

CCN+ Newsletter, July 2015

Upcoming Events

ITaaU Community Conference – Southampton, 6-7th July

As one of the challenge areas of the RCUK Digital Economy Programme, the IT as a Utility Network+ is celebrating another successful year with a two-day programme of talks, demonstrations and conversations. Full details of the programme and registration can be found at www.itutility.ac.uk. Some bursaries are available – contact info@itutility.ac.uk for further information before you register. [Read more](#)

Wrekshop – Sheffield, 18th-19th July

Part of the CCN+ ‘Inhabiting the Hack’ programme curated by Alex McLean (School of Music, University of Leeds). This workshop will involve diverse participants taking e-waste apart in order to examine the layers of technology that are usually hidden, and consider the co-evolution of humans and machines. The workshop will take place in the Hackspace at [Access Space](#), Sheffield.

Human Futures Forum – Liverpool, 6th Nov

As an international collaboration between cultural partners in Liverpool, Aarhus, Berlin, Vienna and Montreal, *Human Futures: Shared Memories and Visions* seeks to incite a process of re-evaluation in how we conceive our surroundings. Across the host cities, a series of newly commissioned cultural projects will invite citizens to participate in shared encounters; each offering a renewed conception of our environments and confronting the accelerating potential for communication and collaboration. Coinciding with this exposition, FACT will host the *Human Futures Forum*, a series of interdisciplinary discussion panels, keynote lectures and public debates that will tackle the project’s rationale from multiple perspectives. [Read more](#)

Research

Digital Tools for Rural Crafts

Participants in the [‘Rural Crafting Communities in a Digital Age’](#) project have responded enthusiastically to a series of workshops designed to identify effective co-productive methodologies for digital engagement with rural craftspeople. At the first two events the group gained confidence and skills for engaging with social media for their professional practices as well as learning how to make a website or blog via WordPress. The concluding workshop took place at the ‘Make’ studio in Aberdeen, where participants were able to experiment with a range of technologies.

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.



Research



I feel uncertain when / about...

On Monday 22nd June the CCN+ hosted a workshop to explore the theme of uncertainty in an uncertain space: [Temple Works](#), Leeds. Led by [Dr Yoko Akama](#), Principle Investigator of the Design + Ethnography + Futures project at RMIT University (Melbourne, Australia), the aim of this workshop was to generate a practical output in response to the theme and the space. The theme of 'uncertainty' was presented as a provocation to explore, imagine, interrogate, critique and immerse into the unknown in order to disrupt our disciplinary approaches/frameworks, to be able to think and imagine possible futures. This provocation was also intended to respond and intervene in the space of Temple Works, a Grade 1 listed Victorian former flax mill that once made history with "the largest room in the world". The lengthy (and uncertain) repair period necessary for such a unique structure has given local and regional artists the opportunity to test the site's spatial qualities and choreography.

Participants in the workshop included musicians, activists, photographers, ethnographers, and social scientists interested in ethnography, design, future and uncertainty. In the coming weeks the resulting images, films, text and audio files will be uploaded to a website curated by Dr Akama.

Tea, cake... and challenging questions

As part of CCN+ scoping study '[In/visible and un/fixd Communities: Living with the Welfare Reforms](#)', Leeds-based organisation [Space2](#) have been talking to young people across East Leeds about Food, Housing, Family and Jobs, asking:

- *How are they affected by the welfare system?*
- *Does the amount of money they have affect how often they can see their families?*
- *Is the need for an internet connection vital in searching for a job?*
- *Do they really exist on junk food?*



Local councillors, civil servants and MPs, community leaders and representatives from local third sector organizations were then invited to a culminating event, to listen to their thoughts, which have been translated into poems, and discuss, over tea and cake, how young people are responding to changing values and technologies in our society. The event offered a platform for the young participants to pose some challenging questions and present the reality of their daily lives, as well as bringing them face-to-face with decision-makers in their area.