# Hybridized digital-physical worlds



Nicolas Nova Media and Design Lab / EPFL Mediamatic workshop, Amsterdam, May 2007 what?
how?
current trends?
design issues?

### Vocabulary of hybridity

linkage, merging, fusion, linkage, interconnection, binding, assemblage, amalgam, amalgamation, blend, blending, coadunation, coalescence, coalition, commingling, commixture, hybridization, compound, convergence, immixture, integration, intermixture, junction, merger, merging, mixture, smelting, synthesis, unification, union, uniting, welding, assimilation, alliance, interfusion, soup, salmagundi

research about how to design for hybridization led to:

pervasive computing, ubiquitous computing, everyware, wearable computing, mobile computing, things that think, calm computing, continuous computing, ambient intelligence, digital-physical computing, internet of things, networked objects, augmented reality, mixed reality, geospatial web, locative media, physical metaverse...

(all of these allow the digital-physical convergence)

### underlying technologies

- identification (RFID, ipv6, visual tags...)
- sensors
  - positioning (GPS, Wifi, CellID...)
  - other information (pressure, temperature, etc.)
- communication (tcp/ip, BT/Wifi, zigbee, redTacton...)
- computation



"Media spaces LINK physical spaces through digital mediums.

Mixed reality environments FUSE physical and digital environments.

Ubiquitous computing environments EMBED the digital into physical environments.

Hybrid ecologies MERGE multiple environments, physical and digital."

(Crabtree and Rodden, 2007)

### what this hybridization is not about:



rather about:

a less utilitarian perspective



## Output

## digital

## physical

digital

desktop computers game consoles

3D printing, rapid prototyping

Input physical d

digital overlay (augmented reality, visualization)
locative media
architecture as an interface spimes+blogjects
lifelogging+virtual worlds

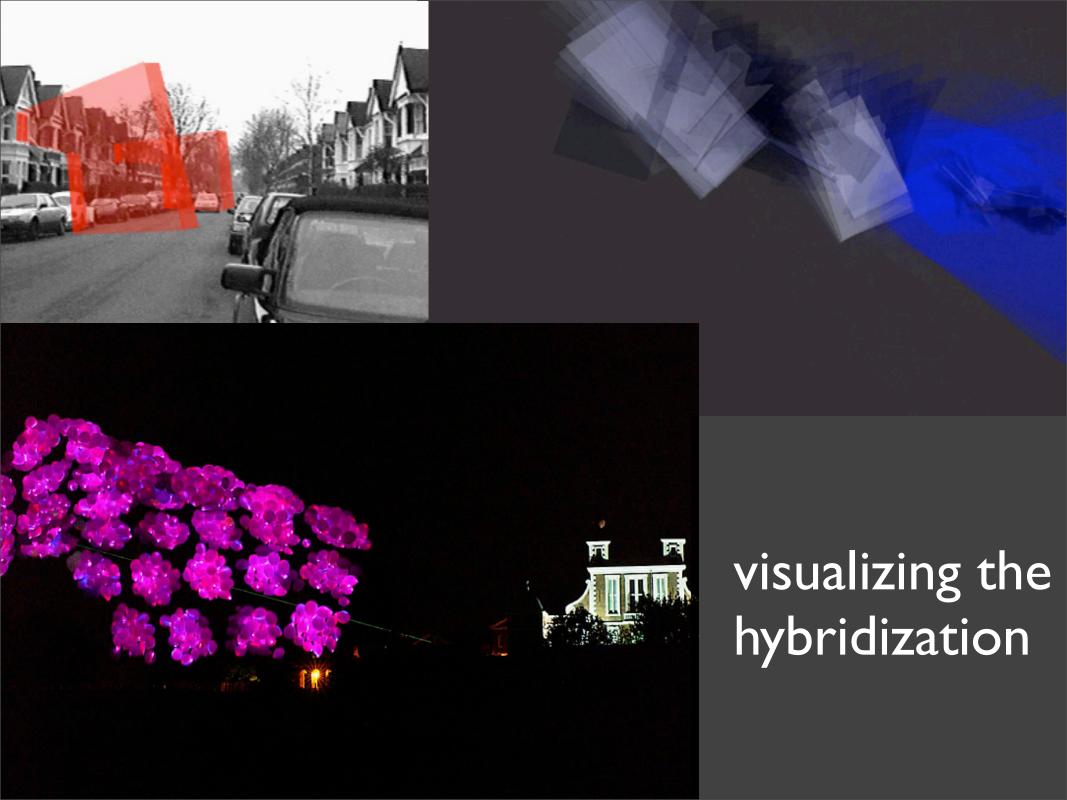
physical activities

### trends

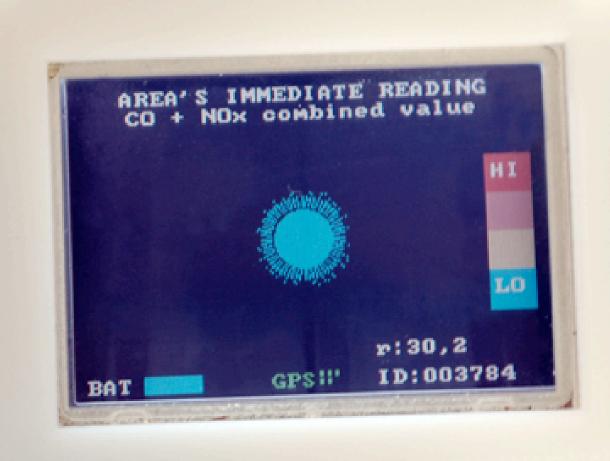
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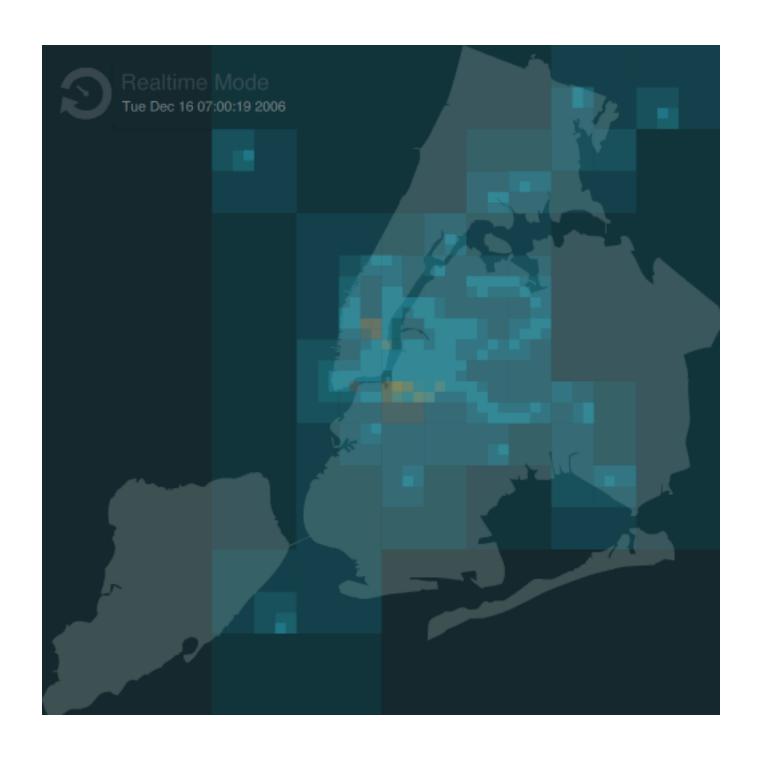


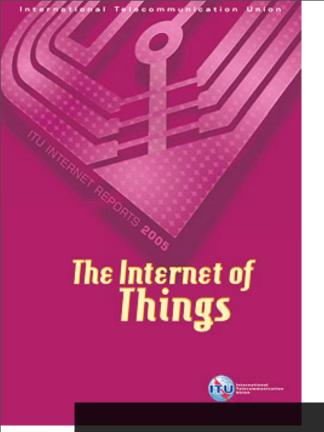
augmented/mixed reality: combination of real world and computer-generated data

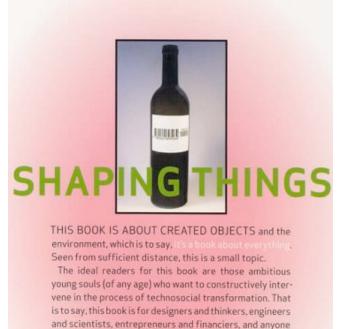












BRUCE STERLING

seem to be becoming.

else who might care to understand why things were once

as they were, why things are as they are, and what things

#### Title

A Manifesto for Networked Objects — Cohabiting with Pigeons, Arphids and Aibos in the Internet of Things

#### Short Title:

**Why Things Matter** 

#### trackbacks:

Bruce Sterling. Shaping things. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2005.

Donna J. Haraway. The companion species manifesto: dogs, people, and significant otherness. Prickly Paradigm, University Presses Marketing, Chicago, Ill., 2003.

Bruno Latour. We have never been modern. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1993.

#### tag cloud

spimes, spime, things, thing, lift06, ubiquitous computing, design, object, objects, rfid, arphid, arphids, pervasive networks, blogject workshop, near-field communication, nfc, web 2.0. world 2.0

#### normalink

Ever since this "blogjects" topic has started circulating, I've been asked lots of things, but two questions have come to the fore. First, why would objects want to just blog? Second, why would I care if objects "blog"?

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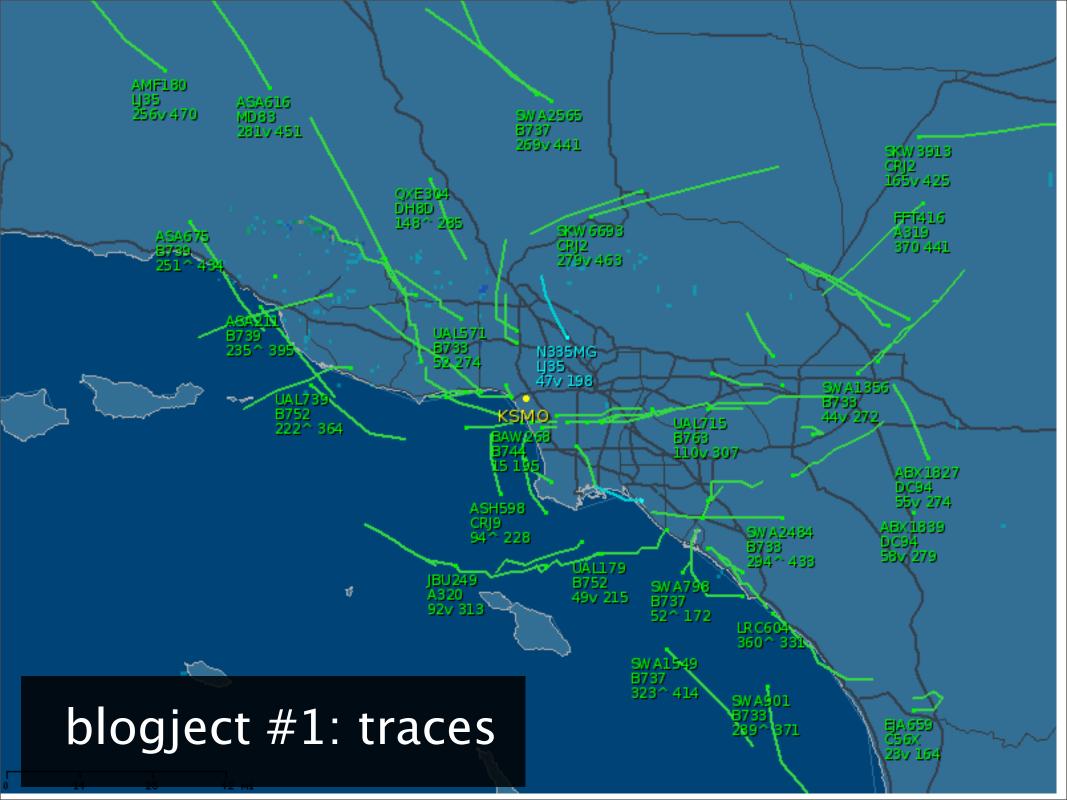


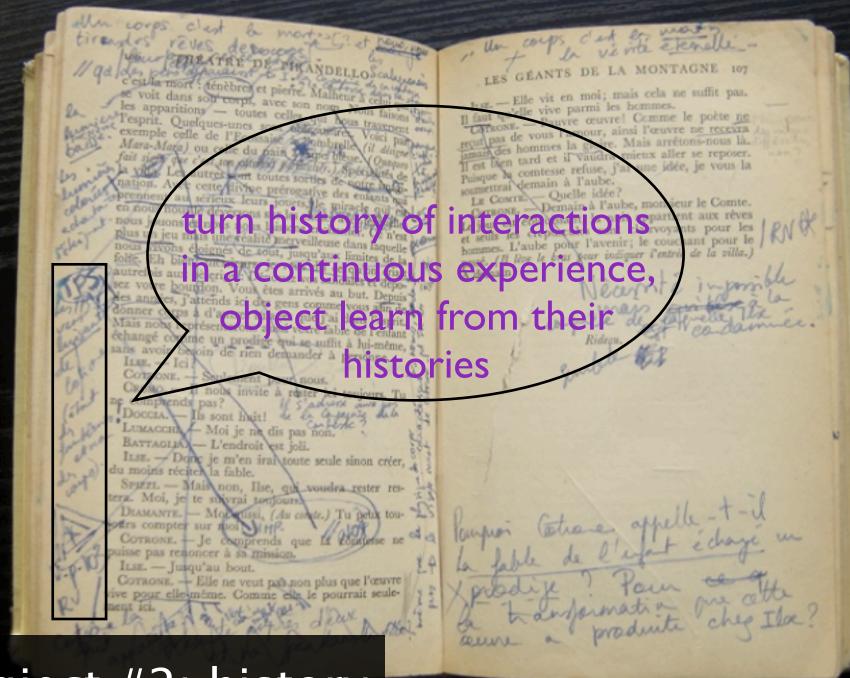




## blogject (blog-objects)







blogject #2: history

#### **Sparky's Hovel**

#### ABOUT

Email Me



#### **CATEGORIES**

#### RECENT COMMENTS

johan **on** November 23, 2005 AIBO Photo Diary

#### **ARCHIVES**

January 2006 December 2005 November 2005

#### January 20, 2006 AIBO Photo Diary



#### Sparky

Total running days 59 Run time 10 h 24 min Distance 19m/62ft Face # Ball ## Bone ##

[Aibo diary] Say "Good Boy" and I will work harder.

Run for the hills!!!!!

Posted on 01/20/2006 at 11:00 PM | Permalink | Comments (0)

January 4, 2006 AIBO Photo Diary



RSS

#### ADVERTISMENT

Add me to your TypePad People list

#### RECENTLY UPDATED WEBLOGS

AIBO ERS-7 Mind3 Blog Toshi's Weblog Bobbins blog Aduki's eLog CARAMEL THE AiBO - ERS-7M3T My Weblog frau patriccia A Lot like Life

Snarky

16m/52ft

blogject #3: content production

## tripwire (Tad Hirsch)





## crittercams









Blogging pigeons (Beatriz Da Costa)



weblogs are online journals, a way for people to publish ideas, pictures, audio and video for their friends, family and the world.

## data

no matter what you do, you collect data. runners keep track of how far they run. salespeople keep track of leads. most of us review movies, restaurants and albums.

## datablogging

unleash the power of your data with powerful and cuszomizable charts and graphs. build complex queries to fit your interests. connect with people based on the data you share. datablogging is an advanced form of blogging. it leverages the simplicity of blogging and the power of data mining.



## (automatic) lifeblogging +virtual worlds

(or... pedometers everywhere)







## Spimes (Bruce Sterling)

Speculative category of objects that:

- 1. Have a unique ID (RFID? thinglink?...)
- 2. Can be precisely located on Earth (GPS?, radio-frequency?)
- 3. A way to mine large amounts of data for things that match some given criteria, like internet search engines.
- 4. Tools to virtually construct nearly any kind of object; computer-aided design.
- 5. Ways to rapidly prototype virtual objects into real ones. Sophisticated, automated fabrication of a specification for an object, through "three-dimensional printers."
- 6. "Cradle-to-cradle" life-spans for objects. Cheap, effective recycling.

## design trends

- The InternetS of Places, People and Things
- Make explicit the invisible or the implicit (often negative phenomena)
- Underlying trend: collection of traces + new interaction partners
- Intricate relationships between the physical world and X virtual environments that are interconnected
  - What's being in a place?
  - What does it mean to be with someone? a pet?

## design issues

- Agency: human? pet? artifacts?
- Reshuffled interaction design
  - Intentional/unintentional inputs
  - Synchronous/asynchronous output
  - Fragmented interactions
- Affordances of space
  - does the physical space afford specific behavior in virtual space?
  - the other way around?
  - is it so interconnected that behavior is seamless?

# what drives design? unfortunately: tech tech tech BUT

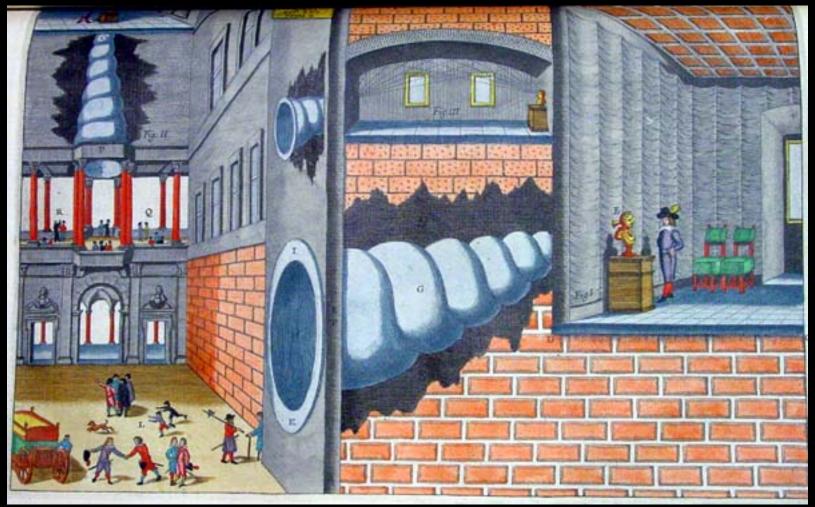
also need new experiences

- I) playful
- 2) with forgotten partners (pets, weather)
  - 3) non utilitarian practices
- 4) lowtech/low bandwidth can be relevant

Thank you

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oh btw, this is not new



("piazza-listening device" by Athanasius Kirchner, 1650)