Media City Exhibition - Urban Interventions Proposal
Title:
The Urban Interface
Organisers:
Rocio Von Jungenfeld - Edinburgh University (http://www.rociojungenfeld.eu/)
David Strang - Plymouth University (http://www.davidstrang.co.uk/)
Vincent Van Uffelen - Independent Media Artist (http://www.vincentvanuffelen.com/)
Short Summary / Description:
The Urban Interface is an exploration of the existing technologies in the city of Plymouth that are open for appropriating, hacking and playing with. The intervention is built out of the workshop (please see the workshop proposal for the conference) where planning and building will take place.

The intervention aims to engage, via the employment of guerrilla tactics, with the urban environment and the users within it to create new possibilities from existing light and acoustic properties. The user is encouraged to reconnect with the environment in a playful manner that is accessible due to the use of low / no technology. There is no knowledge of software code or schematics required to work with, for example, the lighting in a bus stop - the electronics are embedded in the city infrastructure.

The urban intervention is a group activity where we walk and hack together to address the politics of public spaces in the city.
Timeline:
The planning for this urban intervention will be covered in the daytime workshop and this will include timings and places. The evening walk and intervention is necessary as when it gets dark the glow of urban technologies becomes open to the city user.

The intervention / walk will take between 2 - 3 hours beginning at 19.00. This allows time to spread the intervention over substantial area of the city as well as allow time for participants to experiment with the materials and also experience the work in its place. The use of biodegradable materials in the project mean there is no need to recover materials after the event and they can last in the spaces to be experienced beyond the length of the conference (dependent on materials).

Bio:
Rocio Von Jungenfeld
Rocio's background is in Fine Arts and Digital Media. She is currently undertaking practice-based research at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) under the supervision of Prof Chris Speed (Chair of Design Informatics) and Prof Simon Biggs (Honorary Professor in Interdisciplinary Creative Practices). Her on-going research title is "Mediated Creative Places: a practice-based investigation into the creative possibilities of media in public space." She is interested in arts education and collaborative interdisciplinary projects. She occasionally lectures in Digital Art and Net Art. She supervises interdisciplinary digital media

projects and assist in the curricular development and delivery of Masters courses in design and digital media at the University of Edinburgh. She holds an MSc in Design & Digital Media from the University of Edinburgh, for which she counted with the support of a TALENTIA Scholarship from the Junta de Andalucia (Spain). She has recently secured funding to organise the second 'Life in 3D' symposium (ECA), and the light-seeking robots installation 'Lichtsuchende' in collaboration with Dr Dave Murray-Rust (University of Edinburgh). She has been commisioned to produce the audiovisual walk '(Wh)ere Land' for Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival 2014. She was artist-in-residecy at HfG Karlsruhe (Germany) in October 2013, and was granted a scholarship to attend Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP) in London in March 2013. In 2012 she was artist-in-residency at I-Park Foundation (Connecticut, USA) and was granted a scholarship to attend a Europe MEDIA-Training Programme course on Stereoscopic Film at CIANT (Czech Republic).

David Strang
David Strang is an artist who works with sound and interactive elements. His work looks closely at the natural surroundings we live in and amplifies certain aspects to heighten our perception of space/place. Recent work includes site-specific installation, performance, field-recording, networks, re-appropriating media objects, hacking and noise. David works across multiple disciplines, such as architecture and sciences, exploring data to create artistic outputs.
As part of his practice David runs various experimental workshops exploring aspects of sonic arts/hacking/sensors in a multi strand collaborative framework. These workshops are aimed at the transfer of knowledge throughout the group to create an artwork/performance/object in a few days.
He has collaborated and exhibited with artists and scientists as well as exhibiting solo work in the UK, Europe, Iceland, Russia, Canada and USA.
He currently lives and works in the UK and is a PhD candidate in Performing Arts at Plymouth University.

Vincent Van Uffelen
Born in 1978, I worked in architecture long enough to see my visions of it as art of making sculptures-to-live-in being withered by constraints of money, matter, and client preconceptions. This made me shift into the virtual to become a digital crafts man, carving web sites out of the deterministic complexity code. While I thereby gained over the years some sort of visceral understanding for code I missed the tangible – code comes close but just not close enough to touch the physical. Apart from this gap I felt the need to understand more of the implications of my work as web developer. These have been my motivations to broaden the field of my study from computer science, to communication science, cultural studies, and art. Hereby, I gained the sound theoretical foundation that supports now my critical research of the murky entanglement of media, computation, and matter. At present I build and program: devices to act in the physical domain, probes that reveal, things that mess with communication processes, objects to make someone think. Furthermore, I'm part of TINT an artist run organisation fostering media art.