**Social Web Final Project: Noah Theriault’s Kiddos**

**Noah’s Contact**:608-320-3063

**DOCUMENT LINKS**:

* [Noah's Hopes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PSKh8NH4up26iXbMgbbmXUIZUJNqLlsOd8qmgPrgcLE/edit)
  + [More Specific Needs & Wants](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZM8H7LBkM8so9avA0QlNi_VGJmC883he8ezYCEdsFi8/edit)
* [Semester Project Ideas & Discussion](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fRXYaucnmMq97yoPfE0c1rrELpWTK9dmo8YUEzxtOzY/edit)
* [Spring 2019 Semester Project Teams](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tHKTqgupnQesSTtFreqqW6D44uSdoffjmGbH8P_cgAM/edit)
* [Semester Project Descriptions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRYKeUqDTky6XpdZZMpRVWiTDmhF1F01WSBsMYuGj1E/edit)

Internal Links:

* [Team Project Description](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lyyp7A-Or7JGj5Qe6HNQPO05_4cT7OgEGhtu4aICi5M/edit)
* [Q's for Noah](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-37NVgb-Mdw2B6xzMZlKmp9cS-A1GTVPIpOEwXjgaTY/edit)
* [Project Description Presentation](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yl9UsRd0HEDt_7fBGC2jXNCwwsTnGyOVnevkB8zq0w4/edit?usp=sharing)

Information Hierarchy

1. Primary
   1. Date/Time/Vehicle
   2. Text/Audio/Photo/Video
2. Secondary
   1. Emotion
      1. Video Filter
   2. Route Information
      1. Start/End
      2. Duration
      3. Consequences to trip (late for work)
      4. Unexpected difficulties (or lack)
      5. Weather/pollution
      6. What did you do on the trip
      7. What did you see on the trip?

Possible Groupings

* Difficulties
  + Weather
  + Unexpected problems
  + Duration(?)
* Activities
  + What did you do on the trip?
  + Vehicles

Ease of logging

* Duration (multiple choice)
* Weather/pollution (multiple choice)
* Emotion (multiple choice)
* Start/End (questions on input, use of map or more general area)
* Short answer style
  + What did you do
  + What did you see
  + Consequences

Profile information (create your account!)

* User name
* Nickname (discourage full names)
* Commute information
  + Route Information (can have multiple entered)
  + Typical Vehicles
  + Schedule
* Primary Area
  + Scale of map on home screen.
  + Home (in the general area)
* Secondary Areas
  + Work
  + School
  + Grocery Store
* Gender
* Age
* Job type versus Income Data

Logging screen

* Photo/Video/Text/Audio

Post-logging survey (required) screens

* Type of transportation
* Date and Time

Post-logging survey (optional) screens

* Emotion
  + Video Filter
* Route Information
  + Start/End
  + Duration
  + Consequences to trip (late for work)
  + Unexpected difficulties (or lack)
  + Weather/pollution
  + What did you do on the trip
  + What did you see on the trip?

Logging Expectations

* Participants are expected to use the app for a minimum of x months, ideally a year
  + Not strictly enforced, should be done on their free will
* Expected frequency in the ballpark of 2-3 times a week (?)
* Overtime, lower frequency
  + Ex. during first four weeks, have a mandatory log twice a week. After the four weeks, encourage participants to log whenever something out-of-the-ordinary happens or if a route change occurs.

**Project Description**

* **Project Title:**
* **Team members:** 
  + Junwoo Cheong (jcheong) + Julie Choi (jjchoi) + Ariana Daly (acdaly) + Isadora Krsek (ikrsek) + Robert Managad (rmanagad)
* **Goal (What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.)**
  + Develop an app that communicates, collects, and parses data from Manilla commuters to researchers and related parties.
  + This data should be understandable by all primary parties.
  + Give voice to a larger scope of vulnerable, under-recognized parties for reception and feedback by policy holders.
* **Current Practice (What is known, how is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?)**
  + No app that collects research data specifically, but most people discuss and rant on Facebook, Twitter, etc. after the fact.
  + No live documentation of data by people because of the busy-ness of the commuter experience.
  + <https://www.spot.ph/newsfeatures/53926/10-apps-to-help-you-deal-with-life-in-metro-manila?fbclid=IwAR1oa0aBVYdZq08ws9bta0NCA2LYTmHsUlrJYX08YeWX6d2QTwFHJYN6Eqs>
    - One way transportation/traffic information to users (rather than other way around)
    - Quantitative data only.
* **Our Approach (What is new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?)**
  + Create an app for users to document/report traffic situations for researchers (rather than users receiving information).
  + Emphasis on digital storytelling-- qualitative instead of quantitative
* **Who cares? (What group of people cares about this work? Also, if you succeed, what difference will it make?)**
  + Noah and his crew working on research project
  + When this work is developed well and successfully implemented in Manilla, it would possibly impact local users who are interested in contributing to traffic/transportation issues.
  + This work also can potentially impact policy makers in Manilla if this work goes viral and brings social awareness up.
* **Risks (What are the biggest risks? What ideas do you have for mitigating risks?)**
  + Bias towards car-users because it’s easier to use phone in car.
  + Anonymity makes the “social” part of this harder -- we need to make sure that the people using this platform feel minimal consequences from this, if any at all.
  + Accidental documentation of illegal activity.
  + Ability to clearly communicate to researchers the frustration and feelings during these trips (their feelings may dissipate if done later on in the day which could influence the accuracy of the post itself) i.e. the mode of digital storytelling may not be conducive to the clarity or accuracy of the experiences
  + Risk of having the form that goes with the video/audio/photo be too long (so users don’t want to take the time to fill out the whole thing)
    - Has to have minimum amount of information to be useful to researchers
* **Mid-term check (What do you want to accomplish by the midterm presentation?)**
  + Research materials: Stakeholder map/ persona/
  + Solidify features app should have (in the two different project scopes)
  + Lo-fi mockup that is ready for sample user-testing.
* **Final check (What do you want to accomplish by the final presentation?)**
  + Have two versions
    - Most viable product prototype: no social integration -- just data collection
    - Social product prototype: integrative social platform that allows commenting on system.
  + Have user testing and results
    - Internal Pittsburgh testing
    - Manilla user testing
    - Noah/researcher side testing
  + Looking forward, next steps for the future of this project (outside the scope of this class project)

“Life in Waiting: A Digitally Enhanced Anthropology of Manila’s ‘Traffic Crisis’”

Broader research project

Manila has **some of the world’s worst traffic**.

**Philippine capital’s commuters are the** [**world’s most discontented**](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/944636/philippine-news-updates-metro-manila-traffic-waze-driver-satisfaction-index-2017).

The “traffic crisis” affects all Manileños, but it means different things to different people. **Elites, including most policymakers, encounter traffic almost exclusively from the back seat of private vehicles driven by their employees**. **Middle-class commuters tend to drive themselves**, but often spend hours inching along clogged thoroughfares. Most **working-class people ride in the fume-filled backs of jeepneys or the jam-packed cars of light-rail trains** – spaces that are crucial to the mobility of millions yet

Some advocate grating the President “emergency powers” to intervene in the transport sector, some for further privatization, and some for resistance to such alleged acts of class warfare.

In an *effort to advance both theoretical and policy debates on the infrastructural politics of global mega-cities*,

**I am embarking on a digitally enhanced anthropological study of Manila’s transportation regime.**

The centerpiece of this research will be a long-term, collaborative ethnographic and archival study of how urban planners, activists, police officers, politicians, commercial drivers, curbside vendors, and commuters interact with the city’s crowded roads, light-rail trains, and ferries.

**Digital methods**, including the app described below, **will help to broaden and enrich my fieldwork by including a wider range of voices and sites**.

A historically informed, digitally enhanced anthropology of traffic can help illuminate how transportation infrastructure brings the politically fraught, culturally variable question of mobility to bear on broader societal debates, and it can help to

**amplify the voices of those who bear the greatest costs of infrastructural (dys)function but rarely have a say in its design or regulation.**