

ABSTRACT FOR VIDEO "From what to when is (not) violence?"

Using cybernetic concepts, this 80 minute video with a contextual essay explores: 1) what is violence; 2) when is violence; and 3) when is (not) violence, without depicting violence. The intent is to invite and orient a listener to look at violence as a message. This work proposes that thinking differently about thinking can affect oneself and thus one's relations with others, particularly in terms of the escalation and de-escalation of behaviors in human relations.

A montage of voices and quotes, the video includes: 1) Humberto R. Maturana, Ph.D., a neurobiologist, discussing the biology of love; 2) Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., with statistics, looking at violence in the United States from a public health prevention model; 3) composer Herbert Brun critiquing the use of language as an "it" with social ramifications; 4) Gertrude Stein's thoughts on the distinction between repetition and insistence; and 5) comments and visual images of the author's experiences in daily and professional life. In sum, these voices and quotes illustrate a dynamic premise for explaining human being.

The video and essay comment upon violence, reflection, legitimization and social change, and include segments from an interactive urban art exhibit, scenes from the 1992-1995 annual conferences of the American Society for Cybernetics, and from the 1993-1995 Summer School for Designing a Society.

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Judith Lombardi is a teacher, learner, consultant, and video ethnographer interested in radical changes in the ways we language, look, think and behave with each other.