Author(s): Paul Conway, PhD, 2010

License: Unless otherwise noted, this material is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 3.0 License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

We have reviewed this material in accordance with U.S. Copyright Law and have tried to maximize your ability to use, share, and adapt it. The citation key on the following slide provides information about how you may share and adapt this material.

Copyright holders of content included in this material should contact open.michigan@umich.edu with any questions, corrections, or clarification regarding the use of content.

For more information about how to cite these materials visit http://open.umich.edu/privacy-and-terms-use.

Any medical information in this material is intended to inform and educate and is not a tool for self-diagnosis or a replacement for medical evaluation, advice, diagnosis or treatment by a healthcare professional. Please speak to your physician if you have questions about your medical condition.

Viewer discretion is advised: Some medical content is graphic and may not be suitable for all viewers.
Citation Key
for more information see: http://open.umich.edu/wiki/CitationPolicy

Use + Share + Adapt

{ Content the copyright holder, author, or law permits you to use, share and adapt. }

- Public Domain – Expired: Works that are no longer protected due to an expired copyright term.
- Public Domain – Self Dedicated: Works that a copyright holder has dedicated to the public domain.
- Creative Commons – Zero Waiver
- Creative Commons – Attribution License
- Creative Commons – Attribution Share Alike License
- Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial License
- Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial Share Alike License
- GNU – Free Documentation License

Make Your Own Assessment

{ Content Open.Michigan believes can be used, shared, and adapted because it is ineligible for copyright. }

- Public Domain – Ineligible: Works that are ineligible for copyright protection in the U.S. (17 USC § 102(b)) *laws in your jurisdiction may differ

{ Content Open.Michigan has used under a Fair Use determination. }

- Fair Use: Use of works that is determined to be Fair consistent with the U.S. Copyright Act. (17 USC § 107) *laws in your jurisdiction may differ

Our determination DOES NOT mean that all uses of this 3rd-party content are Fair Uses and we DO NOT guarantee that your use of the content is Fair.

To use this content you should do your own independent analysis to determine whether or not your use will be Fair.
Week 9a: Avatars – Continuum or Prosthesis
THEMES

- Textual and visual identity
- Internet identity
- “Cyborgization”
- Projecting self: continuum or prosthesis
Character identity is a combination of...

- Self-conception (possibly inaccurate)
- Judgments of those around you
- Personality features
- Physical presentation and manner

“If IT affects the way others see me ... then it will come to affect the way I see myself.”
Three-part structural feature of identity:
- This is how I really am
- This is how I am coming across
- This is how I really want to be

We care about the character we in fact possess, and we care to display the character we in fact possess. (p. 151)

Gap between the real and ideal self-image.
Matthews focus on text-based identity on the Internet – thus the following:

“Online life limits the possibilities for intimacy precisely because it undermines the possibility of the coauthored self.”
NORMALIZATION OF BIOMECHANICAL SELVES

- Prosthesis – restoring normal functions
- Face lift – restoring or enhancing self-image
- Alternations for aesthetic or intellectual purposes
  - Stelarc: http://v2.stelarc.org/
- Implants: enhance neural functions

(p. 157): “If we become too dependent on, or too distracted by, the offerings of a technologically rich and tempting world, we may well tend to lose ourselves in the technology.” TRUE?
(p. 9) [An avatar is] “... a virtual, surrogate self that acts as a stand in for our real-space selves, that represents the user. The cyberspace avatar is displaced from the facticity of our real-space selves...

- Choice in the creation of the avatar
- Space to create meaning
