

ATACD exchange Sony CSL / Goldsmiths

The ATACD résidence at Goldsmiths College London is carried out by two members of the Sony CSL staff who share apartment and offices :

1. Luc Steels, director of the CSL
2. Francois Pachet, senior researcher at CSL

F. Pachet has been establishing a series of scientific contacts with various teams in London that can help him develop his research on "virtuosity". The team led by Geraint Wiggins (Goldsmiths) is specialized in markov modeling of music (Marcus Pierce, S. Abdallah) and this work provides many examples for applying his ideas of controllable markov chains. Several technical meetings have been scheduled to discuss these ideas. For instance, the notion of information rate as developed by Abdallah & Plubmley could be an interesting applications of controllable markov chains (where you could specify a musical sequence in terms of information / surprise).

Another activity by Francois Pachet is related to his interactive improvisation project. There is a big community of research in London in the area of "live-coding", and interactive music (Daniel Jones, Tim Blackwell, Michael Young, etc.). F. Pachet is getting inspiration for extending his system notably in terms of new controllers and better sound synthesis algorithms, through various meetings and encounters.

Finally, contacts are being made in the area of computational aesthetics (Frédéric Fol Leymarié, Goldsmith, Simon Colton, Imperial College) which have direct links with his work in music generation.

Francois Pachet has given several présentations at Goldsmiths, including a lecture for the whole collège.

L. Steels is also establishing and deepening his scientific contacts at Goldsmiths not only with the Sociology Department (Celia Lury and Scott Lash) but also with the computer science department (G. Wiggins and M. d'Inverno) and psychology (J. Davidoff). He has been talking to various people of the collège who have shown démonstrations and presented their work on web search and media art. A joint proposal (CREATOPIE) has also been written and submitted to the EU as a STREPS project in the EU Cognitive Systems section.

L. Steels has taken the occasion to présent various talks in London, including at Imperial College, Goldsmiths College, UCL, Univ of East London, and explored contacts with researchers in these institutes.

L. Steels has organised a workshop to mark the end of the résidence. The workshop will take place 25/26/27 february and includes Mark d'Inverno (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK), Francois Pachet (Sony CSL Paris, France), Mary Farbood (New York University, US), Geraint Wiggins (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK), Henry Lieberman (MIT Media Lab, US), Jordi Doce (University of Madrid, Spain), Luc Steels (Sony CSL Paris, France), Melly Still (National Theatre, London, UK), Oscar Vilarroya (Social Brain Chair, Barcelona, Spain), Vincent Corruble (University of Paris 6, France), Zimmer (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK)