



TITLE: Informatic Personhood - Defining Everyday Life in the Context of Ubiquitous Data and Interface Technologies

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Everyday life is informatic in nature, and requires ordinary people to negotiate “patterns of living that emerge from and depend upon access to large data banks and instantaneous transmission of messages” (Hayles 1999:313). From social media to predicative analytics and big data, to smartphones and quantifiedself devices, the lives of ordinary people exist and operate in a context of data and other informatic systems. But as Deleuze (1992), Haraway (1988), and others (Haggerty and Ericson 2000; Cheney-Lipold 2011) have emphasised, the entwinement of human social lives with data systems has the potential to change the nature of humans and society. This paper proposes the concept of informatic personhood to capture these changes. Informatic personhood is a heuristic to map the significant informatic systems that shape modern lives. Specifically highlighted is a tripartite of digital systems that provide the context for everyday life: the presence of networked interface devices, the enormous circulation of data, and the abstraction of this data. The significance and justification for informatic personhood are discussed, and empirical results of a study of informatic persons are also raised.