

## CCN+ Newsletter, April 2014

### Upcoming Events

#### Civil Society Alternatives to a Debt Economy

London: 25<sup>th</sup> April | Manchester 8<sup>th</sup> May

This one-day Open Space event brings together a dynamic group of individuals to discuss and debate alternatives to the current Debt Economy. Our aim is to promote conversations between different actors working on cognate areas to co-produce a public interest report (June 2014). We seek to put creativity and inventiveness at the centre of the event by allowing the participants to shape the agenda and contribute directly to the outputs. We are keen to explore the actual sites, techniques and relationships between groups and people offering services, advocacy and activism that shape the wider politics of indebtedness in contemporary Britain. [Read more](#)

#### Storystorm Edinburgh: 'Digital Storytelling Adaptions'

University of Edinburgh, 30<sup>th</sup> April

The CCN+ StoryStorm Network is partnering with the EPSRC RIDERS and CIRCLE networks to deliver a workshop at University of Edinburgh on April 30th. This collaborative workshop session will explore and map the variety of ways that stories are currently used during the research process, from hypothesis and scenarios to design fictions and prototypes. Its aim is to share approaches to storytelling across disciplines, help researchers achieve their aims and suggest strategies and technologies for future consideration.

CCN+ members wishing to attend should contact Mel Woods ([m.j.woods@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.woods@dundee.ac.uk)). [Read more](#)

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### Research

#### New Knowledge Networks in Communities

This CCN+ seed project, led by Dave Harte (Birmingham City University) will examine the complex online/offline interactions that give strength to the relationships between hyperlocal practitioners and their communities. In doing so, it will seek to test an approach to ethnography that may uncover the everyday nature of doing and engaging with hyperlocal. The project will engage with the tensions in the debate around the role of technology as a tool for participation in the process of doing journalism. So far, two [Social Media Surgeries](#) have been arranged in partnership with Podnosh and B31 Voices. For further information about this project read Dave Harte's [blog post](#) or the CCN+ [project webpage](#).

### Who we are

The Digital Economy 'Communities and Culture' Network+ engages with digital transformations, bringing them together with a wider public through direct engagements, innovative methods and digital resources.

### Funding

#### [Open call for seed funding](#)

Funding for seed projects of £1-4k per project, to fund small discrete projects within the remit of the CCN+.

**Next deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

#### Pilot projects and Placements

The next call for CCN+ Pilot Studies and Placements, on the theme of Food and Austerity, will be issued in April 2014.

Details will be circulated to network members and posted on the [Funding](#) page of our website.

## Research

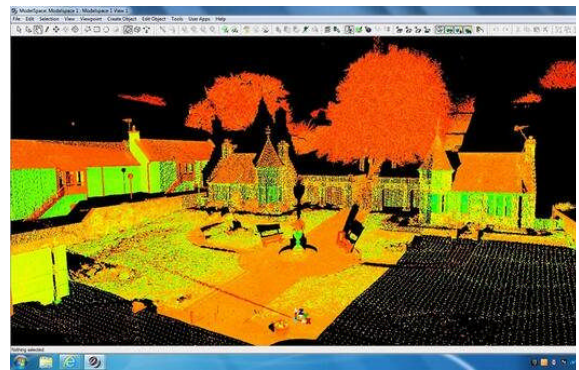
### Event Mining in our Rural Past

How can vast quantities of archival text be made more accessible and more easily searchable? The CCN+ seed project 'Event Mining in our Rural Past', led by Kate Byrne (University of Edinburgh) and Peter McKeague (The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) explored ways in which automated software tools and text mining could be used to extract structured data from text documents, thereby rendering it more useful to history enthusiasts and community groups.

The final report for this project is now available to read on the CCN+ website. [Read more](#)

### 3D Cultural Heritage Visualisations

A new CCN+ seed project exploring 'Community engagement and participation with 3-D cultural heritage visualisations' is now underway at Robert Gordon University. As part of the project, a portable laser scanner is being used to capture a 3-D scan of Elgin Ladyhill/Castle in the North-East of Scotland. The scan will then be rendered using open source technologies and used as a basis for the social research. User engagement activities and social research interviews with members of the community will also be conducted in Elgin Library.



Above: First image from the Elgin scan

As well as investigating the user experience of viewing local heritage sites in a virtual environment, this pilot project will investigate mechanisms for incorporating user-generated content into the visualisations. Investigators Dr Elizabeth Tait and Professor Richard Laing hope that this can provide means through which non professional users can contribute information to these visualisations and thereby enhance knowledge and understanding through 'tagging' and commenting on digital artefacts. [Read more](#)

### Writing Leeds

Together with Leeds-based organisation Studio12, a group of young writers and production company Left Eye Blind, CCN+ Research Fellow Edgar Gómez Cruz recently presented a series of three short-films and a supporting documentary to audiences at the Everyman Cinema, Leeds and the University of Leeds' Institute of Communications Studies.

Studio12 is an audiovisual and media production facility housed within Leeds Central Library. The three short films are part of the project "Writing Leeds" and were written by young users of the Studio and produced in collaboration with Left Eye Blind. The films reflect the sense of place, belonging and aspiration of those growing up in the city. A supporting documentary, produced by Gómez Cruz engages with some of his ethnographic findings relating to the production of these three films and explores how the group of economically disadvantaged young people engage in media production through their use and participation in Studio12.



## From the Network

### Urban Prototyping

During January to June 2013, Dr Cathy Mulligan, PI of Sustainable Society Network+, ran the "Urban Prototyping, London Festival" which investigated the role of citizen-led IoT projects on the creation of smart, sustainable and resilient cities. The output of this festival was to provide input into to the Research Councils on the future research challenges for smart, sustainable and resilient cities. SSN+ also solicited perspectives from a variety of sources about prototyping and smart cities. The resulting report also features viewpoints on smart cities from two teenagers, who provide a vision of how these technologies are being viewed by the next generation. Helen Thornham and Edgar Gómez Cruz, who attended the UP London Hackathon on behalf of the CCN+, contribute observations on the processes and practices of innovation within the unique environment of the hackathon.

[Read the report](#)

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## Opportunities

### Quantitative Research Fellow: Creative and Digital Economy

Nesta is looking for a quantitative economist to develop an ambitious programme of research which delivers data-driven insights into the creative and digital economy. This is an area where Nesta is quickly developing a track record of original research. The Quantitative Research Fellow will work with the Director, Creative Economy and three other economists to take this research to the next level.

To apply: send your CV, short covering letter and completed equal opportunities form to: [jobs@nesta.org.uk](mailto:jobs@nesta.org.uk)

Deadline for applications: 10am, Friday 11 April 2014. [Read more](#)

### Sustainable Society Network+ Opportunities

Sustainable Society Network+ is charged with identifying future opportunities in this area for both industry and academia. It promotes these with funding for UK academics in the form research grants, secondments to industry and events to spur on new collaborations in and between social science, engineering, computer science, the arts and health.

Research into the role of ICT in supporting the development of a sustainable society covers an extremely large number of research areas, from water, waste, energy, local and national transport infrastructures, national and international supply chains, rural and urban enterprise infrastructures, community development and social infrastructure support mechanisms. The systems that form the basis of our society are now extremely complex systems, with multiple layers and multiple interactions between the economic, social and environmental spheres – it is not possible to affect one without affecting the others.

#### due on 12 April:

- <http://sustainablesocietynetwork.net/awards/second-call-for-pilot-studies/> £250,000 available (guide £50,000 each)
- <http://sustainablesocietynetwork.net/secondment-in-the-internet-of-things-iot-unilever-research/£20,000> available

#### ongoing:

- <http://sustainablesocietynetwork.net/open-call-for-secondment-projects-uk-researchers/> £215,000 available (guide £20,000 each)
- <http://sustainablesocietynetwork.net/open-call-submissions/> £50,000 available (guide £3,000 each)

### IT as a Utility Network+ Call

Call for proposals for ITaaU Network Plus pilot studies. Applicants are invited to apply for short-term pilot research study funding from the 'IT as a Utility Network+', set up as a priority challenge area by the RCUK Digital Economy Theme (DE). These pilot studies will be no longer than 6 months in duration and are intended to test new ideas or create novel linkages between research areas.

Closing date for applications: 9th May 2014. [Read more](#)

## Opportunities

### **dot.rural internship scheme 2014**

As part of its wider engagement with the academic community and impact agenda, dot.rural has introduced a summer internship scheme. This is designed to support students from outside dot.rural and the University of Aberdeen to spend time at the Hub. You will join a lively community of 23 PhD students already based in the Hub, working across a range of disciplines.

The duration of an internship is 10 weeks (full-time) and the scheme is aimed at currently registered postgraduate students, particularly PhD students. For PhD students who receive a stipend from their home university during the internship, a bursary of £300 per week will be available. For PhD students who suspend their stipend at their home university's request, an enhanced bursary of £350 per week will be available. Internships will take place over Summer 2014. Application deadline: 25th April 2014. [Read more](#)

### **Call for Papers: Archives 2.0 – Saving the Past, Anticipating the Future**

#### **National Media Museum, Bradford, 25 & 26 November 2014**

The National Media Museum in Bradford is hosting a two-day conference on the challenges and opportunities around the acquisition and management of archives by cultural institutions. Such archives may be still, moving or mixed-format; analogue or digital or both; they may be from a company, private, practitioner, virtual, community-based or regional; complete or partial; contained or continually developing.

This is a Call for Papers asking for perspectives on the strategic issues, opportunities and challenges presented by organisations which actively acquire and curate bodies of work. The conference seeks to examine emergent digital technologies and their impact on archival practice and acquisition. [Read more](#)

### **Connected Communities Festival 2014 Early Career Researcher Workshop**

#### **Cardiff, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

This open call invites Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to submit an Expression of Interest to attend, and contribute to, the ECR Research Development Workshop taking place on day three (3rd July) of the Connected Communities Festival 2014. The facilitated workshop will be highly participative, interactive and open to innovative ideas from participants for working together to develop proposals for cross-disciplinary and community co-produced research projects that would make a significant and innovative contribution to the Connected Communities Programme.

Attendees at the workshop will have an opportunity to apply for funding in the form of Connected Communities ECR Development Awards of up to £40,000 Full Economic Costing (FEC) to support collaborative grants with an additional amount of up to £15,000 FEC available to support enhanced co-production and collaborative activities with communities and/or the costs of community co-investigators.

Deadline for applications: 4pm Friday 25th April 2014. [Read more](#)