

COURSE PROGRAM - Collaborative ICT for feeding the networked world: A socio-technical perspective

Monday 29 June 2015

Food & knowledge: feeding the knowledge-society

Andrea Ceroni, *University of Milano Bicocca*

Summary: Food is a complex object, having great relevance, not only for the individual, as it is obvious, but for the community and culture, too. Through food, the individual is in interaction with the environment while constituting his/her own body. Moreover, food stays at the crossroad of critical interests and exchanges within society. Lastly, food is laden by symbolic meanings, and we can usefully trace some deeply rooted myth, either ancient or modern, behind our present sociological imagination about food.

Food and food consumption: forms and meanings in social relations

Rosantonieta Scramaglia, *International University of Languages and Communication - Milano*

Summary: Food accompanies us throughout our lives. At each age it helps us to communicate, to express what we are, to show how we want to appear, and to establish relations with others. However, with the passing of time and variations in societies, food itself has changed, along with the way it is produced, procured, prepared, presented, and consumed, while leaving unchanged, however, our tendency to attach symbolic significance to it, especially during important moments in our lives, such as celebrations and parties. The values we give to food come in many forms and may be considered from a moral, religious, social, functional, hygienic, medical or health point of view. These multiple aspects will be analysed with the help of filmed documents, literary documents, results of research and data regarding the different situations being experienced on our planet.

Tuesday 30 June 2015

From socialization to conviviality in collaboration in the small: food as the red line to interpret the role of ITs in the glocal setting.

Federico Cabitza, *University of Milano Bicocca*

Summary: The talk will focus on how current Web 2.0 can support the inception of social activities and the development of complex communities through new forms of communication (e.g., whatsapp groups, Facebook groups) and usual ways to get mutual acquaintances (e.g., meetups). Taking into consideration the seminal idea by Beniger on the crisis of control that justified the current modern ITs, we notice how the same technologies that made possible the efficient mobilization of assets, people and also food over great distances now fall short of properly supporting the creation of new and much shorter supply paths connecting the informed and aware consumer and the producer of food with zero food miles. To this aim, we will also shed light on the high level requirements and design-oriented principles that underlie the next generation of Web- and mobile-mediated technologies. These are not intended to be in the strand of (semantic) Web 3.0 but rather of a new form of Web 2.0 where the tools can also support collaborative activities aimed at some common aim and through them improve civic engagement, sense of community and proximity-based value coproduction. In other words, we will try to understand the necessary preconditions by which interconnected technologies can become convivial tools in the network communities of the next decade.

Wednesday 1st July 2015

New approaches for composing and visualizing services to support tracking in food supply chains

Carmelo Ardito, Antonio Piccinno, *University of Bari*

Summary: Food tracking has become an important issue in recent times. Tools supporting the traceability and tracking of foods can go a long way towards preventing these unfortunate events or, at the very least, help in minimizing the damage that may occur, thanks to improved and faster intervention possibilities.

We aim at allowing laypeople to create their own applications to trace and track their food by composing content coming from different web sources.

After illustrating the fundamentals of End-User development and meta-design, which are at the basis of our approach, we introduce students to a composition platform that allows end users to create their own applications by mashup. During the practical session, students are required to create their own application for tracing and tracking their food.

Thursday 2nd July 2015

Digital Technology for Collaboration in the food industry

Aurelio Ravarini, *Free University Cattaneo - Castellanza*

Summary: The lecture will follow a twofold approach to discuss the role of digital technology for collaboration, both within a single (typically large) enterprise, and among different enterprises (typically SMEs, aggregated in clusters). Participants will be guided into join a socio-technical perspective with a view of the organizations as dynamic systems, to design collaboration as a process of transformation enabled by digital technology.

A specific focus will be dedicated to the application of collaboration to the food industry.

A hands-on session will lead participants to experiment the boundaries of the domain of application of the digital tools usually labelled as "online collaborative tools".

Social value of open data in the agricultural domain.

Carlo Batini, *University of Milano Bicocca*

Summary: Open data are more and more becoming important in the life of citizens. But their utility for citizens is uneven. With reference to the agricultural domain we will show several examples of open data, and an example of their life cycle, from the proprietary representation adopted in information systems to the interoperable representation of Berner's Lee five stars. At the same time, we will also deal with the social value they bear to citizens in the improvement of their quality of life.

Friday 3 July 2015

Understanding "food" in a human interaction context: Designing food & technology experiences

Oezge Subas, *Vienna University of Technology*

Summary: Food and its consumption, or non-consumption, is a broad topic with multiple perspectives on individual, social, community and policy/culture levels. The question of how to design/appropriate digital technologies to support food related issues at these multiple views is a challenge. This lecture aims to discuss issues around everyday food practices and to introduce related examples of possible design interventions. An overlay of related design techniques will accompany the practical part of the course.

Collaboration and community exchange in local sustainable initiatives

Giulia Bertone, *University of Milano*

Summary: The lecture will discuss how ICTs can support collaborative and participatory processes in local sustainable initiatives. It will analyze some socio-technical systems designed to promote knowledge sharing, community creativity, collaboration among stakeholders, and bottom up initiatives at local level, including ICTs based projects on urban and community-supported agriculture (www.cives.partecipami.it; www.partecipami.it/micomporto), water consumption in urban areas (www.labbiamoimbrocata.it) and a dedicated software to support ethical purchasing groups.