

experience which would be therapeutic in NEW ways?"

in it, that is much more complicated than water and much much easier to drown in. Information ecology, as a science, is much more complex than the simple mechanical cybernetics Wiener told us about, with simple tracking and sensing devices hooked back into the trackers. There are literally billions of feedback loops characteristic of each individual's neurological system alone, not to mention chemical and/or interpersonal loops. We don't even know what most of these are, much less how to therapize them. So don't look for any quick miracles from videotherapy, especially since, even if one occurred, we wouldn't know why, or what else, it was doing.

So, finally, another paradox: lots and lots of people are looking to video feedback for sudden cures of ancient enigmas, believing they are going to be able to do things because they have the hardware. That's like turning loose a bunch of grammar school kids in the nearest nuclear reactor to see whether their ideological innocence will make it do something beneficial. There is no easy answer. Sure, lots of shrinks are afraid of video because they aren't used to seeing themselves as others see them, and they come from heads which

rely on old fashioned theories of madness. Still, videoheads are not necessarily more therapeutic just because they are not similarly brainwashed. They might just be differently brainwashed.

Nor is the incredible sensitivity a genuine head brings to interaction necessarily a guarantee that he/she will be able to do anything more than understand and empathize with the suffering one (patient means the suffering one). Like, if a fish is gasping for water, empathy doesn't help. If a human is gasping for some kind of validating feedback, or suffering from some kind of invalidating feedback, (or both, as in "schizophrenia") you gotta know that and know what to do about that. And the first step is to realize that you AND your hardware constitute the patient's ecology. Now, what do you know about changing past ecologies and their programs by adding on a new ecology and new program?

That's what you know about videotherapy. So be careful.

vic gioscia

