

IAT 887: domestic & social computing

course overview

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microsoft research



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the course

domestic computing: the study of technology design for domestic (non-work) life

social computing: the study of technology design that intersects social behavior and computational systems

course goals

understand the **challenges**
acquire knowledge in **methodological tools**
analyzing, evaluating, and critically **reflecting**
experience in studying domestic life
presenting studies of domestic life
documenting studies of domestic life

course web page

Domestic and Social Computing

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<http://carmster.com/887>

topics

School of Interactive Arts & Technology, Simon Fraser University

Domestic and Social Computing

Main / Topics

Topics of Inquiry:

The course will involve the investigation of methodological tools for studying domestic computing along with case studies of domestic practice and technology design. The following list includes potential case study areas and potential readings on these topics. For the specific topics that will be covered each term, see the Calendar.

1. Introduction to Domestic & Social Computing

This explores the basics for the fields of domestic and social computing to provide a framework for understanding the field.

- Dourish, P. Chapter 3: Social Computing, Where the Action Is: The Foundations of Embodied Interaction, MIT Press (2001).
- Eliot, K., Neustaedter, C., and Greenberg, S. Time, Ownership and Awareness: The Value of Contextual Locations in the Home, Proceedings of Ubicomp, Springer (2003). [pdf]
- Neustaedter, C., Eliot, K., and Greenberg, S. Interpersonal Awareness in the Domestic Realm, Proceedings of CSCW, ACM Press (2006). [pdf]
- Taylor, A., and Stone, L. Artificial Systems in the Home, Proceedings of CHI, ACM Press (2005). [pdf]
- Tolmie, P., Pycock, J., Diggins, T., MacLean, A., and Karsenty, A. Unremarkable Computing, Proceedings of CHI, ACM Press (2002). [pdf]

2. Methodologies

This explores methodologies for studying domestic practice to inform design requirements and methods for evaluating domestic technologies.

- Gaver, W., Dunne, T., & Pacini, E. Cultural Probes, Interactions, 4(1), (1999), 21-29. [pdf]
- Hutchinson, H., Mackay, W., Westlund, B., Rederson, M., Druin, A., Peasant, C., Neubauer-Lahn, M., Conway, S., Evans, H., Hansen, H., Rowse, N., Ederbach, B., Lindquist, S., and Sundblad, Y. Technology Probes: Inspiring Design for and with Families, Proceedings of CHI, ACM Press (2003), 17-25. [pdf]
- Spradley, J. Chapter 1: Ethnography and Culture, Participant Observation, Wadsworth Publishing Company (1980).
- Spradley, J. Chapter 3: The Ethnographic Research Cycle, Participant Observation, Wadsworth Publishing Company (1980).
- Tolmie, P., and Crabtree, A., Deploying Research Technology in the Home, Proceedings of CSCW, ACM Press (2008). [pdf]
- Wask, A. Chapter 4: Interviewing, Learning From Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies, The Free Press (1994).
- Schreier, S., Schreier, J., and LaCombe, M. Chapter 7: Semistructured Interviewing, Essential Ethnographic Methods: Observations, Interviews, and Questionnaires, Alamo Press (1999).
- Balke, L., and Beynon, D. Race and Technology in the Home, Journal of CSCW, 17, Springer (2007). (covers Technology Tours)

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Domestic and Social Computing

Main / Calendar


The following calendar is subject to change.

Week	Lecture / Seminar	Readings	Projects Due
Week 1: Sep 10	Course Overview	see list for course content, assignments, and expectations.	
Week 2: Sep 17	Introduction to Domestic & Social Computing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dourish, P. Chapter 3: Social Computing, Where the Action Is: The Foundations of Embodied Interaction, MIT Press (2001). • Taylor, A., and Stone, L. Artificial Systems in the Home, Proceedings of CHI, ACM Press (2005). [pdf] • Tolmie, P., Pycock, J., Diggins, T., MacLean, A., and Karsenty, A. Unremarkable Computing, Proceedings of CHI, ACM Press (2002). [pdf] 	Weekly social media post due every Friday before 11:59pm.
Week 3: Sep 24	Methodologies Part 1: Ethnographic methods for studying domestic practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaver, W., Dunne, T., & Pacini, E. Cultural Probes, Interactions, 4(1), (1999), 21-29. [pdf] • Spradley, J. Chapter 1: Ethnography and Culture, Participant Observation, Wadsworth Publishing Company (1980). • Spradley, J. Chapter 3: The Ethnographic Research Cycle, Participant Observation, Wadsworth Publishing Company (1980). • Schreier, S., Schreier, J., and LaCombe, M. Chapter 7: Semistructured Interviewing, Essential Ethnographic Methods: Observations, Interviews, and Questionnaires, Alamo Press (1999). 	Project proposal due.
Week 4: Sep 31	Methodologies Part 2: Ethnographic methods for studying the design and evaluation of domestic technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wask, A. Chapter 4: Interviewing, Learning From Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies, The Free Press (1994). • Balke, L., and Beynon, D. Race and Technology in the Home, Journal of CSCW, 17, Springer (2007). (cover "Technology Tours") • Hutchinson, H., Mackay, W., Westlund, B., Rederson, M., Druin, A., Peasant, C., Neubauer- 	Second week to project final Case Study presentation.


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background: social relationships



home inhabitants





intimate socials



extended socials

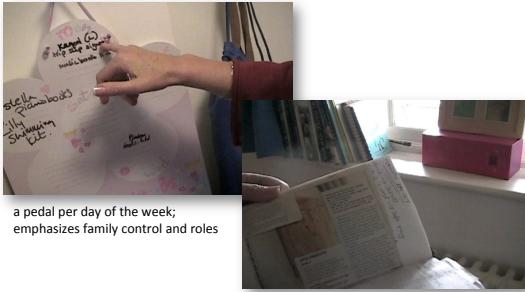
background: domestic locations





kathryn eliot

background: **artful organization systems**



a pedal per day of the week;
emphasizes family control and roles

baby book transformed into a phone
list and recipe book

alex taylor and laurel swan

methods: **cultural probes**

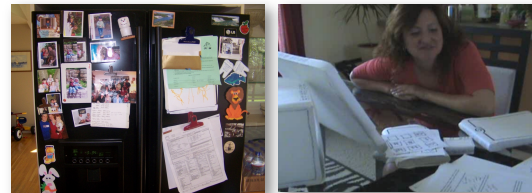


bill gaver

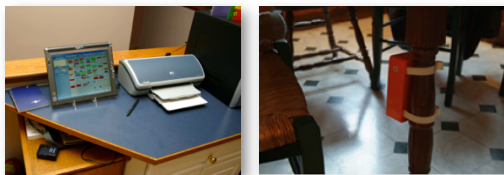
methods: **ethnographic observation**



methods: **contextual interviews**



methods: **technology probes**



case studies: **family calendars**



case studies: **video communications**



case studies: **photo sharing**



case studies: **teenagers**



www.intomobile.com

case studies: **older adults**



www.laterlifeskills.com

assignments

evaluation

project proposal	10%
literature review	20%
case study presentation	10%
course project	50%
class participation	10%

participation (10%)

in-class discussions & weekly online postings

join Facebook group

critical reflection on the readings
one per week (not one per reading)

due every Monday, 11:59 pm

grading: overall effort

project proposal (10%)

propose two to three potential research projects
a domestic **study** or **design**
see course web site for 'case study' ideas

1-2 pages: intro, related work, problem, method, outcome

due in Week 3 (January 24)

grading: high quality writing
project that is doable in a course

literature review (20%)

review 5 to 8 papers on your selected research topic

5-8 pages: intro, descriptions of papers, conclusion
each paper: topic focus, method, findings, critique

due in your selected 'case study' week

grading: high quality writing
ability to critique and tie together the work

case study presentation (10%)

20 minute presentation of your literature review

each paper: topic focus, method, findings, critique

due in your selected 'case study' week
select your week in Week 4

grading: content and presentation skills

course project (50%)

conduct a **study** of domestic practice or create a **design**
10 page conference-style **paper**
20-25 minute conference-style **presentation**

paper due in the last lecture

presentation due in the last two weeks

grading: high quality writing
understanding and application of course methods
presentation skills

administrative staff

grading schema

A+	95 - 100	default schema; subject to change based on overall student performance
A	90 - 94.5	
A-	87 - 89.5	
B+	82 - 86.5	
B	78 - 81.5	
B-	75 - 77.5	
C+	72 - 74.5	
C	68 - 71.5	
C-	65 - 67.5	
D	55 - 64.5	
F	0 - 54.5	

academic misconduct

follow university guidelines

plagiarism: using another person's ideas or creative work without giving credit

classroom sharing of ideas is encouraged

late assignments

10% off per day

class attendance

come (but I'm not going to "babysit")

zero tolerance for re-explaining material discussed in lecture
e.g., deadlines, assignments details, lecture contents

missing presentations is unacceptable

comments on the course

canvas.com/comments/

Course Comments

Course Number:

Please leave a constructive comment about the course.
e.g., what do you like or not like? How can this be improved?

what to do for next week

questions?

class discussions

research backgrounds
reason for taking the course
topic interests