Mediating Community: Residential Development, Community, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

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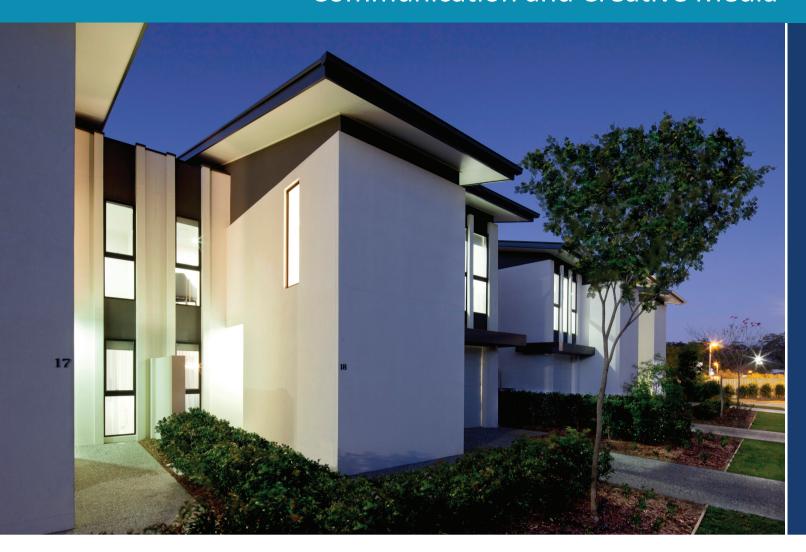
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Mediating Community:
Residential Development, Community, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

A Gold Coast Research Project

A Pilot Study Collaboration with Sunland Group

Chief Investigator:
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Partners:
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"technology appears to facilitate information flow and connection across the 'digital society', but can this replicate (or even replace) the emotional basis of face to face interaction that constitutes 'genuine' community?"

(Harris 2003)

Research Questions

- What does community mean in the 21st Century?
- What building blocks are needed to initiate a community?
- How can ICTs impact community and human engagement within it?
- Can residential developments be constructed around civil society ideals to enhance engagement?
- Can humanistic values associated with community and incorporated in terms like 'social justice' and 'social action' be embodied in residential developments?
- If so, what kind of planning, organizational management and use of ICTs could be proposed to create the conditions for 'value commitment'?

Exploratory Research – Interdisciplinary Approaches

The project aims to define and describe community in new residential developments and mobilize existing, new and innovative ideas about community using ICTs.

The project documents interactions between Bond University researchers and Sunland Group commercial residential property developers, with the goal of offering just-in-time evidence-based recommendations for 'community practice.'

The Mediated Community project is unique in establishing a new set of site specific theoretical and practical applications aimed at solutions for the built environment.

Methodology

Mixed research method: combined social science documentation strategies, critical, interpretive and analytical qualitative textual assessments drawn from the humanities. Individual and group data collection using paper-based survey techniques and focus group discussions and interviews will be used. Additional research instruments will be identified and used as the research progresses, in consultation with Sunland executives.

Objective: Linkage and Discovery Grant Applications to the Australian Research Council.

Community

ICTs

Residential Developments

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