

UT Austin | Portugal INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

UT Austin | Portugal



CALL FOR DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD Scholarships, taking place in Portugal and at University of Texas at Austin, in the following research fields:

- _Digital Media
- _Advanced Computing
- _Mathematics

Applications deadline: February 28th 2013
More information and the full announcement at:

www.utaustinportugal.org

NEW VISITING RESEARCHERS ARRIVE IN AUSTIN



Rui Dias



Filipe Lopes

The Digital Media program in Austin welcomed two new visiting researchers this semester, University of Porto students Filipe Lopes and Rui Dias. Both anticipate working with Bruce Pennycook, a faculty member of the Butler School of Music and of the Radio-TV-Film Department who specializes in new media and audio technologies. The visitors will remain at Austin through March.

Lopes will use his time at UT to further develop his doctoral project and make use of the University's extensive library holdings. His research focuses on

sound-specific space, investigating how to "perform" space using sound, and asking what sounds are specific to different spaces such as a room, road, or particular city. In this way, Lopes studies how different spaces can have "sonic personalities." His research will compose and design three site-specific sound interactive installations, focusing on acoustic data and affording a better understanding of site specificity for music.

Dias, who also specializes in sound and music, is performing research on automatic music generation and interactive music systems. His visit is supported by a research grant from the Foundation for Science and Technology awarded as part of the Prémio ZON prize in 2011 in the category of Multimedia Content and Applications. He is a member of the team at INESC TEC that created musical application GimmeDaBlues, now available in the Apple app store. The application's development grew out of the FCT-sponsored research project "Kinetic Controller Driven Adaptive and Dynamic Music Composition Systems," led by Carlos Guedes of Porto and Bruce Pennycook of UT Austin. While in Austin, Dias will continue research on musical interaction in multi-user environments.

AUSTIN DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR SHARON STROVER VISITS PORTUGAL

UT faculty member Sharon Strover traveled to Portugal early this month for an intensive round of meetings with fellow program directors and affiliated faculty and students. These meetings further developed plans for 2013 activities such as the Summer Institute, doctoral program courses, research calls, and student entrepreneurial workshops. Strover also met with David Cristina of the Ministry of Science and Education in Lisbon to discuss Ministry priorities such as nurturing the commercialization of research and producing collaborative research proposals to strengthen support for UT Austin-Portugal activities.

In Porto, Strover visited the Lab SAPO [<http://labs.sapo.pt/>] at U. Porto, a new facility opened in 2010 that supports

a variety of digital media research projects. Among them is the UTA-P sponsored project REACTION (Retrieval, Extraction, and Aggregation Computing Technology for Integrating and Organizing News), initiated in 2010, which seeks to develop new tools for providing greater automation in newsgathering, analysis, and delivery while accounting for the practical constraints of news producers and consumers. Toward the conclusion of her visit, Strover also participated in the daylong 2nd ImTv Workshop, which was attended by over a dozen researchers including João Magalhães of the New University of Lisbon, who is a co-principal investigator on the project with Strover.



■ Researchers Gather in Porto for 2nd ImTV Research Conference



ImTV Conference

On January 10, the ImTV project team gathered in Porto for its 2nd research conference. Over a dozen researchers representing several institutions attended the event. Attendees included principal investigator João Magalhães of the New University of Lisbon; Nuno Correia and David Serrano, also of UNL; co-principal investigator Sharon Strover of UT Austin; Teresa Chambel and João Ramalho of the University of Lisbon; Artur Pimenta Alves, Paula Viana, José Pedro Pinto, Teresa Andrade, Márcio Soares, and Tiago Costa of INESC TEC; and Pedro Ferreira of MOG Solutions, a leading developer of Material Exchange Format (MXF) technology and a spin-off company of INESC.

ImTV, which stands for On-demand Immersive TV for Communities of Media Producers and Consumers, is a

research project initiated in 2010 and supported by FCT funding. Its team studies how to exploit the full potential of new trends in media production and consumption by devising an on-demand immersive-TV framework combining TV industry, Internet distribution models and end-user needs. The project has proved prolific in its publications and presentations around the world at major venues including the EuroTV and International Communication Association conferences last year. Topics at the January 2013 conference included personalized multiview spaces, recommendation systems, gesture-based interaction for TV control, collaborative annotation of video content, sharing and navigating immersive video, connected viewing, and MOG technology solutions. Additionally, the meeting featured planning sessions for future collaboration and projects.



Photo credits: ESAD/Personal Views

Professor Heitor Alvelos, outreach director of the UTAustin-Portugal program in digital media, has presented a retrospective of his creative and research work at the International Lecture Series “Personal Views”, curated by Designer Andrew Howard since 2004, and featuring leading names in the various fields of Design.

The lecture took place at ESAD, Matosinhos School of Art and Design, on January 18, to a full auditorium. Included in



his presentation, besides an interpretation of 25 years of his own work as a designer and media creative, were various fronts coordinated and curated under the UTAustin-Portugal flagship, including various FuturePlaces labs, research projects and prospective developments.

Further information can be found at:
<http://esad.pt/pt/eventos/heitor-alvelos-2013>

■ Post doc Stephanie Somersille visited Instituto Superior Técnico



Stephanie Somersille, a post doc at the University of Texas, Austin visited Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal for the fall semester 2012 to work with Diogo Gomes and learn about mean field games and their connection to the infinity Laplace operator. Stephanie's work involves using game theory and probability to discover properties of solutions to a differential equation involving the infinity Laplace operator. This operator has been linked to

applications in image processing, engineering including mass transport problems and finance.

While at IST Stephanie met with many other post docs and professors in the mathematics department. She attended many seminars including the calculus of variations seminar, the mean field games seminar and the partial differential equations seminar. On November 28th she gave a talk in the partial differential equations seminar entitled "Variants of tug-of-war games and the infinity Laplace equation." After this seminar many of the connections between her work and the work of others in the department became apparent and productive collaborations began.

Stephanie also began a project concerning the eigenfunctions of the infinity Laplace operator and began preparing a paper entitled "The two phase infinity Laplace obstacle problem" with Farid Bozorgnia another post doc at IST Portugal. Stephanie found the experience extremely fruitful and is excited to continue the eigenvalue project and other collaborations begun at IST while back in the United States.

■ Seventh International Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction – TEI13 Includes the PhD project "e-maestro" from Rui Avelans Coelho

This project is an attempt to recreate the musical experience of being in front of a symphony orchestra containing more than 80 members. The interaction between the audience and the orchestra is achieved through the development of an interactive control panel enabling users to manipulate groups of musicians, truly putting the viewer in the role of the symphony orchestra conductor.

More information about this event that will take place in Barcelona between 10-13 February can be found at: <http://www.tei-conf.org/13/artstrack>

More information about "e-maestro" here: <http://vimeo.com/49783148>.

■ Events

• 17th International Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction - February 2013, Barcelona

TEI 2013 is the seventh international conference dedicated to presenting the latest results in tangible, embedded, and embodied interaction. It will be held 10th to 13th February 2013 at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. The work presented at TEI addresses HCI issues, design, interactive art, user experience, tools and technologies, with a strong focus on how computing can bridge atoms and bits into cohesive interactive systems. The intimate size of this single-track conference provides a unique forum for exchanging ideas and presenting innovative work through talks, interactive exhibits, demos, hands-on studios, posters, art installations and performances. TEI is sponsored by the ACM SIGCHI.

More information at:
<http://tei-conf.org/13>

• 4th Doctoral Conference on Computing, Electrical and Industrial Systems (DoCEIS'13) - 15-17 April 2013, Caparica, Lisbon

Centered on a timely and relevant theme of 'Technological Innovation for the Internet of Things', the DoCEIS'13, brings the importance of Internet of Things (IoT) under the spotlight. The Internet and mobile connectivity together with the vision of the IoT promises exciting challenges for researchers and industry and benefits for society. The IoT is an integrated part of Future Internet and could be defined as a dynamic global network infrastructure with self-configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols, enabling the interlinking of the physical world with the cyberspace.

More information at:
<http://sites.uninova.pt/doceis/pages/technological-innovation-internet-things>

- **Blender PT Conference 2013 - Promoting, Bridging and Sharing Digital 3D - April 2013, Porto**

An event gathering researchers, professionals and freelancers to promote the open-source 3D digital tool Blender, debate about its real impact at an academic and professional level and build bridges between digital 3D communities in a knowledge sharing environment.

More information at:

<http://www.problender.pt/en/conf2013>

- **1st Biometric Recognition with Portable Devices Competition - 26-28 June 2013, Póvoa de Varzim**

This competition is part of the ICIAR 2013 - International Conference on Image Analysis and Recognition (<https://www.iciar.uwaterloo.ca/iciar13/>), which will be held in Portugal from the 26th to the 28th of June of 2013.

The competition website with further information can be found at:

<http://paginas.fe.up.pt/~MobBIO2013/>

- **1st VISion Understanding and Machine Intelligence School - July 2013, Porto**

Visum 2013 is the first VISion Understanding and Machine intelligence (visum) School that targets to gather at Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, Portugal, Ph.D. candidates, Post-Doctoral scholars and researchers from academia and industry with research interests in computational vision and machine intelligence.

More information at:

<http://www.fe.up.pt/visum/>

■ Ongoing Opportunities

- **Call For Entrepreneurship (Ignition Programme)**

The Call For Entrepreneurship is the entry point to the Ignition Programme, a new initiative led by Portugal Ventures to promote investment for market-oriented scientific and technological projects in the Seed Capital phase. 28th January to 28th February 2013 - Submission of projects for the Second Call For Entrepreneurship.

More information at: <http://www.portugalventures.pt/en/contents.html?hrq=146>

- **Advanced Digital Media Mobility Awards**

Awards for Digital Media faculty and student travel to UT Austin.

For more information please visit <http://utaustinportugal.org/calls/dm-travel>.

- **Conference Call for Papers, Multimodal Communication: Language, Performance and Digital Media**

In the framework of the TKB project conclusion (<http://tkb.fcsh.unl.pt>), a 1st. CALL for Papers is now open for submission of abstracts to the following international conference on: "Multimodal Communication: Language, Performance and Digital Media".

Event dates: Thursday 02 to Friday 03 May 2013.

Venue: CCB, Lisbon

Deadline for abstract submission: 20 February

Useful links

www.utaustinportugal.org

www.fct.mctes.pt

www.utexas.edu

www.ic2.org

www.ati.utexas.edu

www.austin-chamber.org

<http://colab.ic2.utexas.edu/dm/>

www.utenportugal.org

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