



HUI RANGAHAU TAHI
ENGAGED SOCIAL SCIENCE

Mobilities Network for Aotearoa New Zealand

Summer Evening Seminars 2016

Wednesday 30 November @ 7.30pm on Zoom

Being where? Mobile inter-placing in the age of “digital *Ge-stell*”

Dr Christopher Howard

In this talk I will explore some of the meanings and implications of mobile technologies and 21st Century media. Drawing on research on ‘around the world travellers,’ I focus on the role the internet and mobile technologies play in mediating embodied perceptions and performances of place. Based on a phenomenological understanding of place and the body, I analyse how mobile technologies allow human beings to extend their corporeal presence across “planetary landscapes.” Facilitated by contemporary media and mobility infrastructures, I suggest that digitally equipped travellers are relationally “inter-placed.” With this concept I aim to illustrate how virtual mobility overlaps with corporeal mobilities. Places too are becoming inter-placed ‘sites of global modernity’; mobile assemblages where fluxes and flows of people, objects, information and capital are relationally configured. In highlighting place and the body, I aim to emphasize the material dimensions of globalization and the information society. I also introduce a concept of I call “digital *Gestell*” (enframent). Applying Heidegger’s reflection that the technologies of a given historical epoch frame the way subjects approach the world to the information age, we can say that many people today are “digitally enframed”. Despite the unprecedented connectivities and affordances digital technologies enable, they also facilitate forms of disconnection that carry psycho, social and environmental implications, as will be critically discussed.

Christopher Howard lectures virtually in Chaminade University, USA, and is presenting virtually from Wellington, NZ. christopher.howard@chaminade.edu

- Platform:** Zoom – you may have to check if software must be downloaded for your device – go to <https://auckland.zoom.us/j/282980909> sometime before the seminar to make sure
- eVenue:** Zoom meeting room ID: 282 980 909
- Time:** Link up a few minutes before +0630 GMT (7.30pm NZ & 7.30am Germany) + mute the microphone icon
- Chair:** Network Leader, Martha Bell, Media Associates. martha.bell@mediaassociates.nz