

UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



U. Porto Program Members Visit Austin, Speak at SXSWedu

Professor Heitor Alvelos of the University of Porto and Fátima São Simão, Creative Projects Director of U. Porto's Science and Technology Park (UPTEC), joined UT Austin's Marco Bravo in a panel on entrepreneurialism and education. The panel, titled "Research, Startups, Citizens: All Together Now" took place on March 12 and focused on the startup community fostered by UPTEC, exploring how the organization's development models have promoted design research, bringing together citizen-led projects, startup businesses, and academics to create a space for cross-pollination and creative growth.

The speakers represented a variety of backgrounds; Alvelos heads the Design PhD program at U. Porto, São Simão has been a leading member of UPTEC while pursuing her doctorate, and both are actively involved in Creative Commons Portugal and are key organizers of the FUTUREPLACES MediaLab for Citizenship. Bravo, who was previously with the Portuguese government's

Ministry for Science, Technology, and Higher Education, is now Project Director for Global Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Technology Commercialization at UT's IC² Institute.



Student's Work Featured at SXSW Interactive

Digital Media student João Beira joined a SXSW Interactive panel titled "Natural User Interface Design for Engaging Art and Performance" this year. The panel took place on March 13 and also featured Jerome Morrison, who produces interactive pseudoholographic displays. Beira and Morrison presented some of their own work and discussed the advantages and drawbacks of various interface technologies including Kinect.

Beira, who is pursuing PhDs at both U. Porto and UT Austin, also contributed to the spectacular SXSW Eco Light Garden at Republic Square Park, an interactive public art project lasting through March 21.

Six Exploratory Visitors Coming to Austin

The Digital Media Program in Austin is looking forward to hosting six more visitors this semester. Sandro Dias of UNL will arrive March 29, followed by his UNL colleagues Madalena Miranda, Ioli Campos, Ilo Aguiar, and Carla Saraiva on April 4. Rui Leitão of U. Porto will also arrive on April 4. The visitors have a diverse range of backgrounds and interests: Dias studies second language acquisition and gamification; Miranda is interested in using documentary models to develop web-based construction and exhibition platforms, as well as serious games; Saraiva is focusing on wearable devices, mental health, and emotional regulation; Aguiar studies data-driven journalism and narrative visualization; and Campos, who was a Fulbright researcher at UT before entering the doctoral program, focuses on news media literacy and journalism for children. All are first-year students. Leitão is in his second year of the doctoral program at U. Porto and specializes in education technologies and games.



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