

Formative Research Methods For The Extremely Mobile: Supporting Community Interaction Amongst Backpackers

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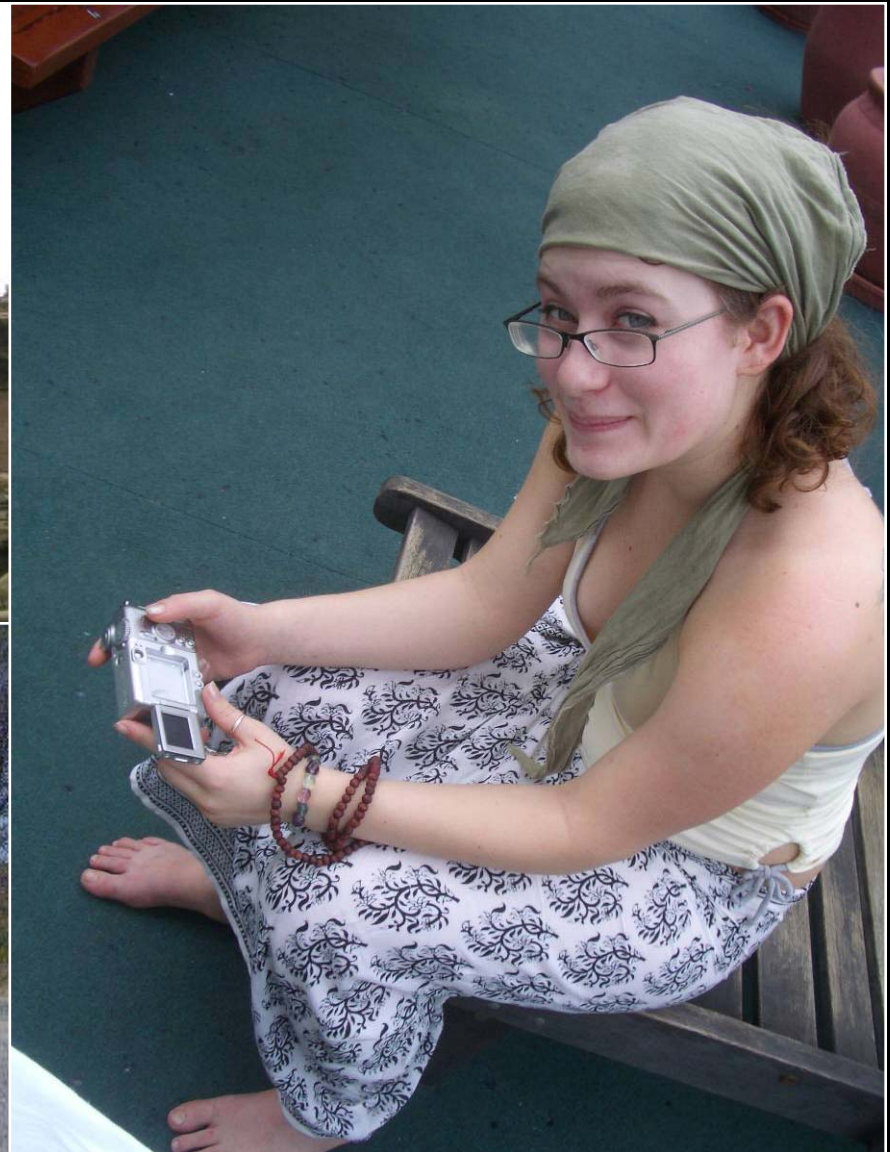
Information Environments Program

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(photos © Jeff Axup unless otherwise noted)

Backpackers



Method Overview

		DURATION OF INTERACTION	
		Short-term	Long-term
PARTICIPANT STRUCTURE	Collocated Group	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hostel Contextual Interviews ● Participatory Social Pairing Exercise 	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobile Information Sharing (MIS) studies
	Distributed Network	C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contextual Postcard Questionnaires 	D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electronic and Paper Travel Diaries

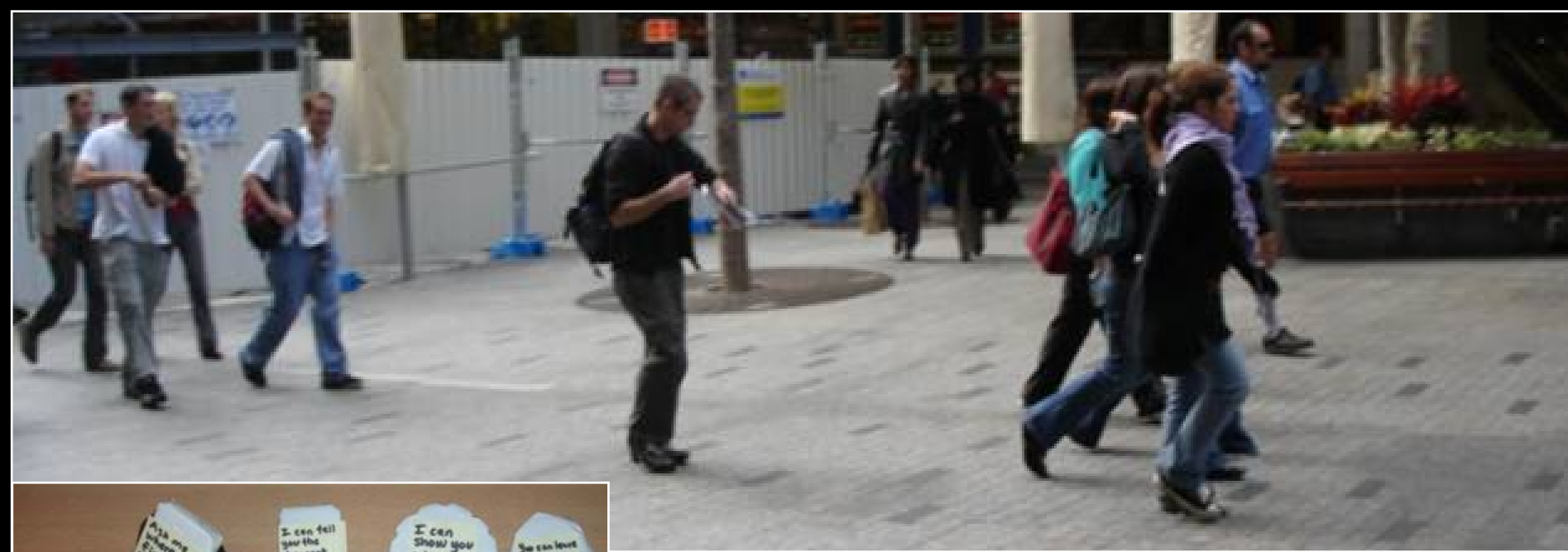
Hostel Contextual Interviews



Participatory Social Pairing Exercise



Field Trips and Group Ethnography



Contextual Postcard Questionnaires

FRONT SIDE



Thank you for taking part in a University of Queensland research study! It only takes a **few minutes** to finish.

Delivery Address:

No stamp required if posted in Australia



What is this research for?

We want to help backpackers! We are exploring the design of an electronic travel assistant for people like you. To do this we need to know about how you travel and what concerns you have while on the move.

How to use this postcard:

Please fill out the reverse side now, or stick it in your pocket and fill it out in a few days. When you are done, simply drop it in any red Post box. Please pass it to a friend if you're not going to use it.

How can backpackers get involved?

We are looking for backpackers to help out with future research studies. Please go to our website for more information or to sign up. <http://www.itee.uq.edu.au/~backpack/>

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Turn Over ↓

BACK SIDE

Where are you now? City:

Place: (e.g. cafe, bus)

Gender: F M

Travelling with someone? Yes No

How did you find out about your present location before you decided to come here?

Think back to the last group of strangers you talked to. How did you meet and what did you do with them?

If you could have any travel question answered for you, what would it be?

A-10

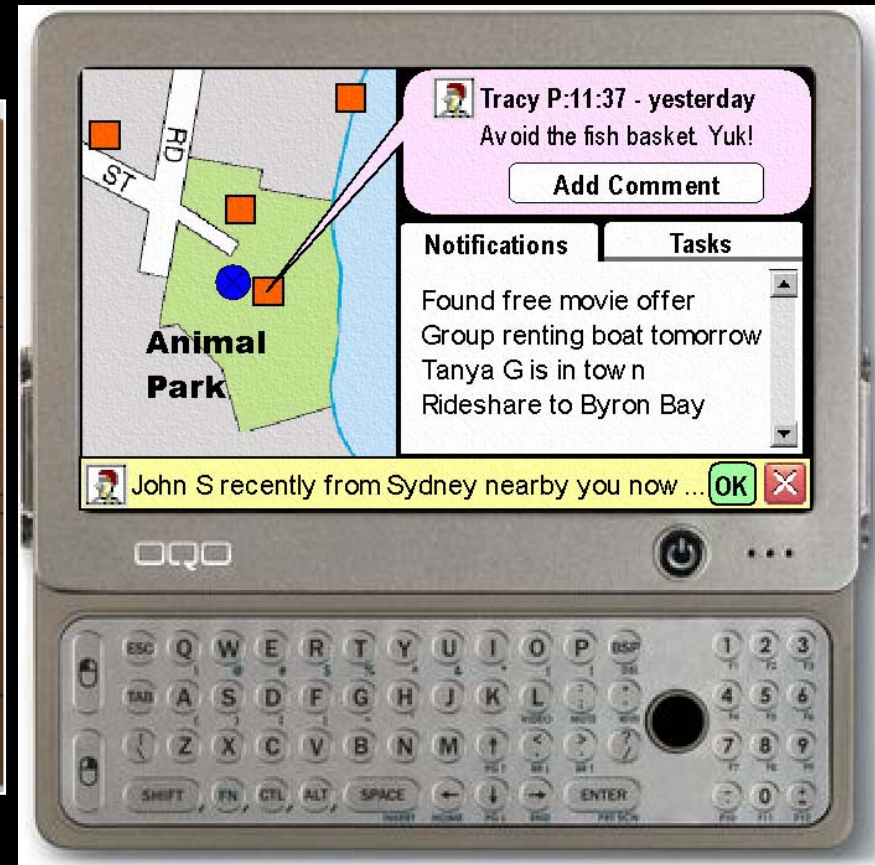
Where are you now? City:

Place: (e.g. cafe, bus)

Gender: F M

Travelling with someone? Yes No

Design Ideas



- All methods are in-situ
- Different methods to look at different aspects of behaviour
- Focus on understanding reasonably natural behaviour
- Use of low-fidelity methods
- New methods for new situations
- Are they probes? Does it matter?
- (self-reporting methodology)

Questions?

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<http://www.mobilecommunitydesign.com>

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