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DIGITAL BITS



U. Porto Exploratory Visitors Arrive in March

University of Porto Digital Media doctoral students Horácio Tomé Marques, Rita Sá, and Cláudia Lima will come to Austin for exploratory visits next month. Marques, whose work focuses on music cognition, will be in Austin during the second week of March. He plans to work with his co-advisor Bruce Pennycook, a faculty member of the Radio-TV-Film Department and Butler School of Music, in addition to meeting other UT faculty.

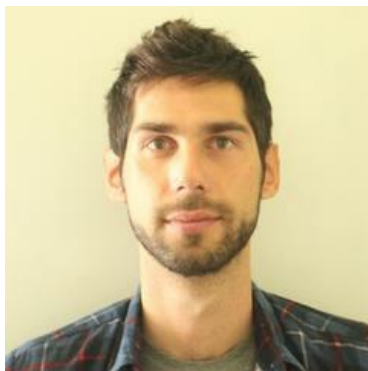
Lima, arriving March 21, has been working with the marketing director of the Austin Public Library. She plans to learn more about how the organization uses social media and networks to engage the community and raise awareness of library services, with a view toward performing a comparison study with the public library of Porto. Sá, who also arrives March 21, will explore Austin's hackerspace, furthering her study of collective art practice and open community spaces. Both visitors also look forward to meeting with UT faculty members during their stay.

UT Austin Alumnus Speaks on Pirate Party

[Patrick Burkart](#), a graduate of the Radio-TV-Film doctoral program, visited UT on January 31 to speak about his research on the emerging Pirate movement in Europe. Burkart, now an associate professor at Texas A&M University, has studied Pirate and Green politics in Sweden and Germany, examining how the latter movement can be considered a precedent for the Pirates. In his talk, he described the development of the Pirate political ideology, which advocates free culture and openness, and then drew comparisons between the development of the two movements, explaining how they share a similar moral consciousness.



His presentation, which drew many students and faculty, concluded with an extensive, highly engaged Q&A discussion. Burkart's new book, *Pirate Politics*, is forthcoming from MIT Press. This work expands the research of his previous books, *Music and Cyberliberties* (2010) and *Digital Music Wars: The Ownership and Control of the Celestial Jukebox*, co-authored with Tom McCourt in 2006.



U. Porto Student Pursues Research on Open Government Data

Gustavo Magalhães Pereira, a doctoral student at U. Porto, defended his dissertation proposal last month and is looking forward to proceeding with his research. Currently a visiting researcher at UT Austin, Pereira studies the phenomenon of open data services, focusing on their role in the open government data ecosystem. While open government data is usually framed as a tool for increased transparency and citizen empowerment, Pereira is particularly interested in its great potential for entrepreneurship. To explore this potential, he will study organizations such as nonprofit group Code for America, which works to support openness and citizen participation in local government.

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