

SXSW Approaches: UT Austin | Portugal Digital Bits for March 2014

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UT Austin | Portugal

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORY FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES, CoLAB

DIGITAL BITS



Digital Media Program Members Attend SXSW

Several members of the program are taking part in the SXSW festival this year. UT Austin's Wenhong Chen will speak on the SXSW panel "[Gigabit Coming to Austin](#)," which will explore the impact of Google Fiber and other gigabit Internet service on the entrepreneurship, education and health of the city. Austin has been chosen as the second city out of 1,100 US communities that applied to experiment with the gigabit broadband network Google Fiber. The panel, which also features Austin Free-Net's Juanita Budd, will discuss how the private, public, and nonprofit sectors should work together to assure the inclusion of disadvantaged social groups in Austin's digital future. Sharon Stroker, who collaborates on the project, will be in attendance.

Other members of the program who are participating in the festival include Heitor Alvelos and Academic Director José Azevedo, both of U. Porto, who have come to Austin for SXSWedu, a conference on innovation in education and learning which precedes the festival. They are accompanied by Nuno Moutinho of the U. Porto Faculty of Economics, who has come to Austin to develop a research project.

**Doctoral Students Beira and
De Quay Present**

"BioMediation"



RTF doctoral students [João Beira](#) and [Yago de Quay](#) recently presented their research project and performance, “BioMediation,” at the 14th Biennial Arts and Technology Symposium at Connecticut College. Commissioned by The

Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology, the project represents the psychology of immersion and emotions based on computer vision and brain activity-trained data sets. Through the use of an electroencephalograph headset, the cognitive and emotional process of the performer is dynamically translated into audiovisual compositions in real time, while a depth sensor tracks the performer’s movement and physical space. The two also directed workshops and presented research at the event, which took place February 27, 28, and March 1. [Photo credit: Yago de Quay]

Digital Media March Visitors

March will see two new doctoral program visitors, [Rita Sá](#) and [Jaqueline Silva](#) of the New University of Lisbon. Sá, who made an exploratory trip to Austin a year ago to study Austin's ATX Hackerspace, arrived in early March and will stay for nearly three months as a visiting researcher. Her research focuses on collective art practice and open



community spaces. Silva, a first-year student who will arrive mid-month, studies women and the online world and has extensive experience as an entrepreneur, recently authoring a book on unemployment and entrepreneurship. [Photo credit: Rita Sá]

Silva Participates in SXSWedu Panel

Visiting researcher [Cláudia Silva](#) appeared on a SXSWedu panel titled “[Learning with Digital and Participatory Maps](#)” on March 3, presenting some of her dissertation research. Silva is working with different communities in Austin, helping people to create place-based stories with digital media and put the results on a city map using the History Pin application. In her talk, she discussed work with three local communities—adults at the River City Youth Foundation, children at Latinitas, and Radio-Television-Film students at UT. Silva has been collaborating with her UT co-advisor Joe



Straubhaar in his Migration and Media course, which makes use of the same History Pin



application. Andres Lombana-Bermudez, a participant in the 2010 International School on Digital Transformation, also took part in the panel.

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