



S.I. Vavilov Institute for History of Science and Technology

Limits of “the Self”, boundaries of Personal Space and IT

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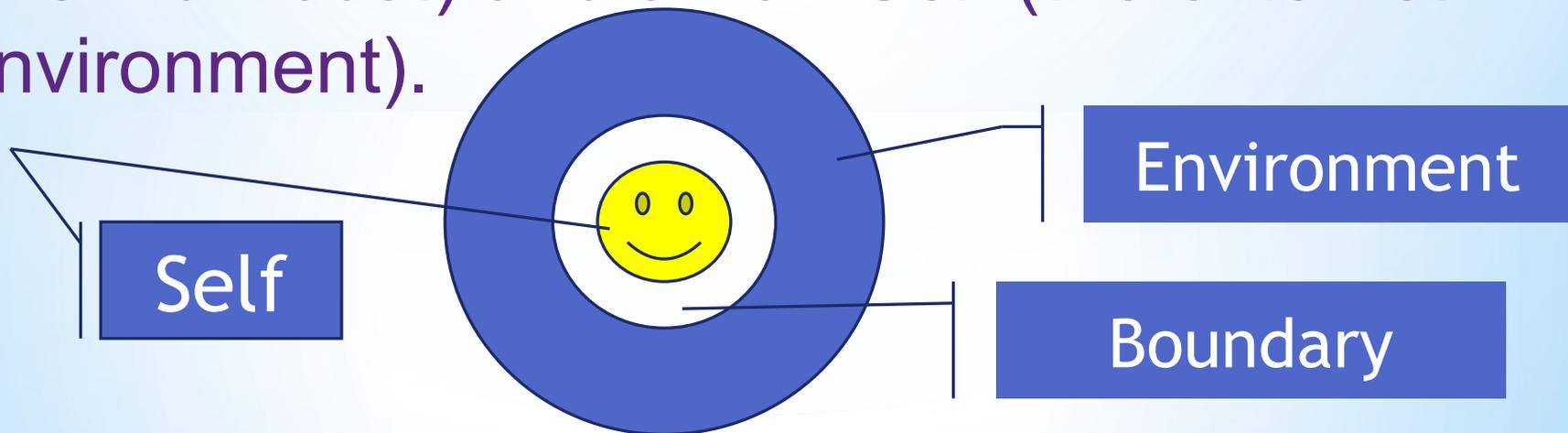
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IT&ETERNAL PROBLEM

- Throughout history, people have had their own understanding of personal space, which means an area of both physical and psychological comfort into which it is undesirable to intrude from the outside without permission
- The limits of personal space have varied and differed for different eras, countries, cultures, psychological types of people as well as tools
- Neither the right to privacy, nor the right to personal autonomy, nor other closely related rights describe the realities of today's IT-society

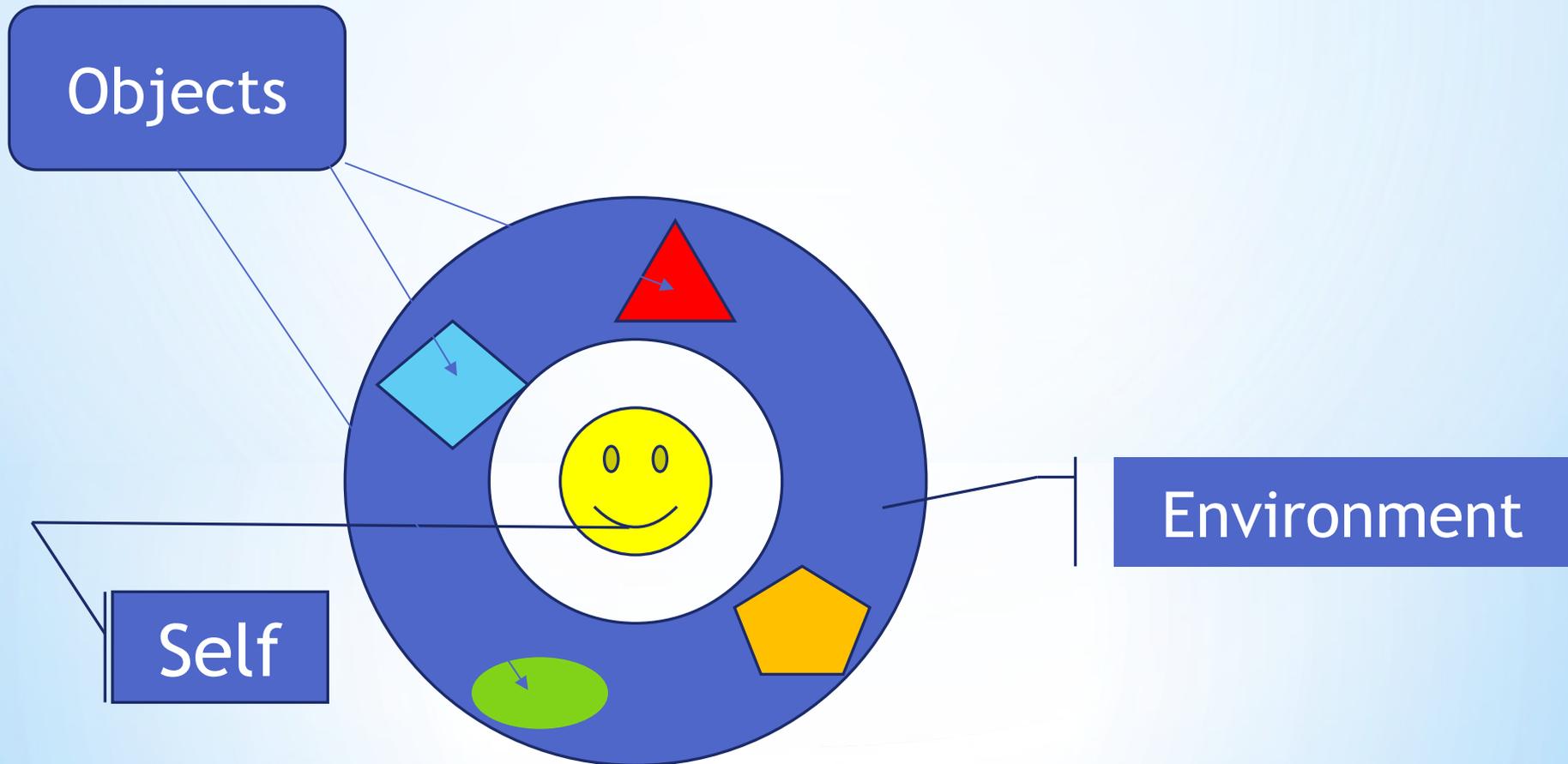
THEORY OF PERSONAL SPACE – 1

- Basis of the individual's drawing of the boundary between himself and the environment is the innate capacity of the individual to detect differences in properties
- At the first level of sensory experience, the individual begins to distinguish between a Self (the individual) and a non-Self (the external environment).



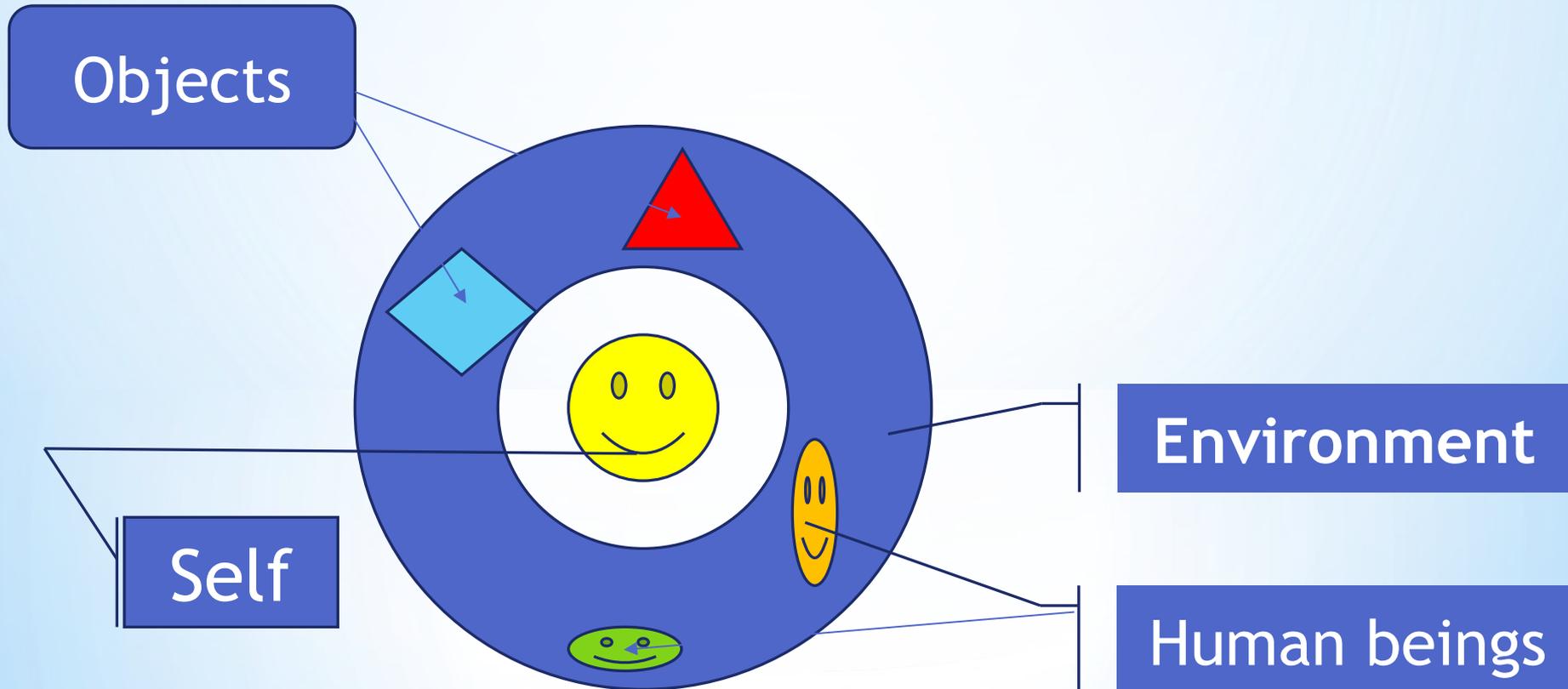
THEORY OF PERSONAL SPACE – 2

- At the next level of sensory feelings, the individual begins to distinguish objects in the environment by detecting their boundaries



THEORY OF PERSONAL SPACE – 3

- At the third level of sensation, the individual begins to divide the detected objects into individuals who look like them (human beings), other beings, and other objects.



IT&ENVIRONMENT

- Social, natural and technical components of the environment
- IT-part of the technical component of the environment
- The individual encounters the humanized environment (social), understands the properties of nature (science), and the nature of matching the capabilities of technology with the needs of the multitude of individuals (society).

PERSONAL SPACE – 1

- Let us call the personal space of an individual the part of the environment mediating his contact with another individual (object), within which the properties of the individual define the other individual as another environment.
- The boundaries of personal space can be either physical or psychological.

PERSONAL SPACE – 2

- Psychologically, a boundary is the awareness of one's own self as separate from other people, with the possibility of moving the boundary outside oneself (a necessary part of outer space) or inside oneself (e.g. when the individual is incarcerated).
- Physical boundaries show where personal space as private property begins and where it ends.

PULSATING PERSONAL SPACE – 1

- From the individual's perspective, the outer boundary of their personal space, which includes the individual's various interactions (intimate, friendly, family, creative, etc.), is the boundary only beyond which the state may collect personal information
- This boundary of personal space is defined by morality and ethics.

PULSATING PERSONAL SPACE – 2

- From the point of view of the state as an object, the boundary of the individual's personal space, beyond which the state has no intention of interfering in his private life, is a relatively separate sphere of interpersonal communication between the individual and the outside world
- Boundary of personal space is defined externally by law and internally by morality
- Privacy law is a kind of regulator for the movement of the boundary between personal space and the external environment.

IT&PERSONAL SPACE

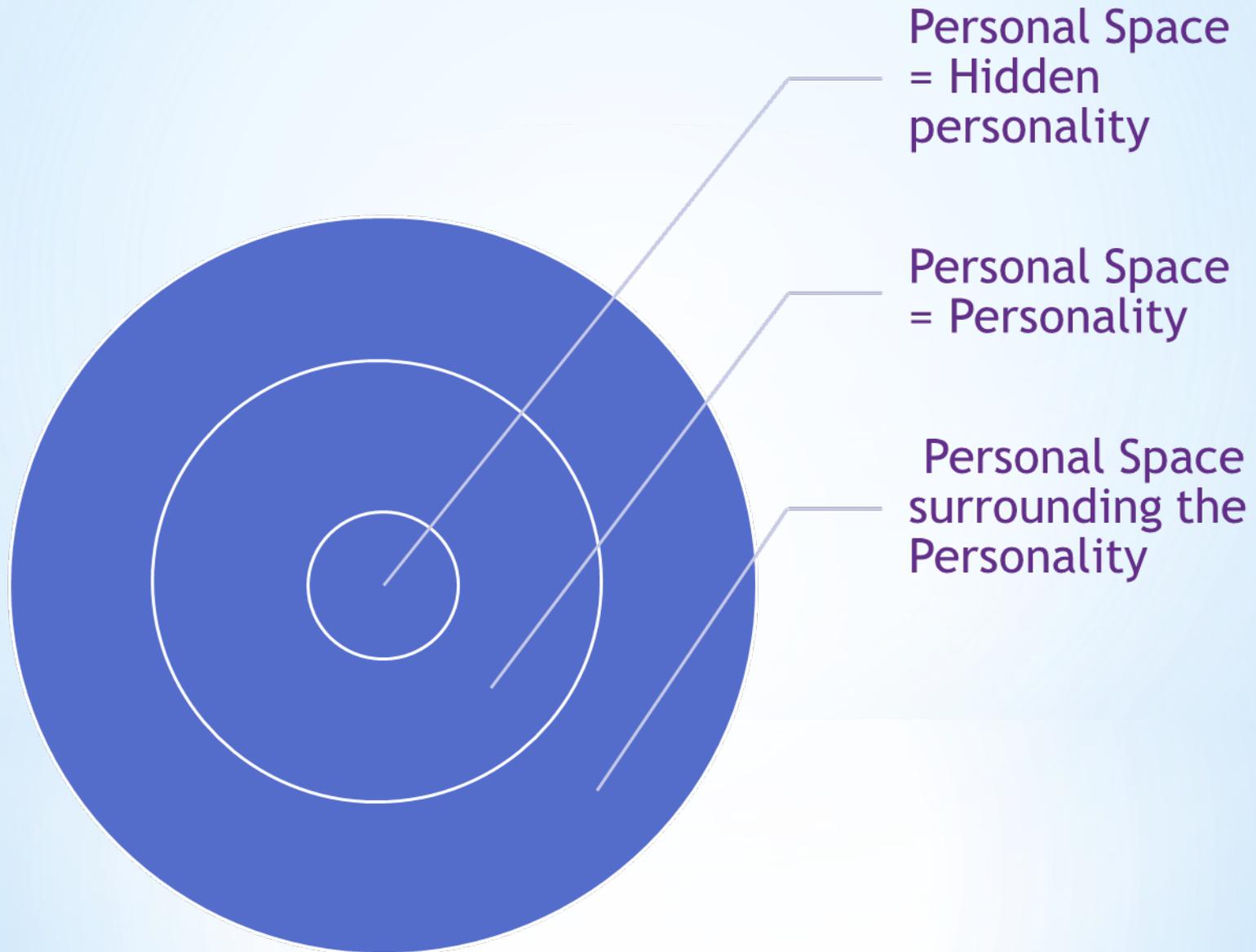
- Information technology gives the individual new forms of control over the world (obtaining information, carrying out transactions, communicating), but the individual himself is controlled by the same technological extensions (providing electronic resources with his data)
- This expansion contributes to the destruction of the usual boundaries of personal space and, as a result, the "exposure" of the individual.

NEUROINFORMATICS AND PERSONAL SPACE

- The use of neuroinformational technologies forces the individual to move to a next level of perception of the boundary of personal space - previously unthinkable
- The boundary of personal space begins to retreat deep into the brain in response to the state's increasing control over a person's thoughts
- No one knows yet how this will affect the man himself, his interaction with his "hidden personality" and his creative potential



CHANGING PERSONAL SPACE



CONCLUSIONS

- Information technologies are changing not only society as a whole, but also the members of this society
- Everyone's personal space tends to shrink
- The future IT-society we will become depends on whether or not we keep the mental realm intact
- It determines what kind of person we will be
- Perhaps this is the greatest challenge to humanity.



THANKS ALL!

