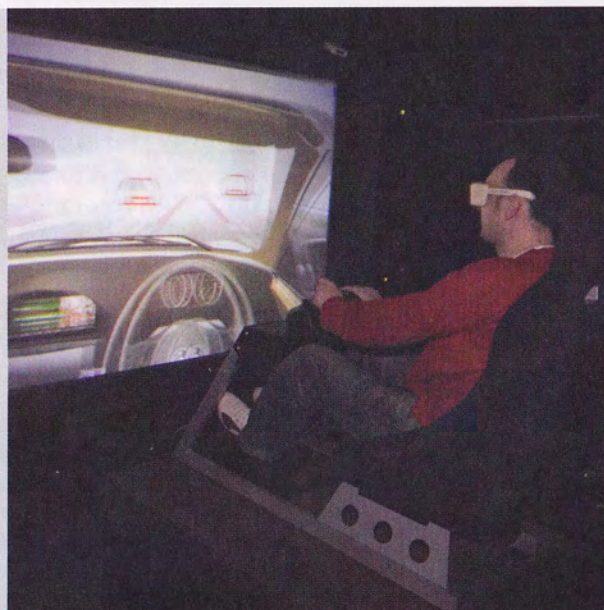


- 7 Driving simulator HUD interface in action
Vassilis Charissis
8 Laura González investigates the seduction of art objects for her PhD
9 Laura González



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Name: Dr Vassilis Charissis
Education: BSc (Hons) Technology of Graphics Arts (Technological Institute of Athens), MPhil in Advanced 2D/3D Motion Graphics (GSA, 2003), PhD (GSA, 2007).
Current role: Researcher at the Digital Design Studio

Explain briefly what your role is at the School?

I'm a researcher and organiser for the Medical Visualisation Network. I develop human-computer interfaces and virtual human prototypes that aim to enhance contemporary anatomy teaching and surgical rehearsal techniques.

What is the most exciting thing about your current role?

The development of interfaces and highly detailed and interactive anatomy VR models offered me the opportunity to collaborate with some of the most exalted medical institutes, such as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the medical schools of the University of Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and St Andrews. We highlighted the need for fusion between science, design and engineering which has resulted in some revolutionary tools that can assist medical training substantially.

What is the most interesting/groundbreaking piece of research you're currently involved in?

I designed a HUD interface of a driving simulator that sparked an initiative that brought together a multi-disciplinary group of researchers from various British, European and American universities. We presented a prototype at international conferences, in US, Japan, China and Europe and attracted the interest of automotive industries and research units. Interestingly none of the researchers involved had physically met each other than 'meeting' in a virtual environment.

How important is research to the GSA?

Research should be the main pillar of any academic institution that wants to be amongst the top in the world. Internationalisation in research can effectively promote the institution and attract more research funding and consequently employ more high-calibre researchers. This means the increased prestige of research centres within the GSA can attract more postgraduate students and enlarge the quantity and quality of the GSA's research community.

What advice would you give students today who are considering a research degree or PhD?

The contribution to knowledge through research is by itself a difficult journey however it can form the mind to question, analyse and synthesise any given issue. Through this experience any doctoral student realises sooner or later that either you will find a path, or you will make one.



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Name: Laura González
Education: MA Fine Art: Drawing at Wimbledon School of Art
Current role: Lecturer (Research)

Explain briefly what your role is at the School?

I am responsible for coordinating our Research Degree Programmes, from the application stages, through to examination. I also run the Masters of Research in Creative Practices (MRes) and the Postgraduate Certificate in Supervision, a qualification aimed to equip staff with knowledge and skills to undertake supervision at postgraduate level. This year, I have also been involved in the coordination of the postgraduate Common Academic Framework core course, which is delivered to MRes, MA Animation and MFA students.

What is the most exciting thing about your current role?

Without a doubt, the most exciting thing about my role is having the opportunity to be directly involved in student research projects. It gives me the chance to be engaged in issues that motivate them and the problems they feel passionate about. Students often find really creative approaches to their projects and are not scared about challenging conventions. I also get to learn about very diverse fields such as visual ethnography, the ineffable, autistic thinking or intertextuality.

What is the most interesting/groundbreaking piece of research you're currently involved in?

For the last two years, I have been involved in a research project aiming to understand how art objects seduce viewers. The project is practice-led and interdisciplinary, as it involves both psychoanalytic and artistic practices. The study aims to find a renewed understanding between

these two fields, other than the classic approach of psychoanalysing works of art, where artists and works are subjected to a masterly reading. Some of the work I have done for this project has been disseminated in conferences (Ars Longa: Establishing value at the RSAMD; Rigorous Holes at Chelsea College of Art; Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society at Rutgers University) and I have a solo show scheduled for next year at the End Gallery in Sheffield.

How important is research to the GSA?

Research is central to the GSA, as it is often the motor that feeds our teaching and the development of new programmes. As a lecturer, I would find it very difficult to teach research skills to my students without the first-hand experience of having considered research problems. Being involved in research also means that staff keep involved in the developments of their particular fields and can provide students with up-to-date knowledge and access to networks.

What advice would you give students today who are considering a research degree or PhD?

I would tell them to choose a project they are passionate about and to think carefully about how it can be done in three (or five) years. A PhD is not a sprint, but a marathon that will really test their motivation.



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"RESEARCH SHOULD BE THE MAIN PILLAR OF ANY ACADEMIC INSTITUTION THAT WANTS TO BE AMONGST THE TOP IN THE WORLD."