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Mediating Emotions via Visual Communications
An Exploration of the Visual Presentation of the Self via Mobile Communications

Sharing and showing digital images makes it possible for people to interpret events, express feelings, share experiences and explore their emotions more richly than in words alone. This paper explores the topic of emotion mediated via visual (mobile) communications to examine how people are using images to present their self to others, as well to explore their own self image. It addresses the questions how are people managing, developing and using these complex visual presentations of their self and secondly, how are these images represented and used, among different groups of friends, family, business and other organizations? The paper builds on my recent study for Horizon Digital Economy Research (Nottingham University) to explore digital self portrait photos and uses a variety of research sources including papers from recent conferences, interviews with academics and my own research on emotion and mobile phones. The theoretical approach primarily uses Goffman's work on the presentation of self to frame the discussion that draws on a multi-disciplinary examination of the topic.

Jane VINCENT, PhD, is Visiting Research Fellow with the University of Surrey's Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences. Researching emotion in the social practices of mobile phone and other ICT users Jane draws on her career in mobile telecommunications and her 10 years of academic research with the Digital World Research Centre. She recently completed a study for Horizon Digital Economy Research, Nottingham University and was UK representative on the EU funded www.cost298.org exploring Participation in Broadband Society. Jane is joint series editor with Peter Lang Berlin, joint editor of a forthcoming volume with Routledge, and author of numerous articles on emotions and mobile phones. E-mail: J.Vincent@surrey.ac.uk.

