

PERSONAL AND UBIQUITOUS COMPUTING THEME ISSUE

: Social Interaction and Mundane Technologies in Everyday Life :

- Editors -

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- Synopsis -

This theme issue is responding to the proliferation and developing constellations of 'mundane' technologies in people's lives. We define 'mundane technologies' as those quite unremarkable, simple technologies that have been 'made at home', have become 'ordinary'. In this special issue we are interested in a variety of 'mundane technologies' – mobile technologies, domestic technologies and office technologies – and the often richly layered social interaction surrounding them. We are interested in exploring 'real' studies of these quite ordinary technologies that have already been appropriated and subsumed into the fabric of family, social and organisational life and do particular kinds of 'work': maintaining a sense of community; assisting with everyday decision-making; maintaining "social translucence"; providing channels for emotional labour and so on. Our primary interests concern:

- how technology both provides an account of and makes us account for our actions;
- the transformation of (constellations of) mundane technologies to support particular routines;
- the kinds of social action and interaction mundane technologies facilitate;
- the visibility that technology enforces despite its 'embeddedness' and 'invisibility';
- the importance of the relationship between ordinary technologies and notions of space and place.

- Submissions -

Possible submissions can include (but are not restricted to):

- extended reports from the field describing and analysing mundane technologies for 'social' uses in particular contexts (e.g. the home, an organization);
- studies of newly introduced, 'simple' technologies and how they are transformed and become mundane;
- accounts across different studies describing how mundane technologies provided insights into a setting;

- Topics -

Possible topics include (but are not restricted to):

- How people maintain a sense of community in particular social networks through mundane technologies;
- The role of mundane technology (e.g. digital media, spreadsheets) use in family life, if any;
- How managers use mundane technologies (e.g. email, mobile phone, Word, Excel) to lead in their organisations and the work that technology does for them;
- How simple technologies reconfigure space.

- Dates -

Year	Date	Deadline
2008	22 nd August	Submissions due
2008	22 nd September	First notification
2008	15 th December	Revisions due
2009	15 th February	Final notification
2009	30 th March	Final revisions
2009	June	Publication

- Submission details -

Submissions should be no more than 6000 words in length. Email contributions to c.graham@lancaster.ac.uk and/or m.rouncefield@lancaster.ac.uk. Instructions for authors are available from: <http://www.springer.com/computer/user+interfaces/journal/779>.

- Extended Call -

Available from: <http://www.mundanetechnologies.com/in-press.html#PUC-08>