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Fixed in Time and “Time in Motion”: Experiences with SenseCam

SenseCam is an automatic wearable camera, often seen as a tool for the creation of digital memories. In this seminar, I will report the results of a field trial in which SenseCams were worn by household members over the course of a week. In interviews with these users, it became apparent that the way in which SenseCam images are played back, the manner of which might be described as a stilted movie, affected the values that were realised within the photographs. The time-lapse nature of the image stream led participants to romanticise the mundane and find sentimentality in unexpected places, and was particularly effective at portraying what users themselves labelled personality and play. In so doing SenseCam images enlivened the visual recording of everyday scenes. These values influenced what the participants sought to capture, and have implications for technologies that might support lifelogging or the development of user-generated content.