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De-Structuration and Release as Fiction

The paper consists of two parts. The first part will reflect the often discussed fiction of removal of boundaries (,Entgrenzungsfiktionen'). The second part will show, how processes of structuration within internet-based spaces of communication lead to different dimensions of inequality.

In the first part, considerations about de-localisation, individualisation, fragmentation and the merge of author- and readership will be discussed. For most of the part technical opportunities of communication via Internet are the source of the consideration within the debates about ,de-structuration'. This perspective will be challenged by a more sociological view. With the rise of new internet media like weblog and wiki visions of ,destructurisation' that were popular some years ago become updated. The presentation will discuss these arguments. Based on empirical findings from research on chats and mailingslists, the second part of the presentation will show the shape of communication structures in internet-based media and their subsequent implications. This results are primarily based on network analytical procedures. Beside statistical considerations, the paper also presents insights from recent analyses that also refer to dynamic aspects.