

How the Internet Changes Our Human Nature

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Never before in history have how people connect to each other (and themselves) changed so rapidly as now. In less than 20 years, the Internet, smart phones, and social media have spread over the whole earth.

Like the (far slower) rise of movable type six centuries ago, this change alters not only what we think about, but:

- how we think and speak;
 - how time seems to pass;
 - who we think we are;
 - what world we seem to live in;
 - how we decide what's true;
 - how we work and to what end;
 - who our friends are and how close;
- and much else.

We'll also consider how, personally—or in community —we might react.

Readings (recommended but optional):

NY Times interview of me

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/04/opinion/michael-goldhaber-internet.html>

My 1997 article: “The Attention Economy and the Net”

<https://journals.uic.edu/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/519/440>

My 2004 article “The Mentality of *Homo interneticus*”

<https://journals.uic.edu/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/1155/1075>

“Why the past 10 years of American life have been uniquely stupid” [Jonathan Haidt](#)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/05/social-media-democracy-trust-babel/629369/>

Obama’s April 2022 Stanford speech on the subject of Social Media

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?519625-1/president-obama-warns-threat-disinformation-democracy>