DIGITAL FACE

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Research Objective

• RQ1: How are our physical faces increasingly transformed into digital environments?
  • 1) The mediations of face

• RQ2: How are these faces negotiated in social interaction?
  • 2) ’Face’ in terms of boundary regulation
Research Methods

• Empirical case studies
  • Novel research methods

• Software development
  • incl. ‘communication mirror’ (cf. privacy mirror)

• Conceptual understanding of digital face
  • The mediations of face & ‘Face’ in terms of boundary regulation
1. Mediations of face

MicroTac II
Motorola (1993)

Nokia 7650
Nokia (2002)

IPhone 4S
Apple (2011)

The First Portrait Photograph

In 1827, N. Niepce exhibited to the Royal Society photographs of still objects, which he had succeeded, after years of effort, in making with six-hour exposures. Twelve years later Daguerre had reduced the timing of landscape pictures to half an hour. But in 1840 an American, Professor John William Draper, made the first camera portrait in the remarkable time of six minutes. To insure the best possible lighting, Professor Draper’s sister chalked her face and in the glaring sunshine posed for him on the roof of the old University of the City of New York in Washington Square.

No one “poses” six minutes today, or six seconds. Speed of mechanism and sensitiveness of plate and film have freed photography from its old-time handicaps.

The modern portrait depicts true personality, because the camera’s action is swifter than the subtle changes of facial expression, and the photographer catches, in the flick of a silent shutter, even the play of a passing mood which pleases or disturbs.

Thus photography, through nearly a century of tireless research, has traveled far along the road to perfection, in portraiture as well as in other fields of achievement. And during the last thirty years, the Eastman Kodak Company, with an increasing sense of service, has brought to light in its great laboratories many of the inventions and processes most vital to photography’s usefulness.

A photograph made in 1840 of Miss Dorothy Catherine Draper, by her brother, Professor John William Draper, M.D., L.L.D. Now in the collection of the William John Herschel.
2. ‘Face’ in terms of boundary regulation

Negotiation of Gender Identity among Transgender Individuals in Online and Offline Settings | Jenny Julkunen
How do people experience and understand their everyday digital environments?

What meanings do people give to data collected on them in these environments?
## Research design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tracking</th>
<th>Interview</th>
<th>Reflecting results</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants (n=15) track their ICT devices for 7 days and keep a media diary - trackers used e.g. App Usage, RealizD, RescueTime, Timing</td>
<td>1) ICT devices in everyday life 2) Tracking as experience 3) Opinions on connectivity and data mining, hopes for change</td>
<td>Discussing results with participants when analysis ready</td>
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</tbody>
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2. ‘Face’ in terms of boundary regulation
2. ‘Face’ in terms of boundary regulation

About the approach

- Software that sinks into the background (e.g. Thrift & French 2002), code/space (Kitchin & Dodge 2011)
- Experience of ubiquitous technology and code-based infrastructures
- ”Mirroring” as a research intervention
"One of my observations when using this app was that I use my smartphone more when my children are at home and when I’m with them. It is like reaching the top level in guilt.

But I also realised and kind of decided during this tracking that I just refuse to feel guilty, that this is my way of being and living."

- Sara, priest, 36
Publications


- Accepted (2):


Welcome

Feb 27 2018 seminar on ‘facial recognition’

in cooperation with the Sussex Humanities Lab, at the University of Sussex, UK.
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Thank you for your attention!

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