

## ***IN YOUR POCKET: EXERCISE 1***

***DUE: SEPT 5***

As the traditional architectural definitions of public and private are blurred by the infiltration of portable electronics and the invisible edges of wireless connectivity, the dynamics of the urban environment grow progressively more complex. They are now blurred by the technologies of text messages and cell phone calls that can reach us anywhere, the phenomena of camera phone peeping, and the interception of wireless transmissions. Hertzian space has a significant effect on the way we occupy the physical space of the city. Avoiding dropped calls in tunnels, finding locations with strong signal to use a cell phone, or a WiFi hotspot to check e-mail are familiar examples. As our notions of physical space become increasingly informed by the fluctuations of wireless technology, our traditional points of urban reference also shift.

Use this exercise to research the topography of mobile phone connectivity and its impact on the way that you experience urban space. You may research this in a variety of ways. For example, exploring the streets and interior spaces around the SFAI campus, record the fluctuations in the bars of your mobile phone. Do you seek out the dead zones or the areas where you are fully connected? What do you notice around you in each about the architecture, people, etc? Alternately, you could map the number of cell phone towers that you see. How do these towers reformat the city around them? (Reflect on Raby + Hooker's map of Helsinki.)

Map the landscape you discover, overlaying the dynamics of the city with your experience of the network. You may create a map in whatever medium you feel is most appropriate to your experience. For some thoughts on mapping review my article "Redefining the Basemap" published at Intelligent Agent ([www.intelligentagent.com](http://www.intelligentagent.com)) and listed on the reading page on the class wiki.

Your mapping should focus on several points:

1. Create a map of the area you researched that describes the ways in which it is formatted by the dynamics of cell phone connectivity.
2. Use the map to describe your experience both of the city as well as the technology that interferes with it.
3. Present your work to the class describing the area you surveyed and how you chose to illustrate it in the piece you constructed.