Impacts of Media Multitasking on Children’s Learning & Development

Peter Wallenberg Learning Theater, Stanford University

July 15, 2009

8:30am – 9:00am  Continental Breakfast

9:00am – 10:00am  Introduction & Welcoming Remarks
          Clifford Nass, Stanford University
          Michael H. Levine, Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop
          Patricia Greenfield, UCLA

10:00am – 11:15am  Session 1. Cognitive and Social Effects of Media Multitasking

During this session, we will discuss how media multitasking affects the development of neural structures in children’s brains and cognitive development. How might growing up in a media-saturated environment that elicits habitual active and reactive attention switching affect children’s information processing skills? How does media multitasking potentially impact focus and concentration? Why do children growing up in media-saturated environments tend to learn and engage in heavy multitasking faster and more frequently than their parents and grandparents?

Session Chair: Patricia Greenfield, UCLA
Panelists:
- Daniel R. Anderson
  University of Massachusetts
- Lori Bergen
  Marquette University
- Stephanie M. Carlson
  University of Minnesota
- Matthew Dye
  University of Rochester
- Karin Foerde
  Columbia University
- Ulrich Mayr
  University of Oregon
- Cliff Nass
  Stanford University
- Priti Shah
  University of Michigan
- Anthony Wagner
  Stanford University

11:15am – 12:30pm  Session 2. Media Multitasking in Informal and Formal Learning Environments

Studies indicate that creative application of knowledge associated with creativity and problem solving may be less likely to occur if information is learned under multitasking conditions. During this session, we will address questions such as: If multitasking engages a different form of memory, in which contexts might multitasking have positive and negative effects on learning? In which contexts are focus and concentration necessary for learning? How might increased interactivity, choice, and control afforded in multitasking situations enhance engagement and sustain attention?

Session Chair: Donald F. Roberts, Stanford University
Panelists:
- Marilyn Jager Adams
  Brown University
- Sandra L. Calvert
  Georgetown University
- Ulla Foehr
  Columbia University
- Glenda Revelle
  Sesame Workshop
- Kavera Subrahmanyan
  Cal State Los Angeles
- Ellen Wartella
  UC Riverside

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12:30pm – 1:30pm  **Lunch and Poster Session**

During lunch, members from the NSF-funded Learning in Informal and Formal Environments (LIFE) Science of Learning Center and Stanford’s Communication Between Humans and Interactive Media (CHIME) Lab will be on hand to discuss results from recent studies examining media multitasking impacts on learning in informal and formal contexts. In addition, all panel speakers and participants are invited to present relevant research.

1:30pm – 2:45pm  **Session 3. Designing Educational Tools that Leverage Media Multitasking and Multitaskers**

As researchers elucidate underlying processes that support learning and cognitive development in media multitasking contexts and for media multitaskers, we can start to think about designing educational tools and curricula to promote effective uses of media multitasking among students, parents, and teachers.

**Session Chair: Roy Pea, Stanford University**

**Panelists:**
- Tico Ballagas
  - Nokia
- Richard Beckwith
  - Intel
- Milton Chen
  - George Lucas Educational Foundation
- Dennis Frezzo
  - Cisco Systems
- Jim Gray
  - LeapFrog Enterprises
- Byron Reeves
  - Stanford University
- Coe Leta Stafford
  - IDEO
- Byron Reeves
  - Stanford University
- Milton Chen
  - George Lucas Educational Foundation
- Dennis Frezzo
  - Cisco Systems
- Jim Gray
  - LeapFrog Enterprises
- Byron Reeves
  - Stanford University
- Coe Leta Stafford
  - IDEO

2:45pm – 3:00pm  **Break**

3:00pm – 4:00pm  **Session 4. Building a Research Agenda: Funding & Policy Discussion**

Experts from research funding and philanthropy agencies will comment on the key areas, questions, and issues for future research.

**Session Chair: Michael Levine, Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop**

**Panelists:**
- Barbara Chow
  - Hewlett Foundation
- Rebecca Randall
  - Common Sense Media
- Susan Schilling
  - New Technology Foundation
- Bernie Trilling
  - Oracle Education Foundation

4:00pm – 4:30pm  **Wrap Up**

4:30pm – 5:30pm  **Wine Reception**

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