CONTEXTUAL FUTURES FOR SMART PERSONAL DEVICES
The Contextual Future of Situated Schools

mediaX at
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
The Contextual Futures of Situated Schools

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Project Description:
This project addresses changes to the roles of schools, teachers, administrators and students as learning environments become more and more digitally mediated. The project explores the design of effective and empowering digitally mediated learning environments, with a focus on the factors that drive engagement and encourage learning.

The researchers developed a participatory design-based experiment for students at a Bay Area high school (Palo Alto High School). Students made up a “research team” that conducted user research on relevant factors – student social and mobile media use, consumption of student journalism, impact on school based identities and roles. The design goal was to increase reader participation, feedback and discussion. The student group developed and deployed an app to foster reader engagement. The app is in its second iteration. They also conducted follow up interviews.

Research results revealed insights that can help schools reposition themselves within digitally mediated spaces, taking advantage of student technology use to develop engaging learning opportunities for students, and supporting active student roles and identities. Observations confirmed that powerful learning happens when people become part of a community and that students learn well when they are together learning about something that matters to them. Mobile was observed to be a highly personal but also a social experience. Further research will explore the impact of current events, and how the digital media can structure both civic participation and demagoguery within a real-world school community.

Acknowledgement:
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The Contextual Future of Situated Schools

Chris Proctor & Paulo Blikstein
Agenda

Study motivation and background

Introductions

Research team updates

Discussion and questions
Research Questions

As School becomes digitally-mediated, what is the nature of the space in which School is situated?

What roles and identities are available to schools, teachers, and students in digitally-mediated learning environments?

How might we design more effective and empowering digitally-mediated learning environments?
Theoretical Background
Sociocultural Learning Theory

Lave & Wenger
Hull & Greeno
Ma & Munter

Communities of practice
Social production of learning opportunities

Learners’ Roles & Identities

Trajectories
“Editing” space

Learners
Media & Literacy

Medium

Agency & Voice

(Critical) Literacy

Literacy community
Public sphere
Technosocial situation

Learners

diSessa
Ito
Freire
Arendt

Medium

Agency & Voice

(Critical) Literacy

Literacy community
Public sphere
Technosocial situation

Learners

Transformative Learning Technologies Lab

tltl.stanford.edu
Learning Environments

- Papert
- Blikstein
- Constructionism
- FabLearn Labs
- (Critical) Literacy
- Personally-Meaningful Projects
- Learners
- Tools

Transformative Learning Technologies Lab

TLTL

tl.tl.stanford.edu
Context: Palo Alto High School

25+ years of impactful journalism
Declining reader engagement
Culture of success
Heavy student mobile usage
Well-contextualized by prior research
Method: Participatory design-based experiment

Recruited research team of current students
Generative user research: student interviews
  Student social & mobile media use, consumption of student journalism,
  Impact on school-based identities and roles
Grounded theory affinity analysis
  Design goal: increase reader participation, feedback, and discussion.
  Strategies: Tagging, Forum, Comments as Content, Connecting Readers and Authors
Field Study
  Deploy heavily-instrumented app to distribute student journalism and foster reader engagement
  Follow-up interviews
Impact

Help schools reposition themselves within a digitally-mediated culture

Rethink discipline

Curate their space and the identities available to learners

Support active student roles within literacy community

New (old) progressive pedagogies

Design insights for schools
Progress Updates

Design
Development
Research
Journalism
Verde Magazine

V.

Palo Alto High School

Hello, magazine.

... [F]

Home
Profile
Friends
Talk

NAME OF APP
NEWS FEED
Browsing

Drill down to a list of matching articles, by date

Sorted by recent Comments & Reads
Top ten tips to raise your GPA

You may not think this much you can do to raise your GPA, especially if it's already at 4.2. But you're wrong! These tips will get you into the college of your dreams.

* Inset top comment in article?
  (as pull quote)
  (or curate—choose top comment)

Swipe to comments

Pops up, switch to comment view
"I just don't understand all the fuss." - Normo Jory

Top comments either stored by curators or must upvote
Comments upvoted with enough upvotes
Edit box pops up, button for anonymous non-ed comment
Onboarding

Splash screen

Welcome

Join

for Poly Students

Student ID
first name
last name

Push notification

We want to send you push notifications
OK Cancel

Alert Congrats!

to App
Acknowledgements

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