

Interview Transcript

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| Interviewee | Erik Stolterman - Professor, Indiana University Bloomington, United States of America |
| Interviewer | Alexander Hayes - PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia |
| Supervisor | Professor Katina Michael, University of Wollongong, New South Wales Australia |
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Research Question

What are the socio-ethical implications of body worn video camera recorders on society?

Research Focus / Outcomes

This research examines the historical developments and contemporaneous challenges that location enabled body worn camera technologies pose for humanity. The potential benefits, risks or harm on society from body worn camera technologies will inform the development of a socio-ethical framework to provide context, inform and address these issues where gaps in the literature have been identified.

Hayes: What does the term 'wearable computers' mean to you?

Stolterman: I do not have any specific definition of the term. I have a more intuitive understanding of the concept which is very much what it sounds like, that is, computational technology that you can wear on your body in some form.

Hayes: What are the key differences between hand-held, wearable and body-worn technologies in your opinion?

Stolterman: To me the key difference is that anything that is handheld is not really wearable computers.

Hayes: In what way have you been involved in past, current or proposed use of these technologies?

Stolterman: I have only on a distant way been involved with people who do work on wearable computers. I have not myself done any work on this type of technology.

Hayes: What are the benefits, risks or harm from your perspective on users of this technology?

Stolterman: I do not see any particular risk with this technology that is different from any other computational technology. It is all dependent on the design of the technology and less on the fact if it is wearable or not.

Hayes: What does the term "location enabled" mean to you within the context of location-enabled body-worn technologies?

Stolterman: It points to the functionality that the technology via gps or other technologies have the possibility of keeping track of the location, that is where, the wearer of the tech is. It can be seen as a tracking tech or as a technology to support awareness of location for the wearer.

Hayes: Which issues, if any, are you aware of that involve this type of networked technology?

Stolterman: The obvious issues are privacy and security. In both cases this tech can become, if designed and used for particular purposes, a risk and do harm for the wearer. However, at the same time, the same tech and functionality can create safety and security for the wearer, again it is a question of design and not of the tech itself.

Hayes: What impacts have location enabled body-worn technologies had or are likely to have upon (a) yourself, (b) your colleagues or (c) your industry?

Stolterman: I don't really know about any impact so far in relation to these aspects. I think we are still at the start of this development. I am sure we will see more consequences soon.

Hayes: How do you envisage location enabled body-worn technologies being used in the future for educational purpose?

Stolterman: I have not thought about this and again, I see this as a consequence of design and not as a consequence of the tech itself. Wearables can be a useful tool for educational purposes if designed in a good way, but they can also just become a gimmick if not designed in a thoughtful way.

Hayes: What do you envisage the longer-term effects of this use of this technology will be on society?

Stolterman: That I have no real thoughts about, except that this tech in some ways will pose serious questions since it does push some aspects of computational tech to the extreme.