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### **A Hole in the Hand: Transparency and Display in New Mobile Media**

This paper explores a phenomenology of portable screens within assemblages of mobile computing and communication, thought of as assemblages of distributed attention. Multiple mobile communication and computing devices keep us constantly connected with—and in the presence of—myriad friends and family. But in addition to this, mobile media bring music, talk, and video with us wherever we go. With the addition of new applications linking webcams and surveillance cams to iPhones, mobile media put us in the presence of other places as well. We seem not to maintain a presence in any one place, but always to many. This paper uses Bolter and Grusin's distinction between immediate media and hypermedia to examine mobile screens, like those on phones, televisions, and iPods, that flip back and forth between transparency (the presence of elsewheres) and hypermediacy. The point being explored in this paper is when our palm opens up onto elsewheres.