

ICS SEMINAR SERIES 2024

After the Smartphone: Towards a Mobile Commons

2 May 2024 | 11:30am - 1:00pm
Room: EA.1.04 Parramatta South Campus

Abstract

Over 4 decades, mobile phones have become a near universal service that underpin digital access and connectivity global societies rely upon.

Many places in the world are 'mobile-first', when it comes to digital inclusion. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the smartphone in particular became, surprisingly, more rather less deeply entrenched in everyday life.

This taken-for-granted status of the smartphone occurs, nonetheless, at a time of transition. We can see this in the various ways in which publics, technology companies and handset vendors, designers, and social movements, are explicitly, or otherwise, invoking the end of the smartphone, as we have come to know and rely upon it.

Indeed, in the next 10-20 years, mobile technologies will fundamentally change, a complex process with major and poorly understood ramifications. Yet the promised benefits hang in balance -- because of grand challenges of digital equalities, social sustainability, and environmental justice.

So what kind of new approach could we consider, given this conjuncture? How can we configure emerging mobile systems foster a 'commons' -- to unlock public, community, and business innovation in, and societal benefits from, future mobile technologies?

Biography

Gerard Goggin is Professor in the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. He previously held appointments at the University of Sydney, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, the University of NSW, and Queensland, and Southern Cross University. Gerard is author or editor of various books on mobile media and communication including the trilogy *Cell Phone Culture* (2006), *Global Mobile Media* (2011) and *Apps* (2021), and the forthcoming books, both with Larissa Hjorth, *Mobile Media Methods* (Polity, 2024) and the *Routledge Companion to Mobile Media* (2nd edition; forthcoming 2024).

Presenter: Gerard Goggin
Discussant: Heather Horst
Chair: Ben Hanckel
Research Alignment:
Automated Worlds

NEXT SEMINAR:
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