



## From Meta-Principles to Design Practices

Where Worthwhile Interaction Designs Come From and How To Get There

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## From Theory to Practice

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- m Principles for design(ing)
  - m Four example post-hoc sets of principles
  - m Limitations of *a posteriori* derivations
  - m *A priori* alternative, six meta-principles
- m Progressive instantiation
  - m Constrain design choices by craft and purpose
  - m Support design choices with a development framework of design and evaluation approaches
  - m Principle sets completed on a project/team/organisation basis




## Keynote User Guide

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- m Two hours allocated
- m Breach of Geneva Convention
  - m Cruel and Unusual Punishment
- m Keynote split into two with a break
  - m Plus some discussion/question gaps
  - m 1. Meta-principles Break
  - m 2. Constraining design choices
  - m 3. Supportive WCD framework of design and evaluation approaches




## About Me

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- m HCI Research Chair since 1997
  - m 'allowed to teach', not required!
- m Research student 1983-86
  - m Before that, secondary school teacher, History and Social Studies (History and Education MA)
- m Post-Doc 1986-89
  - m PhD 1993!
- m Academic at Glasgow (GIST co-founder) then Northumbria via flexible work
- m Industry/consultancy work since 1985





## Four Sets of HCI Principles

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- m Gould & colleagues (IBM, Usability)
- m Shneiderman (Direct Manipulation)
- m Dourish (Embodied Interaction)
- m Brown (IDEO, Design Thinking)
- m Then an alternative approach from my NESTA fellowship work




## Gould, Lewis and Others

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1. Early focus on users and tasks
2. Empirical measurement
3. Iterative design
4. (Integrated Design)

**1983**



### Ben Shneiderman (Direct Manipulation)

1. Continuous representation of the object of interest
2. Physical actions or labelled button presses instead of complex syntax
3. Rapid, incremental, reversible operations whose impact on the object of interest is immediately visible
4. Layered or spiral approach to learning that permits usage with minimal knowledge.



1983

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### Paul Dourish (Embodied Interaction)

1. Computation is a medium
2. Meaning arises on multiple levels
3. Users, not designers, create and communicate meaning
4. Users, not designers, manage coupling
5. Embodied technologies participate in the world they represent
6. Embodied interaction turns action into meaning



2001

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### Tim Brown (Design Thinking)



1. Hit the streets
2. Recruit T-shaped people
3. Build to think
4. The prototype tells a story
5. Design is never done.

2005

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### Are these the same sorts of principle?

- A. What sorts of principle are there?
- B. How are they derived and defended?

**What do you think?**



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### A. Five Senses of Principle

Concise Oxford English Dictionary

1. A fundamental **truth** or **law** as the **basis of reasoning or action**
2. A personal **code of conduct**, (in *plural*) **rules of conduct**
3. A **general law** in physics etc.
4. A **law of nature** forming the basis for the construction or working of a machine etc.
5. A **fundamental source**; a primary element

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### B. 3 x 2 x 2 Bases for Derivation

- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics
  1. Knowing (Theoria, Sophia, Episteme)
  2. Making (Techne, Poesis, Phronesis)
  3. Doing (Praxis, Phronesis, ...)
- Kant and many others
  1. *a posteriori*, based on experience
  2. *a priori*, based on deduction
- Research sources
  1. Primary
  2. Secondary

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### Our Four Sets of HCI Principles

- m All *a posteriori* derivations
  - Gould++, Dourish: knowing
  - Shneiderman, Gould++\*: making
  - Brown: doing, making
- m Mostly primary in their sources
  - Dourish uses secondary ones
  - Gould and colleagues should have (e.g., Dreyfuss *Designing for People*)



### Limitations of *a posteriori* approaches

- m Trust
  - Primary sources cannot be fully revealed for inspection (except artefact corpora for making)
- m Overcommitment
  - One approach to evaluation or user research
  - Focus on artefacts or people, not both
- m Scope
  - Direct Manipulation principles don't cover all interaction designs
  - Can't go from humans to designs, or vice versa
  - IDEO set the best balanced here (but then, they are designers)



### An *a priori* alternative

- m Start with an introductory text's position on *design outcomes*, John Heskett, *Design: A Very Short Introduction* (cut down *Toothpicks and Logos*)
  - "result from ... *decisions* ... *Choice implies alternatives, in how ends can be achieved, and for whose advantage.* ... *design is not only about initial decision or concepts by designers, but also about how these are implemented and by what means we can evaluate their effect or benefit*"



*(Heskett 2002, pp. 5-6)*



### Choice Theory (Allingham)

[design outcomes] result from ... *decisions* ... *Choice implies alternatives*

- m Choice Theory calculates the bases of rational choice
  - Selections from menus of alternatives
- m What do we expect of any choice?
  - Especially a design choice?
- m Good selections, good menus or both?



### What Makes a Good Menu?



there's egg and bacon;  
egg sausage & bacon;  
egg and spam;  
egg bacon & spam;  
egg bacon sausage & spam;  
spam bacon sausage & spam;  
spam egg spam spam bacon  
and spam;  
spam sausage spam spam  
bacon spam tomato & spam




### 1: Receptiveness

- m Not just having spam
  - Or just egg, sausage and bacon as well
- m Pizza toppings fare better
  - Arrabiata, Hawaiian, Curry, Cajun, ...
  - Receptive to international influences
- m Staying open to alternatives
  - Positively seeking them out
- m Receptiveness
  - First meta-principle of abstract choice



## What Makes a Good Menu?

**HORS D'ŒUVRE**  
 Soupe de poissons  
 Salade à l'anglaise  
 Crispin chaud en salade  
 Omelette aux fines herbes  
 Oeufs en cocotte  
**POISSONS**  
 Sole Meunière  
 Cailles de brochet  
 Caponilles St Jacques  
**VIANDES**  
 Hachis parmentier  
 Navettes d'agneau  
 Rôti de veau  
 Magret de canard  
 Côte de porc  
 Ris de veau  
 Coq au vin  
**DESSERTS**  
 Frites aux myrtilles  
 Pêche Méhitis  
 Crispe caramel  
 Beuf frotté  
 Crispes fraiches  
 Gâteau St Honoré

## 2: Expressivity

- To make a fair choice from a menu, all options must be well expressed
- It's hard to choose an option that you don't understand
  - Lord Montague's Welsh Pomfrey
  - The Oudenaarde Waterzooi
  - Mrs. Ainley's Lane's Prince Albert Pie
- Expressivity
  - Second meta-principle of abstract choice

## Bad Choices or Bad Menu?

## Committedness and Choice

- Are good choices from bad menus possible?
  - Poorly expressed options obstruct confidence
  - Unreceptive menus have obvious inadequacies
- Bad menus undermine **committedness**
  - Third meta-principle of abstract choice
  - Genuine choices must be committed to
    - Applies to the chooser, not the choice
    - Knowing what we have chosen and why
    - What makes it possible to commit?

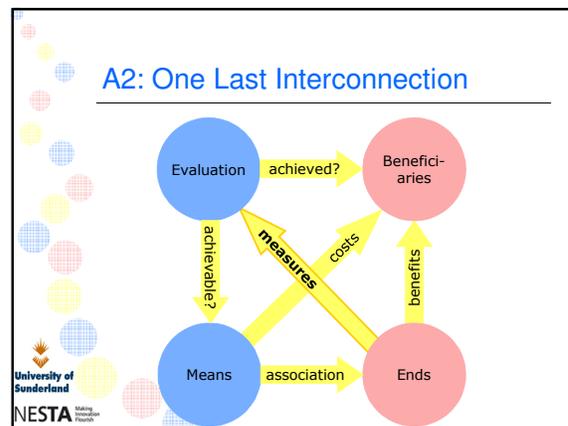
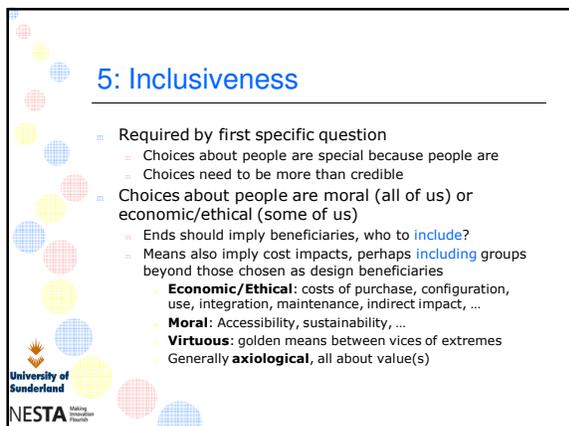
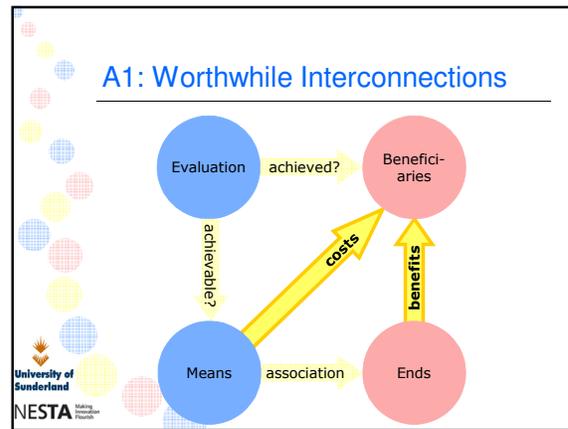
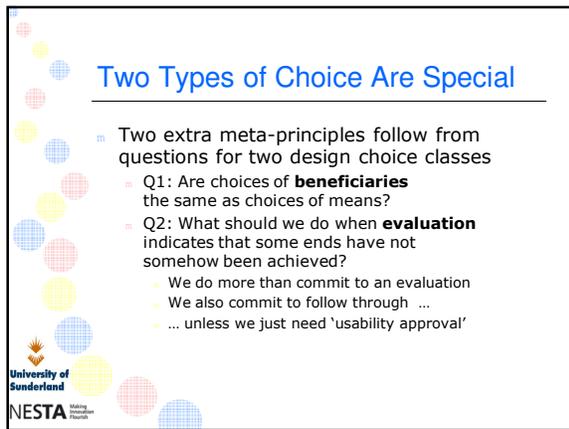
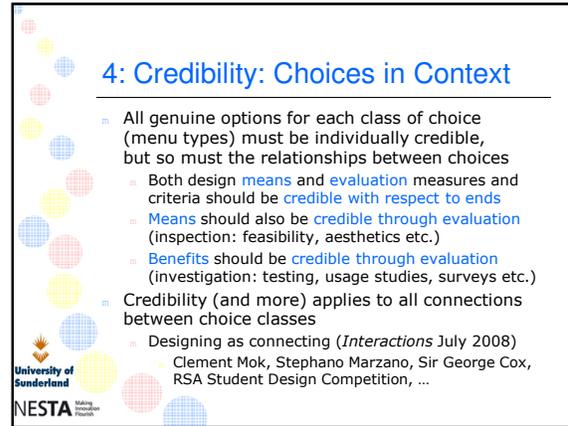
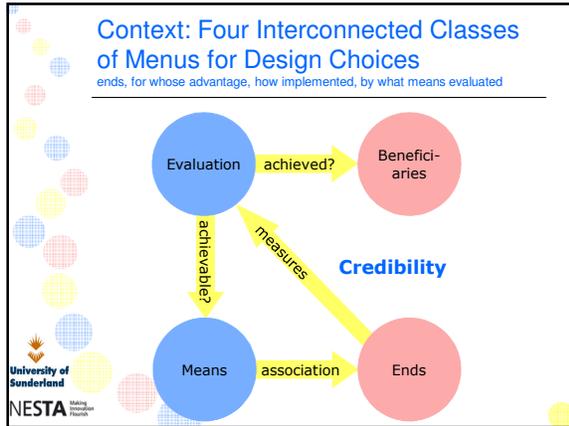
## Credibility: a fourth meta-principle?

- All menu options must be credible as well as well expressed
  - Is credibility wholly about choice from a menu?
  - Is something beyond rational choices based on abstract utility involved?
- Yes, credibility requires a context and an audience
  - Context is largely ignored in choice theory
    - Rationality ≠ credibility
  - Contexts differ for different sorts of choices, e.g., design decisions (or dealing with nut allergies)
- We have reached a point where reflecting on abstract menu choices will take us no further

## Where Design Outcomes Come From

"result from ... decisions ... Choice implies alternatives, in how **ends** can be achieved, and for **whose advantage**. ... design is not only about initial decision or concepts by designers, but also about **how these are implemented** and by what **means** we can evaluate their **effect** or **benefit**"  
 (Heskett 2002, pp. 5-6)

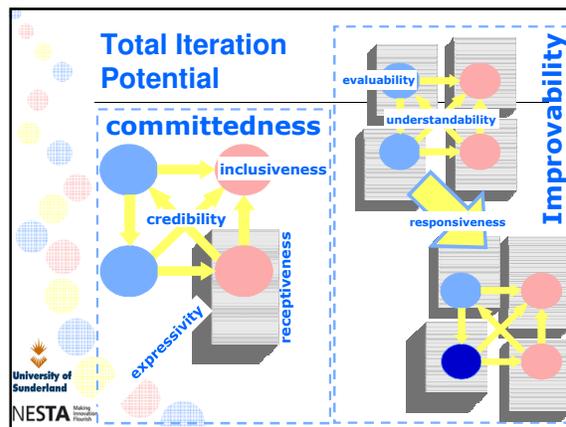
**Credibility now has a context for design decisions, beyond abstract options**



### 6: Improvability

- Evaluation should establish whether ends have been achieved (6.1 Evaluability) and what to improve
- Response to second specific question: if ends are not well achieved ...
  - ... we must stay committed to or make a new choice ...
  - ... or choose new means, beneficiaries, even evaluations.
  - Total iteration potential, not just 'design' iteration
- If something needs to improve, it should be improved, otherwise evaluation is pointless
  - We must understand how to improve ...
    - 6.2 Understandability
    - ... and be able to make improvements
    - 6.3 Responsiveness

Three subprinciples of improvability (6.[1-3])  
RITE Questions: Problem?, Understand?, Fix?



### Six Meta-Principles for Designing

- Receptiveness** of virtuous designers
- Expressivity** of design content
- Committedness** of virtuous designers
- Credibility** of design decisions
- Inclusiveness** of virtuous designers
- Improvability** within design process
- Revealed through the magic of words
  - "conceptual and logical investigation" that cannot "be solved by empirical means"

A.C.Grayling, Wittgenstein, 2001

### Red Cross Break

- Geneva Convention requires a break at this point ...
- Resume in 10 minutes

### From Meta-Principles to Design Practice

- Meta-principles are too abstract to guide action, but they do provide broad heuristics for design and evaluation methods
  - Participative Design supports receptiveness, but not ...
  - Personas support expressiveness, but not ...
  - RITE (MS) supports improvability, but not ...
- Social construction of reality limits the extent of instantiation before specific team/project contexts
  - Can't fully programme humans or their work (especially creative work)
  - Actionable codes/rules of conduct must be finalised on team/project bases (get close but don't close)
  - Teams must find their own virtuous 'golden means'

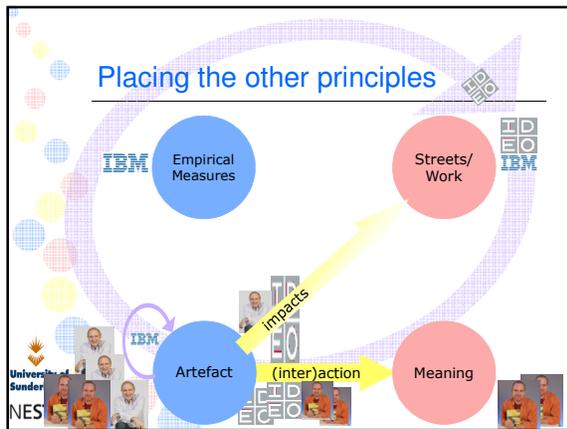
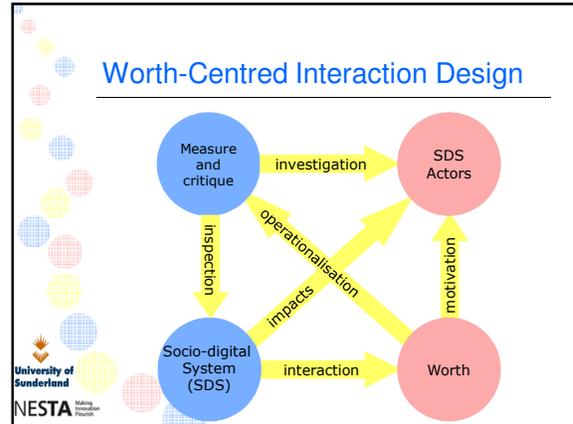
### Getting Started

- Limit four choice classes to Interaction Design via craft (materials) and axiological (design purpose) constraints
- Support project teams via frameworks of approaches (not 'methods')
  - Enough support to guide project teams
  - Enough freedom to work effectively as needed for the project and/or by the team, their organisation and sponsors
- Progressive partial instantiation

### Craft-Axiological Constraints

- Restrict means to materials of Interaction Design
  - Socio-digital systems (post sociotechnical)
  - People are part of our materials
- Axiological constraints reflect design philosophies
  - What is the purpose of design?
  - ISO 9241: Efficiency, effectiveness, satisfaction
  - User Experience: emotional usability and more
  - Contextual Design: fit to context
  - Ludic Design: Fun
    - Other Reflective Stances: interpretative etc.
  - Worth: favourable balance of benefits over costs for beneficiaries within a sociodigital system
    - Acceptable impact for negative 'beneficiaries'

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### Recap: Keynote Part 2

- Illustration of alternative a priori derivation of design meta-principles
  - Heskett as an example starting point
- Constrain Heskett's 4 choice classes
  - Craft** constraints: socio-digital materials of Interaction Design
  - Axiological** constraints: the purpose of design is to demonstrate the achievement of worth by identified beneficiaries via aligned evaluations
- Support with *framework* of worth-centred design and evaluation approaches

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### Support from Existing Approaches

- Receptiveness
  - Participative development, field studies, reflective design, value-sensitive design, designs, trends, inventions, ...
- Expressivity
  - Personas, scenarios, sketching, (experience) prototyping, ...
- Credibility
  - Design Rationale, Task/Scenario Analyses, Technical Feasibility Analysis, Grounded Theory, Interaction Design studies, ...
- Inclusiveness
  - Stakeholder analysis, plus aspects of accessibility, reflective design, value-sensitive design, sustainability, ...
- Improvability
  - RITE; evaluability: user testing and inspection, understandability: Activity Theory, Distributed Cognition, User Experience Theories etc.
- Committedness?

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### Worth-Centred Innovations

- Committedness**
  - Worth maps with element annotations (1)
- Receptiveness and Inclusiveness**
  - L-ERG-IKK worth webs (2)
- Expressivity**
  - User Experience Frames (3), Worth personas, Worth boards (adaptation of mood boards)
- Credibility**
  - Worth Delivery Scenarios (3)
- Improvability (4)**
  - Element Measurement Strategies, Direct Worth Instrumentation, Total Iteration Potential

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### Van Hire Web Site Example

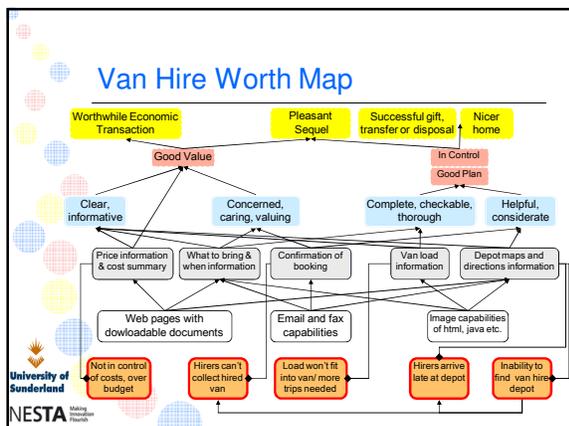
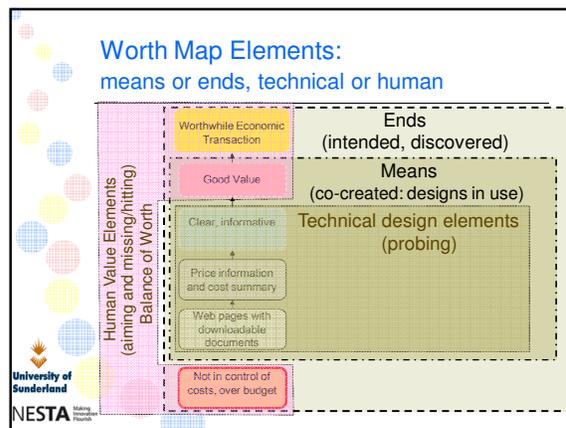
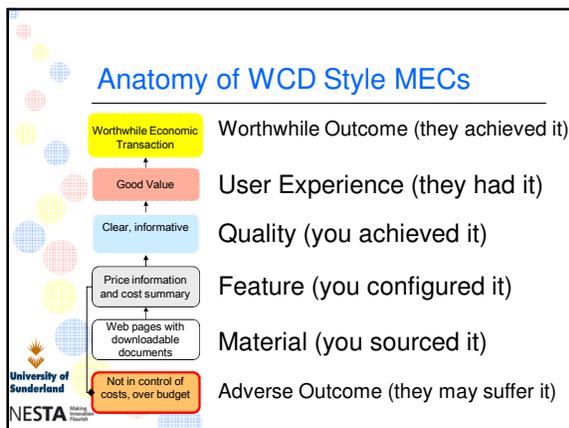
- Hiring a van to move something from one place to another
- Gift, purchase, sale or disposal
- Different goals, overlapping values

The screenshot shows a website interface for van hire. It includes a map where users can select a region, a list of airport locations, and various terms and conditions. The interface is designed to be user-friendly and informative.

### Worth Maps: WCD Approach 1

- Origins in hierarchical value models (HVMs) of consumer psychology, already in use in:
  - Information Systems (St. Gallen), Software Engineering (Australia), Web development (USA), Mobile HCI (Korea, Austria)
- Network models of intersecting and converging means-end chains (MECs)
  - associate product attributes with the UXs and valued outcomes of user interaction
- Direct support for designing as connecting
  - Associating explicit means with explicit ends

Interactions, July+August 2008



### Role of Worth Maps in WCD

- Committedness to designing as connecting
  - Chosen means and ends, associated in MECs
  - Beneficiaries and evaluations also connected
- Worth Maps as an anchor representation
  - Credibility relates to elements and associations
  - Human Value Element annotations support Inclusiveness and evaluability
- Worth Maps must be fully augmented to support receptiveness and expressivity
  - menus and options are external to worth maps
  - so are details of inter-element associations

### Worth-Centred Development

- m Axiological constraints on non-craft design choices
  - n Consider balance of costs and benefits
- m Assess existing design and evaluation approaches against constrained meta-principles
- m Adapt and fill gaps as required




### Worth Webs: WCD Approach 2

- m Understanding ends and beneficiaries independently of technology
  - n Upgrading users from scenic features in design
  - n Untethering people from usage
- m 'Web' metaphor common in figurative and related sociology, framing device
  - n Weber, Arendt, Parsons, Elias, Giddens (locales)
  - n Individuals and spaces located within webs of overlapping social structures



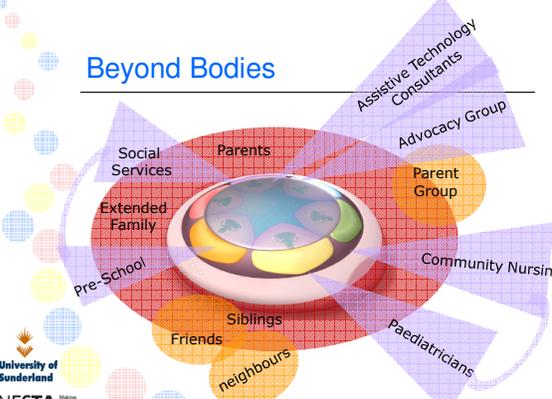

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### Individuals in Social Webs

- m Life as a web of Self-Other relations
- m Self: individual motivation
  - n Alderfer: Existence, Relatedness, Growth
  - n Existence and growth of mind, body and spirit
- m Other: collective structures mould agency
  - n Kin, Kind and Institutions
    - o Families and similar groupings (e.g., gangs)
    - o Communities of practice, interest, place, age, issue, faith/belief, gender, language/ethnicity ...
    - o Institutional: governmental, religious, commercial, charitable, educational, professional, scientific, advocacy/political, ...



### Beyond Bodies



Labels in the diagram include: Social Services, Parents, Extended Family, Pre-School, Siblings, Friends, neighbours, Paediatricians, Community Nursing, Parent Group, Advocacy Group, and Assistive Technology Consultants.



[http://www.nancarrow-webdesk.com/warehouse/storage2/2007-w40/img\\_18276\\_1.jpg](http://www.nancarrow-webdesk.com/warehouse/storage2/2007-w40/img_18276_1.jpg)

### Role of Worth Webs in WCD

- m Broadening scope of **receptiveness**
  - n L-ERG-IKK (allergic to theory!)
  - n Locales -Existence+Relatedness+Growth-Kin+Kind+Institutions
  - n Webs create multiple places over spaces
- m Understanding individuals in relation to their web of social contexts
  - n Role conflicts and responsibilities
  - n Value conflicts and priorities
  - n Potential beneficiaries/adverse impacts (worth)
- m Sociodigital system design opportunities
  - n e.g., Job enrichment for van depot staff



### UEFs: WCD Approach 3

- m User Experience Frames (UEFs)
  - n Multi-column **expression** of abstract interaction scenarios
  - n Explore **credibility** of UXs as the final means in means-end chains
    - o Does interaction deliver intended worth?
  - n Provide a focus for direct **evaluation** of user interaction: worth inspection





## DWI: WCD evaluation insight

- Direct Worth Instrumentation
  - direct collection of measures by instrumenting the technical system (logging) or the wider sociodigital system (instrumentation)
  - measure what matters and endures in the world, as and when lasting outcomes form
  - measure transient user experiences to diagnose degraded worth

## DWI: Van Hire Examples

- Worthwhile Outcomes
  - Worthwhile economic transaction
  - Pleasant sequel, successful delivery
- Adverse outcomes
  - Costs of control, load won't fit, can't collect van, late pick up, can't find depot
- Need to instrument van hire depot and customers, not earlier web-site interactions
  - Still need to instrument some UXs, e.g., confidence in choices and preparation

## Role of EMSs in WCD

- Committedness to means of evaluation
- A big picture of what matters most
  - Understandability within worth map context
- Evaluation planning can be completed before design finalisation
  - Designs get better
    - establishing element measurement criteria supports expressivity for ends and increases receptiveness for means
  - Heisencokton's improvability principle!

## Summary

- Three (1+1+½ + ½) meta-principles implied by ordinary language analysis and choice theory
- Designing implies 3 more (½ + ½+ 1+1)
  - close reading of Heskett's position on outcomes
- Constrain Heskett's four choice classes
  - Means of Interaction Design: Socio-digital materials
  - Purpose of Design: Worth as one form of axiological constraint
- WCD framework of approaches partially instantiates meta-principles for constrained choices
- Final instantiation must occur on a studio, team or project basis
  - Approaches, not algorithms

## Concluding Claims

- Meta-principles for designing and their initial worth-centred pre-instantiation ...
  - ... re-frame and support adaptation of most existing HCI approaches
    - Personas, scenarios, user testing, probes, ...
  - ... highlight gaps in current HCI support
    - Representing commitments, e-valuation of costs as well as benefits, user experience as axiological meaning making, broad views of human values and their social contexts

WickID!

Worth-Centred Interaction Design

## Questions?





**Thank You**

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