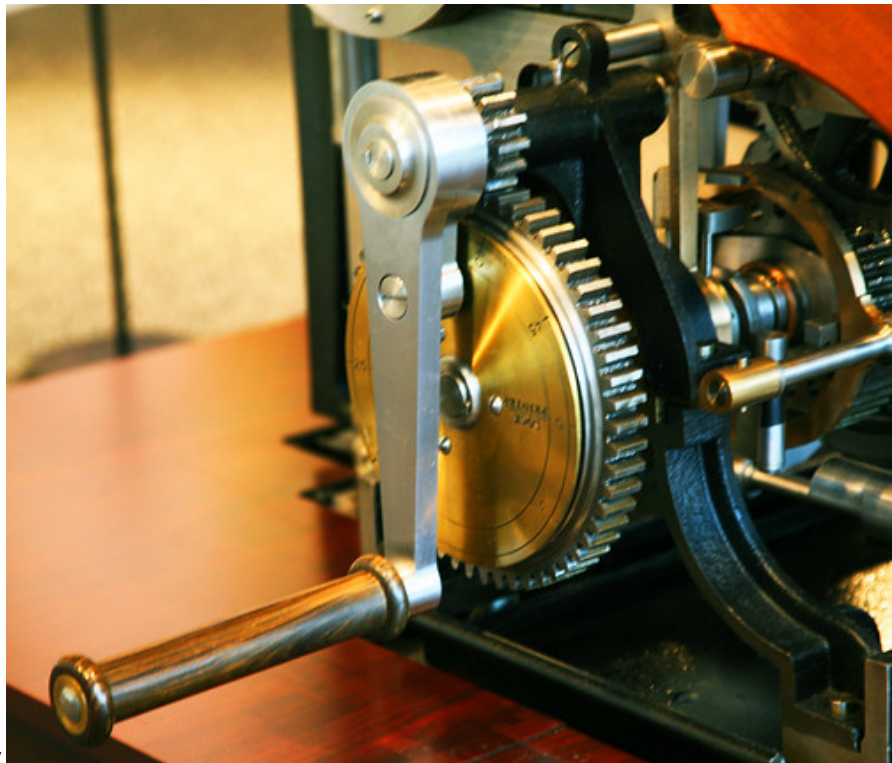


5. Questions that Matter

Gregory Bateson, *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*, p. 459, Chapter "Form, Substance and Difference"

- What we mean by information — the elementary unit of information — is a difference which makes a difference, and it is able to make a difference because the neural pathways along which it travels and is continually transformed are themselves provided with energy. The pathways are ready to be triggered. We may even say that the question is already implicit in them.



Mind and Nature, a necessary unity, 1988

- Human sense organs can receive only news of difference, and the differences must be coded into events in time (i.e., into changes) in order to be perceptible. Ordinary static differences that remain constant for more than a few seconds become perceptible, only by scanning. Similarly, very slow changes become perceptible only by a combination of scanning and bringing together observations from separated moments in the continuum of time.

- p. 74-75

5.1 Why questions?

Teaching focused on answers, rather than finding better questions.

Difference between education and learning. Education systems are not set up for learning.

5.2 Individual and group differences?

Both?

		Group	
		Pursuit of answers	Pursuit of questions
Individual	Pursuit of answers	Clarity (guided or misguided)	Individual frustration; group divergence
	Pursuit of questions	Sage for the patient	Long vision, stumbling over the present

(2004-2005) Part D. Will

So, how do we bridge the different world views?

{2005/07/03, DLH in Cancun: Collingwood, and then we don't have look at motivation.}

{2005/07/03, DLH in Cancun: Adam Smith, markets have no morals}

Will, as a reflection that we, as a human beings have choice.

We have to want to bridge communities/worlds (but at which point do growing systems break down, which make an ecology a better idea?)

{2005/07/03, Cancun: Network form}

Other ideas that were along this line:

- progress (but this could also somehow needs to include “return to roots” ideas;
- sustainability (but this has a downside of the Faustian dilemma.

Demonstrations of Will (and lack thereof)

The difference between a first world country and a third world country is readily-available drinking water.

In Singapore, [From Third World to First : The Singapore Story: 1965-2000 by Lee Kuan Yew "](#) describes how the prime minister drove this as a something necessary (intuitively – and probably not economically justified on a cost-benefit analysis).

The solution need not be on a global scale. Ashok Gadgil, on [Massive Change Radio, November 11, 2003](#) describes the “the water crisis the world is facing today (with approximately 2 billion people without access to safe drinking water)”.

However, protests may be caused at a national level. See [Argentina Water Privatization Scheme Runs Dry, by Sebastian Hacher](#)

Someone who tried to do something: [Jamie Oliver's School Dinners](#) , and the “Feed Me Better” campaign.

Participation: Withdrawal versus Involvement

The “slow food” movement, as an alternative to “fast food”

“Voluntary simplicity” is a “simple life” movement, except that it seems to follow some Buddhist ideals.

{2005/07/03 in Cancun: Ideals as shared by purposeful systems (Ackoff) vs. only goals and not ideals as shared by purposeful systems (Emery). Plato as an ideal that never changes}

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