

"Bossing Adults and Finding Spotty Bras": Learners as Producers within Mobile Learning Contexts

This paper presents the process and findings of 'Mudlarking in Deptford', an innovative applied research project developed in partnership between NESTA Futurelab, Juliet Sprake and Peter Rogers (Goldsmith's College, London). The presentation will focus equally upon the user-centred design process, an active demonstration of the tour, and sharing the findings of the research trials.

Mudlarking in Deptford is a reconceptualisation of the guided tour: enabling participants to not only receive information that is relevant to the precise location that they are in, but also providing them with the opportunity to add their experiences of the area for future tour users by leaving GPS tagged 'stories'. In this way, Mudlarking in Deptford hijacks the formulaic guided tour to create an experience that is involving and evolving. Involving as the participants interact (through a GPS enabled Ipac) with located trigger points to develop their understanding of the environment; evolving as the dynamic tour enables participants to share their experiences with non-present others, in doing so, creating collaborative, location-sensitive stories with absent authors.

Developing the description of this project, this paper will also detail the user experience of the co-design students (twenty-five 12-year old students from Sydenham School, London) who worked with the NESTA Futurelab team to develop the toolkit for capturing their stories and experiences of the area. This section of the paper includes detailing the role of mobile technologies in empowering young people to discover and share new things by providing them with an authentic audience and a student voice.

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Dan Sutch is a Learning Researcher at nestafuturelab, a not-for-profit organisation core-funded by the Department for Education and Skills, UK (DfES) to investigate the role of digital technologies for learning. Dan's main research interests include investigating the roles of teachers and learners within technology-rich learning contexts; the opportunities of mobile technologies in transforming learning experiences and the use of new technologies in developing learners' communication and language skills. NESTA Futurelab's work is helping to transform the way people learn by using new and emerging technologies to create rich learning resources that are involving, interactive and imaginative. More information can be found at www.nestafuturelab.org

