# 'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference

March 21st to 22nd, 2011, Bremen (Germany)

# Call and guidelines for the submission of contributions

Submission and registration system opens on October 31$^{st}$, 2010.
Submission closes at midnight CET on January 7$^{th}$, 2011.
Registration closes at midnight CET on March 6$^{th}$, 2011.

This document can be found at:

http://londonmobilelearning.net/downloads/CfP-Bremen_2011-03-03.pdf

## Contents

## 1.    About Mobile Learning

Recent years have seen an increasing interest in the potential of mobile learning: Project orientated research, theory building, technological developments and pedagogically informed approaches to mobile technologies in a range of educational and work-based contexts are evidence for a fast growing discipline.

The current transformations in social and technological structures, changing cultural practices of learning as well as changing institutional cultures pose new challenges for learning - be it institutional (e.g. school, university) or work-based, formal or informal. Mobile, networked media play an increasingly important role for meaning-making and appropriation in users' life-worlds which calls for new understandings in, and approaches to formal learning.

As mobile devices offer flexible access to the internet and communication tools for learning within and outside of the classroom, and as they support learning experiences that are personalised as well as collaborative, accessible and integrated within the world beyond the classroom, mobile learning can open up new contexts for learning, with ubiquitous connectivity allowing interactive and connected learning in school and university, in the workplace, in the home and in the community. As for technological developments, mobile and networked technologies and devices become increasingly powerful, the rise of an 'app culture' marks a large commercial market, driving a new wave of creativity in the design of learning applications.

## 2.    About the conference

The **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference**, taking place in Bremen (Germany) from Monday to Tuesday, March 21st to 22nd, 2011, builds on a series of mobile learning research symposia hosted by the WLE Centre for Excellence at the Institute of Education, University of London between 2007 and 2009. It will focus on the challenges of developing new pedagogic approaches and on the potential of mobile devices for learning in formal and informal contexts. As mobile learning is not only about learning with mobile technologies, but also considered to be "new" learning, the conference will look at challenges for research and practice in understanding the changing social and technological structures allowing the use of technology for learning that are present in our personal lives, in school and in work places. Thus mobile learning crosses the boundary of institutional learning and looks at practical fields like work-based learning and medicine, too. Also, the conference will look at the latest developments in hardware and software which can support personalised learning.

By focusing on theory and practice, development and use, teaching and learning, formal and informal contexts, the **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** intends to offer spaces for researchers, practitioners, developers, the industry and policy makers to exchange ideas, experiences and research around issues and approaches to mobile learning, including sociological and educational issues and their effectiveness and desirability as learning spaces as well as the design of environments.

Whilst the conference includes a traditional research paper strand, we also encourage proposals for sessions in different formats including workshops, posters, cafe and debate sessions, videos, slideshows, podcasts, cartoons and hands on sessions. **There will be a German language strand, so contributions in German are also welcome!**

We will also provide opportunities for 'unconference' events, including the provision of spaces for informal meetings and discussions.

The number of participants is limited to 150. However, video contributions for loop-presentations during the conference from people who are not able to attend in person are welcome.

### 2.1 Conference Organisers

The **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** in Bremen, Germany, will be hosted by the *University of Bremen*, run by the *Department for Media Education and Design of Multimodal Learning Environments* and by the *Institute Technology and Education (ITB)* in association with the *London Mobile Learning Group* (LMLG; www.londonmobilelearning.net), *Pontydysgu* and *MirandaNet*.

### 2.2 Affiliated conference: EduCamp

The **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** is preceded by the *EduCamp*, a specialised BarCamp for people interested in media and learning, which will take place in Bremen from March 19 to 20, 2011.

### 2.3 Affiliated event: MirandaMod on mobile and networked learning

In collaboration with *MirandaNet*, the **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** is running a *MirandaMod*, developed as part of a WLE Centre-funded project, which addresses teachers and practitioners who are interested in teaching and learning with new technologies, and would either like to share their experiences or learn from others. People can attend the MirandaMod in person at the conference or online via a FlashMeeting. Detailed information about technical requirements and collaboration tools will be made available on the conference website (http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net).

### 2.4 Online participation

Besides the MirandaMod, the conference provides opportunities to take part in online discussions during the conference. Details will be given in due course on the conference website (http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net).

### 2.5 Content related preparations

In order to allow participants to contribute to collaborative contents in advance, the conference provides spaces on Cloudworks (http://cloudworks.ac.uk) and further collaboration tools which will be announced on the conference website (http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net) in due course. These tools will be open during the conference as well to allow the collection of ideas.

## 3. The call for conference abstracts

Submission of abstracts for **research papers**, **workshops** and **posters** are invited.

The submission for conference activities in alternative formats such as **cafe or debate sessions**, **videos**, **slideshows**, **podcasts**, **cartoons**, **hands on sessions** or **any other kind of format** you can think of is also welcome.

The conference proposes - but does by no means limit contributions to - the following topics:

Strand 1: *Theoretical inputs on mobile learning*
Issues to be explored may include:
- What theoretical and methodological approaches are appropriate for research mobile learning?
- What pedagogic approaches to the use of mobile devices for learning are feasible?
- How does ubiquitous access to the internet change the dynamics of learning both in and outside the classroom and work place?
- Cultural practices of learning, meaning-making and appropriation: Media usage and the social impact of using networked technologies in everyday life context.

- How does mobile learning impact on research and innovation?
- Ethical issues around learning with mobile networked technologies.
- How can informal learning and learning in informal contexts contribute to learning in formal contexts?
- How does sign-making and communication with mobile devices impact on language and literacy?

Strand 2: *Practical issues to support mobile learning*
Issues to be explored may include:
- What is the rationale for implementing mobile learning in educational settings and at work?
- What end-user support is important for mobile learning? How can it best be provided?
- Challenges of the implementation and management of mobile learning: educational institutions, organisational learning, the organisation of learning.
- Using mobile devices for work based learning.
- What are the issues around using personally owned devices for mobile learning in institutional contexts?
- Scalability problems: difficulties and solutions from developing a pilot project into mass application.
- Assessment with mobile technologies, assessment of and with mobile learning.

Strand 3: *Concrete pointers and examples on mobile learning*
Issues to be explored may include:
- Use of mobile networked technologies in medical settings.
- Game-based learning using mobile technologies.
- Augmented reality and augmented learning.
- Mobile devices and e-science.
- Mobile learning and arts.
- Using mobile devices, e-Portfolios and Personal Learning Environments.
- Visualisation, Gesture-based interaction, Wearables, Open and linked data, Location-awareness and context-sensitivity.
- Impact of new technologies and its semiotics on the way we use language/ signs for meaning-making.

Strand 4: *Utopian corner: Glimpse of our future learning and work*
We welcome the exploration of ideas and visions of how our future learning as well as work becomes influenced by mobile technologies and convergent environments. We encourage the discussion of ideas of tomorrow to make meaning of the devices of today. In this strand we provide the space and time for ideas to be explored not in a practical sense but in terms of an utopian situation. Any type of suitable format (video, simulation, images, art, poster) is possible.
- Current and emerging trends.
- Ideas for the future, ideas for a learning utopia.

In addition, given the conference title we are particularly interested in rich, strange, innovative and creative submissions, provided that we are convinced that these will be of high quality, and of interest to conference delegates.

# 4.      Submission

## 4.1      Submission deadline

The deadline for submitting abstracts is midnight CET on Friday 7 January 2011.

## 4.2      Submission tool

Proposals can be submitted electronically through the conference tool from October 31st, 2010 to January 7th, 2011, accessible via the conference website http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net.

## 4.3      Rules for all abstract submissions

### 4.3.1      Formal requirements common to all proposals

All proposals for conference activities have to be accompanied by an abstract. The maximum word count is 650 words. Any references will not be counted towards the 650 word limit. Longer abstracts will not be reviewed.

Also, all proposals have to provide contact information of the proposer including: name, affiliation, address, email, phone, fax and homepage URL (these last two optional).

Further on, proposers need to assign their abstract to a strand and/or one of the proposed issues.

### 4.3.2      Research papers

An abstract for a research paper should describe and analyse either innovative work or some other significant contribution to the field of mobile learning. The research paper format is suitable, e.g., for reviews of projects, for work-in-progress, or for discussion or position papers. A key requirement is that the paper has a clear focus. In 12 minutes of presentation time it will be difficult to present a considerable body of work, such as a complete project. Instead, presenters need to draw out and focus on key areas or points. These may, e.g., be a theory or model generated from data, a framework used to analyse experience, or key results that have significance for future activities.

As a guide, the abstract for a research paper will include the following topics:

- Background: The area and theoretical framework of the work, e.g. "This paper takes a socio-cultural and ecological perspective on the design of augmented learning." or "This is an action research study of the introduction of work-based mobile learning in medical fields."
- Description of approach used: Describe the methods being employed in the work.
- Results of work done: Give an account of the work that is in progress or has been carried out, and why it is important. Show how you have evaluated or conducted a critical appraisal of the work.
- Conclusion: Reflect on the successes and limitations of the work and its potential for further development.
- References: Any references should be limited to those that really are key to the contents of the abstract – ideally two or three and under no circumstances more than six.

Note that a written paper is not required in addition to the abstract.

### 4.3.3      Workshops

Besides the formal requirements which are common to all formats, submissions for workshops have to include the following information:

- Workshop title.
- Duration of the workshop (1 or 2 days).
- Expected number of participants.
- Brief description of the general structure of the workshop, e.g., whether it will include paper presentations, whether a call-for-papers will be issued or whether it will be invitation-only.

- Plan for selecting workshop participants.
- A publishing strategy needs to be described: whether the contributions to the workshop will be published in a book, a special issue for a journal, etc. Please indicate the targeted journal(s) or book publisher.

### 4.3.4 Posters

Besides the formal requirements which are common to all formats, submissions for posters have to include a draft of the poster itself that will be exposed at the conference.

### 4.3.5 Other forms of proposals for conference activities

Besides the formal requirements which are common to all formats, the submission for other formats have to include the issues that proposers consider to be key for their proposal.

### 4.3.6 Copyrights

**'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** is committed to an open publication model for conference contributions. By submitting a proposal to the **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference**, authors agree that they or their employer retain copyright, but that the abstract if published will be licensed for use with Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 3.0 Unported (see http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/).

In addition, the **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference**

- may approach those submitting proposals to seek clarification or request changes so that they better fit the conference programme;
- may return ill-structured or grammatically poor submissions to the authors for correction before the review process (typically these comprise a very small proportion of all submissions);
- reserves the right to make sense-preserving grammatical edits to accepted abstracts during the proof-reading and publication process;
- will not make any alterations to the titles of accepted abstracts, but please ensure that titles are concise, readily comprehensible, and that they avoid florid or pretentious language.


## 5. The reviewing, selection, and acceptance process

All proposals will be subject to a peer review process. After review (and, possibly, one cycle of change and re-submission) the abstract editors and the conference Academic Committee select abstracts for potential inclusion in the conference.

### 5.1 Criteria for proposal review and selection

Abstracts will be refereed according to appropriate criteria drawn from the following.

- Relevance to the conference title 'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' although this does not exclude other high quality proposals.
- Contribution to the field of mobile learning.
- Reference to the characteristics and needs of learners.
- Links that are made between theory, evidence and practice.
- Appropriate reflection and evaluation.
- Clarity and coherence.
- Usefulness to conference participants.

In the above, education is considered broadly and includes formal and informal learning settings in schools, colleges, universities, the workplace, homes and communities, at any stage in learners' lives, including continuing adult education.

Proposals that are merely anecdotal or describe implementation without reflection, evaluation or linking to theory and research are unlikely to be accepted.

### 5.2    Review and selection

Proposals will be reviewed, and selected for the conference by the Academic Committee. Some proposals may be selected on the condition that changes are made, including changes to format of presentation or timings, and the authors will be given feedback from the Academic Committee that specifies the nature of the changes required. The revised, resubmitted proposals will then be reviewed by the Academic Committee to assess whether the Academic Committees' comments have been addressed satisfactorily.

If you have been asked to revise your abstract, make the changes and resubmit the abstract as quickly as possible.

### 5.3    Full acceptance

After selection for inclusion in the conference, a presenter is expected to attend the conference.

## 6.    Presentation at the conference: Guidance for different session types during the conference

You will have the time mentioned below for your presentation, workshop or other format. You are welcome to bring your own notebook or other technology.

### 6.1    Research papers

20 minutes as part of a strand session, comprising approximately 12 minutes presentation (slides and/or multimedia) and 8 minutes for discussion.

### 6.2    Workshops

Workshops will be held on one or two days during the conference. The workshop participants will be selected or invited in advance by the workshop convenor. They will work together on an umbrella topic that is relevant to the conference issues. The mode of contributions is given by the workshop convenor.

### 6.3    Posters

Posters will be exhibited during the conference. Presenters of posters may be available for further explanations on their topic if requested by conference participants.

### 6.4    Other forms of proposals for conference activities

Alternative and 'unconference' formats are matters of negotiation, depending on the requirements and affordances of the format. Some formats might well fit into the strands, whilst others might be handled workshop-like or like poster exhibitions.

## 7.     Publication

### 7.1     Book of abstracts

Accepted abstracts will appear online in a book of abstracts. All proposals accepted will be published electronically with an ISSN number. Please note that all submissions should be licensed under a Creative Commons licence.

### 7.2     Conference proceedings

We are intending to publish an edited book with selected conference papers.

## 8.     Conference tool for registration and online submission system

The online submission system for the **'Mobile learning: Crossing boundaries in convergent environments' Conference** will announced on the conference website at http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net in due course.

Anyone submitting a potential contribution to the conference must create an account on the online system.

## 9.     Further information

For detailed information visit the conference website at http://bremen.londonmobilelearning.net.

If you have any queries related to research papers, or other conference proposals, please contact the organising committee via: bremen@londonmobilelearning.net.

Last updated 03 Mar 2011