

Urban politics of London youth analysed digitally (UPLOAD)

project #332318

FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IEF

MC-IEF - Intra-European
Fellowships (IEF)



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Tottenham 2011 riots: technology & race



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8 August 2011 Last updated at 15:21

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Is technology to blame for the London riots?



By Iain Mackenzie
Technology reporter, BBC News



Did social media and mobile telecommunications fuel this weekend's violence in London?

A number of politicians, media commentators and members of the police force have suggested that Twitter and BlackBerry Messenger, in particular, had a role to play.

Undoubtedly, some of those involved chose to chronicle their exploits live - from the midst of the action - using mobile phones.

A few were apparently even foolish enough to upload pictures of themselves posing proudly with their looted haul.

England riots

English riots one year on

Who's been prosecuted?

Convictions: How tough are they?

Map with video and timeline

These riots were about race. Why ignore the fact?

By Katharine Birbalsingh Politics Last updated: August 7th, 2011

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A burnt-out carpet warehouse in Tottenham (Photo: Getty)

What colour is Mark Duggan? Mark Duggan is the man who was shot dead by the police on Thursday in Tottenham. The Tottenham riots last night were sparked when people protested his death. This morning, I first heard of the riots on the radio, then on the television. I read articles on the internet. But oddly, no one would say what colour Mark Duggan was. No one would say the unsayable, that the rioters were, I suspect on the whole, black. Then, finally, Toby Young's [Telegraph blog post](#) on the riots was published. Is Toby Young the only journalist out there who will dare say that these riots are about race?

Still, one paper did carry a photo of Mr Duggan. When I saw the photo, it

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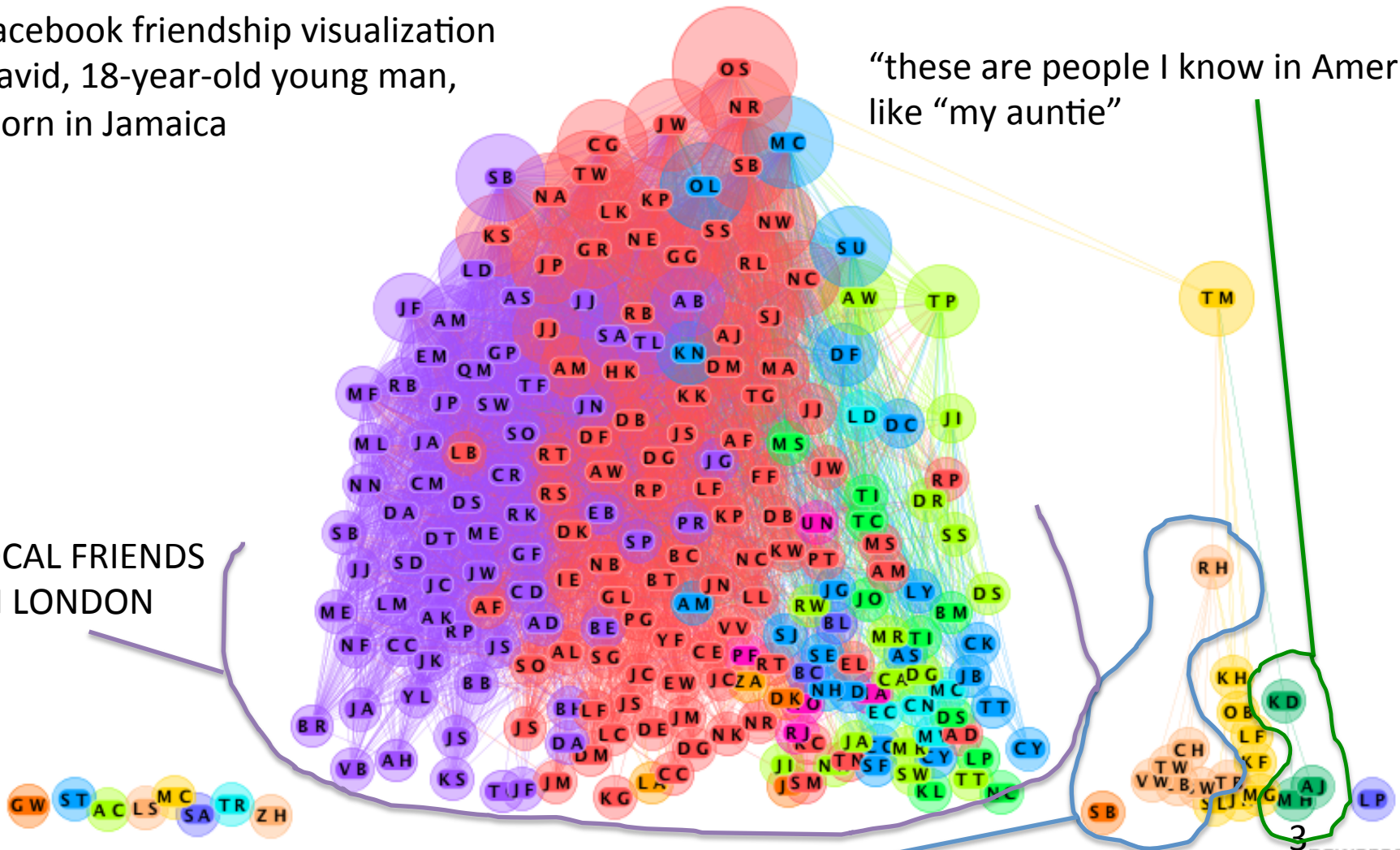
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Facebook friendship visualization
David, 18-year-old young man,
born in Jamaica

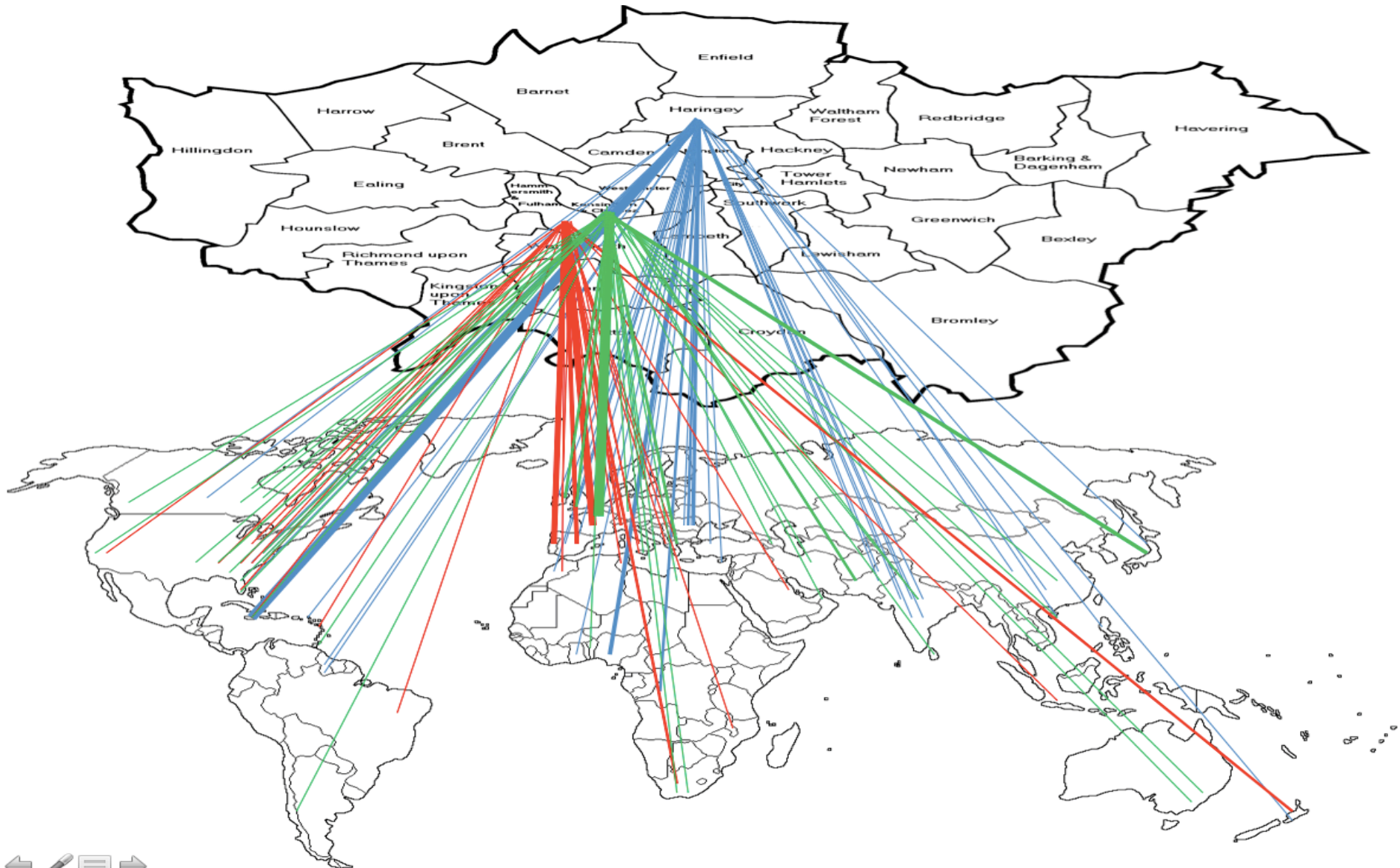
“these are people I know in America”,
like “my auntie”

LOCAL FRIENDS
IN LONDON



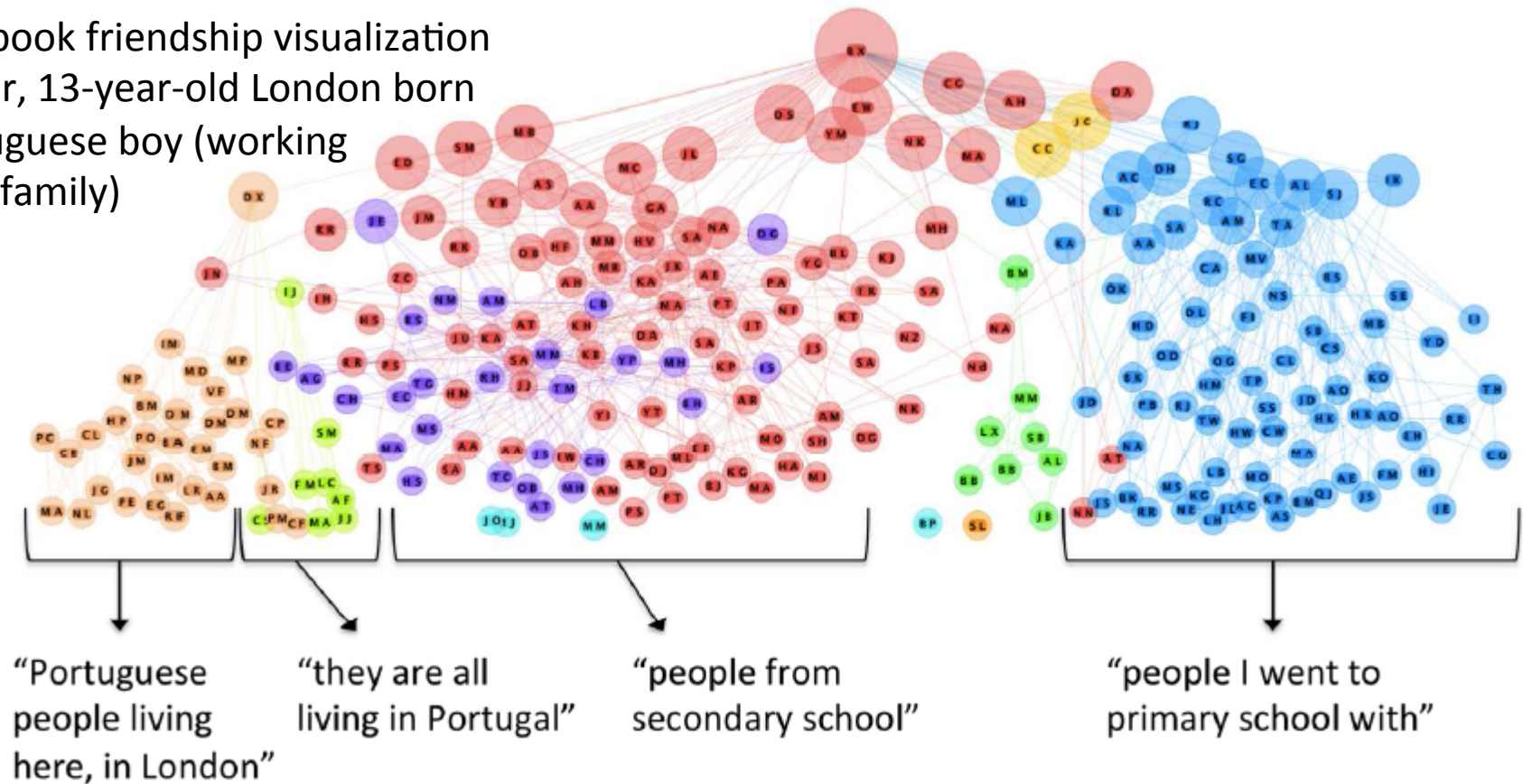
“this is everyone that’s my family, living in Jamaica”

Theme 1: transnational connectivity



Theme 2: diverse local networks

Facebook friendship visualization
Xavier, 13-year-old London born
Portuguese boy (working
class family)



"Chinese, Nigerian, Caribbean, Nigerian, from Jamaica, he is from Somalia, Eritrea, she is from Wales, ehm, he is from Zimbabwe, all kind of different ehm, she is from Colombia, he is the only English person that I know, there is more, but I just don't remember, he is from Ghana, Thailand, she is from Saudi-Arabia, there is a lot, Algeria, Kazakhstan, he is from there. Ahhh there is just so much. - Xavier