We all live in a world not only of culture but of cultures, and in our lives we face moments when we struggle to come to terms with the cultures that surround us. In this talk, Philipsen will present a framework for how individuals can come to terms with the cultures of their life worlds. The talk will emphasize communication strategies for dealing with four different situations, in which: (1) a dominant culture can work against your purposes, (2) you seek to challenge or undermine a dominant culture, (3) you seek to integrate within one life two cultures that are crucial to your identity, or (4) you seek to reconstruct your life when a culture that has been a source of strength to you begins to crumble around you.

Gerry Philipsen is Professor of Communication at the University of Washington. He received his BA at the University of Denver and his PhD at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. His research and teaching focus on the discovery and use of culturally distinctive codes of communicative conduct and their force in everyday and in public life. He is the author of over fifty scholarly publications including Speaking Culturally: Explorations in Social Communication. His speech codes theory is widely studied throughout US and foreign colleges and universities. He has won several awards for lifetime contributions to research in the study of communication. At the University of Washington he has won several teaching awards and has served as department chair, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Secretary of the Faculty.

The talk will be based on the Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture that Gerry Philipsen will be giving at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in November in San Diego. The National Communication Association is the largest, and the longest continuing, association of scholars of communication. It is the first such association to be admitted to the American Council of Learned Societies. Each year one member of the 7,000-member Association is invited to give Arnold lecture as the featured presentation of the annual meeting.