

Smart Bench Experience



Speculating on the future of the Data-driven Smart City

The Smart Bench Experience is an experiential critique on data-driven nudging in the Smart City. It creates an alternative future to evoke critical awareness and open discussion about the discriminatory behavior manipulation of data-driven nudging.

The entire experience involves a speculative artefact of the Smart Bench and the interface on iPad device, through which users can tinker with the algorithmic system of the intelligent bench. Through the double-sided interactive experience of being nudged and becoming a nudger, users can perceive the core principles and social implications of data-driven nudging by relating it to their own daily lives. The experience consists of three phases: intrigue, provoke, and understand.

INTRIGUE

The bench would be placed in the open space of Rotterdam city and any pedestrians can try it out.

PROVOKE

After few minutes, the bench would vibrate and make alerting sounds, startling the users. The users would stand up wondering what just happened.

UNDERSTAND

Users are guided to the algorithm interface, where they can have a closer look at the embedded system of the Smart Bench and understand the discriminatory nature of the intelligent bench. Moreover, they can adjust the algorithmic settings of the bench and update it by themselves to nudge other people. Users can retry the bench themselves or observe other people's reaction of being nudged by the bench.