

Dr Alex Davies

Media Artist · Sound Designer · Researcher

Sydney, Australia · schizophonia.com

PROFILE

Dr Alex Davies is an award-winning Australian media artist whose practice spans a diverse range of media and experiments with interaction, technology, perception, mixed reality and illusion. His PhD in Media Arts (UNSW College of Fine Arts) examined the relationship between the techniques of stage magic and the creation of illusion in media arts. He is a Scientia Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Media Arts at UNSW Art & Design, and has exhibited widely in Australia and internationally. He is a recipient of the Qantas Foundation Contemporary Australian Art Award, a UNSW Scientia Fellowship and a Creative Australia Fellowship, and has received numerous grants from the Australia Council's Inter-Arts, Music, Visual Arts and New Media Boards.

Areas of expertise: Mixed reality and illusion · Interactive installation · Spatial and surround sound design · VR / AR and 360° immersive media · Custom hardware and control systems

POSITION & EDUCATION

Current Scientia Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Media Arts, UNSW Art & Design, Sydney

2006–11 PhD, Media Arts, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales. Thesis: *Magic, mixed realities & misdirection* (awarded 2012)

1995–01 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours), Media Arts, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales

GRANTS & AWARDS

2022 Create NSW, ARAP Soundlab
2018 Australia Council for the Arts, Career Development Grant
2017 UNSW Scientia Fellowship
2014 Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Australia Fellowship
2012 Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Australia Production Grant
2012 Australia Council for the Arts, Music Board, New Work Grant
2011 Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Australia Development Grant
2011 National Association for the Visual Arts, NSW Artist Grant
2011 Australia Council for the Arts, Visual Arts Board, New Work Grant
2010 UTS, Academic Career Development Grant
2009 European Capital of Culture (Linz), New Work Commission
2008 Qantas Foundation Contemporary Australian Art Award
2008 Australia Council for the Arts, Inter-Arts Office, New Work Grant
2007 Australia Council for the Arts, Inter-Arts Office, Research and Development Grant
2006–10 University of New South Wales, University Postgraduate Award
2006 Sendai Mediatheque, Japan, New Work Commission
2006 Australian Network for Art and Technology, Conference Fund
2005 Australia Council for the Arts, Music Board, New Work Grant
2005 Australia Council for the Arts, Visual Arts and Crafts Board, New Work Grant
2005 National Association for the Visual Arts, Marketing Grant
2004 Experimenta Media Arts, 'New Visions', New Work Commission
2004 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Board, New Work Grant
2004 UTS, Vice-Chancellor's Conference Fund
2003 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Board, Presentation and Promotion Grant
2002 Kunstraum, Linz, Austria, New Work Commission
2002 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Board, Research and Development Grant
2002 Time's Up Laboratories, Linz, Austria, Research Residency

- 2001 Australia Council for the Arts, New Media Arts Board, Research and Development Grant
 1998 Australian Film Commission, New Media Development Grant

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Very Near Future – Part 4*, OpenField Festival, Berry, Australia
 2023 *Edge of the Present VR/AR*, Youturn, Queensland, Australia
 2022 *Edge of the Present*, Warburton Arts Centre, Victoria; Warwick Art Gallery, Queensland; HOTA, Queensland
 2019 *Edge of the Present*, The Big Anxiety, UNSW Galleries, Sydney
 2018 *Slipstream*, International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), Durban, South Africa
 2018 *Parragirls Past, Present*, South By Southwest (SXSW), Austin, USA
 2017 *The Night Odditorium and Other Tales of Wonder*, 55 Sydenham Rd Gallery, Sydney
 2015 *The Very Near Future – Part 3*, Cosmic Love Wonderlust, Campbelltown Arts Centre
 2015 *Swarm*, Cosmic Love Wonderlust, SCA Galleries, Sydney
 2014 *The Very Near Future*, Sydney Festival, Artspace, Sydney
 2013 *The Very Near Future*, ISEA, Carriageworks, Sydney
 2012 *Phantasm #3*, Performance Space, Sydney
 2012 *Flutter*, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra
 2012 *Dislocation*, Wonderland, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan
 2011 *Pugilist Series 449*, Nighttime #12 FIGHT, Performance Space, Sydney
 2011 *The Black Box Sessions*, UTS Gallery, Sydney
 2009 *Häusliches Glück*, European Capital of Culture, Linz, Austria
 2009 *Dislocation*, Trace Elements, Performance Space, Sydney
 2008 *The Black Box Sessions*, HAIP Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia
 2008 *Dislocation*, Trace Elements, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 2008 *Dislocation*, Mirror States, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
 2007 *Documentary Photography*, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney
 2006 *Swarm & Conversations*, Re:search – Art Collaboration of Australia and Japan, Sendai Mediatheque, Japan
 2006 *Pugilist Series 449*, Platform, The Art Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
 2006 *Dislocation*, Under the Radar, FACT, Liverpool, United Kingdom
 2006 *Flutter*, Artspace, Sydney
 2006 *Pugilist Series 449*, Simultan Festival, Timisoara, Romania
 2006 *Pugilist Series 449*, Space Invaders, Gallery 4A, Sydney; Grudge Match, Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne
 2006 *Sonic Displacements*, What Survives, Performance Space, Sydney
 2005 *Dislocation*, Vanishing Point, Melbourne
 2005 *Recombinant Void*, Liquid Architecture Festival, Sydney; Simultan Festival, Timisoara, Romania; Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney
 2004 *Drift*, International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), Helsinki / Tallinn
 2004 *Swarm*, 2004: Australian Culture Now, ACMI / NGV, Melbourne
 2004 *Work, Rest, Play (Escape)* (Imperial Slacks Collective), Artspace, Sydney
 2003 *Filter Feeder*, Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
 2003 *Filter Feeder*, FILE Hypersonica, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, Brazil
 2003 *Anchortronic performance and Heterodyne*, Garage Festival, Stralsund, Germany
 2003 *Swarm*, Artspace, Sydney
 2002 Radiotopia Network Event, Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria
 2002 *Filter Feeder and Sonic Displacements*, Kunstraum, Linz, Austria
 2002 *TransCodecExpress*, O.K Centrum für Gegenwartskunst, Linz, Austria
 2002 *BodySPIN* (Time's Up), Exit Festival, Paris; VIA Festival, Maubeuge, France
 2002 *Filter Feeder*, Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney

- 2002 Anchortronic 5.1 Surround DVD (various artists), Staalplaat Records, Berlin
- 2001 AV Performance, Stop Spot, O.K Centrum für Gegenwartskunst, Linz, Austria
- 2001 *Acoustic Trauma*, Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship, Artspace, Sydney
- 2000 Triclops International, What Is Music? Festival, Sydney
- 1999 *18 is Enough*, Herringbone Gallery, Sydney

SELECTED COLLABORATIONS

- 2022 *A Safer Place? Stories from the Emergency Department* — Sound design; production/design team (with V. Kuchelmeister, J. Bennett, G. Kenning)
SIGGRAPH Asia XR, Sydney (2023); fEEI Lab, RMIT University (2022)
- 2019 *Change was our only Chance, Time's Up* — Collaborating artist
Vienna Biennale, Angewandte Innovation Lab, Vienna
- 2017 *Parragirls Past, Present* — Sound design and editing (with L. Hibberd, V. Kuchelmeister, Parragirls)
SXSW; ZKM Beyond Festival, Karlsruhe; MIFF; Sydney & Adelaide Film Festivals; ISEA Durban; SAT Montreal; The Big Anxiety, UNSW EPICentre
- 2017 *Parramatta Girls Home Audio Walk* — Narrative experimental sound work in 13 parts
- 2017 *Catch The Tiger* — Sound design and composition (Creative Robotics Lab, UNSW)
The Big Anxiety, National Facility for Human-Robot Interaction Research, UNSW
- 2017 *Only at the Air, Only at Each Other*, Greg Ferris (VR) — Sound design
Sydney Film Festival; Revelation Film Festival, Perth
- 2017 *Black Hole Horizon*, Lily Hibberd — Spatial sound design and custom programming
Edinburgh International Science Festival, Summerhall
- 2016 *And the Earth Sighed*, Josephine Starrs & Leon Cmielewski — Spatial sound design and composition
Arts House, Melbourne
- 2016 *Every Time I Leave the Room*, Greg Ferris — Sensor integration; custom software for non-linear playback
Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 *Amnesia Atlas*, iCinema / NIEA, UNSW — Sound design
- 2013 *Incompatible Elements*, Josephine Starrs & Leon Cmielewski — Spatial sound design and composition
- 2010 *Subsoma*, Michaela Davies — Max/MSP programming
- 2010 *The Vinyl Rally*, Lucas Abela — Custom hardware and software integration
- 2005 *The Splinter Orchestra* — Parasitic live sampling and processing
- 2004 *The Shadowers*, Monika Tichacek — Sound design
- 2003 *Lightning District and Anchortronic*, Time's Up / Staalplaat — Sound development; two 5.1 surround compositions; surround concert
Garage Festival, Stralsund, Germany
- 2002 *BodySPIN*, Time's Up — Sound design
Linz, Austria
- 2001 Triclops International — Performance with custom-built sound machines
What is Music? Festival, Sydney

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Davies, A. 'The Present Edge of a Very Near Future', *Futures Brought to Life: From Immersion via Agency to Engagement*, Angewandte Innovation Lab, Vienna.
- 2017 Davies, A. and Koh, J. 'Häusliches Glück: A Case Study on Deception in a Mixed Reality Environment', *Handbook of Digital Games and Entertainment Technologies*, p. 693.
- 2015 Davies, A. and Crosby, A. 'Compressorhead: the robot band and its transmedia storyworld', *International Workshop in Cultural Robotics*, pp. 175–189. Springer.
- 2014 Davies, A. 'Spatial Narratives in The Very Near Future', *Narrative Strategies Symposium*, M-ITI, Madeira, Portugal.
- 2012 Davies, A. *Magic, mixed realities & misdirection*. Doctoral thesis, College of Fine Arts, UNSW Australia.
- 2010 Davies, A. 'Adrift in the virtuality continuum', *Computers in Entertainment (CIE)*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 1–14. ACM, New York.

- 2010 Morrison, A., Davies, A., Brečević, G., Sem, I., Boykett, T. & Brečević, R. 'Designing performativity for mixed reality installations', *FORMakademisk*, vol. 3, no. 1.
- 2009 Davies, A. Presentation and panel chair, 'Double Blind: Augmented Realities in The Black Box Sessions', *Performing Presence: from the live to the simulated*, University of Exeter, UK.
- 2008 Davies, A. 'Frolicking with phantoms: illusion in mixed reality', *Engage: Interaction, Art & Audience Experience*, UTS Sydney, pp. 68–79.
- 2008 Davies, A. 'Illusion in Mixed Reality', *Keho*, Body Edition, issue 3, pp. 27–30.
- 2005 Davies, A. 'On-Screen / In-Space', *Vital Signs*, RMIT University, Melbourne.

RESIDENCIES

- 2022 ARAP Soundlab Residency
- 2015 Tokyo Wondersite, Tokyo, Japan
- 2011 UTS Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 FoAM vzw, Brussels, Belgium
- 2009 Nadine Laboratory for Contemporary Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- 2006 Asialink, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2005 Sendai Mediatheque, Sendai, Japan
- 2004 Recombinant Media Labs, San Francisco, USA
- 2002 Time's Up, Linz, Austria

INVITED LECTURES, SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

- 2022 Mentor, AFF Expand Lab, Adelaide Film Festival
- 2014 Workshop participant, Laurisilva Transmedia Storytelling, M-ITI, Madeira, Portugal
- 2014 Guest lecture, Interface Culture Program, Kunstuniversität Linz, Austria (also 2009)
- 2011 Workshop presenter, Interactive Media for secondary schools, UTS Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Guest lecture, Digital Cultures Program, School of Letters, Art and Media, University of Sydney
- 2009 Master class presenter, 'Mixed Reality', Nadine, Brussels, Belgium
- 2008 Master class presenter, 'Chroma Key and Interactive Arts', Campbelltown Arts Centre
- 2008 Invited participant, 'Better than Reality' mixed reality workshop, V2_ Institute for the Unstable Media, Rotterdam
- 2008 Invited participant, 'xmedk' workshop, Performing Arts Forum, St Erme, France; 'Ragtag Video', Interactive Institute, Stockholm
- 2008 Artist talks, Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery and Tokyo Wondersite Aoyama, Tokyo
- 2008 Invited participant, 'Technologies of Listening', ARC Cultural Research Network, UTS, Sydney
- 2006 Artist talk, FACT, Liverpool; invited speaker, 'The Art of Documentation', Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
- 2006 Workshop presenter, 'Physical Computing', Electrofringe, Newcastle (also 'Max/MSP Network Composition', 2002)
- 2005 Invited lecture, Future Screen Series, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2003–04 Artist talks, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2003); ACMI, Melbourne (2004)