

# FUTUREPLACES and Doctoral Symposium Planned for October: UT Austin | Portugal Digital Bits for October 2013

UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program <updates@utaustinportugal.org>  
Reply-To: updates@utaustinportugal.org

Thu, Oct 3, 2013 at 3:53 PM

## UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

## DIGITAL BITS



### FUTUREPLACES and Doctoral Symposium Planned for October

The sixth edition of the [FUTUREPLACES Digital Media Festival](#) will take place from October 28-November 2 in Porto. The event will include a doctoral symposium at UPTEC PINC on October 28, opening with a keynote by Sharon Strover of UT Austin. Now in its third year, the symposium has proven a great opportunity for Digital Media students to share their research projects with colleagues and program faculty, and to network with their peers. The festival will feature a variety of speakers, including an October 29 keynote by award-winning documentarian and UT faculty member Nancy Schiesari, who will talk about the rise of digital filmmaking and its implications for documentary. Schiesari will also take part in a panel on film in 2013, with independent UK filmmaker Debbie Anzalone, whose work has appeared on Channel 4, doctoral students André Valentim Almeida and Andreia Magalhães, and actor, musician, and director Bruce Geduldig. This year's festival will additionally offer the popular Citizen Lab workshops and a special workshop titled "Futures of Uncertainty". This workshop will be given by Professors Heitor Alvelos and Manuel Heitor in cooperation with ALTEC, the Latin Ibero-American Conference on Management of Technology, which will be running simultaneously with FUTUREPLACES.

### U. Porto to Host UT Austin-Portugal Program Launch Ceremony

Top university officials from UTA-P partner institutions and program directors will take part in a ceremony on October 29 to celebrate the renewed agreement between the Foundation for Science and Technology and the University of Texas at Austin. The program is expected to proceed through 2017 and will continue academic and research endeavors while putting a new emphasis on entrepreneurship. Prominent members of FCT and the office of the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education and Science are expected to attend the ceremony. They include Professor Miguel Seabra, President of FCT; Emir Sirage, FCT International Partnerships Director; Professor Leonor Parreira, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education and Science; and assistant Secretary of State for Science cabinet member David Cristina.

### Gustavo Magalhães Travels to San Francisco for Dissertation Research

Gustavo Magalhães, a Digital Media doctoral student from U. Porto, has spent several weeks in San Francisco performing research for his





dissertation. Magalhães, whose professional and academic background includes expertise in business, studies the evolution of business models in civic start-ups—companies that focus on developing data-driven civic-minded solutions that aim to solve challenges both at the levels of government and citizens. In San Francisco Magalhães has worked with Code for America, a prominent nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing together local government and technologists, and has conducted interviews with related start-up companies.

### **Doctoral Student Carlos Figueiredo Arrives in Austin**

Digital Media doctoral student Carlos Figueiredo just arrived in Austin, where he will be a visiting researcher for the fall semester. Figueiredo is developing his dissertation, which studies social network analysis and the perceived emotions of users during information sharing activities. This research aims to provide a new way for users to break out of their usual, familiar information “bubbles” and access information flows based on novelty, rather than information focused on social relevance. The results of this study will have implications for how social network data might be used, and may be especially relevant for entrepreneurial applications. Figueiredo is working with Radio-TV-Film faculty member Wenhong Chen, an expert on social capital and social networks and entrepreneurship, and intends to write the main chapters of his dissertation during his stay in Austin.



### **Marta Ferraz Presents Keynote at EdTech Austin**

Marta Ferraz, a Digital Media doctoral student doing research at UT, delivered a keynote presentation at the EdTech meeting in Austin in August. EdTech is an active community of teachers, entrepreneurs, and technologists who study and work in the field of Educational Technology, with the support of leading high tech organizations such as Google. Her presentation, “[BioRobotics and Human Development](#),” focused on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) education and young children, drawing upon her highly multi-disciplinary dissertation research, which combines human-machine interaction, bioengineering, and human development, among several other fields. Ferraz, who has been a visiting researcher at UT Austin since 2011, is completing her dissertation this academic year.



### **Luis Francisco-Revilla at UT Visualization Laboratory**

Digital Media program faculty member Luis Francisco-Revilla is now managing the Visualizations and Applications Interfaces Group at UT's [Texas Advanced Computing Center Vislab](#). This facility has one of the highest-resolution tiled displays in the world and is a consulting resource for UT researchers in a variety of disciplines. Francisco-Revilla, a key member of the UT Austin-Portugal program faculty, has taught Summer Institute courses on Human-Computer Interaction,

acted as co-principal investigator on the funded, multi-year research project Breadcrumbs, and delivered the keynote speech at the Digital



Media doctoral symposium in Porto last year.



---

**UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program**

University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Radio-TV-Film  
2504 Whitis Ave. A0800  
Austin, TX 78712-1067  
[www.utaustinportugal.org](http://www.utaustinportugal.org)