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KMD-80836578

**Master's Thesis**

# Sentio Viewer: A Mobile Application Which Evokes Train Riders to Wander in a Neighbourhood Along the Railway

Pianpian Zhou

July 7, 2010

Graduate School of Media Design
Keio University

A Master's Thesis
submitted to Graduate School of Media Design,
Keio University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER of MediaDesign

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# Sentio Viewer: A Mobile Application Which Evokes Train Riders to Wander in a Neighbourhood Along the Railway*

Pianpian Zhou

**Abstract**

This thesis proposes Sentio Viewer, a mobile application which evokes train riders to wander in a neighborhood along a railway by letting users view latest messages from ordinary people about each neighborhood along the route. The thesis introduces the design process and implementation of Sentio Viewer, describes the field evaluation about how people use Sentio Viewer to gain a kind of new experience in a city and discusses the possible future improvements. In a large city, especially Tokyo in Japan, there is the most mature network of railway with densely located stations. Train has been the most widely used tool for commuting and outing, and stations have become gates for urban people to go to a neighborhood around it. Travelling in a train through multiple characterized neighborhoods should be a wonderful experience. However, many train commuters are not fully aware of this kind of pleasure. Their using of the train strengthens the feeling of daily routine, rather than travelling through various attractions on the way. Although the commuting pass enables free using of all the stations within the applied range, it is yet not so often for a train commuter to take a walk in an unfamiliar neighborhood on the way. As a practice in Urban Media research project, this thesis proposes Sentio Viewer for people to use in the train. The daily using of Sentio Viewer gives users impression about the neighborhoods along the route and might give users a motivation to have a walk in a certain neighborhood.

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**Keywords:**

mobile application, interface, ethnographic research, city, experience, railway