

KAT AUSTEN PH.D.

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFILE

I am a Berlin-based interdisciplinary practitioner with a passion for the environment, digital media and understanding and intervening in the world's complex networks. I now work creatively as an artist, lecturer, researcher, designer and community engagement specialist at the intersection of art, technology and science. I have excellent project management and team working skills, honed over the last 15 years of working across disciplines. I believe individuals are unique and wonderful, and closely intertwined within society. As such I have a passion for engaging with and building communities and for communicating complex ideas in written, designed and artistic formats.

Key Skills: design, interactional expertise, creative problem solving, project co-ordination, art, research, writing, communications, systems thinking, environmental science, water resilience, co-creation, chemistry, futures, community management, open source

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

CULTURAL FELLOW IN ART AND SCIENCE

Cultural Institute, University of Leeds (0.5 position) Dec 2017 - Current

This fellowship was awarded for The Matter of the Soul, a project exploring the use of novel haptic and sound interfaces to generate empathy for non-humans. The role has a strong networking and public engagement requirement, and cross-cuts across disciplines within the university.

LECTURER

Bachelor in Art and Science, University College London Jan 2017 - Mar 2018

I created the undergraduate course Citizen Science for Radical Change: Co-design, Art and Community, to synthesise artistic and scientific research practices using interdisciplinary research-based learning methods in combination with theory. It is based on my open source artistic project Vital, which focusses on our relationship to food.

Techniques employed include:

- DIY/ citizen science: chemical analysis of micronutrients
- forum theatre
- installation co-design and co-creation with a community
- cultural exchange
- foraging and social agency

HEAD OF RESEARCH AND DESIGN

iilab, Berlin

May 2014 - Jul 2017

I led the research and design team in this tech-for-social-good startup. I planned and oversaw ethnographic, infrastructural and engineering research, and worked closely with industry and academic partners to deliver hardware and software solutions that ensured open data, open

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source, digitally secure and environmentally resilient technology solutions.

Projects (role):

- Influence Mapping Toolbox (Research and design lead)
- Engineering Comes Home EPSRC funded project in partnership with UCL and Newcastle University (Lead)
- UCL's Geomatic Engineering MSc (Lead)

EDITOR

Think Smarter, Penguin Publishing, London *Jan 2014 - Jan 2015*

I established Think Smarter, an interdisciplinary newsletter from Penguin, setting the bar for thought-provoking, challenging content that went beyond the publishers' own catalogue to provide a rich overview of content anchored in current affairs and thought leadership.

Key responsibilities:

- Editing, commissioning and writing engaging, clickable content
- Trend identification

EDITOR

CultureLab, New Scientist, London *Jan 2011 - Apr 2014*

Over 3 years I shaped the arts and books coverage online and in print for the world's best selling popular science magazine. During my time as CultureLab editor, New Scientist was at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary practice and arts and science reporting.

Key responsibilities:

- Editing, commissioning and writing content for the magazine's CultureLab section online and in print (2.5 pages per week), proofreading
- Writing news, opinion and feature articles
- Audio and video commissioning and editing
- Building the CultureLab community - twitter, crowdsourced interviews, competitions
- Consulting on layouts

CO-FOUNDER

SciSpace *Jul 2007 - Feb 2009*

Co-founder of scispace.net, "the social networking site for scientists", developed to help scientists working at different scales to share and help interpret data. Launched July 2007, sold on in 2009.

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

University of Cambridge *Nov 2005 - Aug 2008*

I worked on the eMinerals project as part of the Department of Earth Sciences, carrying out computational chemical research into environmentally important systems using mathematical models.

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RESIDENCIES

Artist in the Arctic 2017, Friends of SPRI, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

[Artist in Residence](#), Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, University College London, March 2015-ongoing

[Artist in Residence](#), NYU Shanghai Gallery and PCI, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, April 2016

Artist in Residence (Stereotropic Anedota) Art Oxygen, Mumbai, February 2016

Digital Art Lead, LAsTheatre, New Atlantis project, 2014-2015

Writer in Residence, Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, University College London, March 2013-March 2015

Artist in Residence, 2009 - 2014 for spoken word organisations: Utter! Spoken Word, Poetry Kapow!, Days of Roses

Artist and scientist, The Clipperton Project, January - December 2013

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

- General Thinkers Network
- Future Shapers Network member, Forum for the Future, since 2014
- Watef Network member
- London Creative Network inaugural member
- Consultant for Water Resilience Advisory Group for UK Water Regulatory Body OfWAT 2015-2016

EDUCATION

CENTRAL SAINT MARTINS
London, UK — Metalwork for Sculpture 2010

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON AND DAVY FARADAY
LABORATORY
London, UK — Ph.D. Chemistry 2006
Computer modelling of the Structure and Reactivity of Carbonate Minerals.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
London, UK — MSci Chemistry 2001

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

“Multiple knowledges and the Redefinition of the Self in the Environment” (submitted, **Proceedings of the 9th SAR - International Conference on Artistic Research**) Kat Austen

Citizen Science 2030: exploring the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Millennial Generation” (submitted, **Citizen Science: Theory and Practice**) Kat F Austen et al.

“Engineering Comes Home: Co-designing nexus infrastructure from the bottom-up” S Bell, C Johnson, A Borrion, K Austen, J Matsushita, R Comber, P Melville-Shreeve (2017) **ISNGI Conference Proceedings** 2017. 46-54

“Mediating for Climate Change: Falling Up to Hyperignorance, Diving Down to Deep Waters, to Touch Other(s) (and Ourselves)” Kat Austen, (2017) **Oxford Artistic and Practice Based Research Platform**

“The Art of Health” Kat Austen, (2016) **Wellcome Trust**

“Resilience Task and Finish Group Report” Austen et al. (2015) **Ofwat**

“Theory Choice in Chemistry: Attitudes to Computer Modelling in Chemistry” Kat F Austen (2016), in **Theory Choice in the History of Chemical Practices**, Eds. Emma Tobin and Chiara Ambrosio, SpringerBriefs

“What could derail the wearables revolution?” Kat Austen (2015), **Nature**, 525, 22–24

“Pollution Patrol” Kat Austen (2015) **Nature**, 517, 136-138

“How to be really open” Kat Austen (2014) **New Scientist**, 223 (2981):44–45

“Out of the lab and into the streets” Kat Austen (2013) **New Scientist**, 281, 2923, 48-51

“Electrostatic versus polarization effects in the adsorption of aromatic molecules of varied polarity on an insulating hydrophobic surface” Kat F Austen et al. (2008) **J. Phys.: Condens. Matter** 20 035215

“The interaction of dolomite surfaces with metal impurities: a computer simulation study” Kat F. Austen et al, (2005) **Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.**, 7, 4150–4156

“Density Functional Theory Study of the Binding of Glycine, Proline, and Hydroxyproline to the Hydroxyapatite (0001) and (0110) Surfaces” Neyvis Almora-Barrios, Kat F. Austen, and Nora H. de Leeuw, (2009) **Langmuir**, 25(9), 5018–5025

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RECENT PUBLIC SPEAKING

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Environmental Impact, Greenlab Symposium, Weissensee Kunsthochschule, April 2018

don't stop 'til you feel it, 34c3, Leipzig, December 2017

DIY Chemistry and art, Science Hackday Berlin, November 2017

Engineering Comes Home and Vital, InfraLab, Berlin, October 2017

Multiple Knowledges and Redefinition of the Self in the Environment, The Value of Life: Measurements, Stakes, Implications, University of Wageningen, June 2017

Citizen science for radical change - as research-based learning module at UCL, Connecting Higher Education, University College London, June 2017

Radical Change in How We Connect to the Environment, re:publica 2017, Berlin May 2017

Experiments in Interspecies Empathy: The Coral Empathy Device, University of Fine Arts Poznan, December 2016

Experiments in Interspecies Empathy: The Coral Empathy Device as part of Living Systems Aquatic Systems Seminar, Art Laboratory Berlin, September 2016

Sushi Roulette workshop, S.Net Conference, Bergen, October 2016

DIY Microplastic Analysis for Artistic Exploration, Science Underground Academy, Natural History Museum, Dubrovnik, July 2016

Connecting with Communities, Ofwat Community Engagement Workshop, London, July 2016

In Search of Knowing, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, April 2016

Art as a Mode of Connecting with the Environment, NYU Shanghai Sustainability Conference, Shanghai, April 2016

The Width of Air, What about art?, Mumbai, February 2016

The Width of Air, St Xavier's College, Mumbai, February 2016

Challenges and Opportunities in developing citizen science projects, Countdown2030, UCL Institute of Global Prosperity, November 2015

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

The Matter of the Soul as part of the Polar Museum at Bonhams Art Gallery, London, UK, 27th July - 20th August 2018 *Forthcoming*

Coral Empathy Device at Lady Beck, Leeds, UK, 3rd June - 10th June 2018

Coral Empathy Device as part of Alien Organs, Spektrum, Berlin, Germany, 2nd March - 4th March 2018

Vital | Flows at DPMA-TIZ, Berlin, Germany, 24th June - 2nd July 2017

Flows 1.0 at Mono, Berlin, Germany, 18th May - 2nd June 2017

Coral Empathy Device as part of labore:tory, Kühlhaus, Berlin, Germany, May 2017

Vital | Flows Smorgasbord, SPACE, London, UK, January 2017

By the Sea: the Coral Empathy Device, Píksel Zero Level, Bergen, Norway, November 2016

Sushi Roulette, S.Net, Bergen, Norway, October 2016

Not Waving at Science Underground Academy, Dubrovnik, Croatia, July 2016

Coral Empathy Device at NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China, 11th April - 20th April 2016

Belljar at NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China, April 2016 - ongoing

Snowglobe at Carter Road Promenade, Mumbai, India, February 2016 and ongoing at St Xavier's College, Mumbai, India

DNA Sci Fi Cocktails performance at MIKK, Murska Sobota, Slovenia, December 2015

Coral Empathy as part of Píkslo_Deep Dive at Píksel Festival, Bergen, Norway, November 2015

Treading the Steep Route: Flows 2.0 at Palazzo Ducale, Genoa, Italy, October 2015