between DATA and SENSES: Architecture, Neuroscience and the Digital Worlds

Between Data and Senses; Architecture, Neuroscience and the Digital Worlds (BDS 2017)

International Conference


Organised by the UEL, supported by ARUP, RIBA and the Museum of Architecture

Call for papers

The cross-over between the digital and the physical is being increasingly addressed in design disciplines, architecture, arts and urban studies. Artists and designers increasingly make use of hard data to interpret the world and/or create meaningful and sensuous environments. Architects attempt to measure neurophysiological data to understand better the human experience in spaces. Designers script parametric processes to translate data into responsive, meaningful and/or aesthetically intriguing installations. Scientists and architects/ artists/ designers collaborate to visualise data in new and creative ways so as to trigger and reveal further connections, interpretations and readings. Practices such as the above attempt to break-down the dichotomy between data and the sensuous. They translate elusive, ephemeral and intangible aspects of a place into solid data. In other instances the solid data are interpreted and represented in a ways so as to be perceived and experienced by the different senses.

In this context, methods and conceptual frameworks of different disciplines need to engage in a dialogue; and through these cross-disciplinary practices new strategies and processes emerge. This conference focuses on such collaborative projects where methods from more than one discipline are involved. This conference also addresses how collaborators from different disciplines can work together to deal with current design/ social issues. Through workshops and discussion sessions, this conference will also examine how through such collaborations research and practice informs and drives one another.

Key themes:

1. Architecture and Neuroscience/ Neurophysiology: We welcome contributions which emerge from the collaboration between architects and neuroscientists. How does the mapping of the brain response help designers gain a better understanding of human experience in spaces? We also welcome contributions which emerge from collaboration between Architecture and Psychology or Architecture and Health Sciences. Practicing architects, urban planners and designers are most welcome to reflect on how collaborative projects can drive both practice and research forward. Could the mapping of the human experience in certain environments (through new technologies and methods) inform a practice that designs a public space? Could a practice - that designs i.e. a new housing scheme - raise certain questions about human experience in everyday spaces, which would inform the hypothesis of a research project?

2. Digital and Physical - From Data to Aesthetics/ From Data to Experience: We invite contributions which address the use of data to analyse, understand and represent the dynamics of urban spaces. Contributors from practices are invited to discuss what types of relevant research projects would be most valuable for their design projects. We also invite contributions which discuss the use of solid data to produce engaging and immersive representations or experiences.

3. Cross-disciplinary networks: We invite participants who are keen to develop collaborations between researchers and practitioners from the design and building industries. We invite researchers who intend to discuss their projects with practitioners and test or implement them through a live project. We invite professionals from relevant industries who are keen to collaborate with researchers and develop with them research projects which will have a clear impact on the design project that they are currently developing. If your proposal falls within this theme, please identify what kind of collaboration/network you are currently looking to develop. If you are a researcher identify what type of design project would be relevant to your current investigation; if you are a practitioner identify what type of questions/themes you would like to discuss with a researcher.

Abstract: 400 - 500 words

Posters and short papers of work in progress are also most welcome.

Keynote speakers:
- Prof Richard Coyne
- Prof Deborah Hauptmann
- Prof Jan Wiener

Conference led by:
- Dr Anastasia Karandinou

Organising committee:
- Dr Bridget Snailth
- Alan Chandler

Scientific committee:
- Prof Hassan Abdalla
- Dr Aghlab Al-Attili
- Prof Cherif Amor
- Dr Satish Basavapatna Kumaraswamy
- Dr Julien Castet
- Nefeli Chatzimina
- Prof Ruth Conroy Dalton
- Dr Heba Elsharkawy
- Prof Ozlem Erkarslan
- Prof David Fortin
- Ruairi Glynn
- Dr Vangelis Lympouridis
- Dr Kat Marlindale
- Prof Panos Parthenios
- Dr Kerstin Sailer
- Dr Sally Shahzad
- Dr Renee Tobe
- Dr Louise Turner

Extended abstracts will be published after the conference. A book publication of selected papers will follow the conference. Contributors who wish to be considered for the book publication will be expected to send their full paper (5000 – 7000 words) shortly after the conference.

Venue: The conference will be held at the ARUP offices in central London. Address: 8 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 4BQ. UK

Key Dates:
- Deadline for the submission of abstracts: 15 September 2016
- Conference: Thursday 23 and Friday 24 March 2017

Contact: BDS2017@uel.ac.uk

To submit your abstract:
https://easychair.org/account/signin.cgi?key=40715978.cl2JtaHWrcNF69nz

To pay the conference fee: http://bds2017.eventbrite.co.uk

UEL conference website:
https://www.uel.ac.uk/Events/2017/March/Between-data-and-senses