Socio-Inspired ICT

Towards a Pervasive Symbiosis of Society and Technology

IKT der Zukunft - Netzwerke der Information Auftaktveranstaltung 2. Ausschreibung Wien, 23. Oktober 2013

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The Evolution of "Aware" ICT



[1] Dey, A. K.: Understanding and Using Context. Personal and Ubiquitous Computing 2001. Vol. 5, No 1, 4-7.

[2] Philipose, M., Fishkin, K.P. and Perkowi, M.: "Inferring Activities from Interactions with Objects," IEEE Pervasive Computing, Vol. 3, No. 4, 2004, pp. 50–57.

[3] Pentland, A.: Socially Aware Computation and Communication. IEEE Computer Volume 38, Issue 3, March 2005, 33–40.







Observable Deficiencies of Socially Incapable ICT



"We need to understand that traffic is not just a line of cars: It is a web of connections. A real solution will look at relationships across the entire road network and all the other systems that are touched by it: our supply chains, our environment, our companies, the way people and communities live and work..." IBM Global Commuter Pain Study, 2010 Number of cars worldwide surpass 1 Billion in Oct 2011

working "in the small", but severe deficiencies "in the large"...







Personal Communication (email, social network software, ...)
Personal ICT (notebooks, smartphones, appliances, gadgets, ...)
Mobility (automotive vehicles, public transportation, ...)
Logistics (transportation of goods, energy, ...)
Mass Media (print, TV, e-paper, digital video, ...)

Mass Events/Panic (Jan 2006, Mekka, Sep 2005, Bagdad, May 2001, Accra, Apr 2001, Johannesburg, Jun 2000, Roskilde, Dec 1999, Innsbruck, Jul 1990, Mekka, Apr 1989, Sheffield, Duisburg Loveparade, 2010)

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[3] Pentland, A.: Socially Aware Computation and Communication. IEEE Computer Volume 38, Issue 3, March 2005, 33-40.

[4] Lukowicz, P., Pentland, A. and Ferscha, A..: From Context Awareness to Socially Interactive Computing, IEEE Pervasive, Vol. 11, No 1. 2012.

The Socio-Inspired ICT Vision

Understanding the hidden laws and processes of society

- Ethics, Moral Norm
- Social Awareness, Behaviour
- Self-Organization
- Cooperation, Competition
- Conflict Resolution
 Negotiation, Decision Making
- Reputation
- Trust



Inspire the development of a new wave of robust, trustworthy and adaptive ICT based on the principles of social interactions

- Dignity
- Respect
- Souveregnity
- Privacy
- Autonomy
- Collective Behaviour



Social Systems Principles as Design/Operational Reference for ICT



Socio-Inspired ICT "Cases"





Money/Currency Unit of account Store of value Medium of exchange

(e-)Mobility/Transport/Traffic

Massive collection of vehiclesplanetary nervous system of socially interacting knowledge cells



Non-Monetary Currency

Social Capital Cultural Capital Symbolic Capital (Pierre Bourdieu 1983)





Governance of Commons - Liquid Democracy

Overruling, Enforced Governance

Mechanisms of conflict resolution that are cheap and of easy access

Self-determination of the community recognized by higher-level authorities

Stable local common pool resource management (Elinor Ostrom 1990)

Information Eco-systems (Networks of Interactions)

Information Overload Attention Economics Value Sensitive Recommenders

Research Agenda

Empowering Humans

Crossing the "Limits" of Individual Capabilities

Shortcomings / Obstacles / Caveats of current ICT >> Analysis of Needs

How can Soc-ICT mitigate for a better life ?

>> Potentials Analysis

Empowering Human Human Relationships

>> Trustworthiness, Privacy, Reputation, Intimacy, Free Will

Shaping the "fabric of ICT empowered societies" >> Scenario Analysis

Respectful Technologies

Designing ICT from "Social Grounds"

Social Norm: Dignity, Respect, Souveregnity, Privacy, Autonomy, Togetherness, >> Value Sensitive Design Empowering to Influence >> Democratizing Decisions

Social Contracts >> Modality, Space-Time Context, Preservation, Contingency

Reversing Interaction >> Attention Economics

Online vs Offline Worlds >> Identity management

Formal Models

Computational Models Design/Build/Deploy ICT

Formal Models of Cognitive Capabilities >> Attention, Perception, Intent, Belief, Trust, Experience, Expectation

Formal Models of Affective State >> Mood, Arousal, Distress

Formal Models of Social Capabilities

>> Social Sense, Social Nets, Collective Remeberance, Social Forgetfulness / Forgiving

Social Architectures

Implementing Socio-Inspired ICT

Sensing Social Interactions (Long Term, Large Scale) >> Planetary Nervous / Sensing Systems

Detection / Recognition / Forecasting

>> Activity-, Mobility-, Opinion-, Novelty, Critical Mass-, Social Force-, Crisis-, ...Detection

Socio-Technical Fabric

>> Resilient, Opportunistic, Goal-Oriented System Architectures

Social Emergence >> Socially-Self-organizing

Position Paper

A. Ferscha, K. Farrahi, J. van den Hoven, D. Hales, A. Nowak, P. Lukowicz, D. Helbing **Socio-inspired ICT**

The European Physical Journal Special Topics, Springer, Vol. 214, No. 1, pp. 401-434, 34 pages, DOI: 10.1140/epjst/e2012-01700-6, November 2012.

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