



designing interactive

systems

Towards Societally Beneficial Personalized Realities: A Conceptual Foundation for Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization Systems

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We find personalized services mostly on the Web...





Inspired by your browsing history



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Leo and Lilo Small Christmas greeting, gift set with 6 hand creams, natural cosmetics, made in Germany 1,476 €18,40 (e153.33/l) Get it as soon as **Tuesday**, **Dec 20**



Kneipp shower gift pack - shower happiness, 3 x 75 ml 2,756 #1 Best Seller (in Beauty €3.42 (€15.20/l)







...but personalization increasingly also affects physical reality

Web

personalized content

Ubiquitous Computing



personalized interaction with things

Mixed Reality



personalized mediation







Project Aria, Meta



This creates Personalized Realities (PR)

PR describes a physical, virtual, or mixed reality

- that has been modified in response to personal user data
- and may be perceived by one or multiple users
- through *any sensory modality*. [1]











[1] Strecker, Mayer, and Bektaş. 2024. Personalized Reality: Challenges of Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization.

What could possibly go wrong?





[1] Abraham et al. 2022 [2] Rosenberg. 2022 [3] Brincker. 2021 [4] Mhaidli and Schaub. 2021 [5] Eghtebas et al. 2023

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Previous conceptual models are not suitable for ubiquitous personalization systems anymore

Conceptual models

provide a high-level abstraction of complex systems [1,2,3]



"Modules of a Web personalization system" (2003) [4]



(2013) [5]

Shortcomings of existing personalization models





[1] Greca and Moreira. 2000. [2] Heemskerk et al.. 2003. [3] Norman. 1983. [4] Eirinaki and Vazirgiannis. 2003. [5] Bozdag. 2013.

Our contribution to mitigate dystopian PR

We provide a systematic description of **Ubiquitous Personalization (UP)** and...



...show how it extends traditional personalization research to physical reality

 \bigcirc

...enabled by technologies like Mixed Reality and Ubiquitous Computing Our conceptual model for Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization Systems (RUPS)...



... describes personalization systems in any environment



... and guides the analysis, and design of *responsible* personalization systems.

Our research provides a framework for the development of Personalized Realities that are beneficial for individuals and society.



What is Personalization?

The term is commonly used when referring to

- the processing of *personal data* by a system as input,
- the adaptation of the system's functioning in response to *personal data*, or
- the personalized content that such a system outputs. cf. [1-6]

Personal Data is

"[...] *any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person* [...] who can be identified, directly or indirectly, [...]" (GDPR, Article 4)





[1] Brincker, 2021. [2] Fan and Poole, 2006. [3] Salonen and Karjaluoto, 2016. [4] Sundar and Marathe, 2010. [5] Treiblmaier and Pollach, 2007. [6] Vesanen, 2007. [7] Oppermann, 1994.

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A model for Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization Systems (RUPS)



University of St.Gallen

UP Recipients



♀ Recipients who perceive the PR and from whom data is sourced for creating the PR.

The RUPS models shows PR as a phenomenon that has implications beyond the intended recipients.

UP Users = Intended recipients of PR



Bystanders, Devices, Objects,..

- = Unintended recipients of PR
- Information asymmetries
- (Harmful) Implications on bystanders should be avoided
- Data privacy of bystanders should be respected



UP Data Sources



Historic, current, and predicted data about the users themselves (personal data), and the content that is to be personalized.

The RUPS model makes the data collection in personalization systems more explicit.



Data Collection in physical reality

- is less socially accepted [1]
- is more expensive (hardware!)
- is potentially much more comprehensive than on the Web

 \rightarrow Fine-grained mechanisms for capturing consent are needed to guarantee data privacy in PR for users and bystanders.



UP Creation



UP creators have the powerful possibility to

"determine how users experience the world, how they conceive of themselves, and how they regard others" [1, p.99],

and hence may influence people's perceptual and conceptual worldview [2].

The creation of UP Content by creators based on (minimally) personal data and content data using a Personalization Algorithm. \rightarrow UP creators have a much greater and more direct influence on people's lives than on the Web

The RUPS model highlights the Personalization Algorithm as a powerful Reality Filtering tool.



UP Delivery





The scope extension of UP

- many more devices can show personalized content or behave in a personalized way
- each delivery device poses its on set of issues (e.g., deceptive design, data privacy, impact on bystanders,...)

Through UP Delivery, aspects of UP Users' original reality are personalized (e.g., by augmenting, diminishing, or mediating content).

















UP Sharing





The RUPS model provides a method to potentially mitigate isolated perceptions of reality, while keeping the benefits of individual PR.



Mitigating fragmented realities

- PR filters the common ground-truth (i.e. physical reality)
- Transparent controls may enable people to share personalized content with others
- This may mitigate isolated perceptions of realities and be societally beneficial





UP Sharing: Uni-Directional Exchange













Literature Validation



N=16 existing personalization systems from literature



Mapping each system to the components of the RUPS model

Mapping table (excerpt):

	UP Data Sources		UP Creation		UP Sharing		UP Delivery		UP Mediators
	Content Data	Additional Data Sources	IC	Personalization Algorithm	IC	Sharing Algorithm	IC	Delivery Medium	
[37]	Smartphone application interface	Compendium of Physical Activities	-	Physical activity and tip recommendation	-	-	-	Smartphone	-
[53]	Physical skiing map	-	-	AR overlay on physical map	-	Followers see primary user's AR content overlayed on a physical map	-	Head-mounted mobile phone	-
[71]	Workout recommendations	-	-	Personalized Workout Interpretation and Smart Workout Assessment	-	-	-	-	-

The RUPS model fully describes each system, especially with regards to





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How to use the RUPS Model



...



Thank you! Questions?

Towards Societally Beneficial Personalized Realities: A Conceptual Foundation for Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization Systems

 → We proposed a conceptual model for *Responsible Ubiquitous Personalization Systems (RUPS).* A responsible implementation of these systems ensures that *Personalized Realities* are beneficial for individuals and society.



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Read the

paper



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