

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: MONDAY 6 MAY 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



How is Technology Changing Our Lives?

Technology has a bigger presence in our lives than ever before- but is the digital age changing the way we relate to one another?

PhD student in the School of Social Sciences Ashlin Lee aims to investigate this.

His project, titled *Of Human Beings and Intimate Mobile Machines: The role and experience of convergent mobile technologies in the lives of users*, is looking at the way technology influences our lives.

“My research will explore our experiences using mobile technology, the roles it plays in our lives and how devices are integrated into everyday life,” Mr Lee said.

“I’ll also be looking at how technological devices themselves, such as smartphones, may act to mediate social relationships and patterns.”

Mr Lee is looking for study participants who use convergent mobile technology. This refers to mobile technologies that combine previously separate digital abilities into one device, such as:

- Access to high capacity mobile data networks like 3G, Next G, and/or Bluetooth/Wifi etc
- Multimedia capture, playback and editing; for example recording and sharing HD video from a mobile/tablet
- Ability to run apps on mobiles/tablet

(Laptops and computers are not part of the study.)

Participants must also have a few bucks to spare, as this research seeks participants who have an after tax household income (the sum of all the incomes of the members of the household) of \$100,000 or more per annum.

Mr Lee said recent sociological research has found convergent mobile technology is contributing to new, elite lifestyles.

“Recent research suggests that mobile technologies are closely linked to developing forms of mobility and networking, and serve to increase an individual’s social status and wealth,” he said.

“But this research has focused mainly on the super rich, like investment bankers- I want to see if these theories apply to everyday, slightly less affluent individuals.”

Information for study participants:

- Participation will involve two face-to-face interviews with Mr Lee
- Please email Ashlin.Lee@utas.edu.au to get involved

Please note Mr Lee is based at the UTAS Newnham campus in Launceston.

Information Released by:

The UTAS Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au