

Session 21, 5/2/07

- Video clip discussion
 - Lip Dub: <http://www.vimeo.com/clip:173714>
 - 1337 Pantomime: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtETUlsbI18>

- Experiment from the reading
 - If you tap someone else's nose in the same beat as someone else tapping your nose, does it start to feel like you're tapping your own nose, but it's several feet long?

- Johnsadowski.com
 - Scroll down to look at "Li'l Color Illusion," 5/14/2006
http://www.johnsadowski.com/www/bloggery/2006_05_01_archive.html

- Clark, Plastic Brains and Hybrid Minds
 - Neural plasticity
 - Young people today have thumbs that are more dexterous than their index fingers (unlike adults, who have more dexterous fingers), because young people are so used to using their thumbs for video game consuls and text messaging, etc.
 - Is perception active or passive? Your brain has to be trained to perceive things in certain ways
 - Participatory media is more physiologically significant than non-participatory media for this reason
 - Watching someone learn to control a computer mouse for the first time is a good example of learning one of these physical-mental skills
 - Embodiment. How do our brains and bodies work together to create meaning?
 - To what degree are we able to mentally inhabit prostheses? On screen? Via somebody else?
 - Is the experience of a video game heightened when our own bodies are more involved, such as with a Wii?
 - Embodied understanding of speech, or music. You need a subconscious but deeply physical understanding of how to operate your lips to speak, or how to use your hands to play an instrument
 - Story of a boy who went deaf at age 7, who could still hear his mother's voice when he saw her lips moving, but when he spoke to a stranger, he could no longer hear anything.
 - Which is a more crippling handicap: blindness or deafness? You might argue that deafness is worse, because it limits your ability to gain language skills at a young age