

Building Communities

Patricia Shanahan: grad student UCSD, active campus project, technology for location aware application to enhance the learning community.

Giles Lane, London, leading a project to create a location aware platform to embed information in the community attached to particular places. How do we structure human experience onto physical places.

Jenna Burrell, people and practices, studied a number of communities, e.g., fabs, how to communities form and adapt technologies for their own needs. Study internet cafes in Ghana.

Joe McCarthy: IRS – creating, enhancing or maintaining relationships among people. Blogger Bridge. Some project he's doing.

Hsain Ilahaine, anthro prof at IowaState. Mobile phones in Morocco. How ICTs reconstitute real communities in place. How laborers are integrating mobile technology in Morocco. How can we build communities.

John Sherry, people and practices, alerted by the rhetoric of intel's management of going after the other 96% of the planet, one of the issues that continues coming back to us is that many people live in physical communities, strong interdependencies, mutual support, how technology might change to adapt to "village" attribute.

Tony Salvador: what john said and interest in public spaces, bars, cafes, etc.

Leslie Anderson – geographer – maps – how do we make maps and their data more useful to people who don't have as much access to computers and electricity, etc. Are there ways to do community building – can groups of people cooperate to build a map of their community.

Tad Hirsch – graduate student, MIT media lab, interested in marginalized communities for years – political, sec, etc., developing technologies for community empowerment. Meet needs not being met by govt institutions, etc. Three projects: (in common – working with particular community groups in Boston and Springfield Mass. – 80% African, black and Chinese. Public safety, environmental pollution and access to city services – particularly language barriers. Significant, gang, drug and violent but also tightknit and fully functioning. How work together for increased safety. 2) Low cost sensor network for air and noise pollution monitoring. Having sensors talking to each other for neighborhood stuff – community organizing v. advocacy. 3) Phone based bilingual services cell phones, making themselves available they will answer the phone and do translation – people can call the number, the computer routes the call and you get.

Nicole Friedman, Center for Neighborhood Technology. Livability and sustainability of neighborhood communities. How can tech be used as a tool for community development

Randy Jensen, KLSS, intel, from Chandler, interest sparked by discussions in workshops – see how place is extended into a venue of place. Local communities are the areas most personally applied. Intriguing as a result. What impact – bringing together extended and immediate families, neighborhoods...local websites, etc. Another part how communities in third world are evolving – evolving in arenas with no previous infrastructure – no lines maybe – US might be held back because of infrastructure. Worked on a project with the bank of Montreal – discussions of the local bank – elimination of brick and mortar with some form of electronics.

Community is a Symbol – takes many levels... Street to cul-de-sac to the European Community – working definition: a set of complex social relations among a set of

Unit of economic production and consumption of goods and services for their own use.

Integrated into the part of the larger community.

Geography and choice based communities – the charts.

Are new communities new, or layers. If layers, what is the implication of the past, the prior? Does it matter?

Layers of thickness on communities

Communities – social capital is the glue that holds communities together. Networks, norms, cooperatives, reciprocity, trust. Trust is important. Can you get a community based on mistrust. Bonding & Bridging. Bonding brings people closer together. And between people who know each other. Bridging capital is the networks that bring different people together. Bonding with people in community of place. Your "getting by" capital. Bridging is knowing other people. Bridging is "getting ahead".

How synthesize the real and the virtual? How does the traditional meet the modern? What becomes the role of place?

We've brought Bourdieu, Putnam, Habermas

Putnam laments the decline of civic involvement in the US. Social saturation of the public sphere by the media. How can we get back our voice? Inclusive, participation, express gifts and talents, making a healthy community. Isolation- key principles – powerful and empowered community can express issues inside and outside the community – the whole person – not just one attribute. Development of the v. in the community?

Institutionalization of change.– need coherent organization to collaborate and continue with external resources and institutions.

Community development v. advocacy – who's in the community? Who's concerned? Who has standing?

Giles

Urban tapestries – capture the design process. How do we start to understand the fundamental principles of what people might want to share around communities? How can you organize these sorts of services. Capture the design process and make it creatively misused. Fundamental part of civic society.

Projects are tools based. Downloadable book. Book become part of a gift economy. Costs next to nothing. Immense investment in making the thing. When they give it out, they've created. Give them away to their friends. Online generator make their own books. Once released, how maintained, continued, supported.

Easy to use, cartographic tool to avoid surveillance. Work to get from them to others' use was a lot of effort. A huge problem.

Need two halves of funding --- creation and ongoing use.

Communities as generators of service.

Companies have the rights and not the responsibilities of individuals – started in England. Always going to be a tension between desires for society and needs of the community. Not part of the same legal framework. First responsibility is to make money for shareholders.

Intellectual social capital. Team got taken over and transferred to another company – need to establish links – bonds – knowledge is the key piece of capital people have and that's what's exchanged and given and used to build the bonds that make the community. Time and attention is maintained. [But the basis is maintained by an underlying economic support structure.]

Support third places.

Time to play is necessary to learn new things.

Third places - archetypal

Border, path into space, public active places, some sort of retail, intimate spaces, very intimate (individual), for each zone, there 's different activities that go on. Pick a zone and come up with products and services.

Clustering in cities.

Webcam – want to avoid so and so. The ex-cam.

Remote lounge.

Slack time...

Enhancing bonds build on existing infrastructure.

Post a message – play with the space. Dollar a day members NPR make an announcement.

Ancient Greece: Guest host relationship – without which there 's no trade or civilization. Commiunites spread out, separated by space, language, etc. The only way to trade is to visit other places. But you don 't know them – so you 've got to trust. You 've got to be a good guest, and they 've got to be a good host. Ultimately the Trojans lose. They committed the primary transgression – breaking the guest host relationship. Zeus in charge of the guest host relationship. Iliad, a book of competing forces. The Iliad as actor-networks.

Is place a guest – or is it the host? Hsain 's bridging and bonding.

Besides communication, how can technology permit a place for bonding and bridging – syncretic.

Combining technologies with local needs. The wrong way to go is to try too hard to anticipate local needs. You 're creating technologies that combines the technology with your representation of local needs. What are the properties of a platform that permits this openness. Are you recreating the same sorts of services you can get at home. How get people out of the home?

Questions

How synthesize the real and the virtual? How does the traditional meet the modern? What becomes the role of place?

How can technology enable communities to speak and hear their own voice in the face of mass media and powerful corporations? Inclusiveness.

What 's the difference between development in the community v. development of the community – some v. all attributes? Does it matter for tech development.

How does time and dynamism...

What does it mean for a community to be tight-knit? How can communities identify their needs and how can technology support them?

Sustainability over time. Why would you volunteer how to do this. What 's the motivation. Projects done in test modalities. How capture the design process and the end result.

At what level should communities be addressed by technology. Tools? Or human relationships? (ebook)

Don 't know what will happen when it goes into the world – the co-development model and the throw it out there model.

Much of the value of technology is for non-commercial uses that 's hard to get funding for. Why? Does it matter? Are we doing the wrong thing – should we be talking to social economists?

How does technology change roles in communities – who resists? Receivers to creators of information.

What assets exist? But those assets might be a subset of what 's necessary for technology to support.

How can communities generate their own " vision " ? Is it important. How blend community development with local forms of knowledge?

Who 's a member of the community – doing meaningful projects means making a commitment over time – how are companies going to make that sort of commitment. What 's the role of a company? How to get communities to adopt and make it homegrown.

What about communities in corporations. Networked individual – interests and resources – organizations as communities – shared resources issues there too – but there are still finite resources. Build and foster the relationships? What 's the coin of the realm – what 's reciprocity. Bourdieu – what are forms of capital that can be exchanged? Is there a cash replacement.

Can we support third places wherever they are? Create new ones, support existing ones – technologies that support bonding and bridging. Lots of examples – hole in the wall, coffee shops, Ghana internet cafes, informality in teaching each other,

What third places are appropriate in what " countries " for what reasons? Local variability.

Technology that supports incremental changes enhancing community bonds v. technology that suggests qualitative changes. The latter is considerably difficult, but both require technology to adapt to local communities.

How can communities identify and mobilize the resources they 've got? How can technology catalyze the mobilization of existing resources?

Accretive and organic collective memory. How to tap into time and extant knowledge.

How can technology help these sites become syncretic?

How can technologies draw people out of their homes – and into third places? [Where appropriate.]

How can we make technologies that don't assume our own representation of local needs? Creating open platforms.