Future-present learning in place: postdigital learning at the scale of the city

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→ Link to pdf slidedeck: https://tinyurl.com/future-present-civic-learning
→ Google slides: https://tinyurl.com/post-digital-learning
→ Preprint of paper: https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/ruds4

WE ARE MANY

WE ARE MANY

Protesting No Trident Missiles, 2016, Parliament Sq, London. Marc Line.

HCII 2024

A speculative vision for a civic learning network

To provide seamless, low friction learning in a smart future city

➜ the importance of the web of knowledge as the foundation of civic learning

➜ the role of the open social web to support citizen participation

➜ the potential future technosocial contract for citizen digital epistemic rights

Lifelong learning in place

➜ *Lifelong learning* - incidental or unplanned learning motivated by natural curiosity rather than training or teaching

➜ *Learning in place* forms a natural part of urban technological infrastructure in the smart learning city

➜ "the way ... *the city itself educates*"

➜ "learning as *a process of dwelling in the city*"

Facer & Buchczyk, 2019

... a process of dwelling in the city

Civic pride in citizen events, shared and celebrated.

A community *togethering*

Barbican Interior, by Murray Tompsett, admin of The Brutalism Appreciation Society group on FB

... the city itself educates

Paulo Freire's
'liberating pedagogy'

➜ citizen-led activities and knowledge generation

➜ *Social change can be best achieved in urban contexts*

Facer & Buchczyk, 2019

Community knowledge

Activism culture

Capturing socio-political citizen activism of places

Billboard activism, 2024, by Martin Murray shared on FB, of a Guerilla Girls campaign about museums and the culture of power
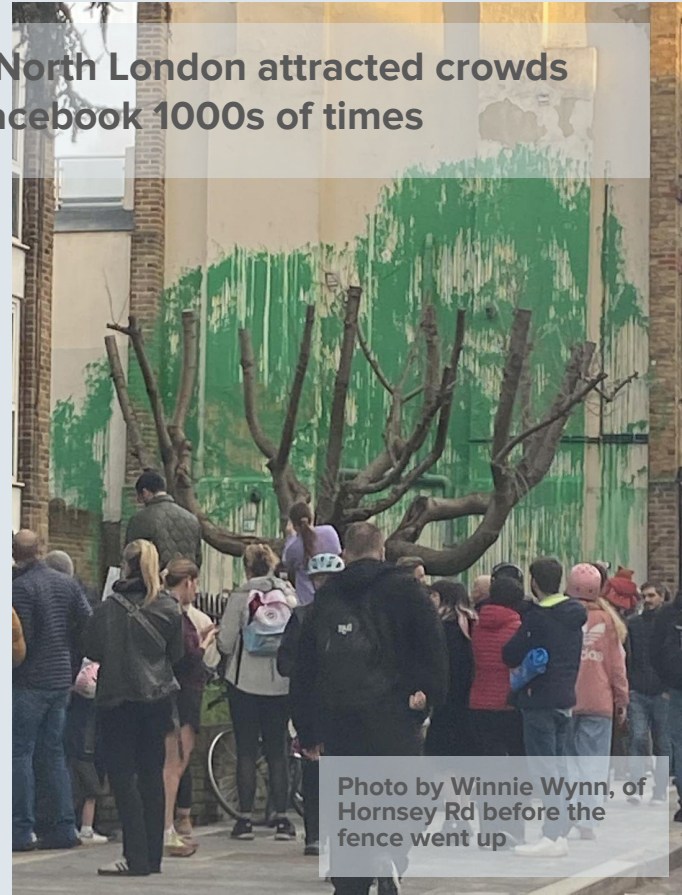

SOS Resistance: Save Our Skatepark, London Southbank, 2013, David Hardman

Community knowledge

Social culture

Community *social* knowledge

➜ **Citizen microhistory of places**

➜ **Citizen curated and moderated**

New Banksy 'tree' in North London attracted crowds and was shared on Facebook 1000s of times

Photo by Islington Council, before anyone knew about the new artwork

Photo by Winnie Wynn, of Hornsey Rd before the fence went up

A blueprint for a civic learning network

- ➜ Hidden cities
- ➜ Zone of Possibility
- ➜ Urban Belonging Toolkit
- ➜ Los Angeles Civic Memory Working Group
- ➜ Creative City Network of Canada

- ➜ **Creative ideas for citizen participation in knowledge of place**
- ➜ **Discussions, image banks, videos & events about local places**
- ➜ **Top-down and bottom-up organizational control**

Building a **civic learning network**

- digital/physical hybrid spaces of engagement
- zones of possibility
- city-wide collaborative learning
- "learning regions" & "creative cities"

"... place-based strategies to exploit local creativity and social capital to achieve a "new urban vitality" Wolfram, 2012

Building a civic learning network *what it can be*

Civic Learning Network (CLN) Function
Camera/ image triggering for place-related (and geocoded) **Knowledge Search & Delivery Technology** (KSDT)
Open API plugin(s) between KSDT and any Learning Management System (LMS)
Open API connection with social media and forums

Civic Learning Network (CLN) Function
User functions for KSDT interactivity
Smart KSDT recommendations
Smart KSDT metadata

The Knowledge Web and civic learning networks

The knowledge web is the full sum of all open knowledge on the World Wide Web ...
User-generated knowledge content is part of this resource

Citizen digital literacies could be supported, developed and embellished through use of civic learning networks

➜ **Connect places and things with apps**, LMS and the knowledge web

➜ **Curiosity for different types of knowledge**, culture and social domain

➜ '*Normalising'* **knowledge inquiry** in everyday environments and activities

➜ **Greater emphasis on contributions of citizens themselves** for shared knowledge of place

Recommender Systems in civic learning networks

Accuracy may not always be most important, as recommendation diversity, serendipity, and fairness can strongly influence user engagement and satisfaction Müllner et al., 2023

Serendipity

➜ **unexpected** nature of recommendations

➜ encourages users to **explore**

➜ stimulates **curiosity**

Diversity of a range of content

Fairness of returned results against others

Data Anonymity and Pseudonymity

➜ **multiple privacy/security threats for users** - untrusted third parties; user gender or age

➜ **mechanisms for obscuring user data** via differential privacy techniques - patterns within groups, withholding identifiable info

➜ **user profile pseudonymity -** multiple identities

➜ **one off auto-persona generated sign-in**

Risks & Challenges of civic learning networks

➜ **Preserving the integrity of the knowledge web**

    ○ **Low quality data output from *generative foundation models infiltrating* the open web of knowledge**

➜ **Quality and Trustworthiness of Knowledge**

    ○ ***Differentiating between GFM content, deepfakes and human content***

➜ **Intellectual Property**

    ○ AI training data using content **without consent**

    ○ **Artists & Authors in legal disputes** with GFM companies

    ○ **Pixel-protection for AI blocking: Nightshade, Glaze …**

A technosocial contract for civic learning networks

➜ *4th generation human right for "epistemic rights in digital lifeworlds"*
  Risse, 2023

➜ *CLNs as manifestation of technosocial contract*

"there is a **growing consensus about the necessity of epistemic rights**. These rights are not only about **the right to know but also … the right to have a voice and be heard**"
D'Arma et al., 2024

➜ platform technology monopolies to be **legally bound to act for the greater public good**

➜ "… **equal access to all relevant information and knowledge** necessary for informed **will formation**"

➜ Civic Learning Networks … foster 'will formation' for **shared ontological security**

Thank you

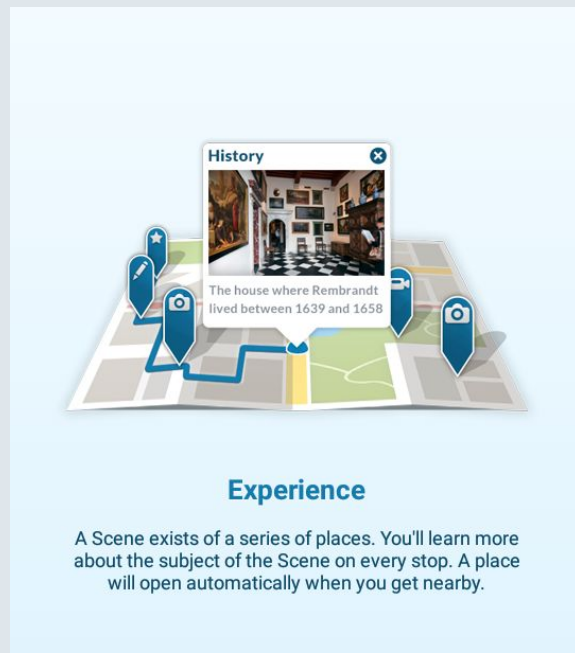Skateboard Graveyard,
London Southbank, 2013,
David Hardman

Links & Credits

- Preprint with full list of references https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/ruds4
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Marc Line/No Trident | **Andrew Welford**/Fire Parade | **Murray Tompsett**/Barbican Interior | **Martin Murray**/Guerilla Girls | **David Hardman**/Save Our Skatepark (Skater, London Southbank)| **Islington Council**/Banksy Tree | **Winnie Wynn**/Banksy Tree | **David Hardman**/Skateboard Graveyard

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A screenshot from 7scenes app circa 2015