

Virtual communities



**The early theinder.net –
Development of a virtual
community?**



Nicola Döring

- Community → special form of a social group
- Solidarity
- Comparable with a primary group

next



Social group

- A **social group** contains a certain number of members (group members)
- who are in contact for a longer instance of time (interaction- and communication process)
- in order to achieve a certain aim.
- They develop a feeling of solidarity.
- To achieve the aim of the group they need a system of common norms and a allocation of functions inside the group.

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Steven G. Jones

- Internet is based on existing social structures
- follows paths and structures of communication which are already know
- there won't be Internet without human participation
- Internet is not isolated



Nessim Watson

- „Communication creates, re-creates and maintains community (...)“
- shared interests, „human“ feeling
- Familiarity
- But: no obligation, no stake
- Consequence: the definition of „community“ has to be changed



Howard Rheingold

- Collective use and collective aim
- Social stake:
 - social „profit“
 - existing knowledge,
 - feeling of community



Christian Stegbauer

- No physical nearness
- Too fixed on one theme
- assumes pure virtuality
- → instable



Conclusions

PRO

- Emotional reference
- Same interests
- New definition is necessary

CONTRA

- No stake, no obligation
- No reciprocity
- No physical nearness