

Photographs: LilyPad Arduino tutorial by Leah Buechley.

CREATING TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE – SPEAKER'S BIOS

In order of presentation

Dr Leah Buechley is Director of the High-Low Tech research group at the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Media Lab. The High-Low Tech group explores the integration of technology from cultural, material, and practical perspectives, with the goal of engaging diverse groups of people in developing their own technologies. Leah is a well-known expert in the field of electronic textiles (e-textiles) and she developed a method for creating cloth printed circuit boards (fabric PCBs) and designing the commercially available LilyPad Arduino toolkit. Her research has been featured in The New York Times, Boston Globe, Popular Science, CRAFT Magazine and academic publications.

Frances Joseph is Associate Professor of Design at the Auckland University of Technology. She is co-director of Colab and an Associate Researcher at KEDRI, the Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Institute. She was the co-initiator and is currently acting director of AUT's Textile and Design Laboratory. She studied at the Tasmanian School of Art and The College of Fine Arts, UNSW, Australia. She worked professionally as a sculptor, theatre designer and object animator in areas of puppetry and animatronics. At AUT Frances has initiated the development of online teaching and learning systems, digital archives and information resources. Her current research is concerned with modelling and relationality using semantic web technologies and computational intelligence.

Julian Priest is an artist and independent researcher living and working in, New Zealand. He was co-founder of early London wireless freenetwork community consume.net and was an advocate for the freenetworking movement. He worked on radio spectrum policy and co-founded policy initiative OpenSpectrumUK to advocate an open spectrum in the public interest, in Europe and the UK. Since 2005 he has focused on artistic practice, showing internationally. His current interests are the cultural and the environment. He is based in Whanganui where he co-curates a public project room and art space 'The Green Bench'.


Associate Professor Charles Walker trained as an architect at Edinburgh College of Art. He attained a post-professional MSc from the Faculty of Business at the

University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and a PhD from the University of Auckland. He is the inaugural Director of the Interdisciplinary Unit within the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies at AUT University. Current research explores new institutional ecologies of artistic, technological and professional practice.

Derek Elley is Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer for Ponoko, the first online shop for individualized goods – things designed and made just for you in the greenest way possible. Derek was co-founder and CEO of First Rate, the region's #1 Internet marketing agency tracking over \$1 billion in customer revenues. Successfully sold to Q (ASX:QXQ) in December 2006, some customers included NewsCorp, Saatchi & Saatchi, Fonterra, Telecom, Air New Zealand, Contact Energy, The Warehouse and Trademe. Derek was also co-founder and CEO of Sparkbox, a pioneer in New Zealand's angel investment industry. He also co-founded Calcium, an email branding software company and Celsius, a web 2.0 solution to the climate change crisis. Today Derek leads Ponoko strategy and communications.

Evren Uzer and Otto von Busch. Evren is an urban planner and designer based in Istanbul working on post-disaster shelter, participatory housing and risk mitigation. She is about to submit her PhD on cultural heritage at risk. Otto von Busch is a designer working on participatory cultures and fashion. He has a PhD from Göteborg University on fashion design. Evren and Otto both make projects under 'roomservices' that reflect their wide inquisitiveness for experimenting with tools and techniques for providing a different viewpoint or celebrating the differences in everyday life (see www.roomservices.org).

Dr Dave Parry is a Senior Lecturer in the AUT School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences. Dave was awarded a degree in Physics from Imperial College London, followed by a Masters in Medical Physics from St. Bartholomew's Medical College and a research MSc. in computer science from the University of Otago, New Zealand. His PhD is from AUT. His research interests include Internet-based knowledge management, health informatics and Information retrieval. He is director of the AUT Radio frequency identification (RFID) applications laboratory (AURA). Current research projects include the use of RFID tags in medical applications, fuzzy ontology development and implementation, and the use of ubiquitous computing devices.



Tim Carr is a guy who had an enquiring mind even at school when he built his first taser. That was after he electrocuted his bedroom door handle to catch “Santa” sneaking in at 3am! He’s been tinkering since day one! He experimented with basic computers through school, got the right qualifications - left school - and developed a successful career in IT but his real heart was in physical computing and robotics. Immediately he saw untapped potential. He thinks robotics captures a world of entertainment and practical usefulness and set about to bring those benefits to others. Mindkits is a new business, established early this year for bright sparks who enjoy Arduino and robotics. Tim’s determined to excel in excellent service, excellent advice and support equally for beginners and experienced alike.

Lyle Riley is the Fashion Diploma Programme Leader and Fashion CAD Lecturer within AUT’s School of Art and Design. Prior to joining AUT in 2000, Lyle spent 20 years within the European and New Zealand design and manufacturing process and retains close links with fashion industry and current practices. The move to education has allowed for research and post- graduate study to be pursued, in particular in the field of sports related smart technology and involvement in AUT textile development lab.

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Kim Newall is a Multidisciplinary artist and has used computers since the 80s. He has been part of the New Zealand VJ scene since the late 90s and is a co-host of a monthly audio-visual evening at MIC. His work is a mix of handmade and digital processes. Recent projects include an interactive installation entitled “Urban Life” and the design of the video for a theatre interpretation of Kafka’s “The Trail”.

Dr Roy C. Davies has been in the VR industry since the early days when the computers used were at least as big as large refrigerators and made by SGI, or if your budget didn’t stretch that far, running VR applications on a PC meant a 200 Mhz Pentium running MSDOS. Starting as a Computer Scientist in Rehabilitation Robotics at Auckland University, he then spent 12 years at the University of Lund in Sweden in the department of Ergonomics, first to get a PhD in the Usability of Virtual Reality for Participatory Design and Brain Injury Rehabilitation, and then starting and running

the multi-disciplinary VR centre, the Flexible Reality Centre which ties together 25 departments across the campus and has four large VR labs. On return to New Zealand Roy set up Nextspace, a collaboration between the hugely successful NZ-originated company, Right Hemisphere, and the government to build up the 3D-VR industry for New Zealand.

Dr Aukje Thomassen is a Associate Professor and Research Director at Massey university’s Institute for Communication Design in Wellington. Her research focuses on Social Innovation through Design Research (Philosophy, Didactics and Methodologies) and thereby studying Knowledge Creation in the Creative Industries (especially in the area of Digital Media/Interaction Design) within a theoretical framework of Cybernetics. She also supervises Master and PhD candidates in the area of innovation through design (such as serious games and virtual worlds). Aside this she was appointed to direct the PSAU (Professional School of the Arts), a collaborative institute of the University of Utrecht and leading their collaborative Master program on Creative Development. Within Europe she has set up and run the Interaction Design consortium and before that she worked as an Interaction Designer for research labs such as Telematica Institute [2000, NL] and Hewlett Packard Media Laboratory [1998, Bristol UK].

Dr John Collins is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering in the School of Engineering at AUT University. His research interests are in the areas of embedded systems and software engineering.

Dr Mark Jackson is currently Associate Professor of Design in the School of Art and Design and Associate Dean (Research & Postgraduate) for the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies at AUT University. Prior to this he has held lecturing positions at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Adelaide and at the Sydney College of the Arts, the University of Sydney. He gained his PhD in Architecture at the University of Sydney in 1994 and was a Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Architecture at MIT in Boston in 1996, and a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, University of Karlsruhe, Germany in 2003-04. He has published in the fields of design history and theory, the visual arts, film and media as well as architecture and landscape architecture. He has had a number of film and video works exhibited internationally. His current research focus is on ethics and design cultures.

