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 - ↳ Diana Marques (U. Porto)
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DIGITAL MEDIA INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES TWO ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

■ SMART DATA Sprint and workshop Image Networks will take place in Lisbon between January 29 and February 8

Supported by UT Austin | Portugal Program and promoted by iNOVA Media Lab, the Digital Media Winter Institute is dedicated to advancing the study of new media, social media methods, and data visualization. The initiative aims to promote the practice of interdisciplinary research through the data-sprint approach and other intensive hands-on work courses.

To address its goals, the initiative will offer on the beginning of 2018 two moments: SMART Data Sprint - Interpreters of Platform Data, on January 29 to February 2, and Image Networks - Automated Analysis of Visual Content, on February 5 to 8.

SMART Data Sprint: Interpreters of Platform Data

During the first moment, the participants will have the chance to attend to keynote lectures, short talks, and parallel sessions of practical labs, highlighting the presence of the associate professor in New Media and Digital Culture at the University of Amsterdam, Bernhard Rieder, and the Associate Professor of Journalism and Sociology at the UT Austin, Dhiraj Murthy.

Senior researchers, and doctoral and masters students will also be leading Practical Labs among the themes: Data Extraction Tools; Working with tabular data; Raw Graphs; Visual content analysis with Image Plot, Network Analysis and Image Networks. The projects will contemplate public health issues (Zika Virus) and Genre Studies (Femicide), led by senior researchers from Brazil and Portugal, and an Italian Journalist. Participants are also invited to pitch projects.

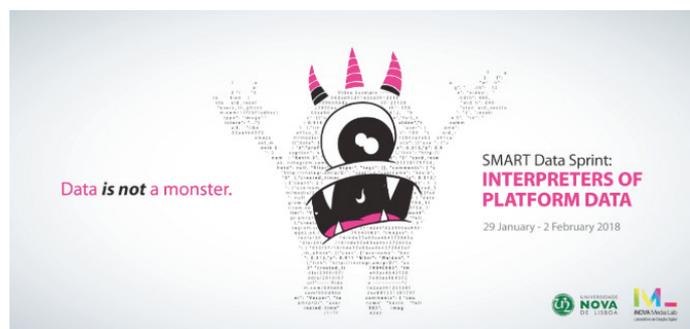
Image Networks

For your turn, the workshop “Image Networks - Automated Analysis of Visual Content” will present and discuss a set of methods and tools for studying large visual datasets which are based on the recent availability of cloud computing computer vision frameworks, dealing specifically with the Google Vision API. Possibilities and limitations of these techniques will be discussed, in addition to the learning of their implementation in research practice.

Deadlines

The registration must be done until January 8 sending email to smart.inovamedialab@fcs.unl.pt with a résumé (with photo) and a brief statement introducing the research interests and explaining how the chosen event may benefit your current work.

More information at <http://inovamedialab.org/winter-institute/>



WORKSHOP ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR ENERGY: TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

■ The event will gather academic and industrial perspectives on Emerging Technologies for Energy in the context of Sustainability and Circular Economy

The 1st Workshop on Emerging Technologies for Energy: Towards a Circular Economy (ETE 2017) will be held in the city of Porto, Portugal, from 18 to 20 December, within the framework of the UT Austin | Portugal Program on Emerging Technologies.

Within the new paradigm of Sustainable Energy for Climate Change Mitigation towards a Circular Economy, this workshop aims to foster a discussion forum on the state-of-the-art and emerging technologies for Energy Applications and to strengthen contacts between academia, technology transfer centers and industry, to build up new partnerships and networks.

The workshop will be attended by the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Manuel Heitor, and will include Keynotes and Invited Talks by leading experts from academia to industry in different fields of Energy. Among them: Solar Energy, Energy Harvesting, Energy from Biomass, Electrochemical Energy Conversion, Electrochemical Energy Storage, Fuel Cells and Electrolyzers.

The Organizing Committee invites all stakeholders, researchers and students working in these fields to attend and actively participate in the event. With the participation of all, the Workshop will target the latest breakthroughs and innovation trends on Emerging Technologies for Energy by academia and industry, and raise awareness on the importance of Clean Energy towards a Sustainable Future.

WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED COMPUTING FOR EARTH SCIENCES

■ Sustainability, space exploration, climate change and big data are some of the main issues to be discussed during three-day event

Within the UT Austin | Portugal Program, the workshop will take place at U.Porto between December 18 and 20 and will be attended by the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Manuel Heitor.

The workshop focuses on the relevant application areas such as climate change, ocean modeling, space exploration and energy systems, as well as on underlying CS technologies such as computing platforms for large-scale modeling and simulation and systems for archiving, processing, curating, analyzing, and disseminating vast amounts of data.

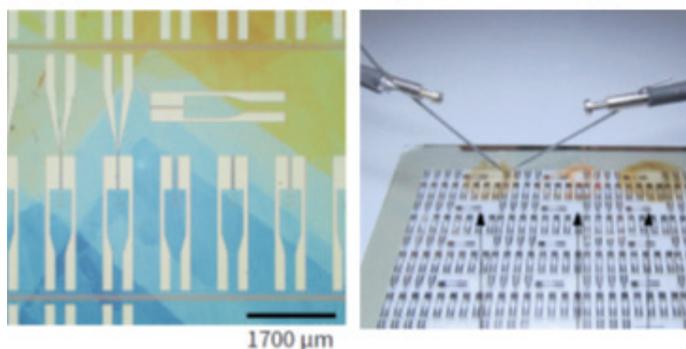
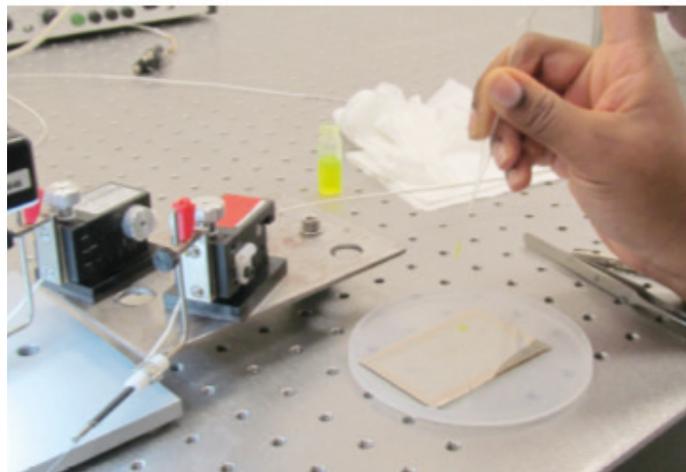
The themes will be addressed by professors from the main universities around the world, highlighting MIT, Cornell University, UT Austin, Notre Dame University and U.Porto. The speakers are renowned for their research on computational sustainability, simulation and modeling of complex geophysical systems, the ocean and its role in the global climate system, sea unmanned vehicles, Earth and planetary computational science, big data analytics, and infrastructures for scientific applications.

According to the workshop organizer, Professor Fernando Silva, the discussions will help to set future research directions for the new International Research Center to be established in the Azores (AIR Center) by the Portuguese government, focusing particularly on the Atlantic.

CALL FOR UT AUSTIN AND INL RESEARCH GRANTS

The UT “Corner” at the [International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory](#) (INL) is a new collaboration focused on research and faculty/student exchanges between UT Austin and INL, headquartered in Braga, Portugal. The primary purpose of UT@INL is to promote interdisciplinary research on nanotechnology and nanoscience. As a collaboration, UT@INL has the following objectives:

1. Creating a world-class environment for researchers working at INL, in universities, and in industry,
2. Promoting education, research, and technological development in thematic areas of interest to both UT Austin and INL, and
3. Facilitating entrepreneurship through continued interaction between researchers and educators at UT Austin and the academic and industrial Portuguese sectors involved with INL.



Program

As part of the Emerging Technologies program of the UT Austin|Portugal CoLab, UT Austin tenure-track faculty could applied for funds to support research visits for PhD students or post-docs to INL to carry out collaborative research with an INL partner. These research grants are in support of the creation of a new UT@INL corner to promote researcher and faculty exchanges from UT Austin to INL to participate in research projects, internships, or attend/teach particular short courses. Approximately, \$100,000 was available for the FY2017 competition. Spending of all funds must be complete by the end of FY2018.

NEW ART FEST 2017 GATHERS MORE THAN 50 AUTHORS

Nashin Mahtani, Nuno N. Correia, from M-ITI, and Nuno Correia, from FCT/UNL, were among the artists and speakers invited for the festival

In the second edition, the New Art Fest focused its attention on a major subject: Lisbon - an Open City, presented by artists, speakers, and collectives between November 10 and 30. Within the partnership of the UT Austin | Portugal Program, the New Art Fest invited Nashin Mahtani to present her software work CogniCity, Nuno N. Correia, M-ITI, to promote a one-day workshop and an audiovisual performance and Nuno Correia, FCT/UNL, to join the panel Tourism 3.0.

Tourism talks

On November 11, the FCT/UNL professor, Nuno Correia, joined the panel discussion entitled “From Venice Syndrom to digital tourism; from gentrification and excessive tourism to locative media and a new mobile culture”, integrated by the speakers Helena Barranha and Pedro Andrade. Among the topics discussed, the speakers focused on growing of mass tourism, its impacts and the main forecast regarding locative media and virtual tourism as behaviour control enablers.

Workshop

On November 25, during 7 hours, the workshop focused on audiovisual composition with openFrameworks and C++ (<http://openframeworks.cc/download/>). It was intended to participants with basic knowledge of programming. The objective were to gain knowledge on combining generative sound and image.

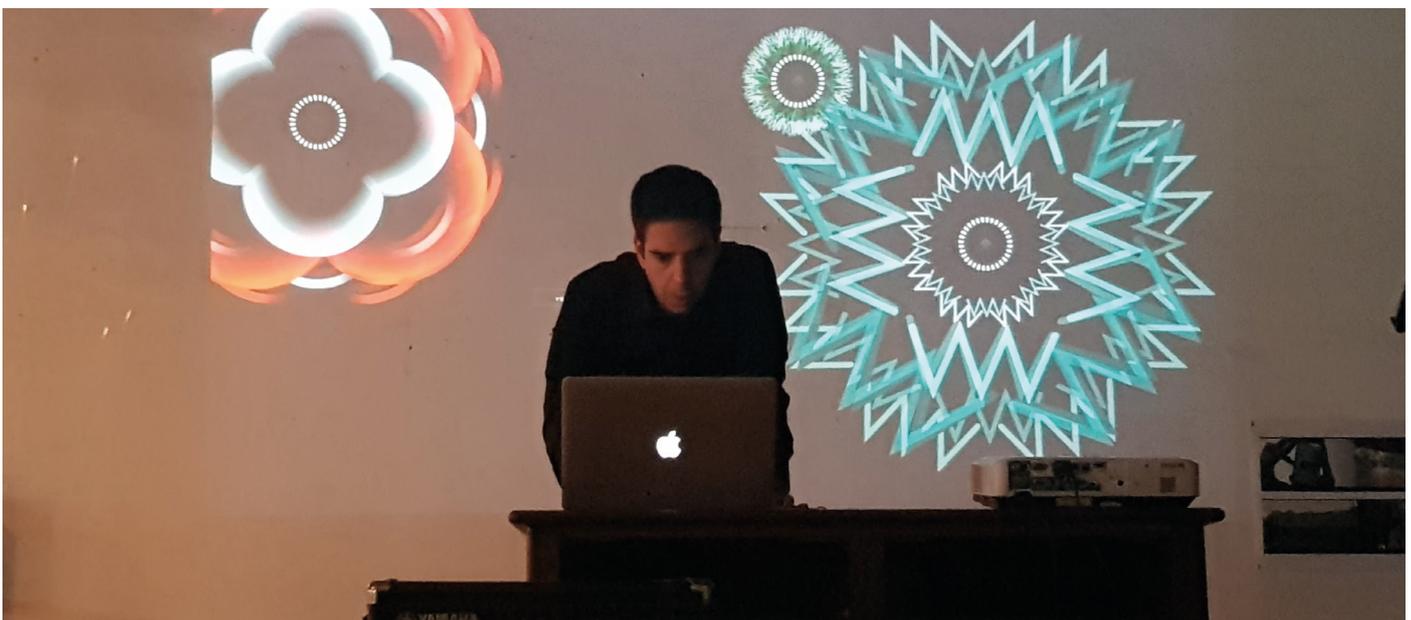
Audiovisual performance

AVZones (AudioVisual Zones) is an iPad app for audiovisual performance, composed of an audio sequencer/ looper with a visualizer. By default, 3 audiovisual columns or “zones” allow for the manipulation of 3 audio loops. Each zone had 3 XY pads for audio manipulation: pitch shift, delay and filter. There are 9 sounds available per zone. The application is scalable: the number of zones, XY pads and sounds can be modified in the code. In a performance, only the iPad is used for audiovisuals: the visuals from the iPad are projected behind the performer, and the sound comes from the iPad as well. AVZones is released as open-source.

The performance took place on November 26 at Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência, Lisbon.

CogniCity Conference

On November 30, the project Co-Manager and Lead Designer of PetaBencana.id, Nashin Mahtani, talked about the innovative process of crowdsourcing urban data in big cities, and its usefulness to help risk and damage control resulting from climate events. She also introduced the CogniCity, a free and open source software developed to crowdsource and to visualize urban data. It helps to gather, verify, sort, and visualize data from a variety of localized communication networks into integrated, light-weight platforms relating these data spatially. This enterprise-level platform transforms vast volumes of data into actionable information for urban public and government agency decision-makers.



Nuno N. Correia during the New Art Fest 2017

FUTUREPLACES REACHES ITS TENTH EDITION

■ The tenth edition of FuturePlaces happened between October 17 and 21 in Porto, and both celebrated the last decade and looked ahead into future possibilities

Professor Doreen Lorenzo opened the doctoral symposium with a lecture on knowledge and technology transfer through design, and Secretary of State for Science Fernanda Rollo closed the last day of FuturePlaces with a keynote-turned-think-tank on the need to devise strategies for literacy and new pedagogical paradigms.

Between these two key events, FuturePlaces hosted two concerts in collaboration with Radio Manobras and the Doctoral Program in Digital Media, the traditional videogame showcase, a beat poetry session, a new installation by Openfield, a retrospective of its poster design, two audio editions and a guided tour of U.S. Election memorabilia in partnership with MIRA Forum and Ephemera.

Of course, no FuturePlaces would be complete without the twelve Citizen Labs, which this year included analogue remixing, home-made cyborgs, learning the centenary craft of painting tiles, and multicultural ethnography. All converged in the Academy of Citizens, a marathon of presentation of outcomes where further developments are envisioned and put into practice.

A pioneering event in regards to the impact of media in the socio-cultural fabric, FuturePlaces reached its tenth edition having evolved from a Festival/showcase into an immersive Media Lab with a highly dedicated core team of curators, coordinators and participants. This has happened along with the birth and consolidation of the doctoral programs in digital media and design, whose students have coordinated the bulk of the workshops in recent years.

In 2017, FuturePlaces has matured into a community of researchers committed to performing a critical and operative interpretation of the dynamics and benefits of new media, but also its risks and challenges. The discussion on the personal, social, cultural and political implications of technology could not be more timely. Meanwhile, the city of Porto itself has changed dramatically in the last decade, and now includes the most varied forms of social and cultural engagement, from mass entertainment to self-sustained projects and communities. We can only imagine what the next decade will look like.

One final note: the FuturePlaces team is interested in organizing an exhibition/archive of physical outputs throughout the various editions. If you have participated and would like to donate or lend some of the work developed, please get in touch via futureplacesmedialab@gmail.com



Photo: Luis Barbosa

Secretary of State for Science Professor Fernanda Rollo and FuturePlaces curator Professor Heitor

DIGITAL MEDIA DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM

■ The Futureplaces kick-off event gathered more than 60 students, alumni, and faculty to discuss the ongoing doctoral projects

Digital Media students and graduates from U. Porto and UNL presented their research projects at the Digital Media Doctoral Symposium, Porto, on October 17 and 18. Included in the FUTUREPLACES festival program, the DM Doctoral Symposium gives all students the chance to present their work to an audience of their peers and faculty and exchange ideas, concerns, and thoughts.

The event started with welcome remarks by Cecilia Garrec, Heitor Alvelos and Nuno Correia followed by an opening keynote from Doreen Lorenzo speaking about Design Thinking and how this methodology is strategic to a multidisciplinary world (read more at "Design thinking, the key for solving problem").

The themes diversity was present at the students' four sessions. In a two-day event, 13 students presented their works gathered throughout the topics innovation and interaction; literacy and empowerment; and social media and performance. The program included on DM alumni, Vânia Gonçalves, from U.Porto.

Within the Symposium, the participants were also invited to attend a reception and a concert by Kaminhus di Férru.

Digital Media Doctoral Symposium Presentations:

- Carla Nave: "Self-monitoring of emotional states: exploring the use of creative expression techniques to improve engagement"
- Cláudio Reis: "Instagram Photography: Toward an aesthetic framework for profiling and categorization of social media photography"
- Dorneles Neves: "Participatory video, Storytelling, and Media Literacy: Empowering female teenagers in the U.S.A, Portugal, and Brazil"
- Greicy Ks: "Digitized Trust in The Today's Networked Society"
- Ilo Aguiar Reginaldo Alexandre: "Comparing and evaluating Data-driven Journalism: how the audience interacts with data visualization"
- Ioli Campos: "Improving News Literacy among Children from 7 to 9 years old: A Gaming Experiment"
- Jaqueline Silva: "How Can Digital Media & Technology foster Female Entrepreneurship and Innovation?"
- Luís Aly: "Performative Sound Design"
- Madalena Miranda: "Protest Images, collective portraits"
- Michelle Kasprzak: "Sociotechnical Imaginaries and Artistic Resistance"
- Paula Neves: Earth as Interface: "Exploring multisensory interaction design for environmental health"
- Sara Tranquada: "Confronting the Numbers of Women in Technical Fields Making the Digital Gap Visible and Debatable"
- Terhi Marttila: "Migration is my right, borders an unnecessary obstacle: developing persuasive text-based interactive art"



Heitor Alvelos, Nuno Correia and Doreen Lorenzo at the Symposium opening



Cecilia Garrec informs the participants about Program's rules

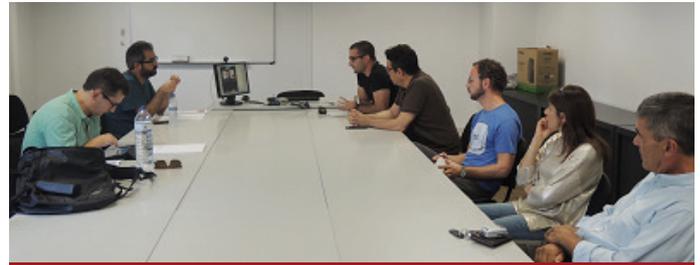
More Symposium and Futureplaces photos at www.flickr.com/photos/futureplaces_2011/albums

For more information on Symposium panels and activities, download the full program: goo.gl/wbDodt

2017/2018 DIGITAL MEDIA CLASSES HAVE STARTED AT PORTO AND LISBON

■ September and October were the official start of the 2017/2018 Digital Media PhD course

At UP it took place on September 20, with 14 students enrolled. While at UNL the start took place on October 10, at FCSH, with a welcome session to all first-year students from FCT/UNL and FCSH/UNL followed by the first lecture with Professor Jorge Rosa. Faculty of the Digital Media Doctoral Program and executive staff of UT Austin | Portugal were present to introduce the PhD program to the new students and to meet all newcomers.



Welcome session to new PhD students at FCSH/UNL

DESIGN THINKING, THE KEY FOR SOLVING PROBLEM

■ On October 16th, Professor Doreen Lorenzo spoke about what Design Thinking is and what it is not

To listen to her experience, students and faculty were present at the Seminar on October 16, at FCT/UNL. As Director of the Center for Integrated Design (CID), Lorenzo leads an advisory group tasked with integrating design studies curricula in a multidisciplinary background schools. The idea of the new curricular options was to offer students opportunities to study design from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

According to Lorenzo, “the Higher Education can play a valuable role in teaching people how to use Design Thinking effectively. We need to make sure that we have an interdisciplinary approach to Design Thinking to make sure it is effective”. It is necessary to get insights from people to be able to understand them and see the problems you will deal with. “The thing is more cognitive than everything else. It is a question in how to convince people.”



Doreen Lorenzo talks the importance in having multidisciplinary approach to Design Thinking

To Lorenzo, the path is fostering the higher education by having a Design Thinking Minor across all schools. The idea is to solve thought problems with this methodology. Lorenzo intends to share vocabulary and understanding and to gather students to work and think together.

The involvement and partnerships have been expanding since 2014 when the Center for Arts and Entertainment Technologies (CAET) was created. In the following years, the Design Institute for Health and the CID were formed which has integrated Design, Engineering, Information, Business, Computer Science and Architecture programs.

In a context of creative economy, Lorenzo believes the superhero concept falls apart. “To maintain a company, you need an integrated and multidisciplinary team. We need collaboration.” In a word, Lorenzo summarized her thinking: Empathy. “It should be the foundation for learning.”

PORTUGUESE DELEGATION VISITS UT AUSTIN

■ During 3 days, researchers joined meetings to develop future proposals and new research opportunities

A delegation of 8 researchers from Portuguese Universities was selected to visit the University of Texas in Austin to meet faculty members, establish mutual research interests and foster future collaborations. Domains included: Digital games and gamification of the learning process, digital humanities, HCI, health and wellbeing, architecture and spatial planning.

More than 25 meetings took place over 3 days, in October, with the result being a number of ongoing collaborations for research set in motion. The visit also included guided tours to several labs and research facilities, such as the Radio, Television and Film studios at the Moody College of Communication, and the Usability Lab and the Information Lifecycle Lab at the School of Information.

Delegation members included:

■ Artur Alves- Director Sound and Image Preservation Laboratory (PSI) Specialty: Digital preservation of photography film and video, Derived content and storytelling for mobile platforms on cultural heritage and scientific content. Standards and recommendations for coding formats and metadata in digital preservation.



■ Antonio Coelho – Director, Digital Media Learning Lab (DMLL) Specialty: Digital games Mobile applications, serious games multi-sensor VR.

■ Diamantino Freitas – Director, Laboratory for Inclusion and Multimodality (LIM) Specialty: Dynamics and aesthetics of computer multimedia; Intermodal conversion; Human-computer interaction; Development of serious games for cognitive stimulation for persons with brain, neurological or physical disease with cognitive losses.

■ Helena Lima- Director, Creation Laboratory for Health Literacy (LACLIS) Specialty: Health information and communication, training of professional groups in citizen empowerment.

■ Pedro Neto- Director, Architecture, Art, Image and Innovation Lab (AAI2Lab) Specialty: Architecture and Spatial Planning, especially at the intersection between Cultural Policy and Public Space; Art and Image.

■ Sergio Nunes – Director, Media Innovation Labs (MIL) Specialty: design and curricular programming, Digital Humanities, online journalism, pop up institutes.

■ Maria Pinto – Director, Competences and New Media applied to the Heritage. Specialty: Development of U.OpenLab prototype, a dynamic and scalable technological platform.

■ Teresa Romão - NOVALINCS - Multimodal Systems Research Group Specialty: Multimodal and natural computer interaction, Tools for healthcare, creative and media industry.



Portuguese researchers during their visit at UT Austin

PORTUGUESE STUDENTS JOIN UT AUSTIN SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2017

■ Twelve interns were involved in seven different projects for advanced computing

For the 10th consecutive year, a group of Portuguese students took part in an advanced computing internship at UT Austin. In this year, the program was formed by twelve interns, 3 of them from Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), 5 from University of Minho and 4 from University of Porto. They have integrated research groups supervised by professors from the UT Department of Computer Science and the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC).

Dr. Paul A. Navratil supervised all students from U.Minho. Bruno Ribeiro, Fernanda Alves, Gabriel Fernandes, João Miguel Afonso and João Pedro Fernandes have joined his team at TACC. According to the professor, “they have made nice progress on two projects: matching pursuit approximation for optimizing multi-camera ray tracing, and distributed data building for particle k-d trees for distributed LIDAR rendering”. Both these projects used the Intel OSPRay ray tracer developed by the Intel graphics and visualization team in Austin.



U.Minho students between João Barbosa (left) and Paul Navratil (right)

For his turn, Professor Keshav Pingali’s team received the collaboration of three U.Porto students. Pedro Moreno, Ricardo Luís Leite, and Rui Pedro Cardoso worked on a project at Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences (ICES) named Capri whose task was to devise a control system that optimizes settings for approximate algorithms. As the research group at ICES is formed by several sub-groups, they promote a weekly meeting to get to know all the ongoing projects with peers’ presentations. “Those meetings ended up being some of the most interesting moments of the week. Those presentations gave me a telescope into the way people in this research group worked, thought and progressed through their lives. It was a very enlightening experience, and I learned a lot about the way those meetings were organized”, said Ricardo Luís Leite.

The remarkable experience of being part of this summer internship was a speech reinforced by Diogo Barradas, IST student. He worked under Professor Lili Qiu’s supervision on the application of machine learning techniques to the problem of recognizing gestures through ultrasounds. “Apart from meeting and working together with other students, it was very fulfilling to work among a world-recognized research group and faculty. I totally recommend the internship program for students looking for new and interesting challenges”, underlined the student.



Paulo M. da Silva, João Loff and Diogo Barradas during their summer internship at Austin

Besides the research experience, the other student from IST, Paulo Mendes da Silva, also highlighted his interest in learning the local culture and landscape. “I enjoyed the live music Austin is famous for and its natural landscape at Barton Springs.” Silva was supervised by Christopher J. Rossbach and was involved in three subjects of study concerning ORC language and its suitability for Ethereum smart contracts; the vCorfu distributed log platform and implementing test applications; and transactional executions for Ethereum smart contracts using the vCorfu experience and snapshots.

The third IST student, João Loff, on the other hand, was supervised by the Professor Vijay Chidambaram on the F2FS energy consumption project. Loff was in charge of trying to reduce the energy consumed by mobile device for storing data. “It is always an important experience

to see how other groups approach on how they do research and learn from one of the best systems groups worldwide”, said IST student. Professor Chidambaram also supervised Fábio Domingues, U.Porto student, who worked on the CrashMonkey project in order to systematically test if file systems recover correctly when crash due to a power loss or a bug.

In an overview, Chidambaram makes a point: “six weeks is a short time to do research, but the hope is that their experiences over the summer are the beginning of a fruitful research collaboration between UT Austin and Portugal”.

MEDICINE, MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTATIONAL EXPERTS DEBATE COMPLEX BIOMEDICAL PROBLEMS

■ Three-day event brings together 32 multidisciplinary specialists in modelling and simulations of cardiovascular diseases and cancer

Within the activities of the UT Austin | Portugal CoLab Program in Advanced Computing, the workshop took place at the Lisbon Academy of Sciences on November 13-15 and was attended by a public of 70 doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers and graduates interested in Computational Medicine and Biomathematics.

According to Professor Adélia Sequeira, member of the Organizing Committee, the workshop provided a place to exchange recent developments, discoveries and progress in this challenging research field. “It is fundamental to foster progress in understanding the mechanisms of the patho-physiology and treatment of cardiovascular diseases and cancer using HPC techniques to solve mathematical models”.

The 32 invited speakers covered a variety of topics, such as numerical modeling and large-scale simulations of electromechanical physiology, missing data for computational hemodynamics, modeling and simulations of the early stage of atherosclerosis, reformulation of legal rules regarding cardiac devices reuse, combination therapy of cancer with vaccine and inhibitors, and Oncology clinical practice and new approaches.

More information about the workshop and the abstracts from each speaker are available in goo.gl/U21gA3



João Queiroz e Melo during his lecture about the reuse of implantable cardiac devices



Professors Carlos Salema and Adélia Sequeira during the workshop opening

OPEN INSTITUTE 2 – “OPEN IN A TIME OF CLOSURE”

- The conference will be held from December 15 to 20 in Madeira, Portugal.

M-ITI and the University of Texas at Austin (TIPI) will host the Open Institute V2, “Open in a Time of Closure,” in Madeira, Portugal. This conference seeks to explore these themes with an emphasis on extreme or agonistic approaches to free/open practices. It is the follow-on to the original Open Institute in Austin, in 2015 - already another era. Bringing expert analysts and practitioners from several vectors of Open (Open Knowledge, Open Science and Technology, Open Borders, etc.), it combines hands-on workshops and activities with world-class keynotes. Lectures will be public and open to the Madeiran community, while workshops will be available to students in the Digital Media program at Porto, FCT/Nova, Austin, and M-ITI.



Applications for students were requested and have been received. Some students will receive all-paid for expense trip to Madeira and will report back through their blogs and the upcoming brown bag lunch in January 2018.

For more information contact Cecilia Garrec (cecilia.garrec@austin.utexas.edu) or visit the website <https://openinstitute.m-iti.org/>.

FIRST CREATIVE AND ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS TRACK AT SUSTAINIT 2017

- Digital Media and M-ITI faculty, Mónica Mendes and Valentina Nisi, chair the Creative and Artistic Interventions track of the 5th Conference on Sustainable Internet and ICT for Sustainability

The event will be held December 6-7, 2017 in Funchal, Portugal, with papers and demos in all aspects of Sustainable Internet and ICT, Sustainability through the application of ICT, and Human-Centered technology for sustainability, including works that report on prototype test best and real-world deployments.

The Creative and Artistic Interventions (CAI) is new track at SustainIT 2017 aiming at discovering alternative and innovative approaches to sustainability and technology. Contributions come from a range of artistic installations to interactive videos or documentary as well as tangible objects or well-developed concepts that involve a creative approach to sustainability issues.

More info Sustainit2017.m-iti.org

SustainIT 2017

HOME SUBMIT VENUE ORGANIZERS SPONSORSHIP

The Fifth IFIP Conference on Sustainable Internet and ICT for Sustainability

Funchal, Portugal - December 6-7, 2017

IFIP TC 6 WG 6.3 "Performance of Communication Systems"
IEEE Computer Society Technical Committee on Computer Communications

GAMILEARNING RECEIVES PAPERS APPLICATION IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

■ Within the UT Austin | Portugal researchers, the project GamiLearning will be at Play2Learn Conference on April 19, 2018

This conference is the culminating event for GamiLearning, an international research project funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) in Portugal and supported by the UT Austin | Portugal Program.



The Conference offers an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to share their research findings and to enrich the dialogue about the role of games in the learning environment. The GamiLearning team received until November 19 researches related to gameplay and game/media creation in formal and informal learning spaces for a wide range of topics and audiences. The next step will happen on December 17 when the organizers will send notification of abstracts acceptance.

For more information: <http://play2learn.ulusofona.pt/>

FIRST DIRECTOR OF UT AUSTIN | PORTUGAL PROGRAM VISITS UT AUSTIN

■ Professor António Câmara tells about his visit at University between October 10th and 15th

“As the first Director of the UT Austin-Portugal Program, it was a great pleasure to visit UT from October 10th -15th, 2017. The main goal for my visit was to create bridges for a continuing cooperation between UT Austin and UNL, beyond the current program. Those bridges will include the joint PhD Program in Digital Media that I discussed with Sharon Strover, but also new initiatives to foster innovation at UNL.

UT Austin is the main University of University of Texas System, ranked in fourth place in the list of most innovative Universities in the World (<http://www.reuters.com/article/amers-reuters-ranking-innovative-univers/reuters-top-100-the-worlds-most-innovative-universities-2016-idUSL2N1C406D>). The University has developed educational curricula, research programs, and product and company creation by students that significantly contribute for that ranking.

There are three distinctive courses at UT Austin that should be followed at UNL:

- “Creative Problem Solving” by Larry Speck, a former Dean do College of Architecture (see <http://larryspeck.com/teaching/creative-problem-solving/>);
- “Digital Story Telling” by RB Brenner, Director of the School of Journalism and Pulitzer Prize (seer <https://twitter.com/rbbrenner>, showing the interactivity between lecturer and students);
- “Longhorn Startup” by Joshua Baer (a “serial entrepreneur”) and Robert Metcalf (inventor of the Ethernet, among other accomplishments), (see <http://longhornstartup.com/>). This course stimulates the creation of new products and companies and has deep relationships with Austin’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

UT Austin, as many other American Universities, offers undergraduate research programs for students. A significant trend is also the incentive for the adoption of a Maker’s culture, as one can discover in the impressive “maker space” in the new Engineering building (see <https://news.utexas.edu/2017/09/25/new-engineering-building-to-open-at-ut-austin>). UNL, and specially FCT, will gain from a closer look on these initiatives benefitting undergraduate students and the University community in general.

This comparative analysis should take into account the obvious differences in financing between UNL and UT.

Note the recent billionaire research project awarded to UT (see <https://news.utexas.edu/2017/09/28/dod-awards-11-billion-to-applied-research-laboratories>).

The future relationship between UNL and UT Austin should also spill over to Austin's ecosystem including incubators, accelerators and companies. The visit to Capital Factory and Austin Startup Week was a learning experience for similar FCT-UNL initiatives. I thank Marco Bravo, who has been acting as Portugal's "ambassador" at UT Austin, for the help in setting those opportunities."

DIGITAL MEDIA DOCTORAL STUDENTS NEWS

PhD students of the Program win awards in Digital Media

Carla Nave and Lígia Duro were the award-winning students

Carla Nave, a student of the Digital Media doctoral program, won the Best Student Paper Award at British HCI 2017 - the 31st British Human-Computer Interaction Conference, held in Sunderland, United Kingdom, last July. The winning paper was entitled "Using Creative Expression Techniques to Improve Emotional Self-reporting Interfaces" and it explores how creative expression techniques like photography and painting can be used to overcome the lack of engagement that often cripples apps for the self-monitoring of emotional states.

Lígia Duro, a doctoral student research in Digital Media, Evangelos Karapanos (Persuasive Technologies Lab, Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus), Teresa Romão (NOVA LINCS, FCT/UNL, Portugal) and Pedro Campos (M-ITI, Funchal, Portugal) won the Best Poster Award at Persuasive 2017 for the poster entitled "Does Beauty Matters in Behaviour Change?".

According to Duro, the work considers the use of motivational textual messages as a popular strategy for encouraging behavior change. "Social media platforms, such as Instagram, have afforded tailored visual presentations of the text of such messages that range in style, by exploring color, illustration, photography, or typography. Following the fact that different text aesthetics can invoke different perceptions about the messages' content, we suggest that perceived beauty coming from the presentation of textual messages can increase the appeal for behavior change."



Carla Nave



Lígia Duro during The Persuasive 2017 event

PHD CONCLUSION

Diana Marques (U. Porto)

Thesis Title: "The visitor experience using augmented reality on mobile devices in museum exhibitions"



A significant part of the strategic planning of today's museums includes understanding and improving the Visitor Experience – what motivates individuals to go to a museum, which factors influence their satisfaction with the visit, how overall to improve the various ways visitors benefit from their visits.

The conceptualization of the Visitor Experience is an ongoing process and has proven to be complex. The challenge is greater at institutions with a long history and established conventions. Here, exhibitions tend to age and become outdated, even if the collections displayed preserve the original educational value. Particularly in a technology-saturated age that fosters constant renewal of information, it is challenging for institutions to keep abreast and maintain their

offerings suitable to modern visitor expectations. My doctoral research considered such museum settings, exhibitions that have fallen out of grace, and examined the influence that Augmented Reality (AR) can have on the Visitor Experience.

The investigation took place at an exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (Washington DC, USA), unchanged since the 1960s. It included the development of an AR mobile app called Skin & Bones to reinvigorate the exhibition. The study was designed to examine visitors before and after the digital intervention and, for research purposes, the app was developed in two versions, with AR and without, which isolated the variable for its influence on the Visitor Experience.

By demonstrating a strong positive influence of AR over the visitors and analyzing multiple aspects of their visit, the study contributed to a better understanding of modern museum audiences and their preferences for and aptitudes with technology-mediated experiences. My research was a response to today's museum agendas that place visitors first in their priorities and it was an attempt to lessen the gap that exists for empirical studies in museum literature to guide the field of museum practitioners.



UPCOMING EVENTS

■ OPEN INSTITUTE 2

Dates: December 15-20, 2017
Venue: Madeira, Portugal.

More information at openinstitute.m-iti.org

■ WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED COMPUTING FOR EARTH SCIENCES

Dates: December 18-20, 2017
Venue: Porto, Portugal.

More information at <http://aces17.dcc.fc.up.pt/>

■ WORKSHOP ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR ENERGY: TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Dates: December 18-20, 2017
Venue: Porto, Portugal.

More information at <http://ete17.dcc.fc.up.pt>

■ SMART DATA SPRINT 2018

Dates: January 29 to February 2, 2018
Venue: NOVA FCSH (iNOVA Media Lab), Lisbon, Portugal.

More information at <http://inovamedialab.org/winter-institute/>

■ IMAGE NETWORKS - AUTOMATED ANALYSIS OF VISUAL CONTENT

Dates: February 5-8, 2018
Venue: NOVA FCSH (iNOVA Media Lab), Lisbon, Portugal.

More information at <http://inovamedialab.org/winter-institute/>

■ PLAY2LEARN CONFERENCE

Date: April 19, 2018
Venue: Forum Picoas and Conference Center in Lisbon, Portugal.

More information at <http://play2learn.ulusofona.pt/>

MORE OPPORTUNITIES can be found at FCT website: <http://www.fct.pt/concursos/>

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