Tilanteita - Situations : Developing concepts for situated and mobile imaging

Title	Tilanteita - Situations
Subtitle	Developing concepts for situated and mobile imaging
Lead-in / Abstract	Two projects, *Imaginary Journey*, a virtual trip across Europe and *Syntymiä*, two public spaces for families wanting to announce the birth of their child with an mms message, will be presented to describe a work process, in which narratives play the key role in the structuring of the collaborative design process and the framing of the audience participation.
Participants and speakers	Tikka, Heidi (FI)
Short biography of participants	**Heidi Tikka** is a media artist and a researcher. Since 2003 she has collaborated with **Grip Studios Interactive** and **Elisa**, producing an ongoing series of mobile imaging experiments for Tilanteita. Her interactive installations, such as *Mother, Child*, have toured internationally. She is currently completing her dissertation at the Media Lab UIAH, where she also teaches media culture.
Full text	*Tilanteita* sets out to imagine situations for using mms messaging within socially specific interactions. The work reflects my personal experience as the mother of a small child, living within the triangular social space of home, work and day care center. Therefore, I have produced my imagining from the place of a less privileged user, not necessarily having access to the ownership of latest mobile devices.

With this positioning, I have wanted to argue for the need to develop mobile services across the range of social realities and for the importance of making visible any absences within the imagined user groups accessing mobile technologies.

In the context of experience design *Tilanteita* should be placed into the emerging field in-between media art practice and mobile service concept development. I believe this kind of hybrid work has the advantage of creating less conventional ways for user experience design and testing. In the series of *Tilanteita* projects, *Imaginary Journey* represents an independent art project, whereas *Syntymiä* is a pilot for a potential mms service. Taken together, however, they suggest a design approach, that is both socially and culturally informed and uses methods common in art projects for setting up social experiments for further mms service concept development.

The method I would like to specifically address in this context is the creation of narratives that articulated my personal involvement with the projects and which, to some extent made visible the personal risk I have taken in each of them. As these projects were participatory, their success depended significantly on whether and how people would respond to them. In both *Imaginary Journey* and *Syntymiä* my tales on maternity were used to make intelligible a system of reasonable complexity. And these tales did not only frame participation, but also helped me to bring together the heterogenous groups of actors that were needed in the completion of the various stages of each project.

As *Syntymiä* involved a challenging collaboration with various groups of actors I will specifically focus on reporting how narratives were used to structure the design process and the actual pilot experiment.

Tilanteita projects include

Imaginary Journey, 2003
Participatory online project in conjunction with Ideologia II, Biennial of Nordic Art
Concept, image editing, production: Heidi Tikka
Web design: Giedre Kligyte
http://imaginaryjourney.uiah.fi

Syntymiä – Births, 2003
Experimental mms service pilot in collaboration with
Radiolinja (Elisa), HUS Women's Hospital, Kiasma
Concept, production: Heidi Tikka
Technical implementation: Grip Studios Interactive,
Production funding: Ministry of Education, AVEK

Perheitä – Families, 2003
mms experiment in collaboration with
Radiolinja (Elisa)
Concept, production: Heidi Tikka
Technical implementation: Grip Studios Interactive,
Production funding: Ministry of Education, AVEK
Participating families:
Ronja, Miska, Tuomo Tammenpää, Sari Kippila
Verna, Maunu Häyrynen, Sari Karttunen
Severi, Heidi Tikka

Situations4x, 2004
Participatory mms project in collaboration with
ISEA04, Kiasma, Elisa
Concept, Production: Heidi Tikka
Technical implementation: Grip Studios Interactive,
Production funding: AVEK
Participating families:
Ronja, Miska, Tuomo Tammenpää, Sari Kippila
Verna, Maunu Häyrynen, Sari Karttunen
Severi, Heidi Tikka
http://tilanteita.kiasma.fi/situations4x

Related internet addresses

http://mlab.uiah.fi/~htikka/
http://tilanteita.kiasma.fi/situations4x
http://imaginaryjourney.uiah.fi/