

Research Projects

Description

In my work, I bring the related themes of *place* and *digital technologies* into collision with recurrent topics of global concern. Since the 1990s I have addressed artificial intelligence, technoromanticism, e-commerce, sound, emotion and now nature.

Nature is on the side of the independent, the hopeful, the free, the good and the healthy. Some digital device users think that technology gets in the way of direct access to nature. It is as if relentless connectivity, work stress, boredom, and poor health burden the urban dweller. So, we look to nature to deliver the opposites of these conditions.

It is easy to succumb to the view that nature is what is left in the crucible of human experience purged of bothersome technology and artifice. From this observation I launch into an investigation into the nature-artifice divide and situate it within the world of digital networks, with an emphasis on semiotics, the communicative structures within all things, according to the philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce and his followers.

I explore attunement, biophilia, big data, bio- and geo-semiotics, bio-hacking, biomimetic design, nature games, zoo-space, refuge, numinous nature and myths of self-reliance. This work in turn builds on my analysis of mood and emotion in the digital age, including a focus on melancholy, and the sonic metaphor of tuning, continuing a trajectory of investigation into digital cultures, online commerce, the senses, sound and environment, from positivism to hermeneutics and phenomenology.

The work is significant in that it provides a pragmatic framework for design that is original and critical, and that avoids either over-hyped enthusiasm or disdain for digital technologies. See

<http://richardcoyne.com>

- 1. Mobility, Mood and Place: a user-centred approach to design of built environments to make mobility easy, enjoyable and meaningful for older people** This is a collaborative project supported by the EPSRC/AHRC/SRC/MRC scheme Design for wellbeing, Ageing and mobility in the built environment. Recent research shows that remaining active is a vital component in healthy ageing and that exercise provides protection against mental decline in old age. People are more mobile if they live in an appropriate environment, one that is safe, accessible and has good services. To date, much guidance has focused on overcoming barriers in the environment, such as steps without handrails or poor quality lighting. Removing such barriers is important but this approach alone will not encourage people to be more active. We need to understand the positive qualities that encourage people to go out, remain mobile, and give them pleasure into very old age. Our proposal builds on growing evidence that mood and emotion influence people's willingness to be active, which is in turn influenced by the experience of different environments and the mood of one place versus another. The project is based in ESALA, involving Catharine Ward Thompson (lead), Iain Scott, Richard Coyne. Other Co-Is are Niamh Shortt and Jamie Pearce (Geosciences), Gillian Mead (Clinical Sciences), Ian Deary (Philosophy Psychology)

& Language), Neil Thin (Social and Political Science), Jenny Roe (York University), Peter Aspinall (SBE, Heriot-Watt), and Anthea Tinker (Gerontology, King's College London). Grant Ref: EP/K037404/1 Â£1.5 million over 3 years.

2. SFC SPIRIT project, [Moving Targets: New models for new media audiences in the creative media industries](#) led by the University of Abertay with the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art: Â£1.2 million over 3 years, starting Sep 2010. Partners include BBC Scotland, Clash Music Group, Dynamo Games, TAG Games, Tern TV, Winterwell Associates and Skillset Scotland. The PI at Abertay, and Project Leader, is Gregor White, the PI at UoE is Richard Coyne and the PI at eca is Simon Biggs. Mark Wright, and Bev Hood are Co-Is. Brent MacGregor is consultant on the project. Paul Harris chairs the Advisory Board.
3. 2006-8 Â£328,298 AHRC AH/E507654/1 [Branded Meeting Places: ubiquitous technologies and the design of places for meaningful human encounter](#), PI, with Williams, FEC, Research staff employed: James Stewart, Mark Wright, Henrik Ekeus ([description](#), [final report](#)).
4. 2005-6 Â£51,000 AHRC 112333 [Inflecting Space: Correlating the attributes of voice with the character of urban spaces](#) with Parker and Nelson, Research staff employed: Ray Lucas.
5. 2005-6 Â£10,000 AHRC Composition, design and practice-based research (collaborative research training provision), Research staff employed: Jenny Triggs.
6. 2005-6 Â£51,575 EP/C513878/1 Orienting The Future: Design Strategies For Non-Place (Design for 21st Century Cluster) PI, with 4 others, Research staff employed: James Stewart, Dermott McMeel.
7. 2004-6 Â£37,296 University of Edinburgh, Principal's E-Learning Fund, [Dynamic resource base for e-learning in the creative professions](#), research staff supervised: Henrik Ekeus
8. 1997-8 Â£130,000 EPSRC Multimedia component and product libraries for network-aware computer-aided design GR/L06041, with John Lee

Some PhDs supervised by Richard Coyne at the University of Edinburgh

Extracted from Edinburgh Research Archive (ERA) <https://era.ed.ac.uk> (out of embargo)

- [Aetherspheres: spatial sensitivity and self awareness in food and social media prosuming practices](#) Androulaki, Maria (The University of Edinburgh, 2014-06-27)
The focal point of this thesis is on whether and how digital practices can challenge and reintroduce values and concepts related to self-awareness and spatial sensitivity. It uses prosuming practices of food and social â?!
- [Architecture and the spectacle of home in science-fiction film](#) Fortin, David T. (The University of Edinburgh, 2009-07-01)
The concept of home has often been recognized as a foundational concept in popular science-fiction (SF) as the point of departure or place of return in the space odyssey, timetravel mission, or heroic quest. Most SF â?!
- [Architecture and unavowable community : architecture and community as affirmation of insufficiency and incompleteness](#) Wiszniewski, Dorian Stephen (The University of Edinburgh, 2010-06-29)
My thesis concerns how architecture can actively participate in processes of community-formation without reducing its creative processes to the oppositional tensions, prejudices and instrumentality of conventional â?!
- [Architecture of surface : the significance of surficial thought and topological metaphors of design](#) Islami, Seyed Yahya (The University of Edinburgh, 2009)
In the early twentieth century, the modernists problematized ornament in their refashioning of architecture for the industrial age. Today, architects are formulating different responses to image

and its (re)production â?!

- [The artistry of construction: an investigation into construction as a creative process and the influence of mobile phones within domestic scale construction projects](#) McMeel, Dermott (The University of Edinburgh, 2009)
This Thesis seeks to analyse the influence that mobile phones exert on existing communication and working practices, and on the relationships of participants involved during on-site construction. The complexity of â?!
- [Being virtual: embodiment and experience in interactive computer game play](#) Sommerseth, Hanna Mathilde (The University of Edinburgh, 2010-06-29)
This thesis argues that the notion of player experience in relation to computer games is intrinsically linked to the body. Taking the idea of aesthetic experience, or sensuous experience, in computer game play as its â?!
- [Computer-based sketching and the productivity of the conceptual stage of design](#) Mustafa, Janan Abdulsattar (The University of Edinburgh, 2013-11-27)
Many designers find computer-based tools are not as effective during the early stages of design as manual sketching. However, to abandon the computer in these conceptual stages denies designers the computerâ??s capability â?!
- [Convention and intention: a defence of internationality against meaning-relativism](#) Mount, R. G. (The University of Edinburgh, 2004)
In the dissertation are considered a number of ways in which one may discern, write and analyse conventions and intentions for the illocutionary forces of speech acts, and meanings, senses and references for statements â?!
- [Curiosity and experience design: developing the desire to know and explore in ways that are sociable, embodied and playful](#) Lee, Shih-Mei (The University of Edinburgh, 2016-06-25)
Curiosity, as a strong motivator for exploration and discovery, has long been an underexplored but important emotional response in relation to technology. This research considers that it has great potential to improve â?!
- [Design in the digital age: in search of a collaborative paradigm](#) Rossis, Nicholas (The University of Edinburgh, 2000)
- [Factors affecting embodied interaction in virtual environments: familiarity, ethics and scale](#) Al-Attili, Aghlab Ismat (The University of Edinburgh, 2009)
The thesis explores human embodiment in 3D Virtual environments as a means of enhancing interaction. I aim to provide a better understanding of embodied interaction in digital environments in general. 3D interactive â?!
- [Fractal dimensions of landscape images as predictors of landscape preference](#) ĩ»¿ Patuano, AgnÃ's (The University of Edinburgh, 2018-07-05) Many studies of natural landscape preference have demonstrated that qualities such as â??complexityâ?? and â??naturalnessâ?? are associated with preference, but have struggled to define the key characteristics of these qualities. â?!
- [Inhabiting Ethics: Educational Praxis in the Design Studio, the Music Class and the Dojo](#) Koutsoumpas, Leonidas (The University of Edinburgh, 2009)
â??Ethics cannot be taught,â?? asserted Plato in one of the first steps of Western philosophy, an argument that was reconfirmed also by Wittgenstein in the twentieth century. Against this background, this thesis argues for â?!
- [Investigating digital campaigns on new developments in Edinburghâ??s Historic Centre: online discourses and sense of place](#) Colmenero Acevedo, Ezequiel (The University of Edinburgh, 2022-03-07) This thesis explores the attitudes and relations created by

digital communications and social media interactions, this is done using qualitative methods, in opposition to the quantitative ones most used to research data â?!

- [Locating contradictory architectural imperatives: appropriation and subversion in the urban field](#)

Reynders, Hendrik Jurie (The University of Edinburgh, 2011-06-29)

This thesis investigates the value of locating contradictory architectural imperatives when attempting to understand the nature of uneven development in the urban field. The thesis is an attempt at establishing seemingly â?!

- [No-matter: theories and practices of the ephemeral in architecture](#) Karandinou, Anastasia (The University of Edinburgh, 2011-06-29)

The architectural theorist and practitioner Bernard Tschumi asserts that enquiring and working at the limits of a discipline expands our knowledge and experience. Within this thesis I examine the limits of architecture â?!

- [Place experience of the sacred : liminality, pilgrimage and the topography of Mount Athos](#) Kakalis, Christos (The University of Edinburgh, 2014-06-27)

This thesis explores the embodied topography of Mount Athos, emphasizing the conditions of liminality â?? the nature of different kinds of boundaries and intermediate zones within it. Mount Athos is a valuable case study â?!

- [Presenting interactive product information on the world wide web: the case of on-line building products](#) İ»ç Ofluoglu, Salih (The University of Edinburgh, 2002)

- [Re-situating Performance Within The Ambiguous, The Liminal, And The Threshold: Performance Practice Understood Through Theories Of Embodiment](#) Schroeder, Franziska (2006)

This thesis investigates performance as an embodied practice. It draws on theories of embodiment, which act as a catalyst for thinking about performance, and thus provide an interdisciplinary framework for conceptualising â?!

- [The city delineated: aesthetic and ideological aspects of colonial discourse in New York](#) Pierce, Christopher Douglas (The University of Edinburgh, 2002)The image has a key role to play in New York Cityâ??s colonial history. Incorporating an array of unpublished visual and cartographic sources, this dissertation has two principal objectives: [i] to survey the written and â?!

- Lui Li
- Nicholas Rossis
- Pedro Rebelo

University of Sydney PhDs

- Sally McLaughlin
- Ki Byung Yoon

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