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Spaces of Flows 1.0: A working experience using Sixth Sense Transport technology

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DE2013 Workshop Proposal

Workshop Title

Spaces of Flows 1.0: A working experience using Sixth Sense Transport technology

Proposed Chair(s) and their Details

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Description of the Workshop

*“the space of flows . . . links up distant locales around shared functions and meanings on the basis of electronic circuits and fast transportation corridors, while isolating and subduing the logic of experience embodied in the space of places”
(Himanen, 2001).*

The networks that constitute businesses, organisations and social groups often retain consistent patterns of movement and flow across time and space. Tourists visit the same locations in a city, shops use the consistent suppliers who in turn use the same routes to supply goods to the shops, and social networks walk the same streets to the same bars on a regular basis. Although not predictable, these patterns may allow opportunities for exchange and potentially energy saving if networks are shared and commonalities correlated at a database level. The aim of this workshop is to introduce participants to two new smart phone Apps that demonstrate how network technology can use patterns within existing industrial and social activities to reveal new opportunities for sharing.

Proposed Activities & Outcomes

1. Introduction

An introduction to Sixth Sense Transport research work will set the scene of the research challenges that explore how to reduce/re-distribute transport options through a flexible interpretation of time.

2. Physical activity

This workshop will loan smartphones to participants and embed them within a social network using the Sixth Sense Travel App to explore the flow of objects and information across Media City:

The Sixth Sense Travel App, designed for a campsite community, gives people a sense of being in time by enabling users to follow the collective physical traces of other users in the past, present and, based on space-time memories, into the future. This enables users to make sense of network movements so they can reflect on their place in the social network across space and time.



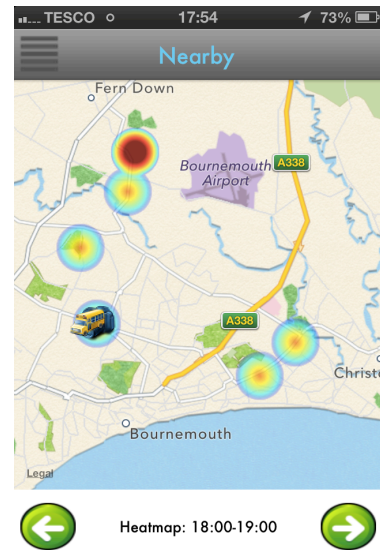
Workshop participants will be set travel tasks based on the collection of objects around the Media City conference venues. This replicates a shopping trip activity and demonstrates how an awareness of others within a social network might create opportunities for collaboration and reduce the need for car trips.

3. Reflection

Following the activity we will re-convene to reflect upon the experience.

The experience will highlight the opportunities for collaboration and reduce the need for car/van trips. Following the activity we will re-convene to discuss how the activity offers opportunities across the Digital Economy and reflect upon the following questions:

1. What insights did the experience reveal: personal, social, ethical, technical or other?
2. To what extent did the demonstration of the App offer an insight into the potential for sharing resources?
3. Can the group identify opportunities for similar application of the technology and how might the approach address the Conference Challenges areas: Sustainable Society, Communities & Culture



The reflective session will also allow an opportunity for the team to extend discussion through the commercial application of the research in the Sixth Sense Logistics App developed for Oxfam. The App is designed to improve the visibility of transport options and facilitate collaboration for Oxfam shop managers and area managers at the local level. The app allows Oxfam's local communities to better engage and visualise the state of assets and the location of transport both in the present and into the immediate future. In a dynamic and continually evolving business setting, this can help make better commercial decisions.



Technical & Accommodation Requirements

The research team will provide 10 smart phones preinstalled with the Apps, and it is anticipated that participants will work in groups of 2 offering **20 places in total** on the workshop.

The team require a room with data projector to accommodate 25 people with easy access to the outdoors.

Any Additional Information / Comments

We anticipate that the workshop will involve a fair amount of movement around the Media City complex so we would ask participants to consider this when applying.

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