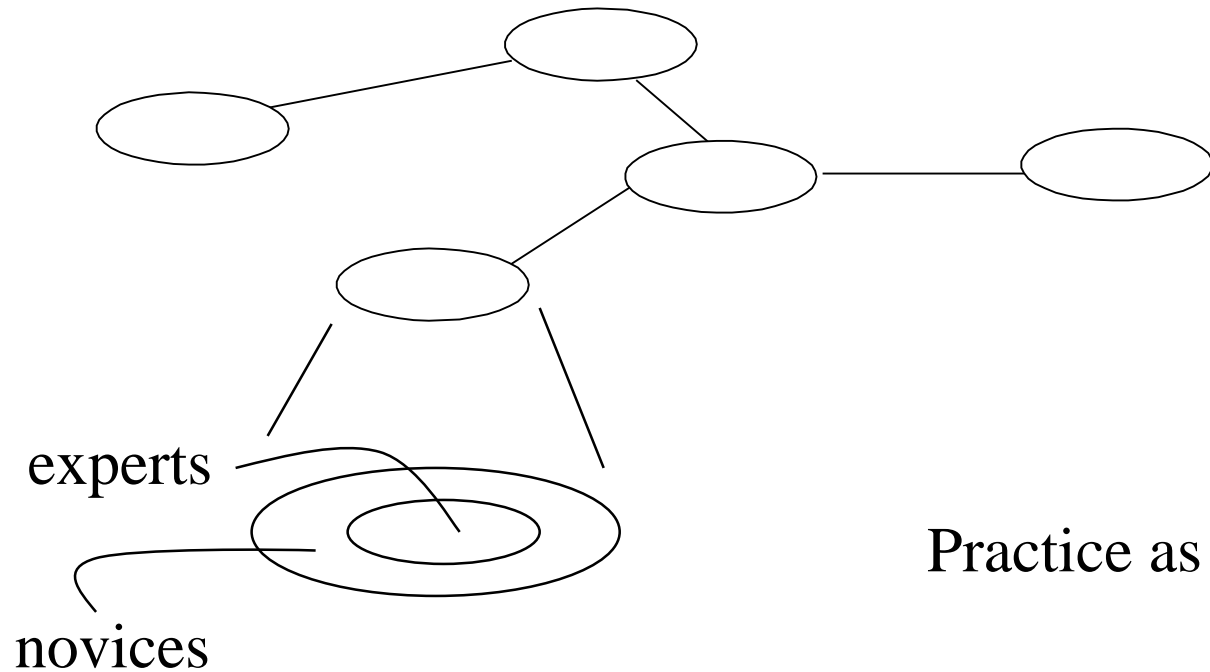


Source: Tuomi, I.(2002). Networks of Innovation: Change and Meaning in the Age of the Internet. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Boundaries, Transformations, and Boundary Objects

- Syntactic knowledge boundary
 - Coordinate pre-specified dependencies
 - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer
 - Boundary-crossing: ***information systems***
- Semantic knowledge boundary
 - Create shared meanings
 - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer and translation
 - Boundary-crossing: ***communities of practice, networks of communities***
- Pragmatic knowledge boundary
 - Negotiate interdependencies
 - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer, translation, and transformation
 - Boundary-crossing: ***conflict management, developmental work practices***

Structure of Practice

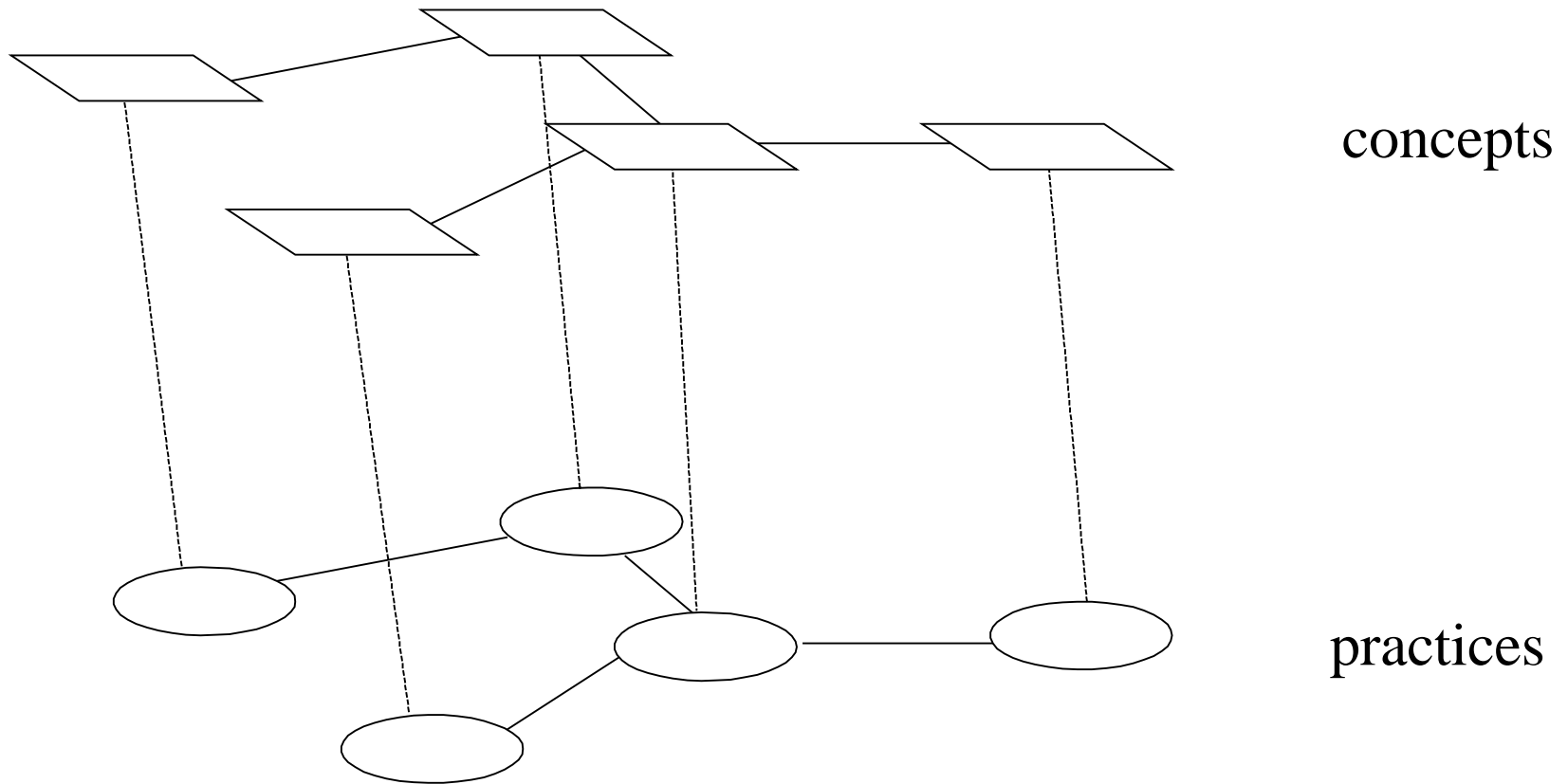


Practice as community

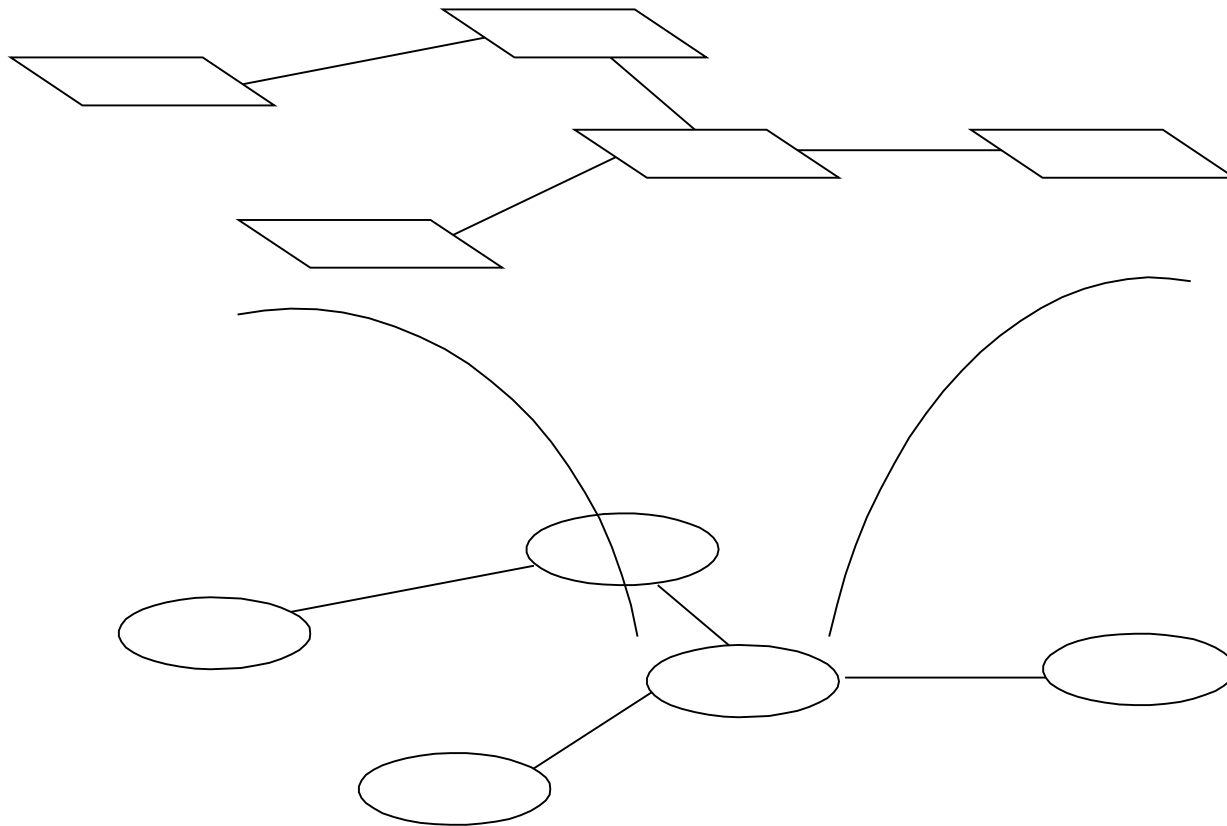
Ilkka Tuomi:

In a modern society, you have specialized groups and division of labor. In traditional modern societies, the interdependencies were relatively stable.

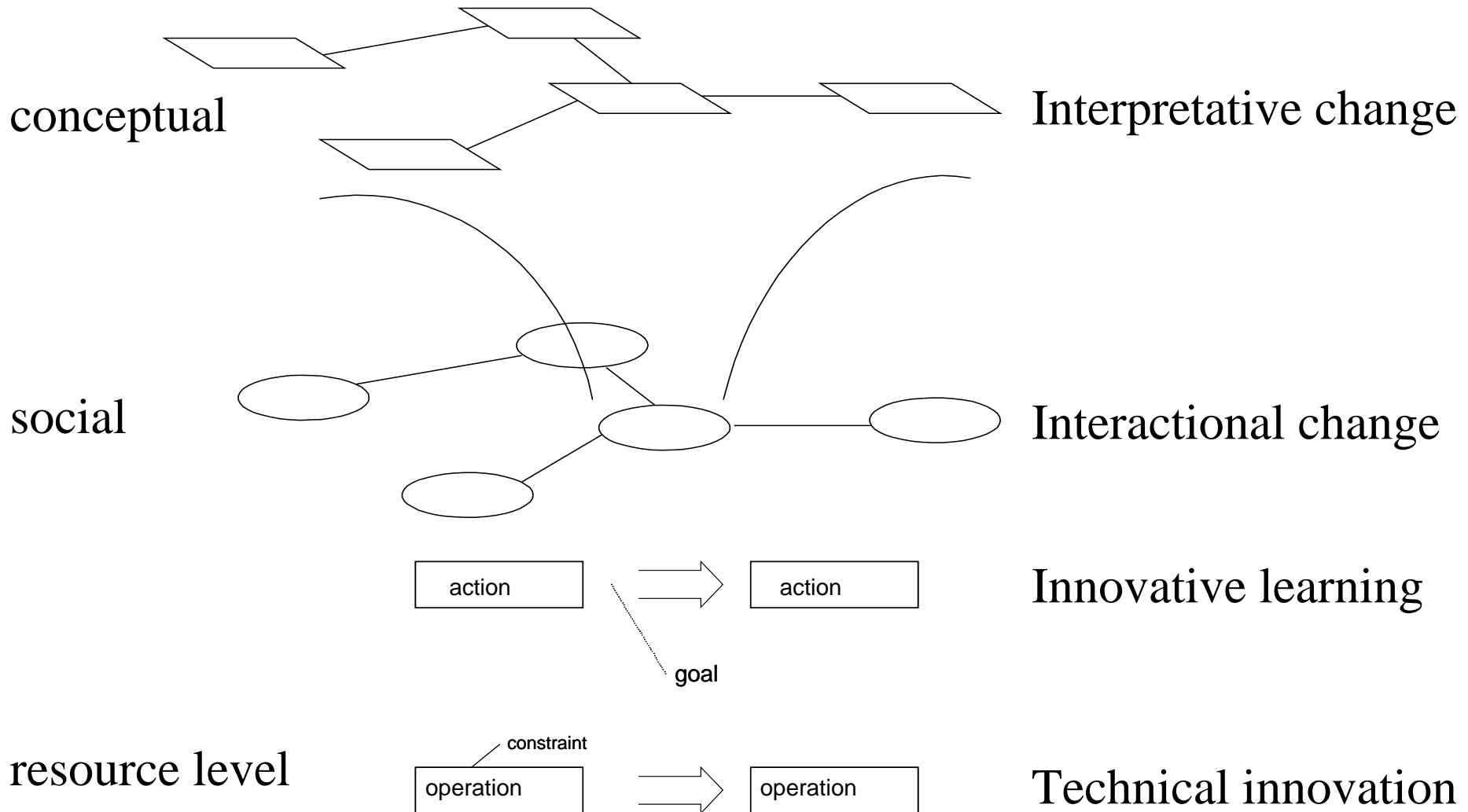
Correspondence Theory of Social Reality



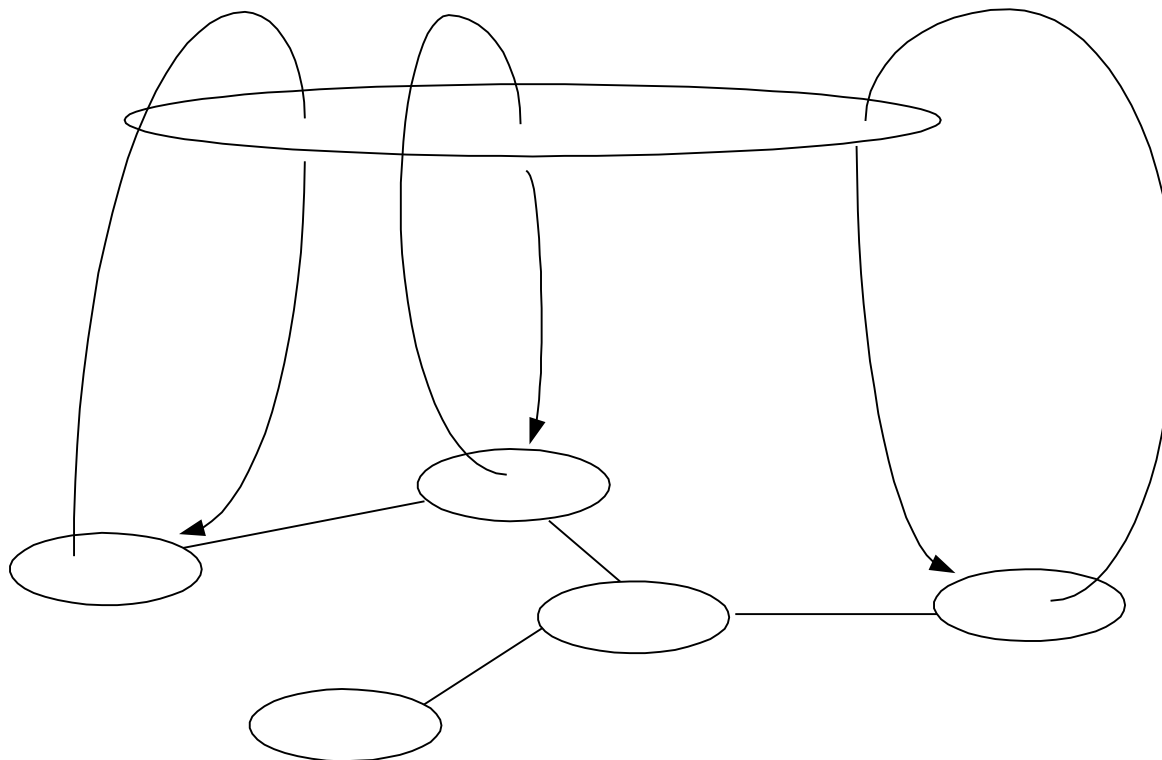
Interpretative position



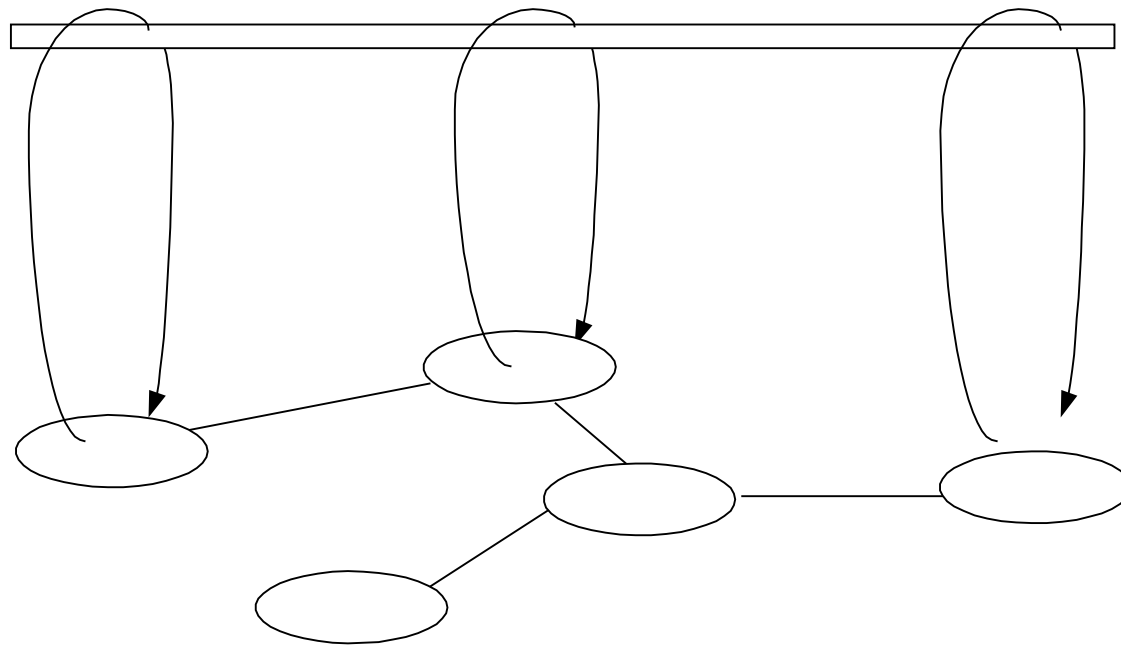
Levels of Innovation



Public Sphere as a Common Arena



Public Sphere as Shared Rationality



”jumping over the shared fence of rationality”

Why Public Sphere is Important

- Political process in modern society is based on negotiation of interests between different interest groups
 - interests and their differences are constructed and articulated by reflecting them through mass media

But,

- New media implies new polis
 - new polis implies new concepts of work, citizenship, identity, family, and privacy
- New media, therefore, implies new concepts or responsibility, rights, and ethics
 - that's why it is interesting: new media is not only about new technology but about new society

**So, What are the Interesting and
Important Research Topics That We
Should Think About?**