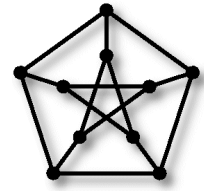


Computationally Speaking



Seminar Series

Title: Thumbs Up for Accessibility: Enhancing Non-Verbal Interaction in Technology-Mediated Communication

Speaker: Dr. Timothy Neate

Where: Reynolds 1101

When: Wednesday March 20th, 2:30pm - 4pm

Abstract: Human communication is complex. We do so much more than speak, listen, read, and write. Verbal communication is often complemented by a nuanced range of non-verbal communication, such as body language, gestures, and myriad other means. These broader notions of expression are particularly important for people with communication impairments, as they allow an alternative or complementary means to engage. Despite its clear importance, non-verbal communication takes a minor role in technology-mediated communication. In this talk, I describe our ongoing work, which seeks to respond to this challenge. I detail our investigations into understanding the impact of videoconferencing on communication for people with language impairments and outline challenges and opportunities for supporting diverse communication styles in remote communication. Then, I discuss our ongoing work with discreet and wearable augmented communication devices—detailing how smartwatches, 'earables', smart badges, and other unconventional form-factor devices might support and augment accessible, embodied communication in real-world contexts. Finally, I turn to the future, discuss where I think assistive technologies should progress, and invite your contributions to communication technologies that enable a broader range of expression and inclusion.

About the Speaker: Timothy Neate is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor in UK) at the Department of Informatics, King's College London. He is a human-computer interaction and accessibility researcher. His work considers the development of novel interaction techniques and design approaches to make the most of the full range of human capability. He has published work in these areas, mostly focusing on accessible digital content creation/consumption and accessible interaction techniques.
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