

# Methodologies: Mobile Media & Mobility

Open call: International PhD course, Aarhus University 1-3 April 2014

Phdcourses.dk: [http://phdcourses.dk/Course/24583#.UuIXh\\_Y1j-Y](http://phdcourses.dk/Course/24583#.UuIXh_Y1j-Y)



<b>Organisers:</b>	Charles Ess (Professor, UiO), Thomas Bjørner (Associate Professor, AAU), and Anne Marit Waade (Associate Professor, AU). Graduate School of Arts, Aarhus University, PhD degree program: <i>ICT Media, Communication and Journalism</i> .
<b>Lecturers:</b>	<b>Adriana de Souza e Silva</b> , NC State University <b>Rich Ling</b> , IT-University of Copenhagen <b>Gunnar Liestøl</b> , Oslo University <b>Kristian Hegner Reinau</b> , Aalborg University <b>Jonas Larsen</b> , Roskilde University <b>Anne Marit Waade</b> , Aarhus University <b>Thomas Bjørner</b> , Aalborg University <b>Charles Ess</b> , Oslo University <b>Gitte Stald</b> , IT-University of Copenhagen
<b>ECTS</b>	4 ECTS inclusive submitting paper 3 ECTS without submitting paper (1 ECTS extra for participating in the research workshop April 4)
<b>Time:</b>	April 1-3, 2014
<b>Room and Place:</b>	Aarhus University
<b>Cost/ Policy</b>	No course fee. Travel, accommodation and meals are not covered by the course.
<b>Max. no. of participants:</b>	25
<b>Description:</b>	Mobile media and mobility is an increasing research field with very different methodological approaches. In this course we will give an overview and new perspectives within mobile media and mobility. This includes both technological solutions as well as cultural, spatial, social and ethical questions. The aim of this Ph.D.-course is to give different perspectives for methodologies within studies in mobile media and mobility. The course is multidisciplinary and covers fields of research as media science, communication, ethnography, anthropology, social science,

geography, architecture, urban design and planning, research ethics, etc.

The course will focus on the methodological approaches, which include some of the below mentions topics:

- How can technologies such as smart phones, tablets, digital cameras and GPS be used in mobile media and mobility studies? Very specific examples will be covered, as well as the participants are going to try some of the methods hands-on.
- How to analyze a mixed methods approach within a mobile media and mobility approach? Advancements in technology can potentially add more depth but also add data into the data death.
- What kind of observations roles is possible – what is legal, what is ethical?
- How far and in which ways we can ethically intervene in people's private and everyday lives.
- What is ethnography – and does the methodologies within mobile media and mobility challenge some of the definitions of ethnography?

The Ph.D.-course will be based on lectures, workshops and students own project presentations in a mixed setting aiming at creating an open and creative research dialogue.

**Exam:**

The examination consists of: 1. Task assignments (during the course, but within the course time). 2. Group presentations and discussions. Policy: Compulsory all three days.

**Deadline for submission:**

Deadline: February 10, 2014

Please register via <https://auws.au.dk/MMMM> as well as send an application to Marianne Hoffmeister [mho@adm.au.dk](mailto:mho@adm.au.dk)

The application must include a description of your research project and your motivation for taking part in this course (maximum 500 words including both topics).

Confirmation: February 20, 2014. You will be asked to confirm your participation.

**Preparation**

March 1 You will receive a text compendium we ask you to read in advance.

14 March Deadline for submitting paper (optional, cf. ECTS points)

**Program PhD course**

Tuesday, 1 April, 2014: <i>Mapping the field</i>		
Time:	Activity	Venue tba
10.30	Registration	
11.00	Welcome	
11.15	Opening lecture: <b>Adriana de Souza e Silva</b> , NC State University: <i>Researching mobile locative media: mapping the fields, the methods and the challenges</i>	
12.30	Lunch	

13.30	<b>Thomas Bjørner</b> , Aalborg University: <i>New ethnographic approaches? or challenging observational roles.</i>		
14.30	Exercise 1: led by <b>Adriana de Souza e Silva &amp; Thomas Bjørner</b>		
15.30	Break		
16.00	<b>Gunnar Liestøl</b> , Oslo University, <i>Mobile heritage – methodological and interdisciplinary reflections.</i>		
17.00	Exercise 3: led by <b>Gunnar Liestøl &amp; Charles Ess.</b>		
18.30	Group Dinner		
20.00	Presentation and discussion of participants research project, focusing on methodological questions. Feedback from lectures & participants.		
21.30	Break for the evening		

<b>Wednesday, 2 April, 2014: Mobile, mobility and ethnographic approaches</b>			
Time	Activity	Venue tba	
09.00	Lecture: <b>Jonas Larsen</b> , Roskilde University: <i>Mobile methods: mobile media and mobility</i>		
10.15	<b>Rich Ling</b> , IT-University of Copenhagen <i>Sociological approaches and methods to mobile communication</i>		
11.30	Exercise 2: Led by <b>Jonas Larsen &amp; Rich Ling</b> Fieldwork and observations on the campus		
12.30	Lunch		
13.30	Presentation & discussion of exercise 2		
14.00	Break		
14.30	Presentation and discussion of participants research project, focusing on methodological questions. Feedback from lectures & participants.		
17.00	Surprise		
18.30	Group dinner		
20.00	Presentation and discussion of participant research project, focusing on methodological questions. Feedback from lectures & participants.		
21.30	Break for the evening		

<b>Thursday, April 3: Tracking technologies, mobile behaviours: methods and ethics</b>			
Time	Activity	Venue tba	
09.00	Lecture: <b>Kristian Hegner Reinau</b> , AAU: <i>Likes and behavior in the city: GPS tracking and other new digital technologies as methods.</i>		
10.15	Break		
10.45	<b>Gitte Stald</b> , IT University: (title tba)		
11.30	Exercise led by <b>Kristian Hegner Reinau &amp; Gitte Stald</b> , IT University		
12.30	Lunch		
13.30	Lecture: <b>Charles Ess</b> : <i>Studying mobile and online practices: Ethical implications + discussion</i>		
14.30	Break		
15.00	Presentation and discussion of participant research project, focusing on methodological questions. Feedback from lectures & participants.		
18.00	Group dinner, we go for a beer in the city		

## Friday, April 4: Open Research Workshop: Smart Cities & Big Data

Organised by the Mobile Media & Communication (MMC) research network

Aarhus University, Denmark. 10am – 5pm: open workshop and dinner. **Separate submitting for papers is needed, see below.** Furthermore, separate registration for dinner is needed. Chairs: Anja Bechmann, Aarhus University & Martin Brynskov, Aarhus University.

Smart Cities and Big Data are relatively new buzzwords, but why? The relationships between urban and technological developments are ancient, and so are humanity's attempts to store and analyze information to the maximum of its collective capacity. Even one, two three decades ago, if not centuries, such issues were central to national strategies. What else is new? To a large degree, it's the ubiquity of both media and messages, the speed—metabolism, as it were—, the commodified *access* to enormous and complex information manipulation systems. Mobile phones and Facebook, to name dominant examples.

But not only do these systems have communicative qualities; they are connected, reciprocally to sensors and actuators, not just as part of their immediate interfaces, but everywhere, forming what appears to be a new situation. The rapidly increasing complex mediation potentials are a profound challenge for societies to keep up with, and as with big societal challenges, one which requires a sensitive and multifaceted apparatus to grasp and influence. Taking “mobile media and communication” in a broad sense, The Danish Mobile Media and Communication Research Network invites interested researchers to take part in a one-day research workshop to share perspectives on the situation.

The aim of this workshop is two-fold:

- (1) To encourage researchers from various fields to *share* their view on what issues are most acutely in need of being better understood, based on ongoing work, methodological critique and/or recent findings.
- (2) To encourage disciplines to meet and *(net)work together*, e.g. in upcoming calls (such as Horizon 2020, INNO+). Disciplines of relevance include, but are not limited to: media & communication, interaction design, urban planning, sociology, computer science, aesthetics, philosophy, engineering, law, architecture and economy.

We have invited two speakers to frame the discussions:

**Adam Greenfield**, writer and urbanist, based in New York, currently in London, CEO of Urbanscale and Senior Urban Fellow at LSE Cities, London School of Economics. Adam recently published *Against the Smart City*, the first in a pamphlet series entitled *The City Is Here For You To Use*, and is the author of the seminal book *Everyware* (2006) as well as *Urban Computing and Its Discontents* (2007), a conversation with Mark Shepard.

**Kaj Grønbaek**, professor, PhD, in computer science at Aarhus University and Head of Research and Innovation at the Alexandra Institute's Interactive Spaces Lab. Kaj has worked with everyday systems, blending physical and digital qualities, for more than a decade. Projects include *iFloor* which won a Red Dot Award and has later been commercialized as *WizeFloor*. Named top research innovator by Danish think tank Monday Morning.

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The format is short position paper presentations in themed panels of three presentations + discussion based on a submitted abstract of max. 400 words.

Abstracts should be submitted **no later than February 20** to [anjabechmann@gmail.com](mailto:anjabechmann@gmail.com) or [brynskov@cavi.au.dk](mailto:brynskov@cavi.au.dk). Notifications will be sent out by March 1.

Please note that we plan to group presentations into the four following categories (please indicate which category you find most fitting for your presentation):

- Smart Cities
- Big Data<sup>2</sup>
- Governance <sup>2</sup>
- Privacy/surveillance<sup>2</sup>

If you have questions, please contact the workshop chairs: <sup>2</sup>**Anja Bechmann** [anjabechmann@gmail.com](mailto:anjabechmann@gmail.com) (Digital Footprints Research Group) & **Martin Brynskov** [brynskov@cavi.au.dk](mailto:brynskov@cavi.au.dk) (Participatory Information Technology Centre), Aarhus University.