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### **Smartphones, Mobile Social Space, and Cultural Anxiety in Korea**

The diffusion of smartphones, which are equipped with multi-media functions as well as calling and text messaging, allows us to use the Internet on the move. They make online space, which is now very much a part of our everyday social interactions, easily accessible wirelessly, extending our online sociality anywhere and any time, especially “in transit.” We can experience in our everyday lives a mediated social space where various modes of communication coexist, from calls and text messages to emails and microblogs like Twitter. This paper examines how social spaces mediated by smartphones are experienced in everyday life and the characteristics of social interactions and relationships in those spaces.

This examination applies qualitative and microscopic research to concrete cases of Korean smartphone users’ everyday practices of social interaction via their mobile devices. Based on qualitative interview data, it will discuss the cultural implications that social spaces “always being on” mean for people’s everyday lives in the age of speed and efficiency.