

MAKING MEDIA MATTER SYMPOSIUM

Date: 7/25/2019 to 7/26/2019

Location: Ritchie School of Engineering



Making Media Matter Symposium

The Making Media Matter Summer Symposium brings DU students and faculty from across disciplines together with the community to develop ideas, theories, and experiences that foster critical thinking and action. The symposium will take place over two days and will encourage collaboration through workshops, games, rapid prototyping, performances, and more. Join us in making, creating, and collaborating.

Dates: July 25-26, 2019

Location: Innovation Lab (Room 107), Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science (unless otherwise noted)

Cost: The symposium is free and open to the public with the exception of the keynote audiovisual performance by Synthestruct (Ginger Leigh) at Gates Planetarium. Tickets for this keynote are \$15 adults/\$8 students, available [here](#). Use the code VISCERALITY to receive the member price of \$12.

Making Media Matter Schedule of Events

Thursday, 7/25, Innovation Lab (Room 107), Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

9 to 9:30 am: Welcome + Coffee

9:30 am to 12:30 pm: **Immersive Media Experiences Panel:** Panelists will explore compelling alternate realities that push against the boundaries between real and imagined worlds.

Presenters: Kate Casanova: "Liminal Bodies: Posthuman Sculpture & Video"
Ka Chun Yu: "A Brief History of Immersive Experiences Before Computers"
Dan Griner: "The Maturation of the 'Make' Movement and its Need for Renewed Direction"
W. Scott Howard: "SPINNAKERS—Sonicimagetexts"
Amy Kern: "Design Intervention for Community Food Access"
Respondent: Bruce (Bruno) Clarke

12:30 to 2 pm: Lunch

2 to 4 pm: **Design Thinking Works! Workshop:** Design Thinking is valued across disciplines as diverse as medicine, business, and marketing and the simple steps can work for everyone. Try your hand at applying the methods and mindsets to design an experience in this team sprint.

Presenters: Dan Griner, Amy Kern

7 to 9 pm: [Keynote audiovisual performance by Synthestruct \(Ginger Leigh\)](#), Gates Planetarium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Viscerality

Presenter: Synthestruct (Ginger Leigh)

Believe us, you've never experienced the dome of Gates Planetarium quite like this!

Viscerality is a live immersive full-dome performance designed by the artist Synthestruct, aka Ginger Leigh. The audio and generative visuals are controlled by sensor-enabled gloves. Each scene explores different methods of interaction and control, so that each show is unique and the audio and visuals are created in real-time.

Synthestruct is an interactive and audiovisual designer who creates experiences inspired by her passion for science and expanding our sensory perceptions. She works with sensors and data to tap into real and imaginary worlds. Presented in collaboration with the Praxis Initiative of the University of Denver's John Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts.

[Purchase tickets for the keynote \(\\$15 adults/\\$8 students\)](#). Use the code VISCERALITY to receive the member price of \$12.

Friday, 7/26, Innovation Lab (Room 107), Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science

9 to 9:30 am: Welcome + Coffee

9:30 am to 12:30 pm: **Cognitive Estrangement through Media Panel:** Panelists will explore how media can be used to defamiliarize our surroundings and provide access to the otherworldly.

Presenters: Donna Beth Ellard: "Writing with Birds: Quill Pens, Tool Use, and Bird-Human Intersectionalities"
Monica Bolles: "Sonification and Spatial Audio"
Trace Reddell: "Sonic Psychotechnology"
Ben Stewart: "Stitches in Time: Wearable Technology"
Jason Wedekind: "Just Because You Can Hit CMD-Print Doesn't Mean You Should: Reflections on Craftmanship in the Digital Age"
Respondent: Synthestruct (Ginger Leigh)

12:30 to 2 pm: Lunch

2 to 4 pm: **Wearable Interactivity Workshop:** Participants will construct their own hand-made creative wearables and work with smartphone sensors to creatively code interactive sounds and graphics.

Presenters: Ben Stewart, Synthestruct (Ginger Leigh)

6 to 7:30 pm: Keynote presentation on Gaian Systems, **C-Cubed Studios, Second Floor, Shwayder Art Building**

Gaian Systems *Presenter:* Bruce (Bruno) Clarke

Join us for a guided tour through the creation, content, and vision of Gaian Systems: The Planetary Cognition Lab, a one-stop destination for curated samples of Gaian systems thinking, and an initiative to promote Gaian thought and experience through immersive environments.

We'll dwell for a while with key characters in Gaia discourse, from the first theorists James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis to the next generation, including Dorion Sagan, Brenda Laurel, David Abram, Timothy Lenton, and Bruno Latour.

8 to 9 pm: Audio presentation, **C-Cubed Studios, Second Floor, Shwayder Art Building**

Orbits

Presenter: Monica Bolles

Monica Bolles will perform a spatial music composition based on astronomical data exploring the musicality that is ever present in nature. She'll use a 3D audio array to interpret the motion of planets and relate it to sonic space. She'll also explore the influence of humanity on nature through a live improvisation utilizing gestural control of sound objects and tonal experimentation.

Speaker Bios:

Monica Bolles is an artist, audio engineer, and composer of immersive digital environments that question our human relationships and interactions with the world around us.

Kate Casanova is an interdisciplinary artist who explores the posthuman through sculpture and video. She's an assistant professor of sculpture at the University of Denver.

Bruce (Bruno) Clarke is the Paul Whitfield Horn Professor of Literature and Science in the Department of English at Texas Tech University.

Donna Beth Ellard is an assistant professor of medieval literature in DU's Department of English & Literary Arts. She specializes in Old English and Anglo-Latin poetry.

Dan Griner is the Design Manager at Otter Box. He is a strong contributor and collaborator in the design community in Colorado and abroad.

W. Scott Howard's work engages the fields of poetics and poetry, critical theory, book arts, and digital humanities. He is Professor of English & Literary Arts at the University of Denver.

Amy Kern is an assistant professor in industrial design at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her work experience is in furniture, spatial and lighting design.

Trace Reddell is a writer, artist, and theorist exploring the interactions of sound and the cosmological imagination. He teaches in the Emergent Digital Practices (EDP) Program at DU.

Ben Stewart is a Colorado native and bicycle aficionado. He studied bioengineering at the University of Denver and is now a biomechanical engineer and technical garment maker.

Synthestruct (Ginger Leigh) is an interactive + audiovisual artist who combines coding, sensors, sound, visuals, and real-time data to create interactive experiences, installations, and immersive full-dome performances.

Jason Wedekind runs Genghis Kern Design and Letterpress out of an old furniture store turned co-working space in the Highlands. He graduated from DU with a BFA in Graphic Communications.

Ka Chun Yu first joined the Denver Museum of Nature & Science as part of a team tasked to create planetarium software to visualize the known universe.

Sponsors:

This conference was coordinated by [PRAXIS](#)—an initiative focusing on preparing students to incorporate new and emerging technologies and practices across disciplinary fields through the study of critical theory—with the support of the John Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts and the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (CAHSS).

contact information

For questions about this event, including accessibility concerns, please contact:

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Please note that without adequate notice before the event, we may not be able to provide reasonable accommodations.

location

Ritchie School of Engineering

2155 E Wesley Ave

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