

# 國立中正大學哲學系

## 學術演講

講題：Two ways of thinking about communication

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地點：文 412 研討室

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大綱：When presented with questions such as ‘How does communication work?’ or ‘How is communication possible?’, most people’s intuitions are typically along the line of thinking communication as the transmission of messages via some communication channel, such as languages. A communicator who wants to convey a certain message transmits the corresponding signal which the receiver then employs the same system of rules to decode. According to this code model, communication is a process of coding and decoding, and communicative success results in a duplication of messages: the message encoded is identical to the message received. Paul Grice's work, however, showed that communication is possible without the use of a code. On his view, communication is possible as long as there is some way of recognizing the communicator’s intentions, and intention-recognition is an inference process. While most post-Gricean pragmatic theories are in agreement that there is more to what one can mean by an utterance than the decoded linguistic meaning involved, there is no agreement whether to take the alternative inferential model as a supplement or a replacement for the code model. Following Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson, I argue that the two models represent radically different views of the nature of communication. I defend an inferential view of communication, according to which, the role of the linguistically encoded sentence meaning in communication gives no more than a schematic indication of what the communicator intends to mean.