

CCN+ Newsletter, August 2015

*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.*

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## Upcoming Events

### CCN+ Annual Event 2015

11<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, University of Leeds

Registration closes today for this year's event, [Citizen-D: Rethinking Citizenship in the Digital Age](#), is engaging with issues of citizenship, in all its forms, to ask questions not only about who or what claims of citizenship are for, but also about the potential utility, role and responsibilities of digital technology in framing or conditioning new and existing modes of civic engagement.

To register contact [r.h.wilkinson@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.h.wilkinson@leeds.ac.uk).



### Threats to Openness in the Digital World - 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, Northumbria University

This conference will consider and debate the issues surrounding the growing threats to citizens' rights to access public archives in the digital world, a world which has made access to and review of records a more complex and challenging issue. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to listen to and actively engage in a critical discussion with leading UK and international figures experienced in dealing with access issues at the most senior levels in government, academia and the records management and archives profession. [Read more....](#)

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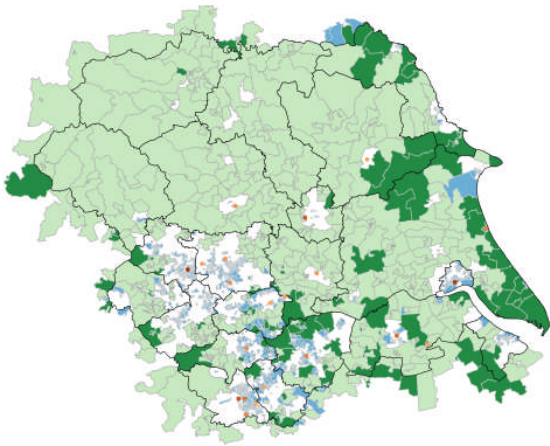
## Research

### A Manifesto for Digital Messiness

"This is a report from a short research project funded by the Communities and Culture Network+. The project comprised a series of online articles written by a range of academics and artists with the intention of contributing to the debate about the role that digital media and social networking technologies play in supporting citizens to play a more democratic role in society and live more fulfilled lives.

The 'Manifesto for Digital Messiness website (<http://digitalbydefaultmanifesto.com/>) hosts nine articles that were written between April and July 2015. This report brings together the posts. The website remains 'live' and the opportunity remains for further postings to be made. [...]" (Harte 2015) [Read the full report...](#)

## Research



Above: Mapping fuel poverty priority areas with foodbank provision in Yorkshire and Humber

### Heat or Eat?

The [full report](#) for the CCN+ pilot study '[Heat or Eat: Food and Austerity in Rural England](#)' is now available to read on the CCN+ website. This research project explores the theme of food and austerity through the lens of one of the most high profile, yet under-evidenced, phenomena in the current era of austerity: the decision to 'heat or eat'. With support from National Energy Action and the Trussell Trust foodbank Network and focusing on experiences in Cornwall, England, this project scrutinises the 'heat or eat' dilemma in a rural context, investigating the legitimacy and complexity of such claims, and critically assessing existing and potential policy responses. A summary of the report can also be accessed [here](#).

### Paradoxes of Digital Dis/engagement

"Today's digital economy ties citizen engagement to digital and mobile communication technologies, with efforts and funds directed into increasing access and digital inclusion. Individuals and communities that remain disconnected are perceived as being 'at risk' and 'left behind'. At the same time, a growing number of concerned parents, educators, and political and environmental activists are calling to reduce the use of such technologies, or refuse them altogether. This empirical, [seed-funded study](#) from the Communities and Culture Network+ investigates this paradox, focusing on digital dis-engagement as a proactive form of citizenship rather than as a failure or a hindrance. Based on qualitative analyses of initial findings drawn from online data and in-depth interviews of two digitally literate participants who identified themselves as being practitioners of digital disengagement, this study begins to map and develop the concept of digital disengagement. Ultimately, this project seeks to find innovative and fruitful ways to understanding social relations, wellbeing and digital footprints, and offers a new prism to look at the link between digital technologies and culture, citizenship, and society..." (Kuntsman & Miyake 2015). [Read the full report...](#)



Image: <http://www.boredpanda.com/the-death-of-conversation/>

### Sans Duty: Making Tax Visible

"The initial aim of the project was to co-produce design fictions with a community to explore near future scenarios where tax is made visible to encourage the payment of tax, to close the tax gap, to engender wealthier and more resilient communities. As the research progressed the focus on developing community-based, practicable components of the tax system was replaced with exploring the potential of design fiction methods for enabling everyday utopian communities, the Brixton Pound local currency community, to enhance and maintain the attempts to organise society otherwise..." (Duggan & Lindley 2015). [Read the full report...](#)

