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Abstract of Master's Thesis Academic Year 2010

**NAVINKO:**  
Community Building Through Augmented Reality in the Personal Audio Age

Keio University Graduate School of Media Design

Jessica Mantell

**NAVINKO:  
Community Building Through Augmented Reality in the Personal Audio Age**

**Abstract**

While many devices and digital applications attempt to cater to the needs of cyclists in this age of constant personal computing and online social networking, an interface that is designed for use in the city and that considers the behaviour and needs of the activity of cycling is lacking. Audio interfaces present an interesting alternative to the visual demands of contemporary mobile social networking systems that use augmented reality. My thesis explores the design and usability of such an interface through the development of an application prototyped on the iPhone called Navinko. Through the use of an audio interface, Navinko offers social networking features, catering to the needs of individuals, as well as attempting to model the behaviour of urban inhabitants through the use of GPS enabled networked smartphones, creating a new form of urban infrastructure.

*Keywords:*

audio augmented reality, GSP navigation, social networking service, bicycle communities - urban

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