

CCN+ Newsletter, October 2013

Events

Places still available: Workshop with Sarah Pink, 29th Oct, University of Leeds

Visual/digital/sensory ethnography: challenges and opportunities: The CCN+ will be hosting a workshop with Professor Sarah Pink exploring the use of the ethnographic method. **Deadline extended to Friday 18th Oct.**

[Read more](#)

ESRC Seminar Series: Digital Policy: Connectivity, Creativity and Rights, 25th Oct, University of Brighton

This seminar aims to bring together innovators, practitioners and researchers from across community, policy, academic and the digital and creative sectors to explore new understandings of innovation in the digital age. NB: places limited to 30. [Read more](#)

Post-Socialism Playing Global, 1st-2nd Nov, University of Birmingham

The primary aim of this workshop is to bring together scholars and others interested in the post-socialist region but the organisers hope that scholars working on other regions with specialisms in (new/social) media studies, digital cultures, globalisation, digital labour and games studies, can contribute to a dialogue on the direction post-socialist digital cultural studies might take. [Read more](#)

ESRC Festival of Social Science, 2nd-9th Nov, across the UK

The CCN+ Everyday Growing Cultures team have received ESRC funding to deliver 'The Big Open data Debate', whilst Dylan Yamada-Rice, Lisa Procter and Elizabeth Wood will be contributing to the festival through an event for young children to take on the role of social scientists. [Read more](#)

Research

A Tale of Two Villages: Can digital technology enhance social cohesion?

Information and Communications Technologies have transformed the way we interact with others and arrange our social lives. But can it enhance social cohesion at a collective level? This study, by CCN+ Co-Investigator Claire Wallace, Kathryn Vincent and Cristian Luguzan, looks at two villages in Aberdeenshire and considers how they relate to community issues both online and offline and concludes that there are different kinds of social connectivity which depend upon the kind of community that exists. [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

[Funding call: Pilot Projects, Networks and Placements](#)

The CCN+ is currently accepting applications for Pilot Projects (£30-40k), Networks (£15-£18k), and Placements (£10k).

NB: There has been a slight amendment to the original Network call: see the [Funding](#) page for details.

[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+).

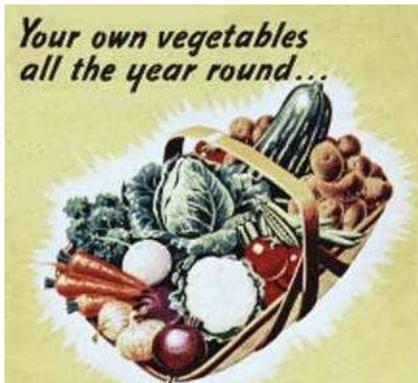
[ITaaU Secondments](#)

The 'IT as a Utility' Network+ invites applications for secondment projects between academic and industrial, commercial or governmental research groups. See link for details.

Research cont.

Arab-Trans: Political and Social Transformations in the Arab-World

The Aberdeen team is pleased to announce our new collaboration with the European Commission grant 'Arab-Trans: Political and Social Transformations in the Arab-World' <http://www.arabtrans.eu>. The Arab-Trans project will be carrying out a large-scale survey in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Iraq and Jordan in the spring. Our team will be contributing a battery of questions on social quality which will compliment the questions about availability and usage of ICT in these countries. In addition, we will be carrying out expert interviews with researchers in the region about the impact of social media, and portable digital communication upon citizens' participation in democratic transformations.



The Cultural Values of Digging

Erinma Ochu's presentation of the CCN+ Everyday Growing Cultures pilot project is now online at <http://www.tedxleeds.com/erinma-ochu/>. Since the pilot has drawn to a close the EGC team (Erinma Ochu, Andrew Miles, Peter Jackson, and PI Farida Vis) have secured funding for the six-month AHRC 'Cultural Values of Digging' project, which seeks to better understand the myriad ways in which issues around digging have reemerged in recent years. [Read more.](#)

From the Network

AHRC Funding Opportunity

The AHRC in partnership with Nesta and Arts Council England are looking to recruit a Post-Doctoral Researcher to explore the Research & Development process as part of the Digital R&D Fund for the Arts in England. The Researcher will be expected to work across all of the funded projects. Full details of the role and its requirements can be found on the [AHRC website](#).



East Cleveland On-line

With the support of Teesside University, CCN+ member [Steve Thompson](#) recently set up the Social Enterprise 'East Cleveland On-line'. This is a highly practical and very experimental project. The first priority of the social enterprise is the collaborative sharing and funding of web space but, beyond this, members are interested in growing collaborations and seeking new markets using online mechanisms and also looking at explorations into e-commerce. CCN+ members who would be interested in partnering up on a bid to add research perspective to this project and to test the theories and efficacy of their approaches to a collaborative rural digital economy are invited to contact Steve Thompson. [Read more.](#)

UCL Connections

CCN+ member George Neris and team recently won UCL's Digital Humanities research prize with their project 'UCL Connections'. The project aims to champion the heritage, research and social assets of UCL by uniting the physical and digital, the public and the personal whilst testing new augmented reality technologies. The team will also establish an innovative, interactive and attractive system to interpret and integrate digital and physical assets. A UCL Connections launch event will take place on 30th October, 5:30-7pm. [Read more.](#)

21st Century Reformers

How can social actors work together to effect positive social change in our digital era? For over 200 years, social reformers around the world have been working to effect positive social change and address a range of issues. But how different is the world of today to that of 200 years ago? This month Toynbee Hall are launching a series of open online debates for activists, researchers and organisations to explore debate this idea, and explore new ways to help those in need. The debates are being split into three key questions:

- What are the greatest challenges facing today's social activists and reformers?
- How can activists make best use of digital media to promote social reform?
- How might social activists learn from the past when campaigning for the future?

The debates are open for anyone to join and will run for the next few weeks. Toynbee Hall will share the findings from the debates via their website and digital channels. You can learn about the project and add your thoughts at <http://www.21stcenturyreformer.org/>. If you'd like to jump straight into the digital strand go to <http://bit.ly/18hLdVZ>

Digital Records Sensitivity Review

The move to digital records poses new challenges for the reviewing of data for sensitive material. A new collaboration between The National Archives and The University of Glasgow, enabled by the latter's Knowledge Exchange fund, will bring together the Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII), Glasgow's School of Physics and Astronomy, the School of Computing Science and The National Archives to address the issue of sensitivity review for digital records. [Read more.](#)



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MadLab Courses

Use code-free programming toolkit VVVV to open up a world of creativity with video, learn how to use Arduino to make smart electronic devices which interact with the physical world, or simply brush up your WordPress skills. MadLab's programme of Autumn courses is now available to view online at <http://omniversity.madlab.org.uk/upcoming-courses/>.



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Designing Healthy Homes

Ian Ewart of the University of Reading is starting a new ESRC-funded research project investigating the links between house design and concepts of healthiness. The 'Designing Healthy Homes' project will ask participants to design a home that suits their ideas of a healthy lifestyle, which will then be modelled in the University's 3D Virtual Reality Environment, and used as a point of discussion with industry and professional partners.

The participants will come from one of three groups: families with a young child; those recently discharged from hospital; and elderly or downsizing individuals or couples. The project partners include occupational therapists, construction industry professionals, a housing association, and charities interested in ageing and childcare. Ian would be pleased to hear from any other network members with research interests in participatory design, the home, and the role of technology in society. Contact: i.j.ewart@reading.ac.uk