On track:
Living & measuring everyday complexity

EURANDOM

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The passenger between project & passage. A new look at hypermobility

De reiziger tussen project en passage

Een nieuwe kijk op hypermobiliteit

Peter Peters, Sanneke Kloppenburg, Sally Wyatt & Wiebe Bijker

Peters, Kloppenburg & Wyatt (2010) Co-ordinating passages: Understanding the resources needed for everyday mobility, *Mobilities,* 5(3): 349-368.

ORIGINAL QUESTIONS

- How do 'hypermobile' people use communication and transport technologies to maintain their social networks?

- How can qualitative interview data and quantitative telephone record data be combined?

- What are the (transport) policy implications?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Social networks & network resources (mobility studies & STS)

- Projects, passages & resources ('wisselgeld')

- Travelling as puzzle-solving

SOME SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSIONS

- Time-space dimensions of network
- Traveler is creative problem solver (not rational utility maximiser)
- Mode of transport is determined by activity
- (lack of) time not the biggest problem
- Physical & digital mobility complementary

METHODS & DATA

- 13 respondents
  - 1st interview (permission needed for mobile data to be provided) – social networks, usual mobility patterns
  - Mobile data for 5-week period (totals, patterns, calling circle)
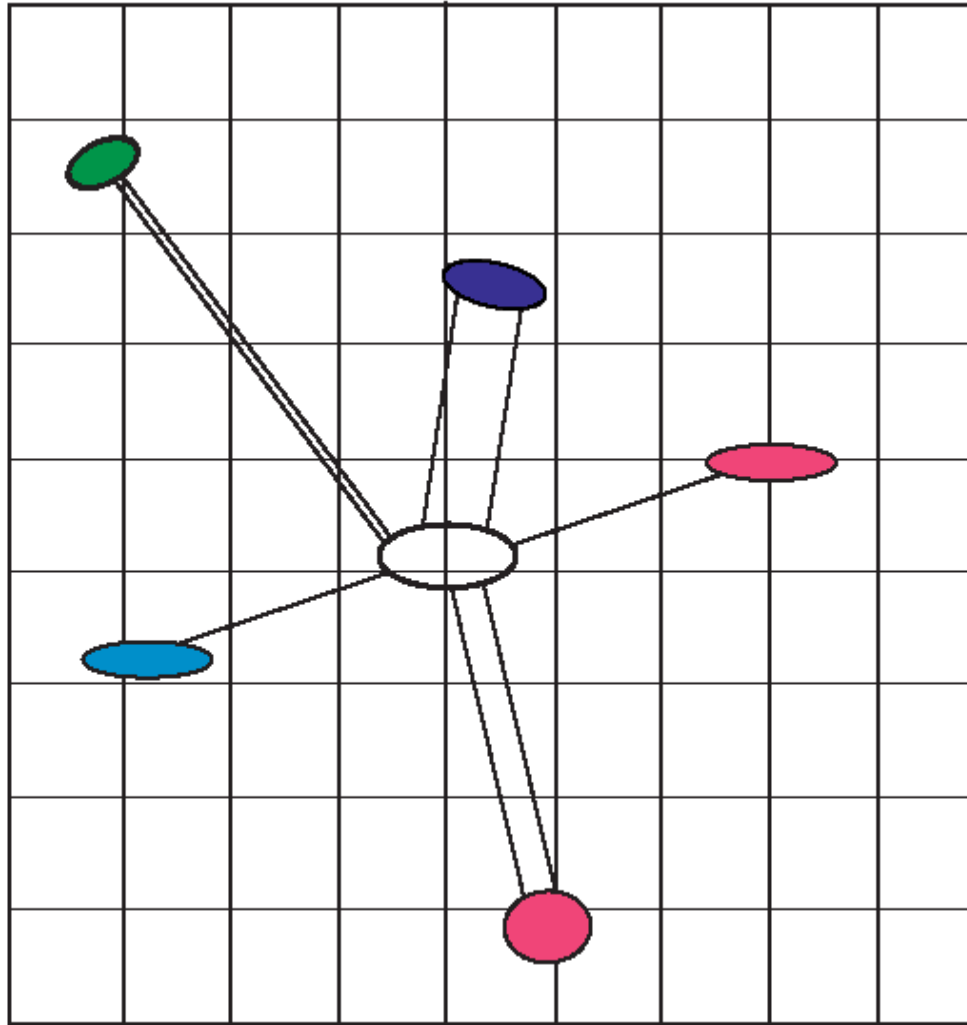 - 2nd interview reviewing mobile data & key 'mobility' moments

In the wrong train…

I'd left my child at the daycare, just a normal day. There was a train waiting when I arrived at the station. And so, I thought, oh, it's time for the commuter train so I got on. But – it wasn't a commuter train, it was an intercity [which does not stop everywhere]. It was an intercity that was late, but it was wrongly announced on the board.
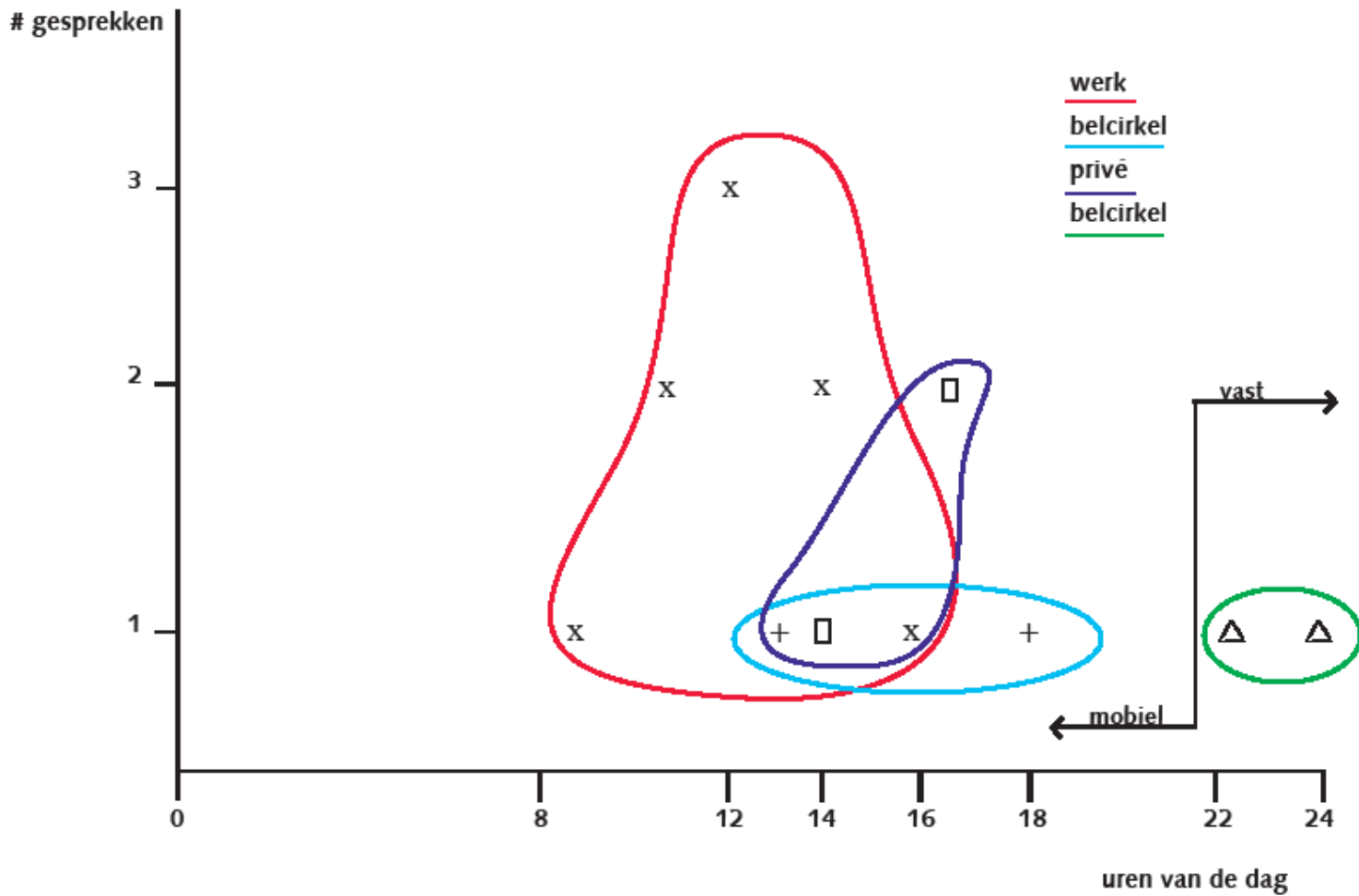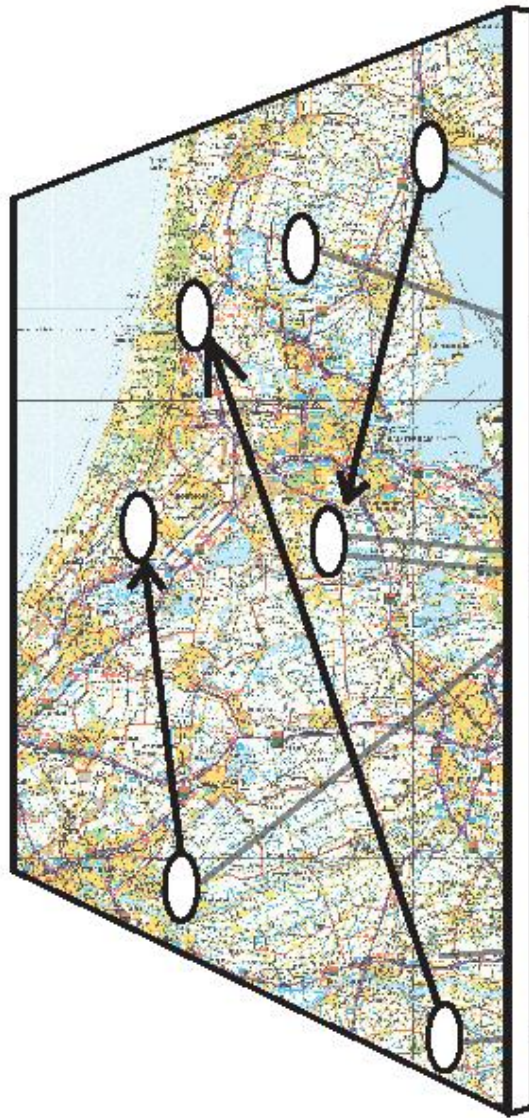
What does Natalie do next?

Natalie, early 40s, civil servant, married, 2 children (3 & 8), lives in one city and works in another

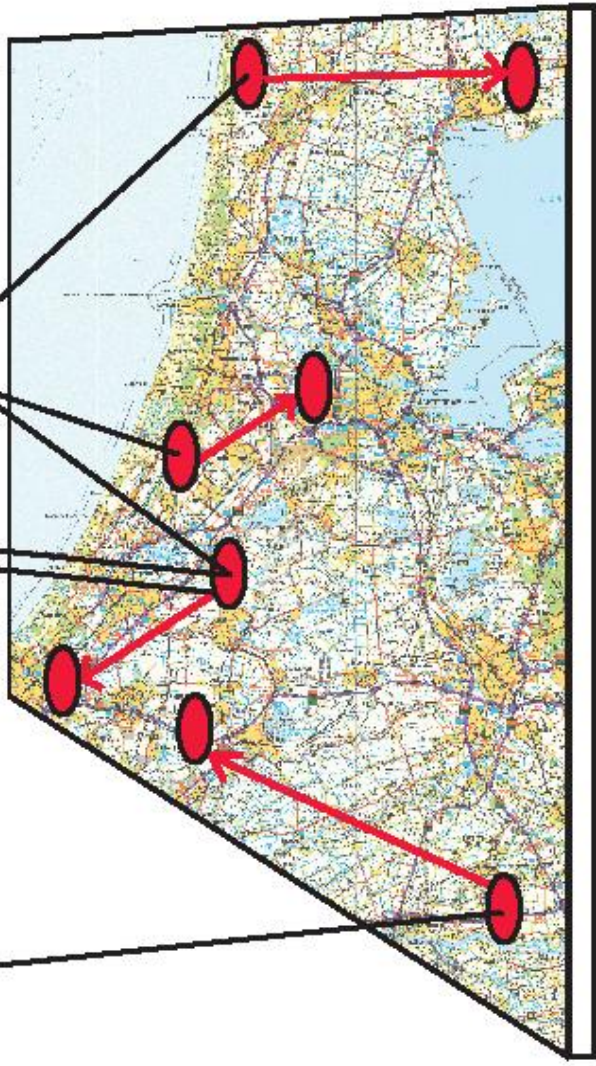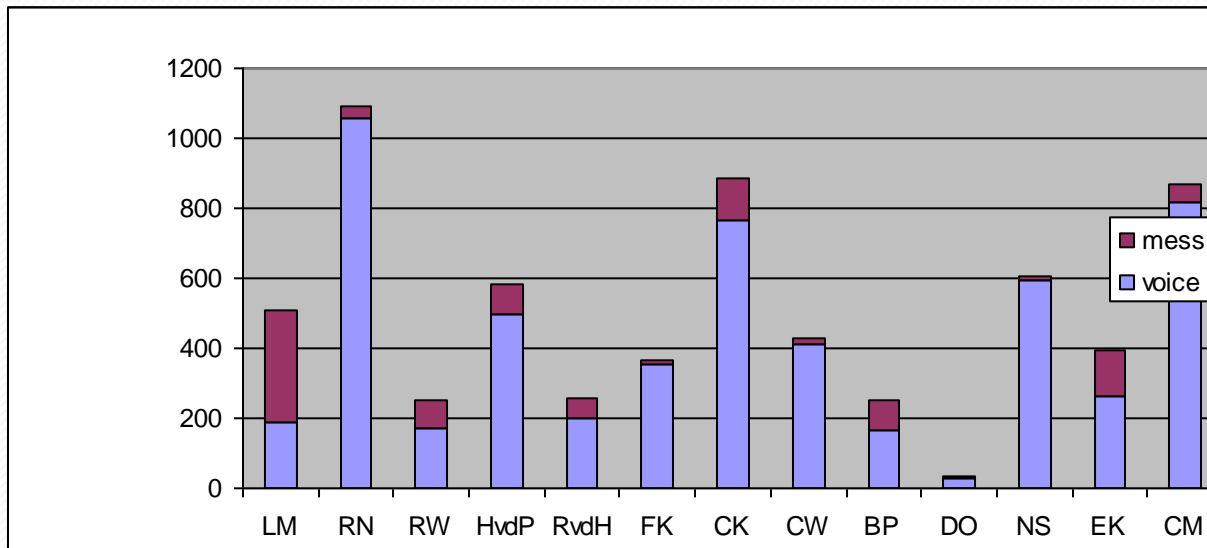|								
########	10:23:07	MO	3,16E+10	3,14E+10	73,9		N	32053	0
########	19:50:11	MO	3,16E+10	3,16E+10	0		N	0	1
########	13:00:08	MT	3,22E+09	3,16E+10	5,1		I	?	0
########	21:00:34	MO	3,16E+10	3,19E+08	203,7		N	10783	0
2-11-2006	9:53:29	MO	3,16E+10	DOORSCHAKELEN 1233		10	N	0	0
7-11-2006	12:42:35	MO	3,16E+10	3,16E+10	51,7		N	60121	0
########	8:25:34	MO	3,16E+10	VF NUMMERINFO		247	N	46513	0
########	20:22:10	MO	3,16E+10	1233	121		R	0	0
8-11-2006	9:22:52	MO	3,16E+10	3,17E+10	140,1		N	23591	0
########	16:09:04	MO	3,16E+10	3,16E+10	5		N	882	0
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2-11-2006	10:29:12	MT	3,22E+09	3,16E+10	29,9		I	?	0
2-11-2006	8:53:56	MT	3,16E+10	3,16E+10	956,3		N	?	1
########	13:18:16	MO	3,16E+10	3,16E+10	401		N	3502	0
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3-11-2006	16:12:47	MO	3,16E+10	3,23E+09	181,6		I	17011	0
2-11-2006	10:57:07	MT	3,23E+09	3,16E+10	185,2		I	?	0
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5 gesprekken / week

Hoe overbrugt men afstand?
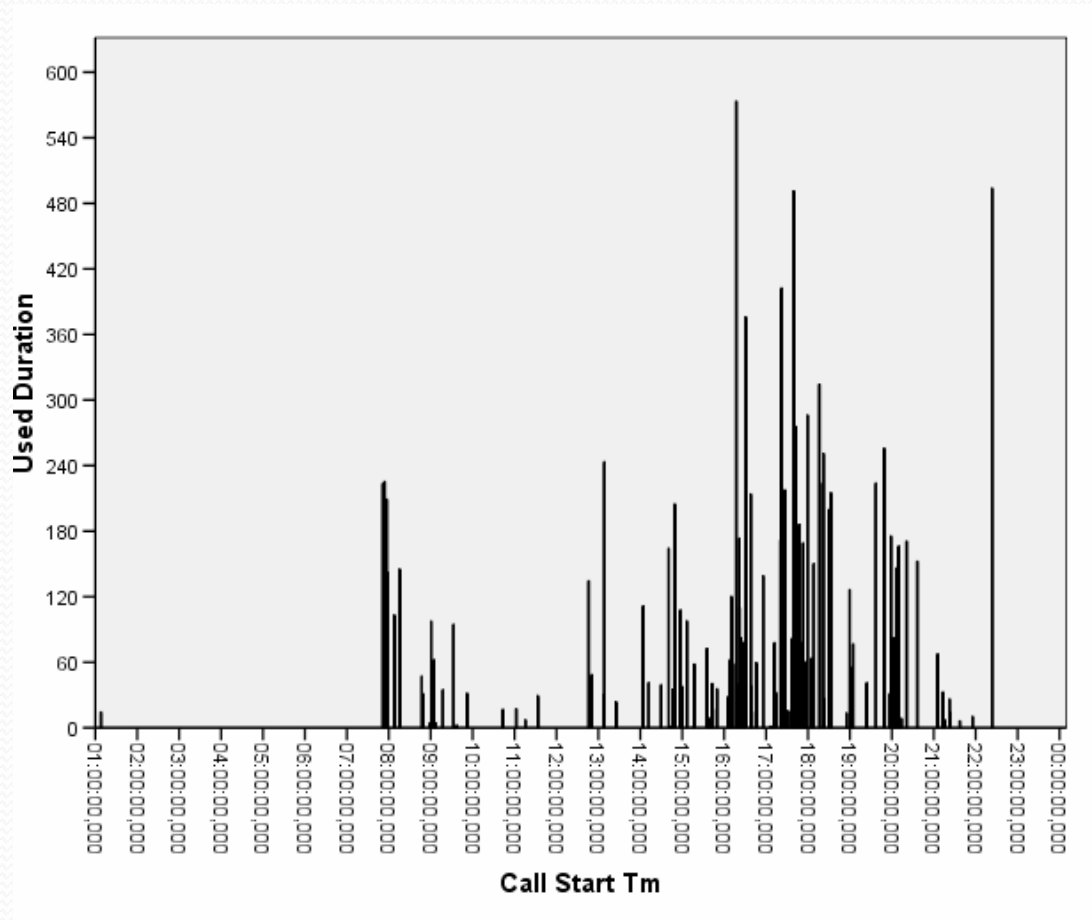
Wat is de afstandsfunctie van de GSM?

Totals: SMS & voice

Call duration, over the day

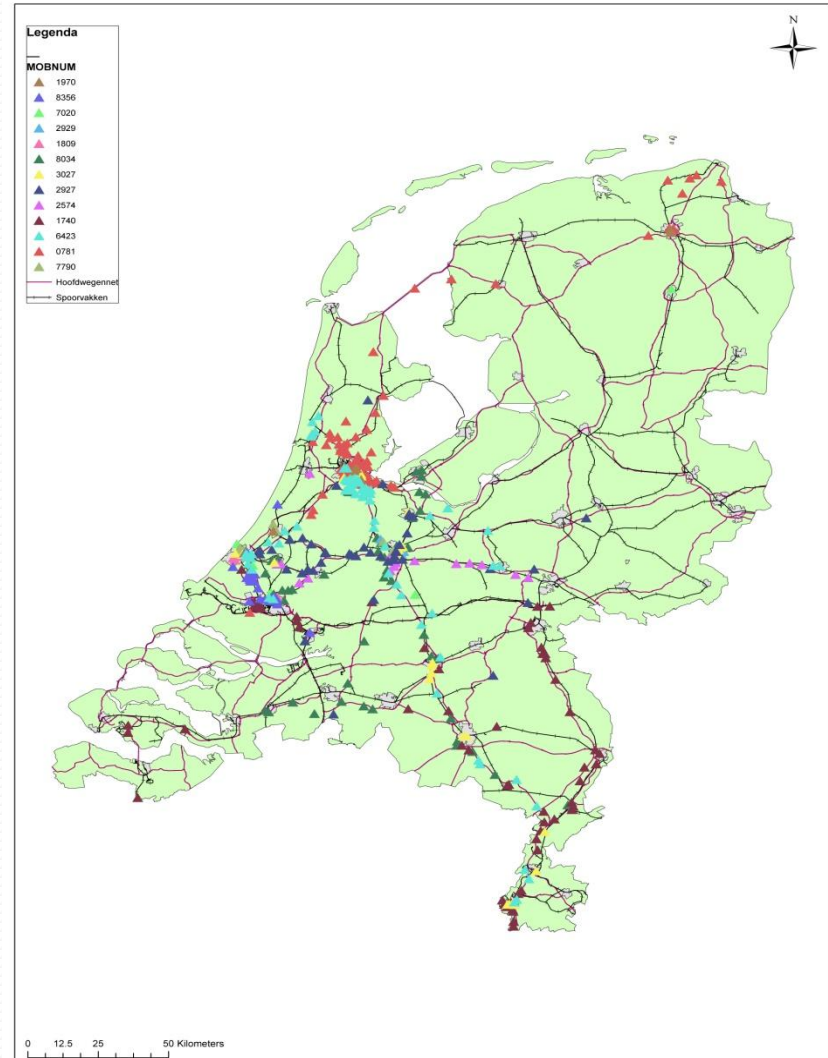(x axis: time of day, y axis: call duration in seconds)

Call circle, respondent LM

naam	relatie	woonplaats	voice		text message	
			MO	**MT**	**MO**	**MT**
A	collega	Den Haag	2	0	0	2
B	partner	Brussel	3	5	242	123
C	office manager	Den Haag	3	0	0	0
D	student		1	2	0	0
E	collega	Den Haag	3	6	0	0

Leeuwendeel van de communicatie met partner via SMS

Nauwelijks bellen binnen call circle

Distribution of
mobiles: start
locations for all calls
for all participants

CK is a man, aged 47. He lives in Amsterdam. He has a daughter aged 15 and a son aged 14 who live with him half of the week. He has a relationship with a woman who also has a child. CK has lived in Amsterdam for almost 30 years; as a child he moved three times within the Netherlands. His parents are still alive but now need more care; he visits them every two weeks. Most of his friends live in Amsterdam. He usually arranges to see them on short notice, sometimes the same day.

He works full-time as a locum manager. His work place changes depending on the project. During the research, he worked 3 days a week in X, and also in Amsterdam and Y. He has a work room in his home.

He drives to work, which takes about 15 minutes. He hardly ever gets stuck in traffic jams. His driving skills are good: he can drive while talking on his mobile, brushing his teeth or checking his diary. He makes lists of people to call while he is driving. He finds the car very convenient for traveling between workplaces.

CK rarely uses the train but does have a bike he uses within Amsterdam. He also uses his mobile while cycling, and calls that a 'hobby'.

He regularly uses the internet but only for about 15 minutes per day. He finds email very inconvenient for making appointments because of the delays. He manages his own diary because of his different workplaces. His diary is full and he wants to be able to confirm appointments quickly which is why he prefers the (mobile) phone. He also finds email unsuitable for sensitive topics.

During the research period, CK made or received 883 calls. These are mostly for work, and it is clear very few calls are made or received outside working hours, though he likes to be available for his children.

The two journeys he reflected on in the second journey were a routine work trip to W and a work outing with colleagues to the north of the country, when many things went wrong.

What does this mean for research?

- Ethical considerations ➔ recruiting respondents
- Mobile use: as interview aid, as data
- Representing different types of data
- What people remember & what the data tells us (& them)
- Mixed methods
- What is data?
- What counts as data in different disciplines?
- What does it mean for data to become digital?
- What are the implications for research of huge amounts of digital data?