

The sociology of the mobile phone

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It has become obvious by now that the mobile phone has changed the way people interact. These two papers were forwarded to me by a colleague, whose summary I am shamelessly lifting from heavily.

First is a short paper titled [Exploring the implications for social identity of the new sociology of the mobile phone](#).

The much more fascinating (and much longer) one is [The Effects of Mobile Telephones on Social and Individual Life](#) [PDF]. Read about Flight, Suspension and Persistence—the three ways people deal with incoming calls. Learn how to tell an Innie from an Outie. Set up an Approximeeting. Are you a swift, an owl, a dove, a sparrow, a starling, or a peacock? Pick up some UK mobile phone lingo:

- “Gooseberry call”: calling someone during their date to get a progress report.
- “Shagbile”: the mobile phone your partner doesn’t know about, used for affairs.
- “Sad”: derogatory term for people who show off their phones. Enormous ritualization surrounds this.

“Shagbile” is the best. So [Austin Powers](#).

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