

UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



ZON Intensive Script Development Lab wraps up at UT Austin

During July and August, eleven students from Portugal came to UT Austin for an intensive series of screenwriting and development workshops. These students, selected and sponsored by ZON Multimedia, will leverage the information gained in Austin while they produce their scripts in Portugal in time for the ZON Creativity in Multimedia prize in November. The Austin program was divided into three concentrated courses, which were Writing the Short Script, taught by Stuart Kelban, a professional screenwriter who serves as Head of

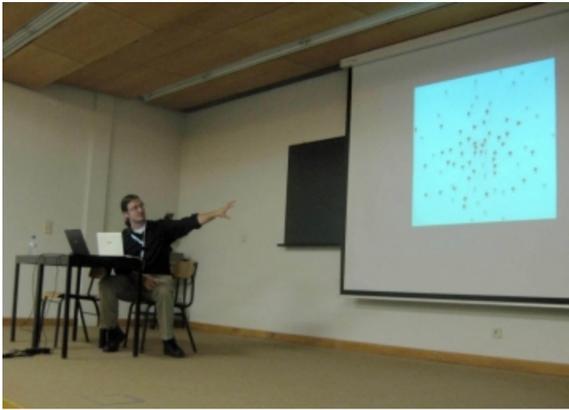
Screenwriting in the Radio-TV-Film department; Producing Film and Television, taught by Richard Lewis, a highly experienced producer, director, and writer; and From Script to Screen, led by award-winning filmmaker Steve Mims. Before leaving Austin, students worked in groups to produce short films, which were screened on July 28th. The UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program looks forward to seeing their final products!

Porto hosts second International School on Digital Transformation

The 2010 International School on Digital Transformation took place in Porto July 25-30 this year. The school drew about 50 students and speakers from around the world to discuss social and political changes related to digital communication systems. Particular attention was paid this year to evaluating the effectiveness of digital-media campaigns and interventions, but other talks emphasized technology, design, and policy aspects of digital media, particularly with an eye toward development issues.



In addition to the scheduled speakers, students this year participated in self-organized informal sessions similar to those at a BarCamp or UnConference. These sessions took place all week, and touched on topics such as media policy literacy, digital storytelling, community informatics, mixed-method research, and sustainability models. Other student-initiated activities included two tours of community-funded hacker spaces as well as a rousing karaoke night.



UT Austin | Portugal Researchers Present Work at IAMCR

Several researchers involved with the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program presented findings at the 2010 International Association for Media and Communication Research conference in Braga this July. One of the funded projects, "Digital Inclusion, Migration, Generation and Social Context," led to an entire panel at the conference devoted to the project. Principal investigators Joseph Straubhaar and Cristina Ponte led the proceedings with UT graduate students Laura Dixon and Jeremiah Spence presenting individual facets of the research. This research compares the use of the Internet and

other digital communication technologies between specific groups in Austin and Portugal. A second paper presented by post-doctoral fellow Derek Lackaff dealt directly with lessons learned from the digital media program. "Fostering Participation through Educational Networks" by Sharon Stover, Derek Lackaff, and Chris McConnell of UT Austin and Artur Alves of U.Porto presented social-network analysis of social ties formed during one of the program's events, the 2009 International School on Digital Transformation. Through the use of this method, the researchers were better able to understand how events like ISDT can initiate and develop research and professional relationships inside Portugal and beyond.

FCT Funds Seven New Digital-Media Research Projects

Research is one of the emphases of the UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program, and the program has selected seven new research projects to fund for the next two years. The projects examine a wide range of issues from retrieval of news information to the identification of facial expressions. The funded projects are:

- **REACTION - Retrieval, Extraction, and Aggregation Computing Technology for Integrating and Organizing News** with Mário Silva, FC/UL; Luis Francisco-Revilla, UT Austin; and Matt Lease, UT Austin
- **Project Breadcrumbs** with Álvaro Figueira, INESC Porto and U.Porto as well as Luis Francisco-Revilla, UT Austin
- **INVITE: social Identity and partNership in VIrTual Environments** with Rui Prada, IST and Jorge Peña, UT Austin
- **LIFEisGAME: LearnIng of Facial Emotions usIng Serious GAMEs** with Verónica Orvalho, U.Porto; Jake Aggarwal, UT Austin; and Yan Zhang, UT Austin
- **ImTV - On-Demand Immersive-TV for Communities of Media Producers and Consumers** with João Magalhães, FCT/UNL; Sharon Stover, UT Austin; and Luis Francisco-Revilla, UT Austin
- **iDTV-HEALTH: Inclusive services to promote health and wellness via digital interactive television** with Manuel Damásio, U.Lusófona; Laura Stein, UT Austin; and Michael Mackert, UT Austin
- **SEE-THROUGH-SOUND: The perception and cognition of space and its features by mapping visual information into sound and sound structures** with Tomás Henriques, FCSH/UNL

You can [learn more about these projects at the UT Austin | Portugal website](#).

Jonathan Daniels Joins as Internship Coordinator

The UT Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program has added Jonathan Daniels as the new internship coordinator, responsible for placing internships from Portugal and Austin in new-media internships and providing guidance through the experience.

Jonathan comes to us from Washington, D.C. where he was a program associate at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, where he helped plan and execute events ranging from Capitol Hill fly-ins to multi-day conferences featuring major Washington figures promoting America's investment in foreign aid and development as part of a cohesive national security strategy. Prior to his time at the USGLC, he worked as a political consultant associate and a PAC administrator for a major labor union. Jonathan will be studying new media's impact on domestic American politics and policy during his time at RTF.

- The 2010 edition of the Future Places digital media festival is currently in the planning stages. Watch the [Future Places site](#) for news.
- [Internships](#) in Austin are available for Portuguese graduate students and early-career professionals.
- Austin-based companies interested in offering internships should contact [Jonathan Daniels](#).

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