

**Jane VINCENT**

### ***Emotion and My Mobile***

The emotional attachment that some people have to their mobile phones has been previously documented by the author: for example, people of all ages use emotional words to express the ways they feel about their mobile phone and all that it engenders and many say they cannot live without it (Vincent 2005). This paper explores how people's emotional attachment to the device and all that it stands for is expressed and manifested. The paper presents analysis of recently conducted research comprising a qualitative study using semi structured interviews of a sample of mobile phone users. The respondents were asked to talk about how their mobile phone figures in their lives and in particular in their relationships. The way the respondents explored this topic, and their emotions and feelings they use to talk about it, are analysed from a sociological perspective drawing on interactionist theories such as those of Blumer, Goffman and others, as well as on the emotion theories of Kemper and Hochschilds.

#### References

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**Jane VINCENT** has been a Research Fellow with the Digital World Research Centre at the University of Surrey since 2001 where she researches the social practices of mobile communications users. Prior to her academic career she worked with British Telecom and O2 in the UK for over 20 years. Jane's research includes studies for industry organisations on the social shaping of mobile communications, young people's use of mobiles, and articles that examine the emotional attachment some people have to their mobile phones. This latter topic is the subject of her PhD research scholarship with the University of Surrey's Department of Sociology. For more information see [www.dwrc.surrey.ac.uk](http://www.dwrc.surrey.ac.uk). E-mail: [jane.vincent@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:jane.vincent@surrey.ac.uk).

