



Participants Innovate, Collaborate at FUTUREPLACES 2014 Medialab for Citizenship

The seventh annual iteration of FUTUREPLACES took place from October 15-18, featuring nine well-attended Citizen Labs, numerous musical performances, and several talks. In the Labs, participants produced their own game prototypes using Blender, a free, open source 3D animation suite; worked with inhabitants of a transitioning neighborhood to preserve local memory; and explored ways to eat well for only 1 Euro per meal, among other Lab programs. Another collaboration, The Oportsmouth Sinfonia, presented an evening guitar concert performed by non-guitarists who had jointly created the piece just a few hours earlier in the day. Keynote speakers included Jillian York, the Director for International Freedom of Expression at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and Jon Phillips of Fabricatorz, a global design and technology company. This is only a small sampling of the week's activities; please see the [website](#) for Citizen Lab reports, the full program, photos, and more. [photo credit: Luís Barbosa]

**Doctoral Students Present Work
at Symposium**



PhD students and faculty from UNL and U. Porto gathered on October 15 to participate in this fall's Digital Media Doctoral Symposium. Thirteen students at different stages of research development presented on topics including documentary film, digital media and political activism, educational software tools, designing for integration of personal healthcare records, and audiovisual interactive systems, among others. The Electronic Frontier Foundation's Jillian York opened the day with a talk titled "The Chilling Effects of Surveillance," discussing how the surveillance capabilities of online media can alter users' behavior and

engagement. The day ended with a presentation by recent PhD graduate Daniel Brandão, who spoke about his thesis project, "Museum of Ransom: Towards a System for the Aggregation and Interpretation of Contemporary Participatory Video as Contextual Cultural Heritage." In the evening, about 40 students and faculty gathered for the Symposium dinner, held at a local restaurant.

Doctoral Student Wins Award at ICEGOV

A paper authored by Gustavo Magalhães of U. Porto and Laura Manley of the Governance Lab of NYU was commended at the 8th Annual International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV) last month in Guimarães, Portugal. The paper, "Business Models for Open Government Data," was selected from 136 submissions from 51 countries to win Best Research Paper. Drawing on data from The Governance Lab's [Open Data 500](#) study, a survey of U.S. companies using open government data to create products and services, the research paper proposed various business model archetypes. Magalhães, the lead researcher on the paper, has been a visiting

University affiliate at UT for a few semesters, doing research with Code For America and NYU's Governance Lab, among other organizations. His advisors are Professor Catarina Roseira in Porto and Professor Sharon Strover in Austin.



Marcela Canavarro of U. Porto Visits UT

U. Porto PhD student Marcela Canavarro arrived in Austin on November 16 and will spend a week at the University of Texas. Canavarro, who entered the program in 2013, is pursuing an integrated study of citizen media activism in Brazil, focusing on the demonstrations of June 2013 in Rio de Janeiro and subsequent actions. Her study will include data gathered from social media sites Facebook and Twitter and blogs, in addition to material collected in interviews and questionnaires. During her stay, she will meet with faculty including Laura Stein, Rosental Alves, Sharon Strover, and Joe Straubhaar.

UT-Austin | Portugal Digital Media Program

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