

the next two weeks

Mapping out the territory of our inquiry

Today in class

- Small items of business:
 - Microessay posting schedule and deadline for changes
 - Avoid attachments on the discussion board!
 - Give us page numbers for all quotations
 - Be careful to distinguish between the authors' positions and those of others that they are discussing
 - Feel free to edit before midnight tonight
 - Microessay poster introductions
- *communication* vs. *communications*
- Peters' "Problem": How has the notion of communication has been conceptualized?
- Activity: mapping out Peters

communication vs. communications

- **communications:** 1. Information transfer, among users or processes, according to agreed conventions. (188) 2. The branch of technology concerned with the representation, transfer, interpretation, and processing of data among persons, places, and machines. Note: The meaning assigned to the data must be preserved during these operations.

Peters' "Problem"

- solipsism/telepathy
- 5 takes on 'communication' in the 1920s
- 2 post-war views of 'communication'
- Peters' vision of 'communication'

From the *OED*

- **solipsism:** The view or theory that self is the only object of real knowledge or the only thing really existent.
- **telepathy:** The communication of impressions of any kind from one mind to another, independently of the recognised channels of sense

5 from the '20s

Communication as . . .

- management of mass opinion
 - propaganda
- elimination of semantic fog
 - simplifying
- vain sallies from the citadel of the self
 - solipsism
- disclosure of otherness
 - Constitution of relationships
- orchestration of action
 - Community of partaking

communication defined in contrast to its perversion

“Miscommunication is the scandal that motivates the very concept of communication in the first place.” (Peters 6)

for Wednesday

- Review the readings
- Post replies on the discussion board by 9pm Tuesday:
 - re-read the assignment sheet before writing
 - address content and form
- Read the discussion board before class and bring 2-3 questions and/or topics for discussion