COMMUNICATION IN THE DIGIALISED WORLD: THE ROLE OF MESSAGES AND MESSENGERS

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Short presentation

This forum aims to discuss the phenomenon of messaging in our globally digitalised world. Against the historical background of various theories and philosophies of communication in society, the biosphere as well as in physics and mathematics the notion of' message' has emerged as a central unifying idea. The discipline of angeletics (http://wwww.angeletics.net) is exploring these themes around key concepts such as angelos angelia and dysangelia, interplay, dynamic messaging structure (hieronomy heteronomy and dianomy) and is examining the intrinsic relationship between information and communication in various professional spheres of cognitive social and phenomenological activity. The mediating sphere of experience is seen as language including natural languages, the 'language' of animals, metalanguages and artificial languages (such as mathematics and semiotics) grammar and philosophy of language.

Five sets of key questions raised by this forum:

1. What is a message? What is a messenger? What role do they play in information *as* process?

2. Is there a common messaging dynamic which applies across the various fields of social and scientific endeavour?

3. Is Claude Shannon's pervasive Mathematical Theory of Communication an adequate foundation for our contemporary messaging world? Alternative views of messaging should be considered (e.g. Flusser, MacLuhan, Wiener, Habermas).

4. Are we witnessing a demise of natural language as a medium of communication and messaging in our emerging digital worlds?

5. What are the ethical and moral implications of messaging for us today? Does messaging in all its forms serve to enhance human interplay and freedom or are we in fact already living in Nietzsche's *dysangelium* (bad tidings) - a world of trumpery circulating empty messages delivered by messengers who can't be trusted?