

# John Vines: Curriculum Vitae

## John C. Vines

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DoB: August 31<sup>st</sup> 1983

Nationality: British

## Research

### PhD Research

My research is situated in a moment where the theory and practice of design appears to be significantly implicated in the social and economic response to demographic changes in various westernised nations by addressing the need to reconnect the older people to technology. In light of claims that cognitive ageing results in an increasing disconnection from novel technologies in old age, my research identifies that inclusive design is apparently trapped in a discourse in which technology (and its interfaces) is designed as a response to a deterministic decline in abilities. The thesis proceeds from this context to ask what intellectual moves are required within the discourses of inclusive design so that its community of theorists and practitioners can both comprehend and afford the enactment of cognitive experience in old age. Whilst influential design scholarship actively disregards reductionist cognitive explanations of human and technological relationships, it appears that inclusive design still requires an explanation of human cognition in later life. In taking a position that design should support human cognitive enactment, the thesis provides an alternative explanation of cognitive disconnection in old age that eschews reductionism and a deterministic process of decline. In reassessing what ageing cognition might mean, the research impacts by proposing new strategies for inclusive design that emphasise the role of creating space for older humans to actively explore, reflect upon and enact their own cognitive connections with technology.

### Research council funded roles

Research Council UK 'Digital Economy' Research in the Wild grant. *November 2010 – January 2012.*  
HERA 'Joint Research Programme' grant. *November 2010.*  
AHRC Full-Time PhD Bursary. *October 2007 – September 2010.*

### Design and Creative Practice

Practicing within design disciplines since 2002 with a broad knowledge of design and creative practice, methods and skills. Since 2004 I have developed an interest in developing a number of experimental and practical design interventions that have focused on making novel technologies available to groups of people normally marginalised by designers. I have worked on projects as a sole designer, as well as team projects with up to 12 members, and have collaborated with stakeholders in co-design and participatory approaches to designing. My work is characterised by a balance of theoretical conversation with creative practice, integrating scientific and phenomenological knowledge of human cognition and consciousness without reducing the agency of those people using the technological artefact. My practice has explored areas such as tangible and artefact-based computing (digital desk, 2005-2006, and Ageing Futures projects, 2005-2008), digitally augmented architecture (Beyond Form, 2004), mobile devices for users with physical and cognitive limitations (roTell, 2004, and Scribe, 2005), and information appliances developed to be integrated within the daily activities of a group of third-agers (various Ageing Futures projects, 2005-2008).

### Design and Technical Skills

Through my experience as a practitioner, I have developed proficiency in a number of software packages and programming environments, such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere, Dreamweaver Flash and Director, HTML, CSS and PHP skills, 3d Studio Max, SolidWorks, and Maya, along with skills in integrating diverse input and output hardware with various software interfaces. I am currently expanding these skills to incorporate Aduino, Processing and Blender platforms.

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## Education

### **PhD candidate: Transtechnology Research, School of Art and Media, University of Plymouth.**

October 2007 - (planned submission September 2010)

Project funded by the AHRC. Title: *'Ageing Futures: Towards Cognitively Inclusive Digital Media Products'*.

Supervisors: Prof. Michael Punt (Transtechnology Research, University of Plymouth), Prof. Mike Phillips (Institute of Digital Art and Technology, University of Plymouth), Dr. Martha Blassnigg (Transtechnology Research, University of Plymouth), Dr. Stephen Thompson (School of Creative Communications, University of Wales Institute Cardiff).

### **MA Design (New Media and Technology): University of Wales, Newport.**

Awarded Distinction.

September 2005 – February 2007

*Project focus: The design of tangible computing and embodied interactions to support cognitive ageing.*

### **BA (Hons) Three-Dimensional Design: University of Wales, Newport.**

Awarded First Class Honours.

September 2002 – June 2005

### **Foundation Diploma in Art and Design: Filton College, Bristol.**

September 2001 – July 2002

### **Selected workshop and course participation.**

International Network for Post-doctoral Transdisciplinary Research – University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary, February 2011.

International Network for Post-doctoral Transdisciplinary Research – University of Plymouth, November 2010.

Skills development program – University of Plymouth, October 2007 – May 2010.

Transtechnology Research Seminar programme 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010.

Scale Electric Nanotechnology Workshop, iDat, University of Plymouth, July 2010.

Philosophy of Perception Workshop, University of Cardiff, March 2009.

AHRC Methods Network (Immersive Vision Theatres), December 2007.

Inclusive Futures Wearable Technologies Workshop, University of Wales Newport, June 2007.

## Experience and Employment

### **Senior Research Assistant, School of Design, Northumbria University**

<http://northumbria.ac.uk/design>

November 2010 (ongoing: fixed term contract until January 2011)

Full-Time EPSRC-funded Senior Research Assistant role on 'New Approaches to Banking for the Older Old' project between the University of York, Newcastle University and Northumbria University.

- Primary researcher on project, responsible for daily administration, organisational and academic activities.
- The acquisition and analysis of ethnographic and qualitative data and the synthesis of data into conference and journal articles.

### **Researcher and PhD Candidate, Transtechnology Research, University of Plymouth.**

<http://www.trans-techresearch.net>

October 2007 (ongoing: funded until September 2010)

Full Time AHRC-funded PhD Candidacy.

- Acted as Managing Editor on an internal 'reader' document that acted as a research tool and heuristic device for 15 research doctoral and research students to develop potential conference and journal articles.

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- Organiser of and participator in the monthly ‘Transtechnology Research Seminar’ series, where research staff and research students congregate to listen to presentations and debate on specific subjects.
- Organiser and senior participator for monthly PhD student-led research updates, communicating developments and difficulties of my own research and providing feedback and advice to fellow students.
- Copy editor of a number of successful doctoral thesis and various peer-reviewed conference and journal articles.
- I have participated within the review process of a number of successful funding applications, including doctoral bursary competitions with the AHRC and University of Plymouth, and large scale bids with the ARHC, ESRC, EPSRC and HERA JRP.
- Completion of a number of peer-reviewed articles within international conference proceedings and subsequent presentations at Nordes 2009 in Oslo, IASDR 2009 in Seoul, Consciousness Reframed X in Munich, and British HCI 2009 in Cambridge.
- Acting webmaster for Transtechnology Research website, which has included the transferral of previous website to a new server and updating to international compatibility standards (CSS and PHP) and migration to WordPress site to allow for increased openness and flexibility for researchers to update their work.

## **Associate Editor, Leonardo Reviews.**

<http://www.leonardo.info/ldr.php>

November 2008 (ongoing)

- Responsible for documenting, distributing and communicating materials between LDR colleagues and ensuring smooth running of the Plymouth offices operations in order to meet deadlines imposed on my own duties and those of the whole team.
- Member of the editorial board for Leonardo Reviews Quarterly, a quarterly digest of the best reviews from the Leonardo Reviews website.
- Streamlined the organisation of administrative processes.
- An active member of the Leonardo Reviews panel.

## **Visiting Researcher, MeAT Design Research.**

<http://meatresearch.wordpress.com>

January 2009 (ongoing)

- Taking part in monthly seminar series and research updates.
- Providing feedback to fellow postgraduate researchers and developing cross-institution collaborative research.

## **Visiting Lecturer, MA/MFA Design by Practice, University of Wales, Newport.**

December 2009 – May 2010

- Development and delivery of seminars and presentations for Practice and Research modules.
- Focusing upon skills for synthesising and integrating theory with practice for students to be self-sufficient in their future studies.

## **Copy Editor, Faculty of Technology, University of Plymouth.**

August 2009 – November 2009

- Acting as copy editor for an international PhD student’s successful doctoral thesis. This role required a close relationship with the student and many one-to-one meetings and online resource sharing and real-time environments to ensure suitable language was used throughout their thesis, whilst also not altering the meaning of the research content.

## **‘SwanQuake’ Project Assistant, Liquid Press/Institute of Digital Art and Technology.**

<http://www.i-dat.org/>

November 2007 – January 2008

- Taking over the final stages of book publication project. This project required the use of extensive Adobe InDesign, Acrobat and FTP server skills. In my role I acted as an intermediary between authors, publishers and printers to ensure the delivery of the publication to international standards and the project was delivered on time.

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## **Student Mentor, MA Design (New Media and Technology)**

May 2007 – July 2007

- Supported a MA Design student through the process of resubmission, meeting on a twice-weekly basis to provide feedback and advice on presentation of ideas and synthesis of material in order to successfully go through the resubmission process.

## **Visiting Lecturer, School of Art, Media and Design, University of Wales, Newport.**

February 2006 – December 2006

- Developing and delivering lectures to level 5 Design Studies students on the dissertation proposal module.
- Leading seminars and design crits for practice module of first-semester MA Design.
- Teaching of technical skills to undergraduate and postgraduate design students, focusing on Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and Dreamweaver.

## **Publications**

### **Peer Reviewed Conference Presentations and Proceedings**

Zics, B. Vines, J. 2009. The Mind Cupola and Enactive Ecology: Designing technologically mediated experiences for the aging mind. *Consciousness Reframed X: Experiencing Design, Behaving Media*, MHMK University of Applied Sciences, Munich, Germany, 19-21 November 2009.

Vines, J. 2009. The Ageing Present: Neurophysiological change and the relational affordances of technological objects. *Doctoral Colloquium of the International Association of Societies of Design Research 2009: Rigour and Relevance in Design*, COEX, Seoul, 18-22 October 2009.

Vines, J. 2009. Embodied and ecological cognition and the design of engaging technological artefacts for older individuals. *Nordes 2009: Engaging Artifacts*, The Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Oslo, 30 August – 1 September 2009.

Thompson, S., Vines, J. 2009. Enacted Experience and Interaction Design: New Perspectives. *Proceedings of the Third International Workshop on Physicality*, HCI 2009, Cambridge, UK, 1 September 2009.

Vines, J. 2009. The failure of designers thinking about how we think: The problem of Human-Computer Interaction. *Failed Design: What were they thinking*, Bard Graduate Centre, New York, USA. 24 April 2009.

Vines, J., Thompson, S. 2007. Aging Futures: Towards an inclusive cognitive interaction design. *INCLUDE 2007 The International Conference for Inclusive Design*, The Royal College of Art, London. 2-4 April 2007. ISBN 1-905000-34-0

### **Seminar Presentations and Papers**

Woodward, M., Zics, B., Vines, J. 2010. Designing the Invisible. Transtechnology Seminar Series, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, UK, 21 April 2010.

Vines, J. 2008. Emergent technology and the ageing mind. Transtechnology Seminar Series. University of Plymouth, Plymouth, UK, 19 November 2008.

### **Poster Presentations and Exhibitions.**

Vines, J. 2010. Ageing Futures. Boundary Works I, Wandesford Gallery, Cork, Republic of Ireland.

Vines, J. 2010. Transtechnology Research. Boundary Works I, Wandesford Gallery, Cork, Republic of Ireland.

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## Book Reviews

Vines, J. 2010. 'Designing Things: Critical Introduction to the Culture of Objects' by Prasad Boradkar. At Leonardo Reviews: [http://leonardo.info/reviews/nov2010/vines\\_boradkar.php](http://leonardo.info/reviews/nov2010/vines_boradkar.php)

Vines, J. 2010. 'Out of Our Heads: Why You Are Not Your Brain, and Other Lessons from the Biology of Consciousness' by Alva Noë, At Leonardo Reviews: [http://leonardo.info/reviews/sept2010/vines\\_noe.php](http://leonardo.info/reviews/sept2010/vines_noe.php)

Vines, J. 2009. 'The Cattell Controversy: Race, Science, and Ideology' by William H. Tucker. At Leonardo Reviews: [http://leonardo.info/reviews/july2009/vines\\_cattell.html](http://leonardo.info/reviews/july2009/vines_cattell.html)