

# **EuroSOUPS: Privacy, Technology Use and Location-Based Services**

**Lisa Thomas**

PaCT Lab

Department of Psychology

Northumbria University

[lisa.thomas@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.thomas@northumbria.ac.uk)

## **1. Introduction**

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student working in PaCT Lab at Northumbria University, Newcastle. My PhD is funded by the ESRC and I work in collaboration with local industry. I have a mainly psychology background (BA Hons Psychology, 2004, University of Sheffield, and MSc Environmental Psychology, 2007, University of Surrey), but am now interested in the use of technology and its impact on the everyday user.

PaCT Lab researchers currently explore issues of design, communication, technology and ageing, health, and privacy.

## **2. Research aims**

My PhD work aims to identify factors influencing the uptake of location-based services (LBS). North East LBS provider 'TrackaPhone', who provide services to companies using technology in their work environments, is supporting the project.

My first study involved testing a model of LBS use by administering a questionnaire, based on an existing theoretical model. Following on from this, case studies were conducted to allow for a more in-depth understanding of *how* LBS technology affects different populations. Utilising the findings from these three case studies, and results from questionnaire 1, the questionnaire will be revised and sent out again to a real-world population. This research will provide the field of psychology with a robust and testable model to predict intentions to use LBS.

In addition, a further study exploring disclosure, privacy and security is being conducted. Using various methodologies, we are exploring what people are willing to disclose, whether

people are concerned about *what* they disclose, and *who* they are willing to disclose information to.

### **3. EuroSOUPS proposal**

#### **The basics:**

- I feel SOUPS and EuroSOUPS should be held at different times of year
- It would give more people an opportunity to attend if EuroSOUPS was held in a different European city each year. This would also hopefully encourage a broad range of research to be presented

**From a PhD researcher perspective, I feel EuroSOUPS could offer a lot to the doctoral research community. I would like to see:**

- Prior to EuroSOUPS, it might be beneficial to have access to an online resource where all contributors (organisers/students/academics) display a summary of their work.
- A specific workshop session designated to PhD researchers, at varying stages in their research, to allow for discussion and sharing of experiences
- A session to advise researchers of funding/employment opportunities in the area
- The conference could start a database of research/learning materials, accessible all year round, which will benefit researchers in the field. This could hold, for example, electronic copies of all paper/poster submissions, researcher web pages, testing materials etc

I feel a smaller conference (as I envisage EuroSOUPS to be, compared to SOUPS), would be more affordable, accessible, and if organised well, be able to provide a strong community feel both before and after the conference has ended. I would be more than happy to aid in the organisation of the conference.