

Haunted Pilgrims: The Absence of Touch and the Sounds of Silence in Online Communication

Authors : Karen Armstrong

Abstract : This paper explores the impact of two aspects of online communication: the absence of touch and the sound of silence. In order to place the discussion in context, the paper begins with a brief description of communication itself and the many ways in which we communicate with each other both verbally and non-verbally. Next, the discussion moves to consider the general characteristics of online communication and the ways in which it is similar as well as very different from face to face communication. This examination considers the ways we communicate primarily in email, but also through texting, instagram stickers, and twitter—the primary modes of online communication aside from face to face videos, which are less common. With few exceptions of course, most such interactions take place without sound or physical contact. First to be examined is the absence of touch, followed by the presence of silence. The paper explores these issues, concluding with the ways in which both absence of touch and the prevalence of silence are important determinants shaping communication in our online universe.

Keywords : absence of touch, communication, face-to-face, haptics, online, silence

Conference Title : ICCCS 2014 : International Conference on Communication and Cultural Sciences

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : November 21-22, 2014