Communities & Culture Network+

CCN+ Newsletter, July 2014

Upcoming Events

Workshop: Big Data Taster! Using Big Data for Cultures and Communities
15th of July 2014, University of Sussex

The CCN+ Plenty/Austerity project's second half-day workshop, scoping the potential of big data issues for cultures and communities. The workshop will include two main sessions:

- Session 1: We will introduce to workshop participants and discuss some freely available Big Data technologies.

- Session 2: We will introduce a Big Data analysis tool and give participants the chance to use this technology to explore issues that matter to their own organisations.

Let us know ways in which social media data, like Twitter, or other big data sets, and information, can be helpful for you and we will try to design the workshop with that in mind. We welcome participants from cultural and community organizations of all kinds and you don't need special computer skills to come along. **Read more**

CCN+ Annual Event: save the date!
11th-12th Dec 2014, University of Leeds

The Communities & Culture Network+ Annual Event brings together representatives from all of our funded projects, as well as keynote speakers, and is open to all. This year's event will take place at the University of Leeds on the 11th and 12th December. Further details will be issued over the coming months….

ITaaU/ustwo User Experience Boot Camp
London, 16th July 2014

At this ITaaU Network+ event UX experts at ustwo will take participants through their design method in the course of a day. This results in the production of a working prototype from each group. Last time fictitious scenarios were used, this time we would like to make use of the ideas that are emerging from the ITaaU Network+ pilot projects. You may not end up with an interface design for your project, but you will be considerably wiser and enthusiastic about what is needed.

The event will be fully sponsored by ITaaU but places are limited to 15.
Read more

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: 29th Aug 2014

Pilot projects and placements

The CCN+ will issue a further call for pilot projects and placements in the coming months. Details will be posted on the website Funding page and circulated to network members.

Research

New SusNet Website

REFRAME is delighted to announce the launch of SusNet, a new website published at its platform for the CCN+ funded, *Sustaining Networked Knowledge: Expertise, Feminist Media Production, Art and Activism* Research Project, based at the University of Sussex. SusNet is co-ordinated by Kate O'Riordan and Aristea Fotopoulou, with further input from other participants in the project. The website is online here: http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/susnet/.

The SusNet network brings together feminist cultural production, art and activist practices and enables exchanges between different researchers, activists, artists and aims to contribute to knowledge exchanges across these areas and beyond. Its primary nodes are the CCN+ Expertise Workshop, the 2013 Lesbian Lives Conference, the May 2013 Queer, Feminist Social Media Praxis workshop at the University of Sussex https://queerfemdigiact.wordpress.com/, the (forthcoming) special edition of *ADA* Issue 5: Queer, Feminist Media Praxis, http://adanewmedia.org, and the FemTechNet panel and SusNet launch at Postdigital: Critical Responses. **Read more**

Debt Resilience Workshops

Collated materials from two recent workshops organised as part of the CCN+ 'Digital Technologies of Debt Resilience' pilot project are now available to view on the project's blog page at http://alternatives2debteconomy.tumblr.com/. Workshop participants will be posting their comments and reflections on each day's events, over the summer, and sharing content as an experiment in social (media) networking.

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New Seed Projects

Two new CCN+ seed projects are now underway at the Universities of Brighton and Leicester. The first of these, 'Teacher Professional Learning Networks and the 'politics of circulation'' is led by Dr Sara Bragg and will investigate the growth of social-media-based Professional Learning Networks (PLNs). Dr Panayiota Tsatsou is leading the second project, 'The role of digital technologies in social research in the UK', which is exploring the employment of digital tools, resources and services by the social research community in the UK, from the stage of designing the research through to data collection and dissemination of results. Details of both projects are available on the CCN+ website.

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Social Media & Austerity

The interim report for the CCN+ pilot project 'Social Media & Austerity', led by Dr Ian Tucker (University of East London), is now available to read on the CCN+ website. In an era of significant funding cuts to Mental Health Services, for both the NHS and third sector, this project focuses on the role that digital media can play in shaping mental health communities within a culture of austerity. **Read more**

From the Network

Hyperlocal Survey

Findings from the most comprehensive survey of the UK hyperlocal sector to date have recently been published, the result of a collaboration between two different AHRC-funded projects: the **Media Power and Plurality** project, based at Westminster; and the **Media, Community and Creative Citizen** project, based at Cardiff and Birmingham City.

The teams have gathered a substantial amount of data on the current practices, funding, staffing and outlooks of those who run hyperlocal sites. Interpretation, analysis and policy implications will be the subject of future academic papers, but in the meantime a dedicated open access site, to make the data as usable and accessible as possible, has been created: http://hyperlocalsurvey.wordpress.com/

Alternatively, the report (including a two page summary of key findings) can be downloaded here: https://hyperlocalsurvey.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/hyperlocal-community-news-in-the-uk-2014.pdf