

UT Austin | Portugal Completes Collaborative Proposal for 2013-2017

This August, the UT Austin | Portugal CoLab submitted a proposal to the Portuguese government for the continuation of the program through 2017, upon their request. The proposal extends the Digital Media program into research on video games, the lusophone media markets, and health applications of new media.

Proposed course and research topics for Phase II include design; videogames; animation and visual effects; music and technology; TV, and transmedia production and information architecture; and the development of participatory media to support e-government.

Additionally, the UTA-P Digital Media Program proposes to cultivate entrepreneurship via the development of a program to screen digital startups that may be incubated through an American presence in Austin, one of the top technology cities in the US, and the creation of an intensive "boot camp" program for students wishing to develop their entrepreneurial skills, in consultation with the University Technology Enterprise Network (UTEN). The program also will form a relationship with Fraunhofer Portugal, a major non-profit applied research organization.

2012 Summer Institute Concludes

The 2012 Summer Institute concluded on July 21 as Professor Luis Francisco-Revilla wrapped up his class on Human-Computer Interaction in Porto. During this year's program, nearly 70 students attended intensive courses on a wide range of topics. In Lisbon, Rosental Alves taught Entrepreneurial Journalism, Sharon Strover and Joe Straubhaar co-taught Research Methods, Steve Mims led a course on Cinematography, and Rosental Alves taught students about digital media and the news industry in a course titled Entrepreneurial Journalism; Richard Lewis and Stuart Kelban worked with major television network RTP and its Academy program teaching screenwriting in Porto, which also hosted classes from Jeanne Stern (MFA) who taught Experimental Animation, in addition to Francisco-Revilla's course on HCI.



Feedback from students is very positive. Several Research Methods students noted how essential the course was to the development of their thesis proposals, while participants in Entrepreneurial Journalism, Cinematography, and Human-Computer Interaction commented on how useful the content has been to their professional development. Students of Experimental Animation especially appreciated the creative, innovative nature of the course, which encouraged the aspiring animators to take more risks in their production choices. Videos from the class are now available [here](#).



Bruce Pennycook Presents Research at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Bruce Pennycook presented findings from the Kinetic Controller Driven Music Systems research project in a session on Cognitive Modeling and Musical Structure at the International Conference of Music Perception and Cognition held at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from July 23 to 28. The presentation, titled "A GPR Based System for Real Time Segmentation and Analysis of Performed Blues," described a system developed by Pennycook, principal investigator Carlos Guedes of the University of Porto, and their research team to automatically extract musical phrases from performed blues. This system is based on three sections: an audio transcriber, a segmenter based on Grouping Preference Rules and a set of secondary analyses that extract pitch, tonality and contour information from each segment in near real-time. The output of the system was compared to manually segmented blues excerpts. The research revealed that segmentation success was dependent in part on musical styles and the selection of relative weights for the collection of rule decisions. Pennycook and Guedes co-authored a long format paper discussing the system and conclusions in greater detail.

Carlos Guedes Organizes M4M Lecture Series



Carlos Guedes of U.Porto has organized a lecture series featuring an international selection of top music scholars and performers, each giving his or her perspective on the current impact of new media in music creation and production. The series is part of the [m4m--Music for Media project](#) and is supported with funding from the European Union. The project also utilizes some of the resources and groundwork developed by the UT Austin | Portugal program.



The series began May 17 and features performances in addition to talks by an array of music authorities, who will speak about new media and music production and also discuss their individual contributions to the field. Speakers include Pedro Rebelo of the Sonic Arts Research Center of Belfast; Bruce Pennycook of the University of Texas at Austin; Clarence Barlow of the University of California, Santa Barbara; Hans Timmermans of the Utrecht School of Arts; Ricardo Climent of the University Of Manchester; Sally Jane Norman of the University of Sussex; and Robert Rowe of New York University.



Doctoral Student Cláudia Silva Does Research in UK

Cláudia Silva, a UNL doctoral student specializing in digital media and journalism, visited the town of Monmouth this summer to explore its innovative use of location-based information technology. Monmouth, a town in southeast Wales, is the home of Monmouthpedia, and names itself “the world’s first Wikipedia town.”

Monmouthpedia is a wiki intended to cover every aspect of entire town, including notable places, persons, animals, and more. The project uses Quick Response (QR) codes, a type of barcode that may be read by smartphones, which are distributed about the town.

Scanning the code with their phones, users are taken to corresponding articles on the Monmouthpedia site, allowing them to gain much more knowledge about the town’s sites than they would from a conventional sign. Rather than tracking the user with GPS technology, Monmouthpedia depends upon people actively seeking location-based information. The project is funded by the Monmouthshire County Council and Wikimedia UK.

Silva enrolled in courses at the UT in the spring semester of 2012, and will return for more in the fall. Her UT co-advisor is Rosental Alves of the School of Journalism.

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