

# SOMOBNET

SOCIAL MOBILE NETWORKING FOR INFORMAL LEARNING

One Day Seminar - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - Vancouver CA

The rise of social networking sites (SNSs) and mobile devices over the past ten years has been one of the most influential phenomena in digital technology. They are now used by many people who integrate them into their daily lives, and the services and devices are playing an increasing role in mediating the access to knowledge and cultural resources across different contexts of life. As such, the topic of social and mobile networking demands the sustained attention of the educational researchers.

To date, a great deal of work on the topic is still characterized by techno-centric discourse largely underpinned by a deterministic understanding of the relationship between society and technology. This has arguably led to an underestimation of the potential for, and importance of, agency and cultural practices of the user as well as the content and context generation to support community-building processes through the integration with other socio-technical mechanisms such as social networks. At the same time, the analysis of socio-technical mechanisms which support the content and context generation process requires a better understanding of the affordances and potential of social and mobile technologies.

The aim of this seminar is to explore educational and socio-cultural perspectives on the use of the increasing convergence of mobile devices and digital media for social networking in formal and informal contexts of learning.

The seminar is intended to offer a space for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, experiences and research on social mobile networking for informal learning.

**Location:** Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CA

**Time:** 9:15 am - 4:00 pm

**Registration Info:** Free but places are limited

**Confirmed speakers include:** Norbert Pachler, John Cook, Stefania Manca, Maria Ranieri, Richard Halverson.



## ABOUT SOMOBNET

SoMobNet (Social Mobile Networking For Informal Learning) is a capacity building network part-funded by STELLAR, the Network of Excellence on TEL funded within FP7 (see <http://www.stellarnet.eu>).

The SoMobNet Theme Team focuses in particular on how network-based technologies may foster the sense of community and reciprocal learning and aims to investigate the following research questions:

**A** How can/do mobile devices support workers' community building through social networks?

**B** What models of assessment are possible through new mobile devices in informal learning situations?

**C** How can mobile devices support workers' training between real (e.g., their office, or classroom and so on) and online contexts (e.g., social networks)?

**SoMobNet website:** <http://www.somobnet.eu>

**More info:** Follow us on Twitter: #SoMobNet or visit our Facebook fan page: <http://tinyurl.com/3v33vok>

**Theme Team Members:** John Cook (London Metropolitan University, UK), Stefania Manca (ITD-CNR, IT), Norbert Pachler (Institute of Education, UK), Maria Perifanou (Attikò, GR), Maria Ranieri (University of Florence, IT), Klaus Rummler and Wolf Karsten (University of Bremen, GE)

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