



SEARCH BROWSE TIPS SET PREFERENCES ABOUT JSTOR CON

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#) | [ISSUE TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)


Your access to JSTOR
Georgetown University

Try the new [JSTOR/ARTstor Search Prototype](#), available in the [JSTOR Sandbox](#)... [EXIT JSTOR](#)

Link to Article

Full text articles in this issue are not available in the JSTOR archive. JSTOR displays citation information (author, title, abstract) and links to the full text articles available through another online resource.

By clicking the button below, you will be leaving JSTOR, and will be directed to a page listing links to full-text articles available through another online resource or, when available, to your local institution's holdings.

 *(Article will open in a new window.)*

[SAVE CITATION](#) | [VIEW SAVED CITATIONS](#) You have saved 0 citations

✓ **Scales of Place and Networks: An Ethnography of the Imperative to Connect through Information and Communications Technologies**

Sarah Green; Penny Harvey; Hannah Knox

Current Anthropology, Vol. 46, No. 5, Time, Society, and the Course of New Technologies. (Dec., 2005), pp. 805-826.

Abstract

Much has been made of the space-transforming and space-defying characteristics of information and communications technologies. This focus tends to separate the spatial characteristics of these technologies from those of the Euclidean world; it also takes the spatial characteristics of the Euclidean world for granted. Yet anthropologists have shown that place making in any spatial context is a complicated process, always involving an entanglement of imagination, politics, and social relations. This paper, by focusing on the promotion of the development of information and communications technologies through the public sector in Europe, shows that these technologies have become as much a part of political place making as other transportation and communication technologies in the past. Using our ethnographic research on several European Union--funded projects based in Manchester, we argue that many of the perceived difficulties experienced in projects which envision these technologies as holding the potential for social change derive from a tension between "imagined communities" and "imagined networks" as two different forms of place making. The paper illustrates this tension by tracing the political, institutional, and social development of what we term an "imperative to connect," which constitutes a moral and social imperative as much as an economic one.