Ubiquity, Mobility, Globality: Charting Directions in Mobile Phone Studies

November 6 and 7, 2014
Annenberg School for Communication, Room 500

Mobile phones are tools for activism and civic participation, surveillance and repression, market making and market disruption. In Ithiel de Sola Pool's memorable phrase, there have been few "technologies of freedom" that match the consequences of these new instruments and the infrastructure that supports them. This conference examines dimensions of the social, political, and economic effects of the global ubiquity of mobile phones:

- What are the affordances and limitations of mobile phones in development?
- What is the impact of mobile phones on socio-political change?
- How do mobile phones continue to shape our civil liberties?
- What are the geo-political consequences of these mobilities?
- How does mobile phone adoption challenge and support market innovation?

To tackle these questions, this conference brings together voices from the academy, civil society, and industry—all to examine the heterogeneous sources and consequences of mobility's diffusion. The goal of this conference is to further interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to the understanding of the mobile phenomenon and to chart directions in mobile phone studies.

The conference is funded by the Provost's Global Engagement Fund, the Center for Global Communication Studies, and the Project for Advanced Research in Global Communication and the program reflects the input of several Schools at Penn, including the Annenberg School for Communication, Wharton, Law, and the School of Arts and Sciences.

Day 1: Thursday, November 6

9:00: Arrival and Breakfast
9:30: Introductions by Monroe Price

9:35-11:25: Panel 1: Unpacking Development and the Mobile Phone
- Rich Ling (Telenor Research, Nanyang Technological University) and Elisa Oreglia (Nanyang Technological University): Myanmar and the Creation of a Digital Imagination
- Jonathan Donner (Microsoft Research): Framing Mobile Internet Use in the Developing World: Another Look at Digital Repertoires
- Perpetual Crentsil (Nordic Africa Institute): Aggravating Their Suffering? Mobile telephony, Mediation, and Exclusion of Poor HIV/AIDS Patients in Ghana
- Laura Walker Hudson (Social Impact Lab Foundation): Inclusive Technology: Extending Digital Networks with Analogue Thinking
- Moderator: Eleanor Marchant

11:25-11:35: Coffee Break

11:35-1:20 Panel 2: User Privacy and Digital Rights

- Tim Libert (University of Pennsylvania): Ranking Digital Rights
- Julie Mora-Blanco (Twitter): Twitter's Trust and Safety Strategy
- Malavika Jayaram (Centre for Internet and Society): When your Phone Does the Talking: The Privacy Harms of Cellphone Data

- Joe Turow (University of Pennsylvania): The Mobile Cash Register: Physical Stores As Society's Surveillance-Training Ground
- Moderator: Yoel Roth

1:20-2:35: Lunch

2:35-4:25: **Panel 3: Mobile Phones and Socio-Political Change**

- Catie Bailard (George Washington University): Ethnic Conflict Goes Mobile: Mobile Technology's Effect on the Opportunities and Motivations for Violent Collective Action
- Michael Best (Georgia Institute of Technology): Mobile Phones and Electoral Politics
- Jan Pierskalla (Ohio State University): Voicing Discontent: Communication Technology and Contentious Collective Action
- Ajani Oludele Albert (Obafemi Awolowo University): Mobile Phones, Gender and Social Change in Nigeria
- Moderator: Elisabetta Ferrari

4:30-5:30: Reception

Day 2: Friday, November 7

9:00: Arrival and Breakfast

9:30-11:20 **Panel 4: Dangerous Mobilities**

- Lee Humphreys (Cornell): Mobile Social Networks and Surveillance: Users' Perspective
- Nitin Sawhney (The New School): Rethinking Mobile Ubiquity and Participatory Media in Contested Spaces: Mobile Phones, Video Drones and Urban Projections
- Lisa Parks (University of California, Santa Barbara): Drones, Mediation, and Mobility in the Horn of Africa
- Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye (MIT): Big But Personal Data: How Human Behavior Bounds Privacy and What Can We Do About It
- Moderator: Katerina Girginova

11:20-11:30: Coffee Break

11:30-1:20: **Panel 5: Mobile and its Effects on Global Markets**

- Damien Radcliffe (ictQATAR): Mobile phones opportunities and challenges in MENA
- Vincent Manzerolle and Andrew Herman (University of Western Ontario): Ontario's Mobile Media Ecology: Technology, Labour, and Policy in the Search for a Sustainable "Culture of Innovation"
- Neeha Chaudhari (Centre for Internet and Society): The Low Cost Mobile Phone in India: Implications for policymakers
- Scott Snyder (Wharton): Digital swarms: Tapping Into the Power of Empowered Mobile Users
- Moderator: Lee Mcguigan

1:20-2:20: Lunch
2:20- 4:10: **Panel 6: Mobile Video and Activism**

- Melissa Brough (Connected Learning Research Network)- Mobile activism's symbolic power, design, and ecologies: Analytical anchors amidst rapid technological change
- Lawrence Krasner (Krasner, Hughes & Long): Eyes Everywhere: Cellphones and Criminal Justice
- Bryan Nunez (the Guardian Project): Metadata or it didn't happen: Why we're building InformaCam
- Ivan Sigal (Global Voices): Technology Tools and Activist practice: Do Specialized Mobile Tools for Activism Work?
- Moderator: Sandra Ristovska