SEMINAR SERIES BRIEF  DIGITAL INTERVENTIONS  explores how digital media, methods and practice are participating in contemporary and emergent processes of change. The concept of interventions is developed as an integrating and common theme running across the ethnographic, arts and design disciplines.

A Digital Intervention is an action, series of actions, or form of practical activity in the world that is intended to make some kind of change for the better. It may be derived from applied digital ethnography, it might be a form of public art, it could be design practice or it might be a form of activism. Digital Interventions explores how digital media, methods and practice are participating in contemporary and emergent processes of change. The concept of interventions is developed as an integrating and common theme running across the ethnographic, arts and design disciplines.

Through a series of critical and reflective studies of digital interventions across these fields, the seminar series has a wider goal. This is ultimately to engage these different discussions with the question of how digital media are participating in change. We know that digital media are implicated in the production of social, experiential and material processes of change in contemporary cultures, societies and environments. Yet we know relatively little about the comparability of these processes as they are engaged in different contexts.

The seminar series will be held at RMIT University, hosted by the Design Research Institute and the School of Media and Communications, convened by Professor Sarah Pink. Initially seminars will run monthly during 2013.
Resisting the limits of form or simply pissing in public?

In this talk I explore the legitimating norms that stop media products generally, and audio-visual media in particular, from intervening within the social sciences. Audio-visual media derive theoretically from affect and retain a connection with direct experiential knowledge that rational discourses have a tendency to lose. I discuss some of the challenges surrounding the presentation of audio-visual media within the established culture of printed words. It is suggested that the demands of top journals effectively bar researchers in the field from undertaking the production of audio-visual media. This is illustrated through reflection on my experiences of trying to disseminate a short documentary film in my own discipline of organization and management studies.

Martin Wood is a teacher, researcher, theorist, writer and filmmaker. In the past he has served at leading public research universities in the UK. In 2011 he became a professor in the School of Management at RMIT University. He coordinates the Arts of Design and Management Research Cluster in the RMIT Centre for Sustainable Organisations and Work. Martin has published in key scholarly outlets including the Academy of Management Journal, for which he jointly won the 2005 Best Paper Award. In 2010 his short documentary film Lines of Flight won awards at film festivals internationally. Martin’s research and scholarship is currently concerned with the artistic production and dissemination of social science knowledge. He is a member of the editorial collective for the new, online open source publication Organizational Aesthetics: http://ojs.wpi.edu/index.php/orgaesthetics/

Geographies of place-making in Antarctica: an ethnographic approach.

This presentation draws on critical socio-spatial approaches to conceptualising place and the practices of place-making, to scale-down [or sideways] the discussion of Antarctic geopolitics to an ethnographic account of embodied and situated everyday practices in an Antarctic settlement. It presents ethnographic work undertaken during two field seasons in 2012 and 2013 at a Chilean scientific base and surrounding areas comprising a cluster of national scientific stations in the Antarctic Peninsula. The presentation then ventures into how an ‘ethnography of place’ in Antarctica can be then scaled-up to offer fresh perspectives into global debates in polar geopolitics, particularly the ways in which differing Antarctic futures are being pre-empted, anticipated, assembled, mobilised and carried out.

Juan Francisco Salazar is an anthropologist and a media practitioner and scholar. He currently holds a senior lecturer position in communication and media studies at the School of Humanities and Communication Arts and is a member since 2006 of the Institute for Culture and Society at the University of Western Sydney. His research interests and publications focus on media anthropology; visual/digital ethnography; citizens’ media; Indigenous media and communication rights in Chile & Latin America; documentary cinemas; environmental communication; dynamics of socio-ecological change; future studies; and cultural studies of Antarctica. As a media artist he has produced several documentary and experimental short films exhibited internationally and has been a digital storytelling producer in Sydney, Antofagasta and Antarctica. A more complete bio is available at: http://www.uws.edu.au/ics/people/researchers/juan_francisco_salazar

The seminar will be followed by light refreshments available from 6pm

When
4.00 – 6.00pm
Wednesday 15 May 2013

Where
RMIT Design Hub (Building 100)
Multipurpose Room, Level 1,
corner Victoria & Swanston Street,
Melbourne

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