

## CCN+ Newsletter, June 2014

### Upcoming Events

#### ITaaU Community Conference – Southampton, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> June

The RCUK Digital Economy IT as a Utility Network+ will host a two-day presentation and reflection on its achievements so far and future plans for the network at an event in Southampton on the 19th and 20th June. The event will be an opportunity to further examine the role of IT utilities in the digital economy both now and in the future. All funded pilot projects and secondees will present their achievements and findings and participants from the comprehensive workshop programme will report on the outcomes and follow-on actions. [Read more](#)

#### Digital Technologies for Sustainable Local Agri-Food Systems London, 3<sup>rd</sup> July

This workshop will be held at Imperial College London, bringing together 50 academics, practitioners and representatives of international and local public institutions including confirmed participation of the FAO, OECD and EU to discuss, in a dynamic and interactive setting, the theories, practices and policies for developing local sustainable agri-food systems that are able to re-connect the city with countryside in a new balanced and sustainable relationship through the use and application of innovative digital technologies. [Read more](#)

#### Creative Citizens: The Conference – London, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Sept

Who are today's Creative Citizens? What do they do? How are they changing communities? Come and debate new research at the first ever Creative Citizens Conference. Register for this exciting programme [online now](#). The conference will spotlight the motivations, achievements and the potential of creative citizens. [Read more](#)

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### Research

#### Big data: what's in it for communities?

A half-day CCN+ workshop scoping big data issues for cultures and communities took place at the University of Sussex on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The workshop, the first in a planned series, asked how groups gain access to big data sets, which data sets might be useful, what kinds of skills and expertise are needed to deal with big data and to use big data and data visualization techniques, and what the barriers are to accessing big data. Participants explored definitions, tools, and hands-on examples of various kinds of data-mining and data visualization techniques, as well as discussing barriers to access and possible uses of Big Data tools in community and cultural organizations locally.

### 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: 29<sup>th</sup> 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, cont.

### Hannah Lambie-Mumford Awarded Top Prize for Early Career Research by ESRC

Congratulations to Hannah Lambie-Mumford, who was awarded the [Outstanding Early Career Impact Prize](#) at the ESRC's Celebrating Impact Awards during a ceremony at The Royal Society, London, on 5 June 2014. Hannah's forthcoming ESRC funded PhD focuses on the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network, FareShare and other independent initiatives who aim to tackle issues of food waste and poverty, and her research (e.g. the co-authored 2014 report '[Household food security in the UK: a review of food aid](#)', commissioned by Defra) has been at the forefront of the emerging evidence base on the growth of food charity in the UK. The CCN+ report '[Food Aid: Living with Food Insecurity](#)', which Hannah co-authored with Professor Elizabeth Dowler (University of Warwick), has informed the network's most recent pilot project call, which focuses on the theme of 'Food and Austerity'.



### Writing Britain – Leeds films go live on BBC3

Three films devised by young Leeds writers and produced by Studio12 and Left Eye Blind, as part of the Writing Britain project, are now available to watch on the [BBC3 Fresh](#) site. They will also be available, in the near future, on-demand through the i-player.

Over the course of the past year CCN+ Research Fellow Edgar Gómez Cruz has been supporting the work of community media training organization Studio12 whilst developing his own ethnographic study into how the young people engaged in the project learn, engage, develop, use and integrate digital technologies in their everyday practices, against a backdrop of austerity and welfare reform. His blog post, reflecting on the creation of the three films is available to read [here](#). Alternatively, click [here](#) to watch the third film to be released, written by Mandlenkosi Maposa.

### Heritage Stories and Digital Technology

The CCN+ StoryStorm Network hosted its culminating event at Glasgow School of Art on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. The workshop focused on stories about heritage research and the value, challenges, opportunities and questions raised when we tell stories about our past. Participants explored some of the innovative technological methodologies being used to tell heritage stories and were invited to map out their own use of digital storytelling methods, exchange knowledge and ideas, and identify some of the ongoing barriers to telling the stories that researchers want to tell.

### Big talk about big data

Will Allen (University of Oxford) is currently exploring Discourses of 'evidence' and data in British Civil Society as part of his CCN+ funded seed project [Big talk about big data](#). Hosted at the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society (COMPAS) and The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford, this project critically interrogates the values that inform demands by civil society organisations for research that is 'data-driven' or 'evidence-based'. Specifically, it aims to document the extent to which perceived advantages of data 'bigness' (volume, variety, and velocity) influence these demands. Will's post on the COMPAS blog explores many crossover themes from parallel research projects: read it [here](#).

## Opportunities

### **SSN+ Placement Call: Smart objects and behaviour change in resource use in the household**

Applicants are invited to apply for funding for this research placement from the RCUK Digital Economy Theme (DE) Sustainable Society Network+ (SSN+) to work alongside Unilever's Research and Development Lab.

This placement is targeted at researchers eligible for funding under the RCUK scheme and must take place in commercial or government entities in the UK and overseas (e.g. industry, academia, research centres, public bodies, NGOs). This placement would enable scholars trying to develop a research agenda in the use of digital technologies to promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability, notably in the energy-water-food nexus in the residential sector.

SSN+ has been working with Unilever to develop a placement opportunity suitable for researchers from a wide variety of areas, including statistics, behavioural science, computer science, product and industrial design, environmental science, data science, building science, interaction design, civil and environmental engineering, energy policy and economics, to investigate how smart objects affect resource use of water, energy, and food in the household.

A copy of the call can be downloaded from [the call webpage](#). The placement is open until filled.

### **First call for Nexus think pieces & short working papers**

**Call closes:** 4pm, 4 July 2014

**Funding available:** 10 awards of up to £5,000 each

In this start-up phase of the Nexus Network, we want to fund an initial series of up to ten 'think pieces' or working papers, of no more than 8,000 words in length, which can help to scope and define nexus approaches, and stimulate debate across the linked domains of food, energy, water and the environment.

These can address theoretical, methodological, policy, business or other practical aspects. We are making this first call deliberately open-ended to invite a diverse and creative mix of topics and approaches. The resulting short papers may identify topics and research agendas that could subsequently be developed into pilot projects or larger research collaborations.

Short proposals of up to 2 sides of A4 (using size 12 font and margins no less than 2cm) should be submitted by 4pm on Friday 4 July 2014 by email to [info@nexusnetwork.org](mailto:info@nexusnetwork.org). [Read more](#)