Kristóf Nyíri

The Philosophy of Mobile Communication

Philosophy of Technology Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group
Berlin Symposium, Nov. 26–27, 2007
Kristóf Nyíri is Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Professor of Philosophy at the Institute of Applied Pedagogy and Psychology, Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

He directs, since 2001, the interdisciplinary research programme COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, conducted jointly by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and T-Mobile Hungary.
Kristóf Nyíri: The Philosophy of Mobile Communication

- Introducing the COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY project

- Joint interests and overlapping activities between the Philosophy of Technology Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group (PTEL SIG) and the COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY project

- The philosophy of mobile communication: three main findings
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Introducing the COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY project

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T-Mobile Hungary and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences are conducting an interdisciplinary social science research programme on the topic communications in the 21st century.

A T-Mobile és a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia interdiszciplináris társadalomtudományi kutatást folytat a "huszonegyedik század kommunikációja" átfogó címmel.


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COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY
THE MOBILE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Sept. 27–29, 2007: Towards a Philosophy of Telecommunication Convergence (international scientific conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest V., Roosevelt tér)

April 28–30, 2005: Seeing, Understanding, Learning in the Mobile Age (international scientific conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)


Nov. 29–30, 2002: Philosophy, Psychology, Education (international scientific conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

May 24–25, 2002: International scientific conference (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

Dec. 7, 2001: public conference (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

May 29, 2001: public conference (Communications in the 21st Century, Conference venue: Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

March 18–11, 2001: workshop

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*The English volumes:*
- Mobile Communication: Essays on Cognition and Community
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2003
- Mobile Learning: Essays on Philosophy, Psychology and Education
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2003
- Mobile Democracy: Essays on Society, Self and Politics
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2003
- A Sense of Place: The Global and the Local in Mobile Communication
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2005
- Mobile Understanding: The Epistemology of Ubiquitous Communication
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2006
- Mobile Studies: Paradigms and Perspectives
  ed. by Kristóf Nyíri, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2007

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Mobile Communication and the Ethics of Social Networking
Conference to take place in Budapest, September 26–27, 2008

Contributions are invited from philosophers, sociologists, psychologists, media theorists, and other interested scholars on the following and related topics:

- Ethical implications of mediated relationships
- The mobile internet
- Exploring the self through social networking
- Mutual respect and acknowledgement
- Insula and social cohesion
- The re-interpretation of privacy
- Geobrowsing, privacy, and GPS-equipped phones
- Real and virtual identities
- M-learning, life-long learning
- Inclusion of elderly people
- Exclusion and the network effect
- Social networking and big business
- Networking
- Fraud and secrecy
- Surveillance
- Informatics challenging bioethics (genomics and the new biology)

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Ethical implications of mediated relationships
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Target dates:
Submission of abstracts (max. 300 words) and short biographical statements (max. 150 words) by March 25, 2008. Early submissions are strongly encouraged. Please send your submissions to Kristóf Nyíri, knyiri@t-mobile.hu.
Those submitting abstracts will be notified of the decision concerning acceptance by Apr. 12, 2008. Deadline for receipt of draft full-length (max. 2500 words) versions of papers: July 13, 2008. Receipt of draft papers by this deadline is a condition for inclusion in the program. The papers will be compiled and distributed to all participants at the time of the conference.

Previous volumes in the series
Conference organized by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and T-Mobile Hungary.

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Joint interests and overlapping activities between the Philosophy of Technology Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group (PTEL SIG) and the COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY project

- the philosophy of m-learning
- two volumes in our series have focussed on the topic multimedia: educational/epistemological aspects
- Media convergence and VoIP
- chat in educational settings
- social networks and the networked mind
- conversation is educative (Dewey \(\leftrightarrow\) Dr. Kondor will discuss him)
- non-formal learning victorious
- microcontent inevitable
Kristóf Nyíri: The Philosophy of Mobile Communication

- microcontent inevitable ➔ The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment
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- microcontent inevitable ➔ The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment

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- microcontent inevitable ➔ The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment

The entry “philosophy” in the network of linked entries

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- microcontent inevitable ➔ The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment

entry: “Motorway M0”
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- microcontent inevitable ➔ The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment

The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia entry:
“Motorway M0”, with map enlarged

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- microcontent inevitable ➔
  The Hungarian Virtual Encyclopedia experiment

The entry “Motorway M0” in the network of linked entries

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- the philosophy of m-learning
- multimedia: educational/epistemological aspects
- Media convergence and VoIP
- multimedia: educational/epistemological aspects
- chat in educational settings
- orality / literacy / pictorial communication (voice / SMS / MMS)
- social networks and the networked mind
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- chat in educational settings
- social networks and the networked mind
- social networks and the networked mind

These topics were discussed at the PTEL SIG / COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY joint workshop Chat in a New Key in Nov. 2005 in Balatonaliga, Hungary:
www.hunfi.hu/nyiri/Chat_News_Key.ppt
Chat in a New Key / Cset új hangszerelésben

kaleidoscope Philosophy of Technology Enhanced Learning Special Interest Group Workshop
Nov. 18–19, 2005, Balatonvilágos, Hungary
Organized by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences kaleidoscope PTEL SIG team
Philosophical Preliminaries

*Philosophy in a New Key* – Remembering Suzanne K. Langer

*The Presence of the Word* – Recalling Walter J. Ong

VoIP and Chat

Skyperocketing – Telecoms at Bay
Chat Old and New
Writing and Rationality – Revisiting István Hajnal

Social Networks

Whom Do I Know? Dunbar’s Circles
Whom Do I Not Know? The Role of Weak Ties
Mobiles, Chat, E-Mail: From Nodes to Hubs

Learning Enhanced

Communication as Education – Reinstating Dewey
Chat Old and New: Interim Summary

Mobile communication (voice, SMS & MMS) offers ubiquitous one-to-one (SMS & MMS: one-to-many) communication; here multimodal integration is very seldom entirely synchronous (viz. in the case of an elaborate MMS composition), and often not synchronous at all. Chat in a new key offers total integration of voice, text, iconic symbols (and to some degree, images), but it is not yet ubiquitous in practice; however, mobile devices will no doubt enable it to become ubiquitous soon.
The node/hub pattern of the social world is of course always there in the background, whether we examine mobile telephony, chat, or e-mail. It can be well represented by a comparison of contacts lists and call logs hidden in mobiles, or by comparing the lists of (incoming and outgoing) e-mails of different users. It does not however become manifest when looking at chat contacts lists. Mobiles and e-mail appear to play a role in all Dunbarian circles; chat in a new key, by contrast, seems to be limited to the first two innermost ones.
Concluding Remark: A Limit of Chat in Educational Settings

Educational communication via chat has severe limits in terms of document size. One has overview merely of a few lines of text at the utmost (and of a small numbers of icons – too few, even if we know that a picture can speak a thousand words 😊). Any text over 300 or 400 characters needs a proper computer display; and any text over say 2000 characters should be printed out if one really wants to work with it. This is not to say that the hard-copy text wins the day. On the contrary, the supreme information carrier of today and tomorrow is the animated digital image – easily sent, received, and understood while chatting... 😊
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In the framework of the Kaleidoscope project I gave a talk with this title at the workshop THE MEDIATED MIND – RETHINKING REPRESENTATION, May 27–28, 2005, The London Knowledge Lab, Institute of Education, University of London.

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“I have begun using the term ‘network individual’, for designating what I think is a new psychological type – and in a sense also the return to a primordial type of personality – in the early stages of the project COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (cf. 

http://www.socialscience.t-mobile.hu/2001_dec_konf/SUMMARIES.pdf

see also my preface to the volume Kristóf Nyíri, ed., Mobile Democracy: Essays on Society, Self and Politics, Vienna: Passagen Verlag, 2003, p. 16). The network individual is not the uprooted, free-floating being as depicted by Barry Wellman. Wellman uses the term ‘networked individualism’. … …”.


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The philosophy of mobile communication: three main findings

- mobile telephony a return to unalienated communication
- the “mobile information society” can be more aptly designated as a “mobile knowledge community”
- the mobile phone today is the *par excellence* device that can be regarded as part of the “extended mind”; and mobile telephony creates the *par excellence* context in which the notion of an “embedded mind” seems inevitable
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Please find this presentation at

www.hunfi.hu/nyiri/Berlin_2007.ppt