

A Boundary-Centric Approach to Studying Mobile Information Sharing



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- Mobile technology becoming increasingly ubiquitous
- New contexts and environments

Boundary-Centric

- Boundaries between these contexts
- Individuals, groups span boundaries
- Role of boundary objects in bridging between, across
- Grounded, thorough, insightful

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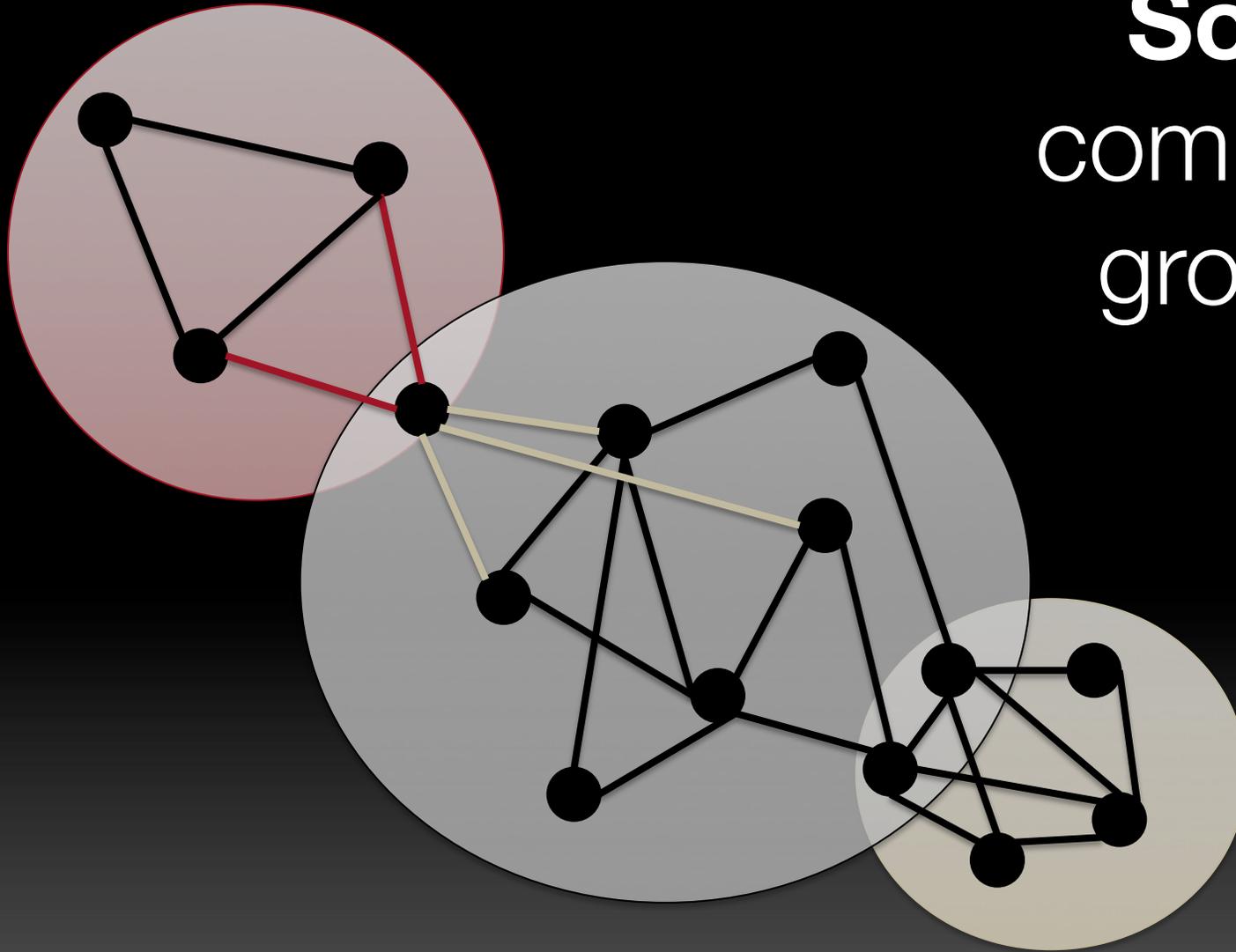


Physically
home, work, school



Physically
information grounds
mobile technology

Socially communities groupings ties



Physically *and* socially



Theoretical Lenses

- Social Worlds Perspective
- Theory of Information Worlds
- Boundary Object Theory
- Gatekeepers and Boundary Spanners

Theoretical Lenses

- **Social Worlds Perspective**
(Strauss)
 - Sites
 - Technologies
 - Organizations

Theoretical Lenses

- **Theory of Information Worlds**
(Burnett & Jaeger)
 - Social Norms
 - Normative Behavior (Chatman)
 - Social Types
 - Roles (explicit & implicit)
 - Information Value

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- **Boundary Object Theory** (Star)
 - *Translation* of meaning, understanding
 - *Coherence* between translations and communities
 - *Convergence* of new communities around objects

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Theoretical Lenses

- **Gatekeepers and Boundary Spanners** (Knowledge Management)
 - How individuals facilitate information and knowledge sharing across community boundaries

Sites

Technologies

Organizations

Social Norms

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Translation

Coherence

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Gatekeeper

Boundary Spanner

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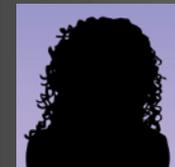
Boundary Spanner



Tutor



Tutor



Student



Student

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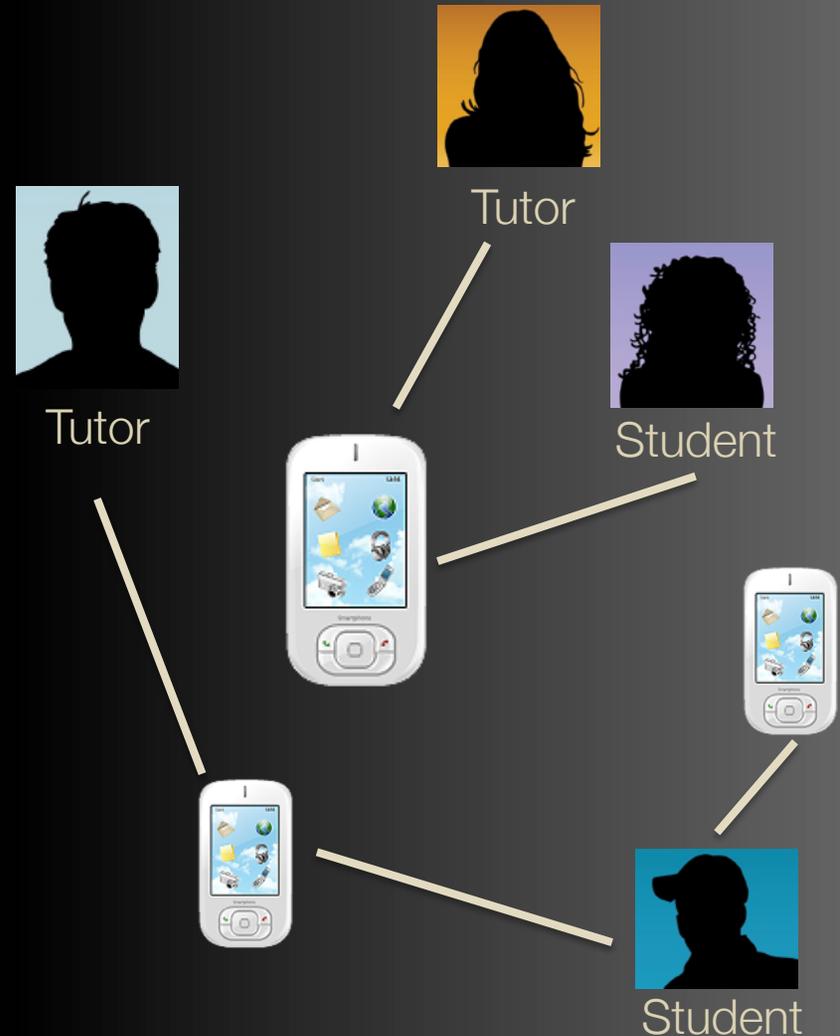
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**Boundary
Objects**

Gatekeeper

Boundary Spanner

**Knowledge
Management**

**Boundary-centric view
of information sharing**

Conclusion

- A boundary-centric view of information sharing “on the move” can lead to insight both in individual studies and for the body of information behavior research.